

BSV



Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

Aug – Oct 2012
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The Buddhist Society of Victoria (BSV) is a centre for the learning and practice of Buddhism in Victoria, Australia. The BSV conducts regular meditation classes and retreats, and facilitates talks given by monks, nuns and respected lay teachers.

ALL TEACHINGS AT THE BSV ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

MONK JAG'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE



The photo above was an opportunity that I could not refuse! I was invited to have Dana at a restaurant, and auspiciously, its name was "Original Sin"!

Visiting Singapore and Malaysia, it was important to spread the good news about the BSV's move to establish a Forest Monastery near Melbourne. Whilst in Singapore, I was fortunate to visit a few centres of Dhamma practice including the Buddhist Fellowship, Wat Ananda Youth and the Minding Centre (all lay-run Buddhist Centres). In Malaysia, I was kindly allowed to stay for a few days at the Maha Vihara in Brickfields with Ven. Dhammaratana and visited the Buddhist Gem Fellowship (BGF) and Nalanda Buddhist Centre.

Whilst at the BGF, I caught up with Ven. Buddharakkhita, who had stayed in Bodhinyana monastery with Ajahn Brahm. There were many occasions where we could share Dhamma together whilst overseas, sometimes talking for a few hours at a time due to many questions being asked.

All up, the trip allowed me the opportunity to connect with others through the practice of Dhamma whilst highlighting the need for a Forest Monastery near Melbourne for monks and nuns. Going around to different centres was also informative in terms of seeing different models of how others serve the Buddhist community within their city-centres. I met many good people and made a few friends along the way, as this is the nature of Dhamma; to bring people together in harmony while developing peace and insight.

With Joy in Dhamma, Monk Jag.

SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE MONASTERY PROPERTY CONTINUES...

ARE WE GETTING CLOSER??

Since late April 2012 after the SGM, which unanimously supported the establishment of a forest monastery, the search for a suitable property has been on in earnest. A Property Search Subcommittee was set up and Bhante Jag, Ayya Upekkha, more recently Ayya Nibbida and accompanying lay people have visited a number of properties within about one hour of the BSV.

At the time of the meeting, mention was made of a seemingly appropriate property in the Bunyip State Forest east of Melbourne. However, it was decided, as a result of 2 visits to examine its suitability, that the land was too small (about 80 acres) and its access was too difficult particularly in terms of bush fire evacuation.

Properties have also been visited north and west of Melbourne but they have been unsatisfactory in some way. Dwellings on site are an important criterion as they provide immediate accommodation for monastics. The topography of the land is also important, so that building of kutis can take place readily, bearing in mind the need for a certain percentage of flat area to accommodate old/sick Sangha members. Existing forest is an important consideration and the environment around the property so that peace and quiet can prevail.

One beautiful property of more than 150 acres with a house and sheds, meeting all criteria, has been located but the cost at present is too high as we have a limit of \$1.5 million. It is unlikely that we will be able to purchase this land unless we can make a higher offer. At present we have about \$100,000 in the Forest Monastery Fund but we would probably need to raise at least another \$200,000 to be a prospective purchaser of this property.

There's a bit of difficulty operating here. It's quite challenging to raise money by donation without the property actually "in hand" for people to see and yet it would seem we need a little more financial backing to purchase the most suitable land for our purposes.

Thus, donations are most welcome and would be much appreciated!! We know many will wait until we have purchased but an early donation would help us with a deposit in order to secure a property.

Cora Thomas, on behalf of Property Search Sub Committee

STATUS OF FUNDRAISING FOR MONASTERY / RETREAT

The BSV Forest Monastery Project is now in full swing after the unanimous vote by BSV members in favour of its establishment. To realize the goal of the forest monastery, the BSV Fundraising Subcommittee has been set up. The Fundraising Subcommittee is focusing on two main methods of fundraising; the first one is by way of **pledges by donors** and the second one is by various **fundraising events**.

Pledges

The goal of the Forest Monastery Project is to purchase a block of land in a forest setting large enough to establish a monastery for monks, a monastery for nuns and a lay retreat centre. To purchase a block of land, large enough for these three purposes within a reasonable driving distance of the current BSV city centre at East Malvern, will cost at least \$ 1.5 million. This means that BSV will have to take a mortgage with repayments of around \$ 12,000 per month and this can most conveniently be supported by donors pledging monthly donations.

Therefore, we invite all the BSV members and their family and friends to engage in this great cause by committing to a regular donation towards the Forest Monastery Project. Without your support it is impossible for us to reach our goal.

So far we have many people signed up for pledges, bringing the monthly donation to slightly over \$6000, which is about half way towards our goal. We would like to thank everyone who signed up for pledges and agreed to donate money on a regular basis. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. It would help us achieve our goal if you can encourage your relations and friends to start a pledge towards the Forest Monastery Project, as every single donation counts. All pledges are fully tax deductible. The electronic pledge forms can be found at the BSV web site, printed copies are also available at the BSV. You can make direct transfers and pay into this tax-deductible account:

Buddhist Society of Victoria Monastery Building Fund

BSB 063 009; Account No: 1054 0860

Fundraising Events

So far we have conducted four main fundraising events to raise funds for the Forest Monastery Project. We have conducted a garage sale, Cadbury chocolate fundraising, and a superb dinner and raffle. All these events have been very successful due to the hard work and support of the BSV community.

