

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: July 7, 2007

TIME: 9:50am

VENUE: Rachel Hannam's home @ Toowong

ATTENDANCE: Kim and Maeve Hollow, Chee Weng, Rachel Hannam, David Wee & Jim Ferguson

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** Donna Imeri , Jenny Lenevre and Lorraine Moyes

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 Kim Hollow

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

none

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

- a. Letter of Support from Australian Sangha Association
- b. Letter of Support from Tibetan Buddhist Healing Practices group
- c. Correspondence re Australian Census
- d. Newsletter from B.E.S.S. Incitation to meetings
- e. Letter from Religious Education Advisory Committee from Education Qld, seeking membership by BCQ
- f. Request from Griffith Uni's Multi-faith Centre for information on B.E.S.S.
- g. Invitation from Goal Coast Council re Multicultural Festival 2008
- h. Request for Letter of Support from National Interfaith Festival for 2008
- i. Optus phone account
- j. Office of Fair Trading changes to NFP legislation – *general business*
- k. Invitation to Gyuto Monks visit to Brisbane
- l. Invitation to grand opening ceremony of Jeta Gardens – *general business*
- m. Grant application for Multicultural Affairs Queensland closing July 31 – *business on notice*
- n. Phone calls & emails from Mr Tang of Swinburne, Vic. Support for Universities.
- o. Invitation from National Council of Churches for workshop July 13 on Sunshine Coast

OUT-

- a. Email to B.E.S.S. advising attendance at their meetings
- b. Letter to R.E.A.C. confirming acceptance as member
- c. Letter to GU-MFC advising background of B.E.S.S.
- d. Letter of Support issued to National Interfaith Festival for 2008

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

None – some deferred to General Business (below)

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

\$1279.75 at bank and \$50.00 petty cash. \$210 was received as donations from issue of seat tickets to HHDL talk at Boondall. Internet banking facilities have now been established and Kim has activated his access, leaving just Jim and Rachel to do so for it to be fully operational. Jim claimed \$5.00 from petty cash for postage expended.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

Rachel and Jim to activate their access within fourteen days

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Jim Ferguson

Accepted

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

A. DALAI LAMA IN AUSTRALIA TOUR – JUNE 13 IN BRISBANE

The outcome of the tour was an outstanding success as far as engaging the community with His Holiness and the dharma. His talks at Australia Zoo, Karuna ad Boondall were all well received and fully booked. How the tour performed financially in uncertain.

B. THE B.E.S.S. INITIATIVE

Jim confirmed receipt of the BESS newsletter that he has responded via email to accepting attendance – the first tomorrow. He also mentioned receipt of an email from the Brisbane State High School chaplain seeking validation of BESS's claim that they are handling school education, and similarly from the Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre. In each case Jim has replied to these inquiries to the effect that at that time they were new, unincorporated and only represent a small selection of schools (as stated by BESS themselves), and does not yet satisfy this Council's requirements for formal recognition, however over time they may well do so, after which they might be endorsed as formal providers.

The meeting tomorrow is to workshop the legal aspects relating to incorporating an association perhaps as a pre-cursor to seeking membership for their own entity. The later session is a teaching workshop which seems to be far better endorsed by their supporters.

Kim mentioned the need for BESS to be a financial member of the BCQ for us to endorse them. Jim commented that, unlike the other State Councils who have an "opt-out" model of membership, Qld's is an "opt-in" model, yet we still offer representation to those not actually financially supporting the Council. This makes it hard to enforce such a requirement uniformly but the point of appropriateness of endorsement still remains.

The question of BCQ support for BESS rests with their desire to seek our support whereupon the issue of reciprocal support for the BCQ's own activities should also be considered.

This led to a discussion of reciprocal support generally and it was generally agreed that groups who do financially support the BCQ should receive a better level of support from the Council, just how needs further discussion and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

From discussions that followed it was also agreed that the Council should also aim to hold our next meeting at Tzu Chi's offices at Salisbury and then continue with future meetings to be held at various centres throughout our member centres. Chee will contact Tzu Chi.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Chee Weng Accepted

C. BCQ INTERNET BANKING FACILITY & PHONE PLANS

The Council now has internet banking to facilitate simpler banking, and still requires two authorised persons to approve and process payments. An amendment to our Operations Manual is now also required to accommodate this change. Jim will do so for the next meeting to approve.

