



## ***Bushfire disaster around Melbourne***

From the **National Day of Mourning** held in Melbourne on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**First reader: Venerable Chi Kwang Sunim**

There are events that shock our awareness and imprint deeply on our hearts.

These are the events and the memories that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

The fires that took hold just over two weeks ago not only devastated Victoria, but have become part of our collective being. And in their wake we sense: the grief and tears; the inexpressible sadness of lost friends, lost homes, lost communities, pet, bird, animal life and beautiful nature.

The faith communities of Victoria are united in profound sorrow at the terrible destruction of life and property. Within our faith communities:

- we pray for the countless victims, including those who have suffered injuries and loss
- we pray for Australia, land of our long dreams
- we pray that we as citizens will be kept from the winds of destruction and harmful storms
- we pray that there will be safety for all in this beautiful country.

Within our faith communities and together:

- we give thanks for those who so courageously fight the fires;
  - we honour those who tirelessly care for those made homeless and with those recovering from their injuries; and
  - we trust that we will soon again enjoy the rains we need to quench our parched land.
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**Second reader: The Revd Jason Kioa**

We come together today as human beings who know that suffering is part of life. And in the midst of that suffering:

- there is the humanity that brings laughter in the midst of tears;
- there is the love in the midst of pain; and
- there is the joy of friendships renewed in the midst of loss.



We come together as Australians who know something of the regenerative power of fire in our bush:

- the seeds that break open in the midst of flames and quickly become signs of new life, their shoots rising from the blackened earth; and
- the sap that rises in the burnt trees to soon release green shoots from the blackened trunks and branches.



So today we come together as people of hope:

- because even in the midst of death and injury, families have been celebrating the birth of a child;
- because in the midst of the isolating shock we have come together - in this place and at similar gatherings across the State and nation.

From within our various faith traditions standing together here today, we too offer a sign of hope:

- of friendships that withstand division;
- of a commitment to work together for the common good, despite our differences;

- of beliefs that push us to work for a better tomorrow for all people so that we can live, work, worship and celebrate as people who cherish life rather than death.

May we all be able to move from darkness to light, from mourning to rejoicing, from grief to joy.

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## **President's Report from the Annual General Meeting of the Society, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 / 2552**

**The Sangha** The year 2008 – 2009 was again a busy and successful year for the BSV, and eventually realized the completion of the construction of the upstairs library and the reestablishment of our spacious and light-filled Dhamma hall. It is almost impossible now to remember the inconvenience felt during the greater part of 2008 as teachers and members and friends had to pick their way around the back of the hall and through the emergency entrance. At night time the exterior was lit only by small fluorescent lanterns and at times it felt quite hazardous. Fortunately there were no accidents and thank you to everyone for their great patience and forbearance over many months.

Ayya Sucinta continued to conduct a generous teaching program at the *Buddhāloka Centre*, a Dhamma talk on Sundays and guided meditation on Tuesday evenings. She also offered a program of meditation and twice monthly sutta discussions at *Sanghamittarama* as well as the Young Adult program. We are delighted to welcome Venerable Athapi to the BSV during Ayya's recent absence and she is conducting meditation on Tuesday evenings. We were also honoured this year by a visit from Ajahn Nissarano for the Rains Retreat which enabled Ayya Sucinta and Venerable Athapi to conduct their own retreat at *Sanghamittarama* as Ajahn took over the teaching program at the *Buddhāloka Centre*. Ajahn included in his teaching a very successful beginners' meditation program which has been continued by an experienced lay meditator from the BSV, Shane Brunning. Our thanks to Shane for his kind gift to us all. Ajahn stayed with us until after Kathina and returned in mid November when we were honoured by a visit from Bhante Gunaratana who was on his way to the Global Buddhist Conference in New Zealand. It was delightful to be able to welcome Bhante Gunaratana to the BSV as it was about 5 years since his last visit which was on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BSV. As well as Bhante Gunaratana offer of a generous teaching program during his short stay, he officially opened and blessed the library on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Other Sangha to give talks at the *Buddhaloka Centre* in the past year include Sayadaw U Tejaniya who visited us from the Swe Oo Min Centre in Myanmar after travelling to Perth, and conducted an "in-house" retreat at the BSV in late April. We are very grateful to a member of our BSV community who funded and supported this visit. We have invited Sayadaw to visit again in 2010 as he is unavailable in 2009. Venerable Dhammavegesi, a Sri Lankan monk, has recently given two talks and a one day retreat at the *Buddhāloka Centre* for which we are very grateful. In the last week of March, Ajahn Khemavaro paid us a visit from *Wat Buddhadhamma* in NSW where he is senior meditation teacher and we are already planning a visit next March, preferably during the Labour Day long weekend, so more people can take advantage of his wonderful and very helpful teachings on "in-house" retreat days.

