



Buddhāloka

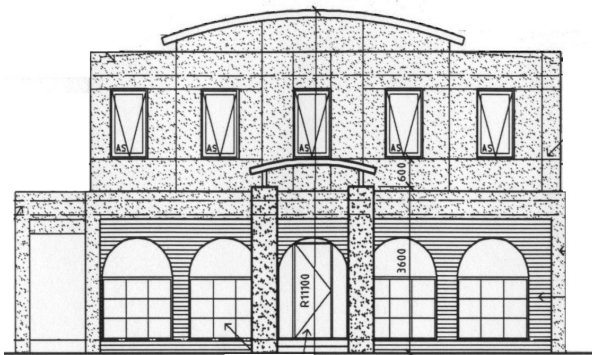
L I G H T O F T H E B U D D H A

Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

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2551

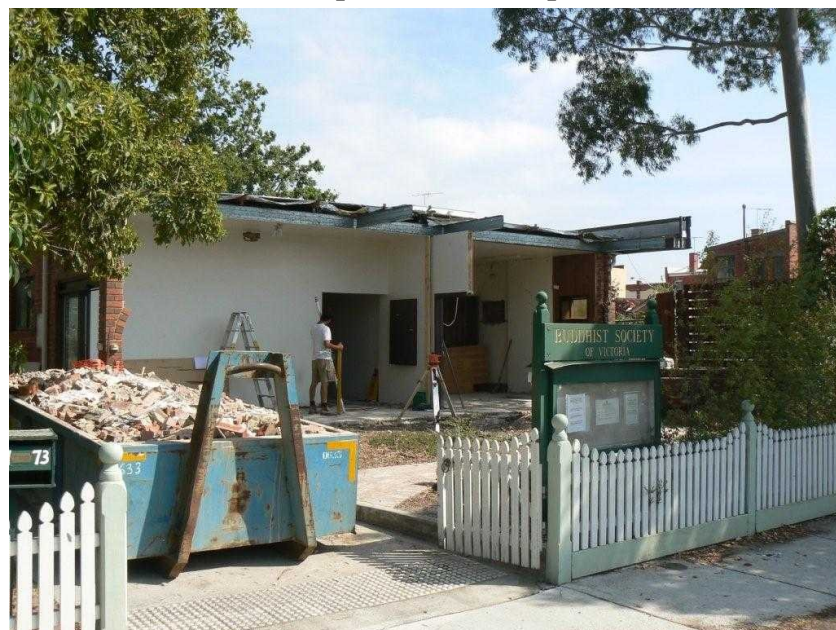
Summer 2008 /

Library Extensions Under Way



Following receipt of the necessary permits and approvals from Council, the planned extension to the library began on 16th January last. As a result of the contractors (Larger Construction Pty Ltd) working on week days only, there is minimal disruption to the Society's activities. The main meditation hall is provisionally somewhat smaller, as a result of a temporary partition required to separate the hall from the main

works area. Entrance to the hall is from the rear car park, utilizing the northern emergency access door. The power supply to the hall is temporarily from the vihara (house), to power the speakers and floodlight. Toilets in the hall are



inaccessible while the works are under way, however the toilets at the rear of the vihara are still available. The library is closed for the duration of the works, but the normal weekly schedule of activities is still conducted in the meditation hall.

The contract work excludes carpets for the upper floor and the stairs, all internal painting and finishes and the supply of light fittings. It is hoped that the interior finishes etc not in the contract may be done by material/effort by donors.

When the requirements are finalized, a schedule will be prepared for this purpose.

For safety reasons, persons not involved with the construction activities are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from the work area at all times.

Completion of the extension was originally scheduled for June/July and it was hoped that the construction of the upper floor, walls and the roof could be completed by the third week of April and we could then remove the temporary partition. However, the building works commenced later than hoped and it is unlikely that the toilet area will be available for Vesak, although we still hope that the temporary partition will be removed by then.

The extension is (part-)funded by a loan of \$120000 from the Commonwealth Bank. Monthly pledges received from members now stand at approximately \$1400. If the monthly pledges can reach around \$2500 we will be able to acquit the loan promptly.

The Society's Honorary Secretary, Prem Nawaratne, has been appointed project manager for this project.

