

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: January 27, 2008 **TIME:** 9:40am

VENUE: Jeta Gardens – 27 Clarendon Ave, Bethania Qld 4133

ATTENDANCE: Kim and Maeve Hollow, Chee Weng, Donna Imeri, Jenny Le Neveu & Jim Ferguson and host Choe-Lam Tam of Jeta Gardens.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** David Wee & Rachel Hannam

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson **SECRETARY:** Rachel Hannam

PREAMBLE TO MEETING:

This committee meeting was held at Jeta Gardens Retirement Village at Bethania at the invitation of Mr Choe-Lam Tan, and supported by his wife and the staff of that facility.

Jeta Gardens is the first retirement community based on eastern (including Buddhist) values and serves both Asian and non-Asian clients in a united care program that remains mindful of individual as well as cultural preferences to deliver a caring and happy environment for their residents. All levels of care are offered with a path for escalating care should that be required. The facilities are very new, impressive and there is excellent scope for continued expansion.

Mr Choe-Lam Tan expressed his desire to seek ways of educating the Asian community into the benefits offered to the aged and their families that communities such as Jeta Gardens can deliver – that it is, in fact, real compassion to allow the aged to maintain the best quality-of-life through accessing their levels of care and attention, rather than sometimes merely the suffering and loneliness that sometimes occurs within the modern busy home scene.

This Council congratulates Jeta Gardens for their wonderful initiative and for their generous offer to provide facilities to the Council and the Buddhist community generally as an expression of mutual recognition of our shared values, ethics and objectives.

In the same spirit of mutual acknowledgement of philosophy and objectives, we also had the pleasure to receive a presentation from Kay and Trevor Ganley, with Kay being the CEO of Charlton Brown and the Qld. representative on the National Board of the Australian Council for Private Education and Training. She delivers accredited courses in Human Services to a broad cross-section of multicultural students seeking to work in the health-care and nursing sectors and emphasise the qualities and ethics found in Buddhist philosophy to their students, seeking, in that process, to equip their students with increased empathy with those people they work with and demonstrating the merit of compassion in caring for others.

It was noted that their college in the Multicultural Centre in Fortitude Valley has invited guest speakers from the Buddhist community and Karuna Hospice Services to address their students as a part of their courses of study.

This Council again congratulates these initiatives and offers our full endorsement for their programs to extend Buddhist principles in the delivery of aged and palliative care.

It was agreed that this Council should investigate ways and means to progress the principles of Buddhist compassion in the areas of aged care delivery, including training and approved courses and to foster appreciation of such values in palliative care and end-of-life issues.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the October 13, 2007 meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

none

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

- a. FABC letter to all dharma centres throughout Australia, including the inaugural newsletter edited by Jim;
- b. Southern Cross University detailing pastoral care and chaplaincy programs;
- c. Shakyamuni Buddhist Centre – program information;
- d. Jeta Gardens newsletter;
- e. Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre program information;
- f. Associations Forums – seminar information;
- g. ABC-Radio studios – CD of interview given by Jim and Rachel on 4QR on 31/10/07;
- h. Information Pack from Happiness & It's Causes conference in Sydney for May 2008;
- i. Update info form for Who's Who;
- j. MAQ letter advising failure to win a grant from round plus a Xmas Card;
- k. Optus phone a/c and Bank Statement;
- l. 2008 Australia Day Multicultural Event invitation – attended by Kim and Jim;
- m. Reminder from Office of Fair Trading to lodge last year's Financial Statement;
- n. Renewal of Domain Name for BCQ reminder;
- o. Women's Weekly feature article on Jenny re women In Buddhism.

OUT-

- a. An email response concerning the loan of some Buddhist robes by an advertising agency.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. GU-MFC have 2 events soon – commencement service Mar 11 @ noon and worth attending – Kim will attend; and Women's Faith and Peace Culture on Sat 23 Feb to 25th with an offer of 1 free admission, for anyone able to attend;
- b. Happiness & It's Causes – May 8-9 will be featuring Jose Ramos-Horta, Tenzin Palmo and Matthieu Riccard (the happiest man in the world) who was the attendant to Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche and a significant author and Buddhist lama;
- c. Jim will lodge the OFT form;
- d. Jim will donate the cost of taking a 5-year renewal for the BCQ domain name, which is around \$130 – a significant saving.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current funds are \$697.28 at bank and \$50.00 petty cash, totalling \$747.28. Credit interest of \$2.33 was received into our Commonwealth Bank account. Payments made were three

