

# 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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## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**MEETING DATE:** January 20, 2007

**TIME:** 9.30am

**VENUE:** Karuna House – Windsor

**ATTENDANCE:** As Per Attendance Book

**QUORUM:** Yes

**APOLOGIES:** none

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jim Ferguson

**SECRETARY:** Rachel Hannam

### **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes of the December meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

### **MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:**

n/a

### **2. CORRESPONDENCE:**

IN-

- a. Membership Renewals – Pureland plus \$300 donation; Jodoshu; Dharma Metta Garden; Jim Sweeney (prev. Tibetan Buddhist Centre) incl. information update;
- b. Chorten Newsletter.
- c. Invitation to Australia Day function @ Southbank and another.
- d. National Inter-faith Festival
- e. 2x Christmas Cards
- f. FABC Update Letter (mass circulation)
- g. Minister for Multi-cultural Affairs – Invitation to Meet the Minister
- h. Minister for Education & the Arts – re Chaplaincy initiative
- i. Jeta Gardens – thank-you letter for successful grant for 20-bed grant.
- j. Rigpa Information.
- k. Commission for Children – Update on Blue Card legislation.

OUT-

- a. Response to Multicultural Festival questionnaire and thank-you letters to stall supporters.
- b. BCQ mailout with membership renewals
- c. Submission to Buddhnet to amend information on BCQ details
- d. BEQP presentation by BCQ and other BEQP correspondence.
- e. Response to request for comment on Chaplaincy Services.

### **MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:**

Vote of thanks to David and Julie for their efforts in generating donation from Pureland.

David advised he has received his Blue Card.

Confirmed Jim and Kim as BCQ reps for Southbank Australia Day event

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Started at \$51.12, received \$200 donation from David Wee, Sweeney, JOodhu, Pureland plus \$300 donation, Dharma Metta Garden and Bank Interest of \$1.54, bringing bank balance to \$632.66 plus \$50 cash. Expenses were only \$90 reimbursement to Jim for December mailout.

Also now have all missing bank statement and ready to have books audited; plus Optus now has direct debit authority for mobile phone.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

### 4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

#### A. ADDITION OF MAEVE HOLLOW TO COMMITTEE

Maeve Hollow was welcomed to the committee meeting and formally voted into the committee to assist with the secretarial functions of the Council.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

#### B. BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND PROGRAM (BEQP)

Jim gave an update on the evolution of the Program from nothing to its current state, driven significantly by Kwee Choo. It has been noted that while the Asian dharma participation in this program is substantial there is virtually no input from the Tibetan or "white" dharma groups – this is most unfortunate as far as the community's awareness of the Buddhist community. Jim has also invited any member of the BCQ committee who would like to act as the BCQ representative in the BEQP to please do so – in the meantime he will be the liaison person. This venture is going to continue to grow in momentum and needs both BCQ support and will further enhance the BCQ's relationships with centres.

#### C. NATIONAL INTER-FAITH FESTIVAL - MALENY

Jim discussed the BCQ's involvement in identifying and securing Buddhist representatives for this event, Geshe Jamyang (Tibetan) for Mahayana; Ven. Monchai Montagamo (Thai) for Theravada and Gregg Howard (OZG) for Zen; plus a lay-person for a "Why I Love my Faith" segment.

The issue for the BCQ is determining if the BCQ will host a stall at the event and the logistical issues are substantial and may be beyond the capacity of the BCQ this year. The option is for the BCQ to approach Chenrezig to have them host BCQ material which Jim will follow up.

Jim proposed that the BCQ pay the entry cost for Ven. Monchai Montagamo to the festival, and also Gregg Howard if he requests same.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

Chee Weng then donated the \$25 to the BCQ so the BCQ can cover the Ven.'s admission cost.

Jim proposed that due to the financial and logistical constraints applicable, the BCQ withdraw the application to man a stall for this year

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

It was generally agreed that next year the BCQ should be better placed to take a stall.

#### D. DALAI LAMA IN AUSTRALIA TOUR – JUNE 13 IN BRISBANE

Jim tabled the latest information on his visit and that the subject of his talk will be “Kindness and Compassion” at 4pm at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre, with tickets available from Tiketek in the coming months. Jim said he would like to approach the DLIA organiser’s to secure a block of tickets if possible and advise – we might seek, say 20 tickets.