Annual General Meeting of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

The Annual General Meeting of the Buddhist Society of Victoria will be held at the Buddhāloka Centre, 73 Darling Road, East Malvern, 3145 on **Sunday 30th March 2008 at 12:30 pm.**

The matters under consideration for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) are very important to the Society. Hence, all members are requested to attend. Honorary Members & Ordinary Financial Members of not less than two (2) years standing are entitled to vote. To be eligible to vote at the AGM, Members must be Financial. In the past many Members have chosen to renew their Membership subscriptions on the day of the AGM. In order to minimize delays to the AGM, everyone is encouraged to renew their membership as soon as possible.

Every Honorary Member has one (1) vote. Every Ordinary Member has one (1) vote and for Ordinary Family Members there is one (1) vote for the family.

AGM - Agenda & Motions

Motions (if any) by the Committee to the AGM will be circulated closer to the actual date. Agenda incorporating all motions will be made available prior to the meeting. Members wishing to submit any Motions to the AGM in accordance with the Constitution Clause 17 (xxiii) j (j), are requested to give prior notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, not less than seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting

Nominations for the Office bearers / Committee

In accordance with the Constitution only financial members are eligible to vote or stand for election to the Committee, or as Office bearers of the Society, or nominate or second a candidate for the purposes of such election. Written nominations are required to be submitted for the election of the Committee not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting, ie. **by 16th March 2008.** Please hand the completed nominations to the Secretary (Prem Nawaratne) on or before this date.

A member entitled to vote may appoint another member in writing as a proxy to vote. The Secretary will have the Proxy forms available from 16th March 2008. Please have these duly completed and hand them to Prem not less than two (2) days prior to the election, ie. **by Thursday 27th March 2008**

The proposed constitutional amendments are presented below :-

Clause 9. Applications for and Consequences of Membership

Sub clause (*existing*)

9 (vi) Subscriptions shall be due and owing on the first day of January in each year except for those who have joined as New Members since October of the previous year. Any member whose subscription has not been paid prior to the Annual General Meeting shall be deemed to be no longer a member, but may be reinstated at the discretion of the Committee, including immediate reinstatement of voting entitlements, on receipt of all arrears. In the event of non-payment of subscriptions due for two years or more, the membership shall not be renewable and the person will require to join as a new Member

Change the above sub clause to:

9 (vi) Subscriptions shall be due and owing on the first day of January in each year except for those who have joined as New Members since October of the previous year and have paid the new year’s subscription. All arrears of previous years are payable prior to payment of current year’s subscriptions. Any member whose subscription has not been paid prior to a General Meeting of the Society shall be deemed not financial and shall not be entitled to vote. In the event of non-payment of subscriptions due for two years or more, the membership shall not be renewable and the person will require to join as a new Member

Change the sub clause below to read: The Honorary Secretary shall keep and maintain...

Sub clause 9 (xii) The Honorary Treasurer shall keep and maintain a register of Members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member of each class and the register shall be available for inspection by Members at the premises of the Society.

Clause 17. Meetings

Change the sub clause below to read “... a majority of three fourths (3/4) persons entitled ...”

17 (xviii) Every matter for decision at a general meeting shall, except in the case of special resolutions, be determined by a simple majority of persons entitled to vote present in person or by proxy and unless a poll is demanded (before or after the declaration of the result of a show of hands) by at least five (5) persons entitled to vote, the question shall be determined on a show of hands. A declaration by the Chair of the meeting that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried either unanimously or by a particular majority or has been lost shall be prima facie evidence of that fact. **A Special Resolution** shall require a majority of two thirds (2/3) persons entitled to vote who are voting in person or by proxy.

(to be changed in compliance with letter 2255609 dated 15 July 2003 from the Department of Justice and Consumer Affairs Victoria, which states that the existing Sub-Clause 17 (xviii) does not comply with the Section 6(a)(i)(ii) of the Associations Incorporation Act.)

Sangha

Sayadaw U Tejaniya will be in residence in the vihara in late April and will be conducting an in-house retreat (see later article in this newsletter).

Ven. Nissarano has accepted the Committee's invitation to spend the *Vas* (the Rains Retreat) with the Society in East Malvern, and to conduct teachings during his stay.