Our warmest thanks must be offered again to Sayadaw U Pandita from the *Dhamma Sukha* temple in Springvale. He is a regular and highly regarded teacher at the BSV offering meditation instructions and a Dhamma talk on Thursday evenings. Many of our members also visit his temple on celebratory and other occasions, such as Friday evenings for Dhamma talks, and retreat days held at his centre. We thank him again for his continued support.

Last but not least, Ajahn Brahmavamso, the spiritual advisor of the BSV and a much loved teacher of the Dhamma, again led our Vesak celebrations on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He also conducted two retreat days and gave four public talks. Saturday evening's talk, held at the BSV Dhamma hall and termed 'Dialogue with

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*Youth'*, as it was specifically for the under 35s, was again very successful. The public talks on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> were again held at the Monash Religious Centre and on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, just after his arrival, Ajahn offered a brief talk to the Dhamma School students. We again thank Ajahn for his great kindness and generosity in offering us such a rich program over the Vesak period.

**Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Vihara** - We were delighted in late March, 2008, to welcome Venerable Athapi to *Sanghamittarama*. Venerable Athapi had spent some time in the West Australian nuns' monastery before coming to Melbourne and was trained as a samaneri in Sri Lanka. We offer our very warm congratulations to her for her recent Bhikkhuni ordination in India.

At last year's AGM, we mentioned the setting up of an Advisory Group to the Committee composed of senior BSV members (mainly past presidents) for the purpose of offering us advice on constitutional amendments to be brought to a Special General Meeting of the BSV. This Group reported back to the Committee in June, 2008, expressing their concerns and thoughts about our proposals for amendments to the BSV constitution. We were asked by the Group before we presented any amendments to present a clear statement of the income and support level (membership, pledges etc) of each establishment. This we will strive to do. There was concern expressed that the BSV would be unable to support both centres and that we could see a general decline of support. I believe that the second main request has already been met as we have long completely separated the funds of the *Buddhāloka Centre* and *Sanghamittarama* so in the case of the decline of one centre, funds would not be able to be transferred to back up the other Society functions or premises. Such a separation of accounts could be further clarified, if deemed necessary from a legal viewpoint, in amendments to the BSV constitution. It is worth reminding people that Ajahn Brahm has already approved a constitutional model for separate organization within the BSV.

In September, 2008, the BSV committee set up a small sub-committee to help in the organization of *Sanghamittarama*, as it was felt that until a full community is established such a support group is helpful. It was very nice to welcome Venerable Sudhira from Sydney in October and we look forward to return visits after her return from Sri Lanka.

Before recently leaving for Germany, Ayya Sucinta spoke of plans to develop day retreat offerings at *Sanghamittarama* and mentioned that Vesak Day, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, will be observed and celebrated at *Sanghamittarama*. Vesak for Children will also be celebrated on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

We would like to thank the many supporters of *Sanghamittarama*. The property looks attractive, largely because of the extraordinary efforts of generous lay-people/gardeners, a non-Buddhist lay-man constructing the front pergola without charge, the dana rosters are always filled and the food cupboards full to overflowing. A very enjoyable hopper night was held at *Sanghamittarama* in November and raised over \$1000 for the Operating Account.

