

Buddhist Council of Queensland Incorporated. ABN 69 825774 318



An Umbrella Organization Representing Buddhists & Buddhist Groups in Queensland

-- Affiliated Member of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils Inc. --

Postal Address: 65 / 60 Caseys Road, Hope Island, QLD Australia

Phone: +61 422 819 379 Email: buddhist_council@hotmail.com

Web: www.buddhistcouncilofqueensland.org



PRESIDENTS REPORT to the 18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 26th November 2017

Thank you for attending our Councils AGM. My deepest thanks are extended to our Committee; Venerable Lozang Lhagsam, Reverend James Wilson, Secretary Maeve Hollow, Vice President Milton Fernando and Treasurer Jim Ferguson for their ongoing support to the Councils Queensland activities over the last year.

As was the case in previous years, our Committee attended Buddhist & Multi-faith events such as Islam's 2017 Ramadan & IFTAR Dinners, NAQ's celebration of "Buddha Jayanti", the Queensland Police Service Multi-faith Dinner, the Annual World Religion Day event organised by the Baha'i community of Brisbane, the 1st Buddhist Convocation Awards by the QSA, and the Religious Instruction Quality Assurance (Queensland Education Department State Schools Chaplaincy) meetings. I continue my work with local Vietnamese communities that have, or seek to create new places to serve their local communities and the general public. I want to especially mention that one Brisbane Monastic, Venerable Huyen Dat has a vision to establish a new Monastery that will also serve as a non-religious meeting place for the general public and community.

Last year, I mentioned the "*damage and degradation of our planet*"... As we again approach the Festive Season & 2018 New Year, we should all take the time to reflect on the environment we want to leave for our Children & Grandchildren. Australian Governments are attempting to manage real environmental concerns on one hand (e.g. the Great Barrier Reef) and with the other, work out how they can best provide security of power supply for our entire population. I am aware of a number of groups that seek to severely limit, or stop the use of coal as a means of power generation. There should be a balance of what can be achieved in this space, versus the ideological belief that limiting or banning coal as a fuel for power generation will solve our immediate problems. As Buddhists, we should continue to encourage peaceful coexistence amongst all Australians, respecting that others in our community will have a different view on topical issues to us. We should always respect others and their views, to maintain the peace, freedom and harmony we all enjoy in this great country of ours.

Our Councils website www.buddhistcouncilofqueensland.org is available to anyone having Web access, allowing our community and visitors alike to obtain information about Queensland's wide range of Buddhist activities. Although there's a "Directory" for contacting Queensland's Buddhist Temples, Monasteries & Dharma Groups, it needs to be updated. We are at a crossroads with our Council's Website, as we urgently need the services of a technically talented individual to manage our website, update our Directory and post current Event information for the many visitors that seek us out as a Resource & Information Centre. If you are reading this and are that person (or knows of someone) that has the skills and time to assist our community, please contact any member of our Council to discuss.

The 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics data on Religion & Faith has been released. It was revealed that we continue to be a "*religiously diverse nation*" The number of Australians declaring themselves Buddhist is 2.1% of the general population. Buddhism is the third largest mainstream faith group behind Christianity (52%) and Islam (2.6%). It's worth noting the number of Australians declaring has risen to 30% of the general population. Through the network of State Buddhist Councils and our affiliation to the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, we continue to promote Buddhist ideals of peace, kindness and compassion, and continue to have valuable input on the many and important societal issues challenging our nations citizens.

In closing, I again appeal to ALL Queensland Buddhist Organisations (Small & Large) to participate in Membership with the Buddhist Council of Queensland Inc., if you have not already done so. Without the communities physical and financial support, our Council is unable to function effectively, as we receive no government funding, and rely wholly on the generosity of Queensland's Buddhists and the general public for donations to keep the Council operating.

With unending Metta & Amitufo.

Mr. Kim Hollow
President

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" ...Mahatma Gandhi