Ayya Sucinta's arrival at the BSV on the 12th January 2007 marked a key milestone of our project of starting a Monastery for women Sangha in Victoria. Since then she has moved to East Bentleigh, where we were offered a house at a very good location and the monastery has been named *Sanghamittarama*. On the 12th January 2008 a few of us met at *Sanghamittarama*, to celebrate her arrival in Melbourne. We are very grateful for her presence here in Melbourne.

Ayya Thalaaloka from *Dhammadini Bhikkhuni Vihara* in Fremont, California, USA, will offer a Dhamma talk at *Buddhāloka Centre*, in East Malvern, on Sunday 23rd March. This will be followed by a Dana shared with the nuns from *Sanghamittarama*.

An opportunity to support the Dhamma

Rent is now being paid for the property at *Sanghamittarama*. It is a generously low rental of \$1000 per month for an excellent property, but we now need to raise about \$1500 per month to cover all expenses. At present there is about \$13000 in the Operating Account but that is only sufficient for 8 months or so of expenses. Please note that the tax

deductible account cannot be used until such time as we are in a position to purchase land and buildings!!! So please reflect upon that fact when you make your donation. Monthly pledges are an excellent way to donate and there are no bank charges if you undertake the transaction on the internet.

Buddhaloka has presently raised about \$1400 in monthly pledges towards the construction of the upstairs library. \$2500 per month is required if we are to pay off the loan within five years, so we ask you to give generously towards this important project. The Building fund is totally tax deductible. A form for making regular pledges is included in this newsletter.

from President Cora Thomas

BSV Vesak celebrations

Ajahn Brahmavamso will be with us to lead Vesak celebrations, commencing Saturday 24th May and will return to Perth on Wednesday 28th May.

Saturday 24th May 8.00 pm

Dialogue with the under 35s at
Buddhāloka Centre

Sunday 25th May 8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Vesak celebrations at
Buddhāloka Centre (see
separate Vesak program notice)

8.00 pm Dhamma talk at
Monash Religious Centre

Monday 26th May 8.00 am –

5.00 pm One day retreat at
Buddhāloka Centre

8.00 pm Dhamma talk at
Monash Religious Centre

Tuesday 27th May 8.00 am - 5.00pm One day retreat at *Buddhāloka Centre*
8.00 pm Dhamma talk at Monash Religious Centre

From the Committee

Donations to Dhamma Sukkha Vihara – The Committee approved two donations (totalling \$2000) to *Dhamma Sukkha Vihara* in recognition of the dedicated teachings from Sayadaw U Pandita.

Donations to the English Sangha – \$1000 had been previously received for Ajahn Ariyasilo for *Amaravati* and a \$300 donation from a generous benefactor to *Rocana Hall, Chithurst*. These funds were sent to these institutions (as the donors requested).

An **Ongoing donation** to the Buddhist Education in Schools program run by the Buddhist Council of Victoria has been approved. Due to a retraction of former government contributions to this valuable program, the Committee has agreed to donate \$100 per year to keep the program alive. It runs on volunteer labour (and further new teachers/facilitators are always required) but requires funds for teaching materials and office expenses (paper, printing, copying, correspondence etc.).

Donation to Bodhinyana Monastery, Warburton – The Committee approved a donation of \$500 (derived from the funds donated by Bob Greenfield) to the Warburton monastery in recognition of Bob's support for, and commitment to, the Thai Forest tradition.

Dhamma School

The Dhamma school has started rehearsals for another evening of plays based on Jataka stories. The plays will be staged straight after the Vesak celebrations.



Dhamma School students at last year's Vesak card stall

Retreats

Sayadaw U Tejanya will be conducting an in-house retreat at the *Buddhāloka Centre* from the 21st to the 27th April this year.

Geoffrey Cramer will conduct a meditation session, followed by a talk on 'Insight Meditation' on Tuesday the 29th April this year.

Living Dhamma- in retreat or out - We were indeed fortunate to have two nuns from Chithurst Buddhist Nuns Monastery, U.K. leading a retreat in December at *Maitripa Buddhist Contemplative Centre* Healesville- although for many of us Painsville could have equally described some of our experiences!

Both alms mendicants were impressive in their naturalness, simplicity and humility, and inspiring in the equanimity with which they had dealt with very scary life-threatening encounters, which we learnt of in Dhamma talks, showing that "Dharma practice certainly protects the Dharma -practiser"[Jataka 447].