**Retreats** - One residential retreat and one week-long "in-house" retreat were held last year under the auspices of the BSV. Sayadaw U Tejaniya, a very highly regarded monk from the *Swee Oo Min Centre* in Myanmar gave a 7 day retreat at the *Buddhāloka Centre* from 21<sup>st</sup> April to the 27<sup>th</sup>. This was the first long "in-house" retreat we have offered and it was very successful in so many ways. A core group of about 70 people attended each day and the numbers swelled at 3:00 pm as Sayadaw offered a very lively and interesting discussion session aided magnificently by the careful and lucid translations of Ma Thet, Sayadaw's long serving interpreter. We have invited Sayadaw and Ma Thet back in 2010 as this year they are in Europe and America. In early December the BSV organized a residential retreat at Candlebark Farm near Healesville. This retreat was conducted by Sayadaw U Lakhana, a very senior teacher in the Mahasi tradition, who was accompanied by an excellent translator and an assistant. Many retreatants commented on the deep peace and quiet which prevailed and which was enhanced by the remoteness and beauty of the surroundings. Over the Christmas/New Year period 2008 to 2009 the

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*Buddhāloka Centre* was open each day for a retreat conducted by Ayya Sucinta. Plans are in place for a similar offering 2009 to 2010 as the opportunity for calm and quiet was much appreciated during this hectic time of year.

The BSV conducted a one day metta retreat recently led by Sally Clough and her husband, both lay teachers from Spirit Rock in the US. Gregory Kramer paid us a very welcome return visit in February and followed a Monday evening session with a Tuesday day retreat. His teachings on Insight Dialogue are of much interest to many.

**Other BSV matters** - Please note that separate reports will be offered for the library and Dhamma school.

**The Library Opening** - It is with great pleasure that we can report the formal opening and blessing of the library on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November. The occasion was marked by a procession of the Sangha, Bhante Gunaratana, Ajahn Nissarano, Ayya Sucinta and Venerable Athapi. Bhante Gunaratana blessed the new working space and earlier in the morning we shared merits with Bob Greenfield whose generous bequest had made the construction and furnishing financially so much easier for us. We also placed a small brass memorial plaque to Bob at the commencement of the stairs. We would like to thank all of those who worked hard to assist in the completion of the project. Firstly, I must mention Prem Nawaratne for supervising the building on behalf of the BSV. It was a long and arduous task and we thank him very sincerely. Also our thanks to the architect, Asoka Rajapakse who offered his services free of charge and the builders who did a good job, and a number of volunteer painters/cleaners. Paul du Ve, the Committee member in charge of working bees, organized 7 such occasions and is truly worthy of our gratitude. There was also a small group of painters whom Yasmin had organized in the new library who also laboured long and hard and our thanks to them. As the paint was donated, the only expenditure involved in the painting was paying Andrew, our regular handyman to “finish off” for us. Since the completion of the construction and painting of the library, Yasmin has worked very hard to create an attractive and functional library which also is excellent for the Dhamma school on Sundays.

**Celebratory Dana** - On March 28<sup>th</sup> the BSV community shared merits with Elizabeth Bell, OAM, who passed away two years ago and with Beatrice Ribush, who passed away one year ago.

**The Passing of a dear Dhamma friend** - It was with sadness that we commemorated the death of Janet Tan, a long-term member of the BSV. As it was in August, Ajahn Nissarano was with us and was able to lead the ceremonies to mark her death. Janet was a friend of so many as she had great kindness and compassion and we miss her presence among us.

**Dhamma School Plays, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May** - We are very grateful to the Dhamma School teachers and members of the Young Adults for writing and producing the Jataka plays on the Friday after the Vesak celebrations in 2008. The hired community hall was very convenient both for its stage and the facilities for serving supper. About \$1000 was raised for the *Buddhāloka Centre* and *Sanghamittarama*. We are looking forward to another exciting and colourful performance this year, late in May.

**Fundraising lunch** - A fundraising lunch was held at *Lentil as Anything* at the Abbotsford Convent, in June 2008, and raised about \$3000 for the BSV School Building Fund. It was a very enjoyable occasion and our thanks to Meththa Muniratna for doing much of the organizing.

**Communications** - Warm thanks to the editor of our newsletter and our webmaster for assisting the BSV in communicating with its members and friends. The importance of these very different modes of communication cannot be over estimated.