The Council's mobile phone account is again back to just the minimum \$9 per month, so it seems that we do not need to alter our plan at present, but we will review it again at the next meeting.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Kim Hollow Accepted

D. GRANT FUNDING – MAQ & OTHERS

Kim identified the MAQ grant application close at the end of the month. Jim asked if there had been progress on the equipment grant Kim had been looking at. Kim will investigate that grant and advise after this meeting. If eligible, Jim proposed the BCQ seek in order of preference – (1) a good PA/recording system &/or (2) a data projector. These can be made available to centres for their use and the Council's also. Each of these items would be around \$2,000 to \$3,000 for suitable units. Kim will pursue this grant if possible.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Rachel Hannam Accepted

Re the MAQ grant, it is proposed to seek funds for a project that will provide the Council with the resources to effectively liaise with all Qld centres, secure their feedback and develop an effective communication system between them to produce an effective resource and so properly establish a strong relationship in this state. Jim will prepare the application.

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by David Wee Accepted

Jim also mentioned that Karuna is providing a Letter of Support and he asked if Qld Zen Centre and Dharma Meta Garden could also provide similar letters within the week.

E. 2006 CENSUS RESULT

Jim mentioned the surprising outcome of the release of the Census statistics showing the increase of Buddhism versus the decline in Christian-based faiths. He has been on 4BC talk-back radio (a 40-minute session with several callers) and completed several media interviews for local papers dealing with the results. One coming interview is to be for the Sunday Mail Extra and will include photos at the Langri Tangpa Centre at Camp Hill.

Jim also added the fact that the Council's website had more than 400 hits overnight from the radio interview, which was quite significant.

The statistics give Buddhism a 109% increase over the past 10 years to 2.1% of the national population, or about 418,000; with the Qld. numbers extending out to about 47,000 and around 32,000 for greater Brisbane. This data may also help with our grant applications and he has produced a graph that summarises the key information that can be added to our website also.

The other points from the census are the increase in Hinduism and Islam due to the immigration shift away from east-Asia and the rise in "no religion" which has also increased.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

F. BCQ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Jim made the comment that over the past few months, he has been regularly representing the BCQ and Buddhism at very many functions and is keen to share the role with other committee members. Kim raised the National Council of Churches gathering and our representation at that event. Brian Ashen was to attend as President of the FABC however illness prevents him from doing so. After discussion it was agreed that this Council would not attend that event.

The discussion led to the segmentation of the faiths into largely Abrahamic and Forest-based and how there is such a great imbalance in Australia.

G. COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST

Jim asked for the committee to update their contact details on the list circulated so it can be shared between the committee members.

H. INVITATION BY JETA GARDENS TO OPENING

After discussion on availability by the committee, it was agreed that Kim, Maeve and Chee would represent the BCQ at their opening, following our formal; support for their grant applications.

I. CHANGES TO INCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS ACT

The new amendments to the current legislation are quite far reaching and rather than discuss at this meeting, it was agreed that everyone should peruse the information and we shall discuss their impact on the BCQ at our next meeting. Details can be found on the Office of Fair Trading website for everyone to peruse. Issues relating to Public Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation for volunteers etc. are the main issues.

J. LETTER FROM JENNY TO BCQ.

Kim mentioned details of a letter from Jenny offering support for the BCQ and what we are striving to achieve, particularly in moving closer to the various centres we represent, e.g. holding meetings in their centres, including Tzu Chi and so on. Kim added that she is also regularly donating a sum of money into our account and it was agreed to record a vote of thanks to her for her support.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

K. HOLDING TO SET MEETING DATES

Kim raised the importance of holding committee meetings to the date agreed and not deferring by popular vote – agreed. The discussion also examined the merit of holding meetings bi-monthly from this meeting, with any important issues that can be distributed and discussed via email or telephone if required – agreed. The Operations Manual will be amended accordingly.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

L. WEB DISPLAY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Rachel raised the issue and potential threat of internet “bots” stealing identity information from web-sites if contained as text, i.e. the banking details etc. This was noted and is held to be a real issue in some cases and it was agreed that our banking details will be contained in an image files rather than text when the site is next updated.

M. MR.TENG & SWINBURNE MULTI-FAITH APPROACHES

There have several phone calls and emails received from Mr Teng in Victoria seeking the BCQ support for establishing a Buddhist presence in a multi-faith venture at Swinburne University in Melbourne. It was decided that since this is a state matter, the correct process is for the BCVic to offer such endorsement and this has been conveyed to him.

MEETING CLOSED: At 12:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: September 1 at 9:30 am at Tzu Chi – Salisbury (to be confirmed)

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/07