Ajahn Thanasanti (left), Ajahn Thanaya (right)

For example, Ajahn Thanasanti has scars on her scalp from where a bear in the Himalayas once sunk its teeth- but because she remained mindful, it then ran off. Similarly, Ajahn Thaniya was once surrounded in India by men with weapons who meant no well- but because she laughed in the face of danger they left her alone- possibly thinking her a mad Westerner!

Having before us living examples of cheery senior Sangha, showing us how good results follow from ardent practice, gave us incentive to be with, or endure, whatever arose during meditation: be it pleasant, unpleasant or neutral.

A big "Thankyou" to Teachers, organizers, cook, venue and participants! Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!

from member Gary Dellora

So nice the rain

Thousands of footsteps on my
skylight,
A million tiny knocks against my
windows,
The endless swift patter on the
road.

The quiet dripping of a leaking
down pipe.

So nice the rain,

The weeds in my yard rejoice,

As they throw themselves at the
sky,

In their haste to grow.

So nice the rain.

Big steps,

From little feet,

Shouts of joy,

As puddles splash,

Nine year olds again.

from member Russell Dunne

April Retreat with Sayadaw U Tejaniya

Sayadaw U Tejaniya started practising and studying dhamma with his teacher the late Shwe Oo Min Sayadaw (the Gold Cave Hermitage Monastic Teacher) when he was thirteen years old. He was a successful business man and a householder, prior to taking on the robes. Ordained as a Buddhist monk for more than 10 years, and especially chosen by his teacher to continue the tradition of the teaching, he teaches meditation at *Shwe Oo Min Dhammasukha Tawya* in Yangon, Myanmar (Rangoon, Burma). He conducts personal discussions and prefers this over Dhamma Talks.

The Practice - Mindfulness practice is simple and direct. It is the moment-to-moment investigation of the mind/body process thru calm, open and precise awareness. Learning to observe every experience, without judgment and paying attention to the attitudes towards these experiences. Also important is awareness of the emergence of defilements as a conditioned response to the experiences.

The Retreat - The meditation retreat is suitable for beginners and experienced meditators and will be held in accordance with Theravada Buddhist tradition from 21st to 27th of April 2008.

For the period of the retreat please maintain:

- Mindfulness
- The Eight Precepts

The aim of the precepts is simply to create an environment which is conducive for the development of meditation practice.

In-House Day Retreats conducted by Ajahn Brahmavamso

**Monday 26th May and
Tuesday 27th May**

PROGRAM

8.00 am Meditation

including questions and discussion

**11.00 am Break for
offering of Dana** and
lunch for participants

12.30 pm Meditation

including meditation instructions, questions and discussion

3.00 pm Tea

3.30 pm Meditation

including questions and discussion

**5.00 pm Close of day's
program**

Meditation and Compassion in Everyday Life

**ONE DAY RETREAT
at the BSV
Friday, 21st March 2008
9:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Conducted by SALLY CLOUGH

Sally was born in Melbourne. She traveled to India in 1981, where she began practising vipassana meditation with teachers such as S. N. Goenka, Christopher Titmuss, and Joseph Goldstein. She lived in England for a number of years, where she has helped run retreat centres. She moved to California in 1988, where she worked at *Spirit Rock Meditation Center*. Sally began teaching retreats in 1996, and is one of the guiding teachers of Spirit Rock's Dedicated Practitioners Program.

In the busyness of our lives, we often find ourselves longing for space and calm. In this daylong, we will explore how to access the freedom that is available in the here and now, and reclaim the natural peace and ease that become more available when our attention connects intimately with our immediate experience. Out of this sense of connection, compassion for ourselves and others naturally arises. Sitting and walking in silence, investigating the flow of experience, moment by moment, we can relinquish the causes of suffering and reclaim our natural happiness.

The day will include meditation instructions, sitting and walking practice, dhamma talks, question and answer sessions and the option of individual meetings with the teacher to discuss your practice. This daylong

is suitable for both beginning and experienced meditators.