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**Buddhist Council of Victoria** - Michael Wells and Judith Macdonald, long-term very large contributors to the BCV have both relinquished their respective positions. We thank them warmly for their contribution to the organization and to the BSV. I was fortunate to attend in August the launch at Glen Waverley Primary School of a most valuable Dhamma teaching resource for primary school children which was largely the work of Judith and for which we all feel much gratitude. The BSV Committee in 2008 committed \$1000 per year in support of the education in schools program in recognition of its importance and as government grants have been withdrawn. A warm welcome to Helen Richardson as the new BSV representative on the BCV in 2009.

**Buildings and Grounds** - We only have to glance around to see the beauty of our spaces in the Dhamma hall as the extension and renovation reach completion. The view outside is also very attractive and with the reestablishment of the garden (largely the work of Russell Dunne and Selina, warmest thank yous) and the attractive sign over the front doorway, we indeed present a new face to the public. Once funds are accrued, renovation work will commence on the vihara.

**Thank you** - This year has again been a successful and happy one for the BSV. I would like to warmly thank the Committee for its hard work and support, and comment on the very positive and harmonious attitude of its members. I can truly say that it is a pleasure to get together each month as so much is achieved. As the constitution wisely limits the role as president to four years, I will be happily and with a great deal of satisfaction, handing over the reins to a new person today. Chinlook Tan must also step down as Treasurer and I would like to thank him for his four years of hard work in that role and for his patience. Padmini as Vice-president has been a great support to me in every way and to the community and I thank her very sincerely for that. Paul du Ve will be actually vacating his place on the Committee but we are very happy for him as he is going to the Warburton monastery. So many people have worked so hard and contributed to the development and upkeep of our facilities for the teaching of the Dhamma both at the *Buddhāloka Centre* and *Sanghamittarama*. Frank Moore has kept the books for *Sanghamittarama* and Pri Peters has carried out a secretarial role. Thank you! There are hall and house cleaners, those who record and make recordings for our use, those who bring flowers and offer dana, the librarian and assistants, the Dhamma school teachers, those who drive the monks and nuns, those who open and close the Dhamma hall, those who act on other committees. All of these and many others deserve our warmest thanks.

*from retiring President and Committee Member Cora Thomas*

## **Dhamma School Report**

The year 2008 was marked by what seemed to be an endless wait for the new library building to be finished. The children coped well with the building disruptions as we were able to utilise a room in the Sangha. Despite the feeling of temporary accommodation, the number of students who attended the Dhamma school at sometime during the year was 50. This was an increase of 8 from the previous year.

Over the whole year we gave a total of 30 Dhamma lessons. This does not include the extra time spent rehearsing the series of plays. The average attendance over the whole year was 23.53 children per week. The largest number who attended at any one time was 31. This was one week during term 2. We are continuing to divide the school into three classes according to their school grades.

In 2008 the Dhamma school children once again were involved in the preparation and performance of a series of plays directed and produced by Dilky Perera and her friends from the youth group. This was enjoyed by all those who attended as well as those who took part and also raised money for the temple.

Plays for this year's Vesak are under production and will be performed on 29<sup>th</sup> May.

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So far this year we have given 7 lessons and 46 students have attended. We still cater for a very wide geographical distribution.

We are enjoying the new facilities and await the final installation of the remaining shelving and other requirements.

*from Dhamma School Coordinator Suzanne Palmer-Holton*

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## **Library Report**

New furniture will be required for the library. Raeco has agreed to audit the area and provide suggestions for furniture without charge and will give generous discounts on items from their catalogue. Second hand shelving has been donated. The floor plan is in progress. An office space will be included for the first time. This will provide space to store and process newly purchased books and audio material. An area will be designated for members to listen to audio material. Appropriate shelving for our growing collection of CDs is also required.

### **Library material**

At Vesak 2007, 150 copies of Ajahn Brahm's new book "*Mindfulness, bliss and beyond*" were sold. Profits from book sales go directly to purchase new books for the library. We received over \$500 in donations towards freight costs for free books. The free book shipment received in 2006 continues to be highly valued by many people who visit the BSV.

On a recent visit to Sri Lanka, I purchased several books and audio CDs for the library from the Buddhist Cultural Centre. These will be processed and are ready for borrowing.

