

# BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC. (IA29696)



*An Umbrella Organization Representing Buddhists and  
Buddhist Groups And Institutions In Queensland* ABN 69 825 774 318

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Aug 13, 2011**

The 2011 Annual General Meeting marks the twelfth such gathering since this Council was incorporated and six years that I have had the privilege to be the President of such an excellent organisation.

The year has been, as usual, an active one for this Council. Fortunately and through the commitment and dedication of an eclectic and supportive committee, the Council has, once again, acquitted itself well in the multi-faith and dharma-specific community.

Perhaps the high points of the year was the visit to Queensland late in 2010 of the Ven. Ajahn Brahm, the spiritual leader of the Buddhist Society of Western Australia, a world-renowned inspirational teacher and speaker from the Thai Theravada tradition, and more recently, that of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama.

The Council facilitated Ven. Ajahn Brahm's public talk at the Griffith University Multi Faith Centre which was very well attended. An audio file of the talk can be downloaded from our website.

The Council applied for a further State Government grant but unfortunately was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, we are committed to trying to win further funding to better promote the activities of this Council and the presence and contribution to this state that Buddhists and Buddhism delivers.

Activities associated with the delivery of religious representation in state schools, through our participation with the Religious Education Advisory Committee [REAC] of Education Queensland, continue to ensure that a non-Abrahamic voice is aired in that forum. This has resulted in ensuring that a less-biased view of multi-faith has evolved that does recognise a non-monotheistic God concept. The Council also played a significant role in responding to the much-publicised delivery of creationist theory to Gold Coast primary school children, leading to many of them becoming disturbed and distressed. REAC are also supporting a series of Multi Faith Fact Sheets and a revised Guide to Religious Instruction that will be introduced in 2012 and be available to the various Principals of government schools throughout Qld.

Similarly, the BCQ has been actively engaged with the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils and the Australian Sangha Association and has once again, made a substantial contribution in promoting the Buddhist voice in this country. Significant inroads in religious worker visa entry conditions, the ratification of Buddhism as a recognised religion and the associated quest for the appointment of chaplains into pastoral, prison and school chaplaincy.

The future of Qld Buddhism and the BCQ's contribution will continue to shine through 2012.

With metta and O Mi To Fu...

Jim Ferguson  
Retiring President