Bob Greenfield: A generous benefactor

The BSV is the most fortunate beneficiary of the generosity of a friend whom most of us had not even met. Our first association with Bob Greenfield was in 2004 when he donated \$10 000 to the BSV. At this time he was living in a nursing home in Morwell and Meththa Muniratna was president. She and other Committee members visited him and in more recent years the current president, Cora Thomas, Gary Dellora and Sayadaw U Pandita spent time with Bob. Fortunately it is not so long ago that Sayadaw U Pandita, when visiting Gippsland, was able to take him a Buddhārūpa which he had requested. He also received the BSV newsletter and became a member.

Bob told us that it was the radio that introduced him to Buddhism more than 30 years ago. Subsequently, on a visit to Thailand, he met very senior Buddhist monks and most importantly, he learned anapanasati, mindfulness of breathing. This practice he continued to the time of his death last July and he told us of the relief from suffering it brought into his life. Bob was a very gentle man and always appreciated the visits and small offerings by way of the Dhamma we could make to him. In total he has donated in excess of \$147 000 to the BSV. Bob's generous donation will be mainly used to reduce the loan terms and payments for the library extensions and to assist the necessary renovations to the vihāra. His other main beneficiaries are the RSPCA and charities for children.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed to the Society –

Siobhan Kilmartin
(rejoining)

Danielle Proske

Robert Di Renzio

Paule Sachs (rejoining)

Juvenal Vincent

Amalka Wijaweera
(rejoining)

Ranee Wijayaweera

David & Kerry Whiteside

We hope they find that the Society is of real assistance in aiding their understanding of the Dhamma and of the value in permitting the Dhamma to guide our daily lives.

Pali for Daily Reflection

A *Pali Word a Day* by the Mahindarama Sunday Pali School is a publication of the Buddha Dharma Education Association Inc. It aims to assist new Buddhist students who are unfamiliar with some of the Pali words often used in Buddhism. An example excerpt follows –

Dana – ... *giving, generosity, charity, liberality, the virtue of alms-giving to the poor and needy; also making gifts to a bhikkhu or bhikkhuni or to the community of bhikkhunis or bhikkhus*

It is the first step towards eliminating the defilement of greed, hatred and delusion, for every act of giving is an act of loving kindness (*metta*) and compassion (*karuna*).

Dana should be performed with the purpose of removing greed with

samma-ditthi (right understanding).

The three considerations of a giver are:

1. to feel happy with the wholesome deed before, during and after the dana.
2. to have *saddha* (faith or confidence) in the law of *Kamma* – *Dana* performed with right understanding will bear good results that are accompanied by *panna* (wisdom).
3. making resolution (*Aditthana*) to attain *Nibbana* – Altho' one may make worldly aspirations, such as good health, wealth and happiness, they must be made with the intention to support one's spiritual; growth. Good health will enable one to practise meditation; wealth will enable one to continue doing dana and be born in the happy realm (*loka*) where *Dhamma* exists.

extracted from A Pali Word a Day – A selection of Pali Words for Daily Reflection pub. Buddha Dharma Education Association Inc, email <bdea@buddhanet.net>

***The flickering fickle mind,
difficult to guard, difficult to
control – the wise person
straightens it as a fletcher
straightens an arrow.***

***Like a fish that is drawn from its
watery abode and thrown upon
land, even so does this mind
flutter. Hence should the realm
of the passions be shunned.***

Dhammapada 33 and 34

The *Dhammapada* ('Words of Truth') is a collection of 423 verses in Pali, uttered by the Buddha on some 305 occasions for the benefit of all. The stories about the circumstances in which the verses were uttered were added by the commentator Buddhagosa in the 5th century CE. It is generally believed that most of these stories associated with each *Dhammapada* verse have been handed down orally for generations since the days of the Buddha. The Buddha's teachings were not committed to writing until more than 400 years after his *Mahā Parinibbāna* (passing away).

Copies of the *Dhammapada* are available for loan or purchase from the library (altho' borrowing from the library is temporarily unavailable, due to the current renovations). We have also received many boxes of books for free distribution from *The Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation* of Taiwan, including copies of the *Dhammapada*. Contact our librarian, Yasmin, if you'd like a copy.

