

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: October 13, 2007

TIME: 9:40am

VENUE: Kim & Meave Hollow's home @ Gold Coast

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

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** David Wee, Donna Imeri, Jenny LeNeveu

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Rachel Hannam

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the July meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

none

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

- a. Public Liability Insurance renewal for \$610
- b. Optus phone a/cs x 2 for bimonthly period of meetings.
- c. Published papers from GU-MFC on "Practicing Faith under Australian Civil Law"
- d. Promotional news from GU-MFC
- e. Regional Inter-faith Forum – Perth – from DEFAT seeking nominee.
- f. Aust. Womens Weekly seeking female interviewee for Xmas edition – Laurie Writer
- g. GU-MFC request for BCQ sponsorship of Human Rights Day on Dec. 10
- h. World Voice for Burma invitation to attend public rally at Southbank – see below

OUT-

none

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Jenny is nominated for the Womens Weekly article – to confirm with here ASAP
- b. BCQ endorses the Human Rights Day and Jim will attend the ceremony of Dec.10.
- c. Jim will approach some members of the BESS training program that may qualify for the Perth Forum – this is quite rushed but Qld. may be selected to participate.

Moved by Maeve Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current funds are \$1331.95 at bank and \$50.00 petty cash, after payment only of 2 Optus accounts totalling \$18.20. Revenue has been a donation from Jenny LeNeveu of \$40.00. The Annual Insurance premium of \$610 is due and this was approved for payment at the last meeting.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

none

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

A. NATIONAL INTER-FAITH FESTIVAL

Jim noted the passing of their Director Helen Zeckendorf in September, and the now uncertainty of it being held in 2008. He stated he is in close contact with the management committee (is their web-master at present) and will keep this committee updated on any future developments.

B. TZU-CHI LIAISON

Chee advised that gaining a mutually convenient date/time for a committee meeting at their premises is challenging – with all we can do is continuing to express our desire and willingness to better liaise with all the other dharma groups, including Jeta Gardens, Tzu-Chi, PureLand College and others, and demonstrate our goals to them. Chee was thanked for his efforts to date.

C. BUDDHIST EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Chee represented Buddhism at the Ipswich State High School request after BESS failed to honour an earlier commitment, but enjoyed the experience and had a good outcome for the school and their students. He said other faiths were also represented and gave all the students a good exposure of all major faiths. This was the second annual session and we will be asked to contribute again next year. Maeve offered to also donate them some of their books for the students. This activity demonstrated the non-secular role the BCQ can offer seekers of information on Buddhism.

With respect to feedback received from a couple of BESS-participants, Jim mentioned personal discussion he has had that suggest that meetings have been held we have not been invited too, and to an apparent break-down of services to the schools that had been managed by BESS. This is disappointing if the reputation of dharma groups is harmed and if inappropriate or inadequate religious instruction is being offered to these schools. If individual dharma centres take over such education, the outcome may become more secular and less all-encompassing and representative. The BCQ therefore needs to maintain attention to developments in order to ensure appropriate responses are maintained and suitable content delivered to the schools seeking such instruction.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

D. BURMA RALLY REPRESENTATIONS

Jim described the support for the Buddhist monks and civilians at the rally held at Southbank, where the organisers asked him to be the key-note speaker in front of about 300 people. He said it was a well attended and supportive rally, with many other

speakers from the Burmese community, Amnesty International and other bodies. He also emphasised that the BCQ presence was not to defend the monks but to support the non-violence and right to free expression that was the issue.

E. OTHER REPRESENTATIONS

Maeve and other committee members met with the visiting Lama introduced at the last meeting. It was felt he is an interested lama and knowledgeable.

F. MAQ GRANT ROUND

Jim mentioned that we need to win some funds from the current grant application and we should now around Xmas. We can defer any decision on 2008 subscriptions until that outcome is announced.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. BCQ RELEVANCE AND HOW TO INCREASE IT

Kim raised the need to identify and seek ways to increase our relevance within the Qld. Buddhist community. Acknowledging that the committee is one that is active, he feels we need to think "out of the square" and find ways to demonstrate our benefit to groups.

This echoes the same issue that confronts modern Buddhism generally – how to demonstrate a modern approach that reinforces both the values and the principles of Buddhist practice.

Recognising that many sangha from various centres still have language issues, perhaps the BCQ can develop strategies that help overcome that and thereby broaden the audiences that can receive their teachings.

Agreed that we should try to hold our next meeting at one of the other centres – Maeve will follow that up and advise.

MEETING CLOSED: At 10:45 am

NEXT MEETING: (to be confirmed) nominally Sat. Dec 8 at Kholo Centre – Maeve to follow up and advise.

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