#### E. GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Jim reported that he didn’t lodge the BCC grant application due to the absence of Letters of Support, so hopefully some will be received and we will then lodge for the March round.

He also asked if the filtering of potential funds had identified any target bodies, Maeve is working on going through that list, Jim asked if Maeve could send the short-list of prospects to him asap. Jim explained that we should still be seeking the elements of the original harmony grant but bit-by-bit through smaller individual grants. He also mentioned that as the BEQ Program evolves, that can attract separate funding as a benevolent activity.

David asked what the BCQ break-even was and Jim mentioned that he had prepared a break-even analysis last year and found it was about \$1,200 at a very basic level of activity and the biggest cost was Insurance and attendance at the FABC AGM. Kim raised the issue of future need for PL Insurance and Jim mentioned what has been mooted but not yet implemented by Govt., that the requirement may be removed for very small Associations. Kim raised the possibility of asking the Minister for MC Affairs to help fund that insurance – Jim mentioned that Brian Ashen said the BCVic received \$5000 pa from their state govt.

#### F. 2007 MAILOUT INFORMATION

.Mailed out and Jim reported that BEQP attendees had indicated they will be remitting in late January once their operations return to normal after Christmas. Jim highlighted the issue of Rigpa who stated they would not support the BCQ yet then mailed information for distribution by BCQ via our website etc. Similar sentiments also came from some others centres since their own focus was the promotion of their own tradition only.

#### G. FABC ISSUES

Jim mentioned the forthcoming AGM on March 17 in Melbourne that the FABC is meeting half the air fares, Kim has already booked and paid for the tickets for Jim and Kim (BCQ nominees) and leaving from the Coolangatta.

Brian also mentioned his visit to Brisbane this week and he would like to meet with the committee if possible – agreed to arrange a meeting and details to be finalised via Jim. Kim, Maeve, Jim and Rachel indicated possible availability. Agreed to aim for 7:30pm after the Australia Day event at Southbank.

#### H. NEW WEBSITE

Discussion of opinion on new website is generally favourable but suggestions for some changes noted, particularly less detail on history, more visual content and simple links on first page (should not have to scroll down on index page!) and Jim has now got the source files from Josh. The database reverted to the older version and Jim will be renewing that in the

next couple of weeks. Jim already has photos from recent events that can serve as links for more information and we should be able to better manage the website overall now.

## I. MINISTERIAL MATTERS

Kim and Jim met the Minister for Multicultural Affairs at Parliament House in December and it was a good meeting with the potential to personally connect with her and the Department.

A future meeting with the Minister for Education is also planned and when details are available, anyone wishing to attend will be welcome.

Kim and Jim will be attending the Premier's Australia Day event at Southbank on Jan 25.

Jim mentioned that the BCQ needs to establish relationships broadly and to solicit letters of support from persons of influence i.e. business and government leaders, centres etc..

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### A. FURTHER AMENDMENT TO BCQ LETTERHEAD.

Jim proposed that we further amend the official letterhead to include the Buddhist flag to the left hand side of the header, due to the support from the Asian dharma community

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

### B. BUSINESS CARDS

Julie Khoo has offered to try and obtain BCQ business cards for free from O/S and Jim will provide the graphic files. Suggested quantity will be 2000. In the meantime we can print cards off ink-jet printers on to card-stock but to be mindful of the cost to produce. Proposed that we will seek to obtain printed colour business cards when possible and in the meantime to home-print as required.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

### C. MAEVE TO SUPPORT RACHEL AS SECRETARY

To assist with the functions of Secretary, we have now distributed the roles as follows – Jim records and prints the Minutes of Meetings and responds to major correspondence; Kim clears mailbox and responds to direct mail correspondence and FABC emails, etc; Rachel responds to phone calls and other email for BCQ.

It is now proposed that Maeve can takeover the email responses and handle those inquiries, deferring to Jim if an answer is not clear. She will be our e-Secretary!

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

### D. AGM DATE

The AGM will be held in May since many centres expecting that month for it to be held – the books will be delivered to the auditor in the next 2-3 weeks.

**MEETING CLOSED:** At 11:40 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** February 10 at 9:30am at Karuna Hospice Services.

Signed by President: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/07