***The mind is difficult to control;
swiftly and lightly; it moves and
lands wherever it pleases. It is
good to tame the mind, for a well-
tamed mind brings happiness.***

Dhammapada 35

This edition of *Buddhāloka* was edited by David Cheal (contact via the BSV). The views contained within do not necessarily reflect those of the Buddhist Society of Victoria. Contributions and news are welcome, particularly from members.

The Nuns from Chithurst

In December, the BSV was delighted to receive a short visit from two senior nuns from *Chithurst Monastery* in the UK, Ajahn Thanasanti, who is well known to us all, and Ajahn Thaniya, who was here for the first time. Both nuns were able to visit family members on their way to Melbourne and it is noteworthy that Ajahn Thaniya is almost an Australian as her family resides in New Zealand!



From the Left – Ajahn Thanasanti, Ayya Sucinta, Ajahn Thaniya at *Sanghamittarama*

As well as offering beautiful meditation sessions and Dhamma talks during their stay, many of us were fortunate to be able to attend a nine day residential retreat at *Maitripa Contemplative Centre* at Healesville which they conducted together. The weather was consistently mild and sunny during this period and the mainly melodic but sometimes raucous bird presence and lushness of the natural surroundings helped us appreciate the interconnectedness of the whole of the natural world. Nuns in their brown habits were seen in the evening crouching in the golden high grass of the slopes waiting for the wombats to emerge from their burrows.

The emphasis was on the opening of the heart and body to receive whatever is present, rather than closing down or reducing in order to concentrate, a practice taught by some Sangha, made for a very peaceful and calming retreat. It was our task to be full of loving kindness and acceptance, and not concerned at all about achievement. I found that to be just what I needed and a change from other retreats I have attended.

After the retreat the nuns stayed with Ayya Sucinta at *Sanghamittarama* before returning to England and the Winter Retreat for Ajahn Thaniya, while Ajahn Thanasanti headed for India. We look forward to a return visit before too long!

Remembering Elizabeth Bell

On Sunday 2nd March last a commemorative service was held to remember the many contributions of Elizabeth Bell, our former President for many years, life member and long-time associate of the Dhamma.

OBITUARY - Elizabeth Galloway Bell OAM 16th September 1911 - 16th March 2007

Elizabeth Bell, a pioneer of Buddhism in Australia, died on 16th March last year, following a short illness.

Elizabeth's parents were both from North-eastern Scotland.

During the 1930s Elizabeth worked in the famous Primrose Pottery Shop, which sold artefacts by local artists. It was here that Elizabeth was excited to associate with many artists and writers. During this period her portrait was painted by the Russian-born artist Danila Vassilief.

As a child, Elizabeth's poems and stories had been published in the children's page of the Herald newspaper. In the 1930s, using the name Elizabeth Galloway, she had poetry published in "*Angry Penguins*", "*Melbourne University Magazine*" and "*Comment*".

In 1945 Elizabeth was introduced to jazz musician Graeme Bell and they married in 1946. Elizabeth accompanied the Bell Band to Europe in 1947 and in 1950. It was in England that their daughter Christina was born. On returning to Australia, the Bell Band enjoyed great success. Sadly the marriage to Graeme did not last and Graeme relocated to Sydney and later re-married. However Elizabeth and Graeme always remained good friends.



In the 1960s Elizabeth returned to the paid workforce working as administrator for the Borovansky Ballet Academy where Christina was studying. Elizabeth's office was a quiet haven in which all those fleeing outbursts of artistic temperament sought refuge! Later she worked at the Red Cross Blood Bank where she became great friends with then Director Dr Rachel Jakobowicz.

For many years Elizabeth had been searching for meaning. She often said everything fell into place when she discovered Buddhism. This happened in 1963 when she went to hear a Burmese monk speak in Melbourne and was struck by his certainty and calmness - two attributes that can be closely associated with Elizabeth. From then it was a small step to becoming a committee member of the young *Buddhist Society of Victoria* in 1964, an involvement she was to continue for the next 40 years of her life as she took on different positions, finally being President for almost 20 consecutive years. This was done whilst raising her daughter and holding down a job.

To support the fledgling BSV, Elizabeth opened her home for meetings, meditations, occasional visits from Buddhist teachers and cultural events. She

always extended a warm welcome to overseas students and new arrivals, including many Sri Lankans who to this day remembers hers as the only face of welcome and acceptance they experienced. Interest in Buddhism exploded in the 70s and 80s and Elizabeth became the touchstone for Buddhism in Melbourne. Anyone seeking information sooner or later ended up at her door or on her telephone.

