

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. --
Postal Address. P.O. Box 4510, Loganholme DC, Queensland, 4129 Australia
Phone: 0422 819 379 Fax: 07 3366 7388

Email: buddhist_council@hotmail.com Web: www.buddhistcouncilofqueensland.org



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: April 11, 2010 **TIME:** 10:30am

VENUE: The Hollow's Residence – Hope Island

ATTENDANCE: Kim and Maeve Hollow, Chee Weng, David Wee, Jenny Le Neveu & Jim Ferguson.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** Clayton Wood

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Kim Hollow

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the August 8, 2009 Committee meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by Kim Hollow Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

Some matters have been placed in Business on Notice.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

As Tabled – includes Membership Application from Cairns and Phoenix Press invoice, phone accounts and post office box renewal, Office of Fair trading seeking previous Annual Returns lodgement. Also received were letters from the Member for Rankin and the Minister for Disability Services & Multicultural Affairs.

Noted that Ven. Bhikkhu Dhammadarsa of Wat Thai Buddharam had left Qld and therefore resigned from the C/tee – the committee moved a note of thanks for his brief but valuable contribution,

Moved by Jim Ferguson Seconded by David Wee Accepted

OUT- none

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Jim has spoken with Office of Fair trading and duplicate returns will be lodged this week.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current balance of the bank a/c is \$645.45 and includes a total of 24 cents interest. Cash holdings are \$50.00 being the \$50.00 petty cash reserve. The expenses paid from the account since the last meeting, mostly in relation to the Q150 project are: Optus a/c \$32.36, \$200.00 to print 5 draft copies of the book, \$800.00 for the website redevelopment, \$2,865.40 to Phoenix Press for the printing & shipping of the books from Malaysia, and another Optus payment of \$9.44.

Moved by Jenny Le Neveu

Seconded by Maeve Hollow

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

A matter arising was the subsequent invoice received from the printers for additional air freight of AUD470, not included in our acceptance of their quote. There is also a further liability outstanding of \$600 for book postage etc to Kim and Maeve Hollow. These amounts effectively imply the BCQ is presently insolvent by about \$375 and we need to address this position immediately. The discussion will continue as business on notice below.

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

- a. **Q150 Project De-brief and Matters Arising** – Jim commented that the book is, overall, an excellent outcome for the BCQ committee's effort and the Q150 grant program itself.

Jim also discussed the Acquittal to Q150 which identified the project's total cost as being over \$17,000 and had the books been printed within Australia, it would have been about \$20,000, thereby making the finished product valued at about \$17 per copy. Funding in excess of that not covered by the Q150's \$4,800 were generated from this committee.

To the uninformed however, while it is a good reference, those who contributed will well realise a large number of errors have resulted, due to errors by both us and the printers themselves. To readers though, it should be received as a valuable and useful resource for use by schools, dharma centres and other consumers.

Firstly, several contributions were omitted from the proofed copy sent to the printers which can only be attributed to our own editing and proofing, including some typo's and other minor errors.

Moreover however, there are inconsistencies between the approved PDF copy and the printed product, including omitted photos, altered formatting and other issues.

An in-depth discussion ensued to determine a response to the issues of product errors versus their request for additional payment. We also recognise and thank the printers for their generosity in printing the books for the price they did, which was far cheaper than other quotes received, and thanks too to Julie Khoo, for her personal involvement in negotiating with them for gaining this achievement.

The fact that the website will now, hopefully, fulfil the role of being the vehicle through which, all new information will be received, displayed and then act as the resource for any future reprint of this publication.

It was resolved that a letter would be sent to Phoenix Press detailing our dilemma and putting the decision on resolution to be at their discretion.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

The other matter of reimbursing the postage and packaging costs of the book to the Hollows, it was also subsequently moved that \$300 be paid immediately to them and the remaining balance to be reimbursed at the point in the future when funds become available to do so.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

- b. **New BCQ Website** – Jim also introduced the beta of the new website for those who hadn't had a chance to view it, which is in many ways linked to the new book and again, the outcome of the Q150 grant. This new site allows centres to enter and maintain their own information and should be more useful for them. It is also believed that it may also bring less involved centres closer to the BCQ activities.

Jim also demonstrated the Administrator functions and provided the access codes. Kim also commented that the idea of introducing multi-lingual pages be deferred until the English offering is settled in – but individual centres could use their own sites to share messages in their own language for their own community. It was then also agreed that we need to include a disclaimer on content on the website to cover the BCQ should some errant content be mounted on the site in another language before it was checked. It was also agreed the any non-English content should be accompanied by an English version for approval and possible mounting too.