Prem Nawaratne and Dr Mervyn Mendis continue to add material to our CD collection. We need to consider the future of the audio tape collection. Where possible, these may be converted to CDs.

It has been difficult to source new material for the library since *Mandala*, our main supplier, has moved to Brisbane. I have been unable to find an equivalent supplier in Melbourne so far. We may have to consider additional freight costs if we decide to order books from overseas.

### **Sanghamittarama Library**

A generous donation received by a BSV member enabled me to purchase, the Vinaya Pitaka (5 volumes) and the Anguttara Nikaya (6 volumes) from the Buddhist Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka. Other titles that Ayya Sucinta had requested were also purchased by this donation. I have given duplicate copies of books to the library and continue to provide books for free distribution.

The reference collection of the BSV Library was moved to Sanghamittarama temporarily. This has provided Sangha members access to this collection during the time of library renovation.

I am deeply grateful to Dr Mendis, Prem and Nisha for their continued assistance in the library and my heartfelt thanks to all those who generously donate money and books to the Library. Much metta to you all.

*from Librarian Yasmin Moore*

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**Vesak Celebrations**  
**to commemorate the Birth, Enlightenment and**  
**Death of the Buddha**  
**Program - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

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- 8:00 am Taking of Precepts (five or eight)
- 8:30 am Meditation
- 9:30 am Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahmavamso
- 10:15 am Buddha Puja (offering of flowers and incense)
- 11:00 am Offering of Dana to the Sangha
- 11:30 am Community lunch in the dining area. Eight preceptors served first.
- 12:30 pm Meditation
- 2:00 pm Dhamma discussion and meditation with Ajahn Brahmavamso
- 3:30 pm Afternoon tea
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Dhamma discussion with Ajahn Brahmavamso
- 8:00 pm Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahmavamso at the *Monash Religious Centre, Clayton Campus*
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### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**Program** – An in-house Day Retreat conducted by Ajahn Brahmavamso

- 8:00 am Meditation** - Meditation Instructions  
 Short Break  
 Questions - Discussion
- 11:00 am Break for offering of Dana** - Lunch for participants
- 12:30 pm Meditation** - Meditation instructions  
 Short Break  
 Questions - Discussion
- 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea**
- 3:30 pm Meditation** - Meditation Instructions  
 Short Break  
 Questions - Discussion
- 8:00 pm** Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahmavamso at the *Monash Religious Centre, Clayton Campus*
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### **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**Program** – An in-house Day Retreat conducted by Ajahn Brahmavamso

- 8:00 am Meditation** - Meditation Instructions  
 Short Break
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Questions - Discussion

**11:00 am Break for offering of Dana** - Lunch for participants

**12:30 pm Meditation** - Meditation instructions

Short Break

Questions - Discussion

**3:00 pm Afternoon Tea**

**3:30 pm Meditation** - Meditation Instructions

Short Break

Questions - Discussion

**8:00 pm** Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahmavamso at the *Buddhāloka Centre*, East Malvern

## Sangha

Donations are welcome towards travel expenses of visiting Sangha:

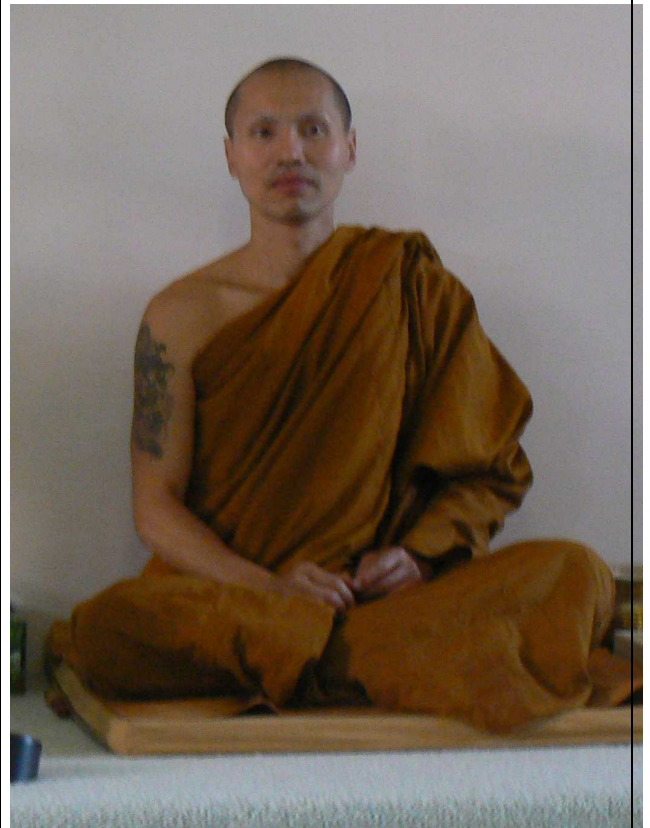
- Ajahn Brahm's visit (airfare \$500).
- Ajahn Ariyasilo is due to arrive soon and will reside at the *Buddhāloka Centre* (airfare \$1200).

