

# BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC. (IA29696)



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

-- Affiliated Member of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils Inc. --  
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## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

**MEETING DATE:** April 1, 2007

**TIME:** 9.45am

**VENUE:** Karuna House – Windsor

**ATTENDANCE:** Kim Hollow, Rachel Hannan, Donna Imeri & Jim Ferguson

**QUORUM:** Yes      **APOLOGIES:** David Wee, Chee Weng & Maeve Hollow

**CHAIRPERSON:** Jim Ferguson

**SECRETARY:** Rachel Hannan

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

Minutes of the December meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

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

Jim confirmed the attendance at the Vietnamese Tet New Year celebrations of Kim, Maeve, Donna and himself and it was a great festival, well supported by State and Local Government and the community. A highlight was the State and Local Government donating \$50,000 to the erection of a commemorative plaque in Southbank or Roma Street parklands to remember the more than half million refugees from Vietnam who died trying to reach Australia.

Kim confirmed that he now had the Council's mobile phone and with increased usage, later discussion is needed to ensure it is used correctly and under the right plan – discussion deferred to General Business.

### **2. CORRESPONDENCE:**

IN-

- a. Open Arms re Dalai Lam Tour latest information
- b. Optus Mobile Phone accounts
- c. Australia Post – Renewal of Post Office Box Rental – noted as paid 31-03-07
- d. Griffith University Multi-faith Centre – information of coming events
- e. Rongton Buddhist Centre – Lama Choedak teachings program
- f. Windhorse Books – latest catalog
- g. Crest Insurance Brokers – offering their services – noted
- h. Qld Dept of Health – request for information on Buddhist dietary preferences.

OUT-

- a. Various emails to BEQP maillist and others
- b. Letter to Jill McGillvray in response to request for information.

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

There was a discussion about what type of correspondence did and did not constitute spam or unsolicited advertising and whether we should keep all or only relevant material. It was

proposed that only the information deemed relevant be retained and documented at the discretion of the principal office holders.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

It was also proposed that the Council recognise Mandala Books as the official and recommended supplier of dharma books and other resources wherever practicable, since all proceeds go to dharma activities, namely Karuna Hospice Services,

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Started at \$1,399.66 plus \$50 cash. Expenses for Website hosting by SmartyHost (\$80 already paid) and Domain Name Registration (\$29), postage (\$5), a new Minute Book (\$15.98), Optus phone accounts (\$64), contribution (\$25) to the National Interfaith Festival attendance by Ven. Mantagamo were tabled and after payment, the balance remaining is \$1,114.75 in bank and \$50.00 petty cash. It is also noted that \$510.00 is for the BEQP exclusively, leaving \$604.75 in bank and \$50.00 cash available.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

### **4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:**

#### **A. BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN QUEENSLAND PROGRAM (BEQP)**

It seems there is an issue concerning the management of this program and one that may cause some concern to dharma centres, the dharma community and those who have contributed to this program. Ms Kwee Choo's and other contributors lack of communication with the BCQ has been noted and could suggest that they are operating outside of the agreed structure that has the BCQ as the principal liaison with the dharma community and moreover are not involving the BCQ in their planning. This is of concern to the Council and may jeopardise future negotiations with government and funding bodies.

It was proposed that our concerns over the management of this program be passed to Ms Kwee Choo and others involved for a clarification of their activities and the need that as agreed by the founding members, the BCQ continues to be responsible for distributing all information and official registration of proceedings, Blue Card register etc.

Under the Education Act a Letter of Introduction to the school is required as well as the Blue Card for each teacher and so far the BCQ has not received the details or requests for same. Also Ms Choo has been supporting a second meeting of interested people ahead of the proposed April 29 notified meeting, which could lead to a fractured or duplicated approach being produced.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

#### **B. F.A.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Melbourne, March 16-18**

Kim Hollow and Jim Ferguson attended the FABC AGM and Policy Forum Planning Session held at the Dharma Drum Mountain Centre in Templestowe, Victoria after spending the first night in Victoria at the home of Brian Ashen, his wife Judith-Anne and their several Chow Chow dogs. A special note of thanks to Brian and Judith-Anne for their generous hospitality, as to Laura Chan and her team at Dharma Drum for their kindness, sumptuous vegetarian meals and comfortable surrounds.