Optus accounts totalling \$27.00. The outstanding payment of \$38.10 is due with the lodgement of Annual Return – Jim will use the cheque he is holding to make this payment

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

none

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

A. FAILURE TO WIN M.A.Q. GRANT ROUND FUNDS

We now know we were unsuccessful in this grant round. By coincidence both Kim and I spoke with Michael Choi from MAQ at the Australia Day event and he said it would be difficult to gain from from MAQ for something essentially Buddhist since it is not really "cultural". He suggested we each write to our local members and see what we can raise that way, since they often have some funds available for discretionary expenditure.

Kim had raised the question as to whether the fee was too high and it was noted that to vary it we would have to call a General Meeting to change that structure, but it can be adjusted down, or waived, but not removed through the committee. Jim suggested that since our next AGM is due late April/early May, we might arrive at a fee to be sent out with renewals and AGM notice and proxies etc, all together after our next meeting, when we set the AGM date.

Further, in looking at some lateral ideas, Jim also proposed we look at staging a film-night of a dharma-friendly promo-release with the support of a distributor, to raise funds for the BCQ and allowing us to help other centres as well, perhaps even engaging Tenzin Choegyol etc. This could result in even non-Buddhists contributing to our funding.

Choe-Lam Tan, offered his facility to raise funds for us also (seats up to 400 people), including his own residents as well. Jim also mentioned the tour of Ven. Konchog Norbu from Mongolia, which was both refreshing yet poorly promoted. If the BCQ could identify a similar lama to promote all would be able to benefit.

Jenny also suggested staging some form of Multi-Faith forum – though that may not be too profitable. Also "games"-nights – however these seem to be centre-focus activities.

Whatever type of event is utilised, it must be both informative and entertaining and the BCQ must be seen as impartial and non-sectarian or political. This subject, under fund-raising will be further discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed that each committee member would write to their local member, with Jim preparing the pro forma.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

It was further agreed that the Council work to staging a community-based fund-raising activity to help ease the funding shortfall.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Maeve Hollow

Accepted

B. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This topic was linked to the previous subject. After continued discussion, it was agreed that we would vary the membership dues for 2008 to be - Centre \$10.00, Family \$10.00,

and Individual \$5.00. Choe-Lam Tan also offered to do any translations into Chinese and Vietnamese of our brochure of special information, in order to help bridge any communications gap and help gain support. This is to be sent out with the AGM information. Visits to other dharma centres are also to be fostered and developed to further help re-establish mutual support and recognition.

Moved by Donna Imeri

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

C. BLUE CARD RENEWALS

Jim reminded everyone that Blue Cards need to be renewed for committee delegates. The necessary renewal forms will be made available at our next meeting for everyone to complete. This is a statutory requirement for anyone holding a position on the committee.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Kim Hollow

Accepted

D. NATIONAL INTERFAITH FESTIVAL 2008

Jim mentioned an email confirming that it will be proceeding but perhaps later in the year July and perhaps elsewhere, other than Maleny – he will keep the Council updated on what develops, The Council has previously approved participation for this event if it goes ahead.

E. OTHER ACTIVITIES 2008

It was mentioned that at the Australia Day event, Kim and Jim met with Ven. Cheuh-Shan, the Abbot of Chung-Tian. She has expressed support for us to hold a committee meeting there any Sunday afternoon. Jim will contact her to work out a suitable date – Jim will put Sunday, March 16 forward as a possible date.

Jim also mentioned learning that various members delivering RI through BESS, have taken personal responsibility directly with their schools and not have received support from BESS. This is unfortunate for the dharma and the Council should again try to help support those engaged in these activities.

F. PRISON CHAPLAINCY

Jim also mentioned that expressions of interest have been received from various sangha to perform prison chaplaincy. The Council is required to endorse these people under the relevant Act and we can take a proactive role in this activity. There are also a number of inmates who have expressed Buddhist support services.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

a. THANK YOU TO JETA GARDENS

A formal expression of thanks was extended to Choe-Lam Tan for his generosity in providing today's venue to the Council and his participation in this meeting.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Donna Imeri

Accepted

MEETING CLOSED: At 12:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: (to be confirmed) nominally Sun. March 16 at Chung Tian Temple – Priestdale Rd, Underwood around 1:30pm – Jim to follow up and advise.

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/08