**Ajahn Ariyasilo** is expected to arrive at the BSV on 29<sup>th</sup> May and we are very happy that he can be with us for the Rains and probably well into next year. The dana rosters will be posted very soon.

**Venerable Ekagatha** is likely to visit the Society towards the end of this year.

**Ajahn Khemavaro**, senior meditation teacher at *Wat Buddhadhamma* in NSW, spent a week at the end of March at the BSV offering teachings. He also visited some of the Vietnamese temples while he was in Melbourne. Ajahn offered us a very rich program and of special value to many was the three day "in-house" retreat over the weekend and Monday 30<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that next year Ajahn can come for the long weekend in early March so that more of our members can benefit from the Monday retreat day. Ajahn's teachings were particularly encouraging as he stressed the need for us to find happiness and light-heartedness in the practice and not to allow guilt or a strong sense of duty to be in the driving seat.

**Ajahn Sucitto** has accepted the Society's invitation and plans to visit from 25<sup>th</sup> November until 6<sup>th</sup> December this year. He proposes to conduct an in-house retreat and a teaching program.



Ajahn Khemavaro at the Buddhāloka Centre

## Retreats

**Gregory Kramer Insight Dialogue** On 24th February the BSV was fortunate to have Gregory Kramer lead us in a day of retreat involving meditation and Insight Dialogue. For a full description of the latter refer to Gregory's book of the same title or visit on the website of the not-for-profit *Metta Organization* of which he is the founder.

In brief, Insight Dialogue involves entering a calm space in the mind by a meditation technique and then engaging in a short dialogue with a fellow practitioner about a Dhamma topic, all the while with deep awareness and presence and compassion for self and others.

The Buddha said we have a hatchet in our mouths, harming ourselves and others. We need to cultivate awareness of this in daily life, and practice like this retreat day helps with this. A big thankyou to Gregory and organizers.

**Recollective Awareness** - On Saturday 30th May coming Jason Siff, a former monk, will lead a retreat day of meditation on Recollective Awareness at the *Buddhāloka Centre* between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The *Buddhāloka Centre* is open for silent meditation the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 9:30 am.

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## ***Society's representative on the Buddhist Council of Victoria***

There is an opportunity for you to express interest in becoming a member of the *Buddhist Council of Victoria* (BCV) and represent the BSV

This may involve:

- Attending about 8 meetings a year (held on a Friday evening or a Saturday afternoon)
- Update the BSV Committee of upcoming projects
- Get involved in project work which is optional.

Please refer to the BCV's web site for details of the Council's activities <http://www.bcvic.org.au/>

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## ***From the Committee***

**Geelong Group?** – Mr Adolf Deppe sought support to start a 'Buddhism Interest Group' in the Geelong/Bellarine Peninsula region. He has been invited by the Committee to come and meet the Committee and learn more about how the BSV works.

**Korean Community** - The BSV is very happy to aid in the spreading of the Dhamma by offering the Korean community the use of the meditation hall and kitchen in the vihara from 12 noon every second Sunday of the month so that they can have a suitable and large enough facility.

**New Committee** – Following the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 5<sup>th</sup> April last, the new Committee consists of –

President – Dhananjaya Jayasekera

Vice-president – Cora Thomas

Secretary – Sarath Weerakoon

Treasurer – Judy La Brooy

Committee members – Alice Chin

Gary Dellora

Ngoc Bich Huynh

Prem Nawaratne

Padmini Perera

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## ***Fund Raising event for BSV and Sanghamittarama***

A fund-raising lunch in aid of both *Sanghamittarama* and the wider Society is planned for June coming.