The FABC AGM was an astounding success which included being invited to contribute to a Management Meeting of the Australian Sangha Association. The development of a close working relationship with that group will be of significant mutual benefit since it gives the FABC and member state Councils a referral point for matters concerning interpretation or application of the dharma, and also gives the ASA the means for helping liaise more effectively with the dharma community. Minutes of that meeting will be posted on our website when received. We are pleased to advise, that our Treasurer, Kim Hollow, has been elected as FABC Vice President.... Congratulations.

The major achievement from the weekend was the formulation of a set of themes for a proposed Policy Forum to be staged in Canberra in April 2008, each Council to be the moderator of one major theme and nominations were offered for papers to be presented for each of the various topics under those themes – the substance of these will be mounted on our website for general discussion.

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

Jim reported that the inaugural festival was, by all accounts, very successful and while numbers were down on the Sunday – possibly due to it being the highest March temperature ever recorded, the overall attendance and support was quite strong. The Council facilitated the contribution speakers on the various Buddhist traditions and the interest in their sessions was very strong. While actual attendance figures are not yet known, several thousand people did attend over the two days and it bodes well for an even better festival next year.

A special note of appreciation is extended to Master Sen Shin of the Queensland Zen Centre, Ven. Monchai Mantagamo of the Brisbane Meditation Centre and Ven. Lekshe Tsultim of the Rongton Buddhist Centre for their support for the Council, the dharma and the Festival itself.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Rachel Hannam

Accepted

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

Jim reported that he been assisting with the organisers to encourage support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Brisbane visit from the other Buddhist traditions in Brisbane bby personally hand delivering invitations to Centre and Temple heads with Jan Pether from the Open Arms team, with more to follow. Responses os far are good and it is hoped that many traditions will support his visit with their participation.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

### E. HARMONY DAY REPRESENTATION

There were four separate Harmony Day activities that the Council was invited to and due to the limited availability of committee members, only the Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre's launch of a new Religious Education Handbook could be attended. This was an excellent day and provided for good networking with representatives from a number of the other faith groups and a sharing of the excellent work achieved in the production of the new teaching resource. Jim is attempting to secure additional copies for the other state Council's and hopes to be able to introduce it into the BEQP curriculum too.

## F. MAY1 – MULTI-FAITH SEMINAR : BUDDHISM UNDER CIVIL LAW

Jim advised his acceptance to be a member on the Seminar's panel that will discuss "Practicing Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism under Australian Civil Law" and will be submitting a paper in the next few days. He asked that it be reviewed before submission and will circulate it accordingly. He added it would be good if Buddhists could also attend to support this good initiative and that he would inquire if there might be some complimentary admissions available for interested people.

## G. 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Receipt of paid memberships remains low and the AGM is not far away. It was agreed that when the formal notice goes out it should include a new membership form and proxy form so members can vote and it is essential that we receive such renewals before the AGM date.

## H. DATE FOR 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This led to the discussion for the next AGM. Since the audited account will be back in early May, it was agreed that the next AGM will be held at Karuna Hospice at 10.00 am on Saturday, May 26. All notices shall be distributed prior to April 26.

## **5. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### A. WEBSITE

Jim advised that with the payment of our renewal to Smarty Host our space increases from 5Mb to 50 Mb which will now mean we can put more information, including photos etc on the site and so he will be endeavouring to update the site over the coming weeks.

### B. MOBILE PHONE

Kim mentioned that with the increased usage of the Council's mobile phone, it is probably a good idea to review the plan we are on and see if a more efficient plan can be found. It was proposed that Kim explore the options and report to the next meeting.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

**MEETING CLOSED:** At 12:20 pm

**NEXT MEETING:** April 28 at 9:30am at Karuna Hospice Services.

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