It was resolved that the new website be activated as from this week, prior to the centres receiving the books being distributed. Jim also made the motion for a vote of thanks to Josh Birtles for his efforts, noting that while he moves to Melbourne in a couple of weeks, has promised to continue to support our site from there.

Moved by Meave Hollow

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

- c. **BCBSW Buddha's Birthday Event** – Kim presented the invitation to the NSW event, to be paid by both the FABC and BCNSW. Kim is attended as the President of the FABC and after discussion, it was agreed that Maeve be the BCQ representative.
- d. **REAC & Other Activities** – Jim presented the handouts from the last REAC meeting describing an excellent initiative to explain the various faiths for the K -12 (From Gr.2) school system in Qld. Part of it includes each faith producing a "Fact Sheet" to be distributed to all schools and available to all students. Another change effective now is that any Buddhist RI Instructors will now need endorsement by the BCQ as the recognised accrediting authority. Jim will produce a draft Fact Sheet and distribute for comment shortly.

Next year the Education Department will be requiring copies of the delivered syllabus – we need to try to get some alliance with BESS for them to continue with their excellent work in this field.

The sub-committee of REAC dealing with the Accreditation Committee for Employing Authorities for school chaplains also has the BCQ empanelled and there is only one Buddhist-founded authority so far registered – Chenrezig Institute. There is also only one Buddhist chaplain in schools at present at Milpera State High School and provided by Chenrezig. Jim made the comment that it would be good to support any further applications for Buddhist-based chaplains and authorities.

Another similar participation of the BCQ is the Qld. Multi-faith Health Care Council and while it is very clearly focussed on the clergy-driven model, Jim said the Council should endeavour to find and encourage a Buddhist sangha member to become actively engaged. These chaplains also need to satisfy professional qualifications and accreditation to participate.

- e. **Blue Cards** – Jim again reminded that all committee members must have current Blue Cards to satisfy legal requirements. Processing of these renewals can still take up to three months.

- f. **AGM preparations -**
 - a. Jim asked that the books of account be sent to the auditor for processing asap and to get a letter seeking his preparedness for next year's audit;
 - b. Jim sought expressions of interest from the retiring committee in standing again and all present agreed, but this can be varied;
 - c. Jim thanked everyone for their contributions through out the past year;
 - d. Jim also reminded everyone that he has no objection and in fact would encourage a change in office bearers including President at the forthcoming AGM;
 - e. The proposed AGM date was agreed to be Saturday, June 19 at Karuna if available, at 10:30am and Jim will contact them to confirm.

Moved by Maeve Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

- g. **Q150 Mailout** – The mail-out will be 1x copy for listed centres and 5x to each contributed centres. Additional copies for libraries and schools will be considered after the primary mail-out. The Australian National Library is to receive a copy and the various State Ministers also. Jim will arrange for supplementary distributions and if anyone has a selection of worthy candidates, please advise their details.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- a. **Letter of Support for Sangha Visas** – Originally raised by a supporter of the BCQ and also others in the past, but specifically to engender support to bring several Vietnamese monks from Vietnam, it was discussed the merit of creating a pro forma Letter of Support that can be used for such purposes. After discussion, it was agreed that a draft would be prepared and shared for comment and if approved by the committee, would be provided to this enquiry and available for other worthwhile causes. At no time would the BCQ be seen as offering to directly support the applicant financially with all liability remaining vested with the sponsoring organisation.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

- b. **ASA 2010 Conference in Brisbane** – via the FABC, Kim previously invited the ASA to hold their next AGM in Brisbane and is to be held at the Mercy Place in Bardon on Tuesday, June 22.

A key role that the BCQ needs to commit to is that of sangha transport, accommodation and meals before noon. Chee expressed interest in being actively involved in helping to facilitate that and advise what opportunities may be offered by our local community. Sister Susila is the ASA member coordinating the event. The biggest challenge is not knowing attendances until close to the event date.

It may be necessary for a sub-committee of this Council to meet prior to the actual date to confirm all the arrangements. Ven. Chi Kwan Sunim from Melbourne is the key organiser.

- c. **Logan City Multi-Faith Forum** – Kim reported on the new forum which is a very heavily Christian-aligned group. They have modelled their forum on the Victorian group in the City of Dandenong. Kim commented that there is only a limited role the BCQ can play in that group at this time but we will continue to maintain dialog.

MEETING CLOSED: 1:40 pm

NEXT MEETING:

Prior to the next AGM at Karuna Hospice Service, Windsor, Saturday, June 19 at 9:30am

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/2010