When: Saturday 13th June

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: at *All Saints Church Hall* 2 Dixon St,  
Clayton

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## ***Dhamma School Play***

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May the Society's Sunday Dhamma School will hold their annual play at

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7:00 p.m. at the Glen Waverley Community Centre, 700 Waverley Rd Glen Waverley (the corner of Waverley and Springvale Rds). Refreshments will be available at intermission.

## ***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 –

**Anattā** – ... consist of two words, *an-(no) and attā (soul or eternal self or metaphysical entity) = no-soul, no-self, ego-less*

The anattā doctrine is one of the most important teachings of the Buddha. It is also the distinctive feature in Buddhism that can't be found in other major religions. Yet it is the most misunderstood, most misinterpreted and most distorted of all His teachings.

There is nothing we can call an inner core, which is eternal and blissful. There is also nothing we can call upon to exercise authority over the nature of things. There is no doer apart from doing, and no-one who is omnipotent, because everything is at the mercy of the constant creation and dissolution of conditioned things.

We are a compound of 5 **khandas** (aggregates) – which are interacting and dependent upon each other and make up the personality. No director, no doer, no experiencer and no essence can be found.

Therefore there is “I”, “mine”, “myself” etc. But body, feeling, perception, mental formation and consciousness phenomena together are what we experience as the “I”.

*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>*

## **New Members**

The following new members are welcomed to the Society –

Elizabeth Anderson

Addison Bishnu

Ken Kyung Keum Lee

Chamin Liyanage

Kha Shoot Phang

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.

***Who will comprehend this earth (self), and this realm of Yama, and this world together with the devas? Who will investigate the well-taught path of virtue, even as an expert (garland-maker) will pick flowers?***

Dhammapada 44

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

*A disciple in training will comprehend this earth, and this realm of Yama together with the realm of the devas. A disciple in training will investigate the well-taught Path of Virtue, even as an expert (garland-maker) will pick flowers.*

Dhammapada 45

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.

## Colonel Olcott and the Buddhist Revival in Sri Lanka (2)

During the course of his stay in the island, Olcott travelled widely. Wherever he went, welcome was widespread and spontaneous. He was deeply moved and made up his mind to do all he could to help Buddhists in Sri Lanka regenerate themselves. Sri Lanka always had a soft corner in his heart. "Ah! lovely Lanka," he wrote in his Diary Leaves many years later, "how doth thy sweet image rise before me as I write the story of my experiences among thy dusky children, of my success in warming their hearts to revere their incomparable religion and its holiest founder. Happy the karma that brought me to thy shores."

From the very start Olcott gathered round him a band of most able and enthusiastic workers. He became their "guide, philosopher and friend." He indicated in unmistakable terms the steps that were necessary to transform the new-found enthusiasm into practical shape, so as to achieve real and lasting results. He was a man of indomitable will, no obstacle could stand in his way. Antagonist propaganda only gave him greater strength, and even government opposition which he encountered in no small measure, only made him redouble his efforts. Even the attempt made on his life by some Christian fanatics served to increase his enthusiasm.



He put his finger at once on the weakest spot in the Buddhist position. He insisted that Buddhists should take the education of their children into their own hands. At the time of his arrival in Sri Lanka, there were only two Buddhist schools in the island; one at Dodanduwa started by the Ven. Piyaratana Thera and the other at Panadura, conducted by a local Buddhist society under the supervision of Ven. Gunaratana Nayaka Thera. The total attendance at both schools was 246. At this time there were 805 Christian schools with an attendance of 78,086 children, a very large percentage of whom were born of non-Christian parents. The Buddhist schools had, after many years, received a grant from Government of Rs. 532 whereas the grant of the Christian schools in the same year amounted to Rs. 174,420.