Being President of the BSV over those decades was a huge task as Elizabeth wisely guided the group to consensual decision making so that everyone owned the decisions. Although she followed the Theravadin tradition, she was ecumenical in her acceptance of all traditions, making the BSV premises available to a Zen group, and in 1982 being a member of the committee organising the first visit to Australia by the Dalai Lama. In 1988 she was a delegate to the Women's Conference of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. She was in demand as a speaker on Buddhism at schools and universities.

Elizabeth's literary talents were put to good use in writing articles for, and eventually editing "*Metta*", the newsletter of the Buddhist Federation of Australia. She was involved in the establishment of the Buddhist Council of Victoria and in 1999 she wrote a history of the BSV. That same year Elizabeth was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to Buddhism. Characteristically, she was reluctant to take personal credit for the award, preferring to delight in the recognition it gave to Buddhism and the respect it showed for a pluralist society.

Highly self educated and with a passion for learning, as a loving parent, and later as an adoring grandmother, she instilled the values of thought and inquiry, and, most of all, of tolerance and compassion for all sentient beings.

A natural consequence of her compassion was her adoption of abandoned animals, support for animal welfare agencies and of course her vegetarianism. She adored cats and was never happier than when a cat was sitting purring on her knee.

Never interested in acquiring material possessions, Elizabeth was more interested in helping others. She was a magnet for people who sought her calm counsel when they had problems. If a troubled soul rang to talk to her in the middle of her meal she would let her food go cold. Even if she herself was unwell, she was ever the empathic listener ready to do whatever she could to help others.

In more recent years Elizabeth had a further burst of creativity and wrote a number of poems. She was thrilled to correspond with Les Murray and to see her poem "Ern Malley's Sister" published in "*Quadrant*", in 2006.

A gentle feminist, Elizabeth always believed that women should take their rightful place alongside men in all walks of life. A project dear to her heart was the establishment of a monastery for Buddhist nuns in Victoria. Fortunately she lived long enough to see her vision start to take shape.

In recent years as her health failed, her insightfulness and calm acceptance of her situation towards the end of her life was assisted by her Buddhist beliefs and the mental strength developed through meditation practice. Elizabeth's passing leaves a large gap in the lives of the many who loved her, but an enormous legacy of literary achievement, service to others and compassion.

Elizabeth is survived by her daughter Christina, her granddaughter, Fiona and her son-in-law, Bill.

from Christina Bell and Bill Ford

**Donation Pledge
To BSV - School Building Fund (SBF)
BSV - Library Extension Project**

To: The Treasurer, BSV

I / We the undersigned in support of the expansion of the BSV Library pledge to make regular periodical donations until further notice to BSV – SBF as below to assist in the construction expenditure for the Library extension

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

The Donation Amount: \$

Payment Frequency: Please select > Fortnightly / Monthly / Quarterly

Signature:Date:

Method of Payment:

- * Cash / Cheque – in a sealed envelope deposited in the BSV’s Donation box
- * Bank Order for Electronic Transfer of the payment

From my/our Bank:.....to
Buddhist Society of Victoria - School Building Fund account at
Commonwealth Bank (CBA): BSB Number: 063120 -- A/C No: 0090

0808

*Please tick (√) your preference

Note: All donations to BSV’s – SBF are Tax deductible.

The Treasurer will forward Official receipts for total aggregate payments received from each Donor at the end of the Fiscal year.

Cut on this line

Please fill in & retain this record of your Donation Pledge to BSV - SBF:

My / Our Name:.....

Donation Pledge Amount: \$ Date:

Payment frequency:

Method of Payment:

- * Cash / Cheque
- * Electronic Transfer per Bank Order to:

Buddhist Society of Victoria - School Building Fund account at
Commonwealth Bank (CBA): BSB Number: 063120 -- A/C No: 0090

0808

Activities at *Sanghamittarama*

On March 7, Ayya Sucinta left for the Bhikkhuni Seminar at Santi Forest Monastery. She also attended the bhikkhu ordination of Venerable Mettabha and the samaneri ordination of Melanie Fritz. Both of them came to Melbourne for the inauguration of *Sanghamittarama* in October 2007.

