

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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2007 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The past year has been one of significant advancement of the Council's role as the representative of Queensland Buddhism to the State and Local Governments and in increasing the ecumenical support for closer association of the various different Centres and Temples and their respective traditions.

Pivotal in this resurgence of representation has been the review of your Council's Rules/Constitution resulting in the fresh recognition of membership to more accurately align with the Buddhist view that it is the individual who travels the path to enlightenment. The Extraordinary General Meeting held during this year endorsed the introduction of Individual and Family memberships and removed the requirement for Centre membership from being only available to groups that were Incorporated, or eligible to do so. The Office of Fair Trading has now approved these changes and we now comply fully with the Act and its obligations.

Another statutory requirement for all office bearers to hold a current CCYPCG Blue Card has also been satisfied and an Operations Manual has been introduced, which includes the necessary risk management, registers, etc. required under the Blue Card legislation and defines the policies your Council operates under, and your Council structure is now fully compliant.

Your Council has now also been officially recognised by all Queensland Government departments and authorities as the official representative for Buddhism in this state and as a result of which, the Council has been a regular contributor to and representative for various state functions and committee members have variously participated in meeting the State Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Director-General of Education, involvement in various working groups for community events from the Gold Coast, Brisbane and to the Sunshine Coast, ensuring that appropriate Buddhist input is received and our community fairly represented.

Examples of these activities include the Australia Day Peace celebration at Southbank Parklands, the National Inter-faith Festival at Maleny, the Harmony Day function at Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre and of course, the very successful Roma Street Parklands Multicultural Festival.

The Council's support for the Jeta Gardens Retirement Community's funding submission also assisted in their gaining funds for an additional 30 beds...congratulations!

Within the dharma community, the Council has also been active in supporting Centre and Temple activities including the opening of the Sri Lanka Monastery at Ellen Grove and the new Linh Son Hut temple at Bellbowrie last year. Other visits, including the Pureland College in Toowoomba, the Brisbane Meditation Centre at Wooloowin and other Centres have also been made by various committee members throughout the year. Your Council is also in full support for a project hoping to establish stupas in Brisbane and other locations and continues to encourage further development of those plans.

Buddhist Education in Queensland schools has long been an important subject for the advancement of the dharma in Queensland, and your Council has now been providing direct

support for that at the Brisbane State High School throughout the past year, and only due to the efforts of a number of dedicated volunteers.

In December 2006, Ms Kwee Choo engaged a small group comprising Rahu Sarath-Chandra, John Cartwright, Ven. Lozang Chopel and your Council, which rapidly brought together a series of meetings that joined together dharma centre and temples, educators and committed volunteers, to develop, virtually from nothing, a complete course in Buddhism that is now being delivered to a number of schools in SE-Qld. With the first school term now completed and with the need to constantly evaluate the program, its content and resources, this should deliver a significant outcome for the Buddhist community in Queensland by year's end and by continuous review, shape it into a valuable blue-print of life for our future generations.

A major part of this Buddhist Education in Queensland Program (BEQP) was the induction of potential volunteer teachers and then introducing them to the schools and helping the present body of volunteers successfully deliver the course, the Council ensuring that the required Blue Cards were obtained. Letters of Introduction to the schools and endorsement of the program by the Education department are functions that your Council is responsible for, while the teaching program maintains a level of autonomy in determining its content.

An integral component in all these endeavours has been the redesign of your Council's web site to offer simpler navigation and will continue to offer enhanced distribution of news from your own centre's promoting your own teachings and events. As this facility increases, it will become your own advertising space too. There are already a number of downloadable brochures from various groups promoting teachings, etc. that everyone is encouraged to support. We are already hosting information on the Brisbane visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of the Tibetan Gelugpa tradition, and assisting in the promotion of his very special visit to this city. The storage capacity of our website has been substantially increased now and we invite all centres to submit information for inclusion.

Another role your Council has strengthened is the Federation of Australian Buddhist Council (FABC), itself now the officially recognised representative for Buddhism at the Federal Government level and in International forum's. This is a very important entity since it is now helping to develop a common purpose and shared dialog between, not only the multitude of traditions and practices within Queensland, but also for the whole of Australia, and in building and supporting a close alliance with the Australian Sangha Association, who in turn, provide guidance and direction in matters of dharma and interpretation of issues that are the true domain of the Sangha.

This union is guiding several new initiatives that will help improve and lead our own spiritual leaders and centres and temples in a more mutually-beneficial direction, through more efficient focus on common goals and shared efforts that will help spread the dharma more readily in Australia.

Two such initiatives are firstly, the planned 2008 Policy Forum Conference to be held possibly in Canberra, bringing together key stakeholders from government, industry, inter-faith and dharma communities to deliver papers and ratify common policies and views on many of the day-to-day issues that affect us all. The second is a substantial review of how Buddhist education is delivered to our schools and communities and work has already begun on this significant concept.

Your present management committee has worked diligently this past year and are applauded for their commitment to and support for the Council and the dharma centres and temples it represents. All committee members have indicated their preparedness to stand again at the coming AGM and a summary of their respective attendances is provided below, as is a proxy form

that can be completed and submitted prior to the AGM on May 26, 2007, for all financial members at that time. Forms are available to download from our website if necessary.

Finally, as with all endeavours, the capacity to achieve so much has also required funds. Your Council requires the generosity of members through your membership fees to fund the bulk of our activities, public liability insurance and postage, etc. Were it not for the very kind donations from a number of Centres/Temples, individual members and also from within the management committee itself, the Council would not have been able to function during this year. The Council plans to secure some grant funding this year and also acknowledges the generosity of two donations, totalling \$510.00 specifically intended for the BEQ program, which hopefully will be the seed that grows as this program develops and matures.

Thank you for your support this past year and I wish all success for and in the dharma for 2008.



Jim Ferguson – President

Attendance Record for Present Management Committee members for 2006-07:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Full Name</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Other</i> <i>Events</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>Max</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>%</i> <i>Attended</i>
President	James Ferguson	15	15	14	14	29	29	100
Secretary	Rachel Hannam	15	13	4	4	19	17	89
Treasurer	Kim Hollow	15	15	9	9	24	24	100
Vice President	Chee W Weng	15	11	3	3	18	14	78
C/Tee Member	Maeve Hollow	4	1	1	1	5	2	40
C/Tee Member	Donna Imeri	15	13	3	3	18	16	89
C/Tee Member	David Wee	15	11	3	3	18	14	78

Please note that the number of activities vary for individual members due to their availability and commitments outside of the dharma and is intended only as a guide and not a comparison of contribution – in fact, all members have demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting Buddhism in every way possible.

If you are a financial Individual, Family or Centre member (up to three individuals can be nominated per Centre) and are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, we urge you to complete this Proxy Form and ensure it is received in time for the meeting by faxing to 07 3366 7388 or by mail to our postal address at the head of this report. Your support is what makes this Council so strong..!

PROXY VOTING FORM

I, _____ being a financial member of the Buddhist Council of Queensland Inc. at the time of this 2007 Annual General Meeting:

- (a) Nominate _____ for President
- (b) Nominate _____ for Secretary
- (c) Nominate _____ for Treasurer
- (d) Nominate _____ for Vice President
- (e) Nominate _____ for any Committee position
- (f) Nominate _____ for any Committee position
- (g) Nominate _____ for any Committee position
- (h) Nominate _____ for any Committee position

- OR -

I appoint _____ as my Proxy to vote for me at their absolute discretion.

Signed _____ Dated ____/____/2007

Witnessed by _____ Signed _____