Olcott threw himself heart and soul into the fight for the establishment of Buddhist schools everywhere. He was most anxious that the Buddhist educational movement should primarily be a movement of the people, by the people and for the people, that it should grow from the soil, and that its roots should reach deep down into the peoples' lives. He wished to link it up with a national revival in which the people

should be taught to take pride in their language, their customs and their noble culture. He himself gave of his time and services and even money, freely, generously. But he never dictated plans or lines of action. He allowed those who took up the work to find their own feet with him watching in the background only, to struggle, to make mistakes or, even, to quarrel. He wanted them to taste of the joys of achievement of success gained, of battles fought and won. When money was needed, he often went himself as a beggar, begging-bowl in hand.

The first "Buddhist Fancy Bazaar" was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1883, and it is recorded that at the start there was opposition from the Buddhists for this type of collection. Later these "Fancy Bazaars" became a regular feature of Buddhist activities, and goods were for sale from lands overseas - Thailand and Burma, England and America.

On the full moon day of Vesak 1881, Olcott inaugurated at Kelaniya Temple a Buddhist National Fund for the "general promotion of religious and secular education of Buddhist children and the dissemination of Buddhist literature". The first cheque (Rs. 100) was handed to Olcott immediately after his speech by R. A. Mirando, who up to the time of his untimely death continued to be a great worker in the Buddhist cause. By 1886 the Buddhist National Fund had collected Rs. 13 000. Olcott also did many things to rouse the people's enthusiasm; he suggested the necessity for a public holiday on Vesak Day and helped in getting it for the Buddhists. He emphasised the need for a headquarters building for the new movement, and got the Buddhists to purchase it in May 1885.

He suggested the importance of propaganda and the establishment of a newspaper. The result was the *Sarasavi Sandaresa*, started in December 1889; it brought a new spirit into Sinhalese writing, a fine style, elegant and yet popular, which created a new era in Sinhala literature. The *Sandaresa* soon became an institution to be reckoned with. The editor was merciless in his exposure of corruption and snobbishness among members of the public service who had got accustomed to give themselves the air of petty *rajās*. Government officials raised the cry of sedition against the editor and spoke of "a new danger to the peace and prosperity of the island". Their allies in the British press made editorial demands for the stern suppression of the growing tendency towards the creation of a seditious "native" press. But the editor was undaunted. He established contact with enlightened journalists and public men in England and the local government found it impossible to suppress him. *The Buddhist* was later started as an English supplement to the *Sandaresa* and published by the B.T.S. till it was handed over to the Y.M.B.A. (Young Men's Buddhist Association) in 1918. The first editor of *The Buddhist* was C. W. Leadbeater. He was followed in succession by Mudaliyar L. C. Wijesinghe, the famous translator of the *Mahavamsa*, A. E. Bultjens, D. B. Jayatilaka and W. A. de Silva, all of whom made their mark in the Buddhist renaissance movement in more ways than one, and worked wholeheartedly for its success.

*to be continued ...*

*by M. P. Amarasuriya, Wheel no. 281, Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy (1981)*

## **Activities at Sanghamittarama**

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Venerable Athapi received Bhikkhuni Ordination in Nagpur, Maharashtra, India. After a visit to Sri Lanka she returned to Melbourne on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

From March 20<sup>th</sup> until April 15<sup>th</sup>, Ayya Sucinta was away for a visit to Germany.

The regular evening program at *Sanghamittarama*, the Sutta discussions and teachings for special age groups will continue as follows:

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**Chanting and silent meditation** *Wednesday Thursday and Saturday, at 7:30 pm*

**Chanting, meditation with guidance and Dhamma teaching** *Every Friday, 7:30 pm*

**Sutta discussion** *Saturday March 7, and Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm*

**Meditation and Dhamma discussion for Young Adults (age 18-35)** *Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm*

**Dhamma teachings for Children (age 6-12)** *Every last Sunday of the month, at 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm with Ayya Athapi*

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**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 – 8:30 pm Meditation for beginners & experienced meditators with Ayya Sucinta
- Wednesday 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Introduction to meditation with Shane Brunning
- 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  
 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.

The **Dhamma School** is held on Sundays from 9:30 am – 10:30 am during the school term.

For enquiries contact Suzanne Palmer-Holton on 9776 4425

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.



**Buddhāloka**  
LIGHT OF THE BUDDHA  
 Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

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