After the Bhikkhuni Seminar, on March 17, a group of six nuns took the train to Melbourne. For the first time (in the history of Australia?), there were be a number of Theravada bhikkhunis, more than four, sufficient to form a “Bhikkhuni Sangha”. On March 21, the full moon day of March, the fully ordained nuns recited the *Patimokkha* together, the precepts laid down by the Lord Buddha for bhikkhunis. The planned creation of a sima (territory) and the Patimokkha recitation is not happening in public. But there will be other occasions when you can meet with the visiting bhikkhunis and welcome Samaneri Athapi, who will stay on at *Sanghamittarama*. The three bhikkhunis from the USA will leave *Sanghamittarama* on March 26.

Venerable Bhikkhuni Tathaaloka was born in Washington DC in the 1960s to environmentally-minded scientist parents. Early in her life she began to wonder and question deeply what might be true and of real value in life. In her early teenage years she heard rumours of Westerners who had been ordained in Southeast Asia, and of their experiences amidst the Buddhist monastic traditions there. She has been following this path since 1990 in India and Korea, later in the USA, since 1997 as a bhikkhuni, a fully ordained Buddhist nun. With the support and blessings of Venerable Ajahn Maha Prasert, abbot of *Wat Buddhanusorn*, she established *Dhammadharini Bhikkhuni Vihara* in Fremont, California in 2005.

Many of you already know **Venerable Bhikkhuni Sudhira**, who was born in Sydney and currently resides in her city of birth at Sangha Lodge. She received bhikkhuni ordination at Dambulla, Sri Lanka, in 2004. She visited *Sanghamittarama* until March 22.

Venerable Bhikkhuni Sobhana has been a student of Bhante Gunaratana since 1989. She received novice ordination from him in 2002, and full ordination in 2006 at Dambulla, Sri Lanka. She resides at the *Bhavana Society* in West Virginia, USA. She will also teach a meditation class at the BSV on a Tuesday evening.

Venerable Bhikkhuni Satima, born in Sri Lanka, is living in Michigan, USA, supported by her family. She took ordination as a bhikkhuni in Dambulla, Sri Lanka in 2006.

Ven. Sister Athapi was born in Sri Lanka and ordained as a samaneri at Kegalle ten years ago. She came to Australia in 2006, and practised at *Dhammasara Nuns' Monastery* near Perth.

Program for Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Residence

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm - Meditators are welcome to join the evening chanting and meditation

In addition on the Friday, meditation instructions and guidance will be given.

Every 2nd Sunday at 6:15 pm - Dhamma discussion and meditation for young adults (age 18-35)

Please contact Dilky ☎ 9803 7170

Every 1st and 3rd Saturday in the month from 4 pm -5:30 pm - Sutta
discussion and meditation for the 18 to 35 year age group

*May the New Year 2008 give you plenty of opportunity to delight in the Dhamma and in
Bhavana!*

Buddhāloka Centre
71-73 Darling Road, East Malvern 3145
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www.bsv.net.au

REGULAR PROGRAM

(check on the web page for recent updates)

- Tuesday 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Meditation for beginners & experienced meditators with Ayya Sucinta
- Thursday 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Meditation for beginners & experienced meditators with Sayadaw U Pandita
 8:30 pm – 9:00 pm Dhamma talk for all by Sayadaw U Pandita
- Sunday 8:30 am – 9:30 am Silent Meditation.
 9:30 am- 10:30 am Dhamma talk by Ayya Sucinta
 11.00 am Offering of dana to the Sangha followed by a shared meal.
 All are welcome to enjoy the food brought by members and friends.
 You may bring some food, as you wish.
 Dhamma discussions with the Youth Group on alternate Sunday evenings

The **Dhamma School** resumed on Sunday 17th February.
 It is held on Sundays from 9:30 am – 10:30 am during the school term.
 For enquiries contact Suzanne Palmer-Holton on 9776 4425

Sutta discussions are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 4:00 pm
 at *Sanghamittarama*

All regular activities of the Buddhist Society are free and open to the general public.
 Non-members may not borrow from the library and do not have voting rights (due to the current renovations, the library is closed until further notice)



Buddhāloka
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 Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

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