The fundraising efforts kicked off with a bang with a wildly successful garage sale in April raising an amazing \$7,000 due to the dedicated efforts of the sale volunteers and the generosity of the donors of the sale items.

The sale of the Cadbury chocolate fundraiser boxes at work places was another very successful activity which raised about \$ 1,800, and we are planning to organise more of these.

FOREST MONASTERY FUNDRAISING DINNER 15 JULY



The latest fundraising event was the **Fundraising Dinner & Raffle**, held on 15 July at the Springvale RSL club.



After deducting expenses, we raised \$8,184 from the dinner ticket and raffle sales. We had 150 raffle ticket booklets printed consisting of 20 tickets each. Initially we thought we would never be able to sell all the 3000 tickets but due to the energetic effort of the BSV community it was remarkable that all the raffle tickets were sold out before the event. The fundraising dinner was a great event with delicious, authentic Sri Lankan food and live music that everybody enjoyed. 130 people turned up and thoroughly enjoyed this event despite it being a cold winter evening. I would like to thank those who attended the dinner and purchased raffle tickets!

We will be undertaking further fundraising events and need your support to make them successful. I also feel that more people joining the BSV fundraising committee would be very helpful. Please contact us if you can join in and help.



Footnote: Over \$105,000 has already been paid into the forest monastery accounts. The BSV and Venerable Jaganatha thank you for your kindness and will keep you up to date upon the progress of this wonderful project.

Sandya Ranaraja, Fundraising Committee



BHANTE JAG'S VISIT TO SERPELL PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21 JUNE

I am a volunteer teacher providing Buddhist education to 24 students in years 5 & 6 at Serpell Primary School, Templestowe. Serpell Primary School is a dynamic, thriving learning community made up of a diversity of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Parents, staff and students share a common goal and commitment to educational excellence and personal growth.

Buddhist education classes are sponsored by the Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV) and approved by the Victorian Department of education. It is a recommendation of the BCV that as part of the teaching curriculum, a visit by a monk or nun, be organised for the benefit of the students. Monk Jag was very willing and able to undertake this visit and talk to the students.

Monk Jag's visit created history for this school as he was the first Buddhist monk to ever visit. The Principal, Wilma Coulten and Vice Principal, Suzanne Young were very enthusiastic and made all necessary arrangements for his visit. It was arranged for the students to offer Dana (Alms) to the Monk prior to giving a Dhamma talk. I provided a list of food that could be offered and Suzanne coordinated with the parents to send the food in time for the alms giving. A few parents also assisted in offering the food. My wife Lakshmi and daughter Yasmin assisted in arranging the food on the tables as well as other requirements.



On Monk Jag's arrival he was met by Suzanne Young and Helen Ponder, who is the education officer representing the BCV. We showed Monk Jag around the school complex. As he entered the class the students lined up and offered greetings in the traditional Buddhist manner, with one of the girls in the class giving a brief welcome speech.

The students lined up and offered rice from a bowl, spoonful at a time, as Monk Jag walked in the traditional alms round. He then carried out the blessings at the tables containing the rest of the food. Everyone joined the Monk in consuming the delicious lunch.



Later Monk Jag held a discussion group with all the students kneeling/sitting in front of him and enthusiastically asking copious numbers of questions! Due to time constraints the session had to draw to a close. The day ended with Monk Jag conducting a guided meditation which was a tremendous success.

The most important aspect of this visit was the interest shown by the school and parents for similar future events. For the students this experience was of tremendous importance and the interest they showed was how Buddhism can help in their young lives. Finally the session ended with a boy from the class dedicating this event to the parents, staff at the school and all present.

Metta, Dharmasiri Dantanarayana (Dan)

Before Monk Jag came some of my friends and I thought he would be strict on rules. When he came we were all surprised he was not Asian and he was very nice to us.

We asked him a lot of questions, one of them was, “Why Buddhist monks were bald?” He said that he was bald because it was easier to meditate and you can’t get head lice.

He was a normal person just like us before he became a monk. He was in the Navy and he is on Facebook. That day made history at our school because he was the first Buddhist monk to ever come to Serpell Primary School.

By Grade 6 boy, Andrew Galloway, in reference to Bhante Jag’s visit



DHAMMA SCHOOL REPORT

Over the year 2011/12 we gave a total of 32 Dhamma lessons to 53 students; a slight increase on the previous year. We are getting enquiries from an increasing number of parents as this year progresses. We have divided the school into three classes according to their school grades; secondary school children are in the oldest class and the primary school children are divided between the other two classes – Suzanne specializing in the very young children. Gary and Trevor alternate between the two older classes.

There were no drama activities undertaken by the Dhamma school children in 2011/12 allowing for more concentration on Dhamma teaching – however, we are looking forward to resuming this activity in 2013. We are excited to plan suitable plays to assist in fundraising for the BSV Forest Monastery Project. Plans for this year's Vesak also included card-making.

All parents who bring their children to the school are encouraged to join the BSV and take an active part in the community. We would like to remind members that the school does not cater for children below Grade 1 owing to staffing requirements.

With Metta, Suzanne Palmer-Holton

5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - SANGHAMITTARAMA

The 5th Anniversary of Sangamittarama was celebrated on 21 July with a gathering of friends. It was a time to rejoice and remember the beautiful times over the last 5 years. Our memories went back to the time the work started in June 2007. Many friends of Sangamittarama worked as a team around the clock and were able to make the current residence suitable for Bhikkhunis in a very short period of



time. The garden team worked very hard to create a beautiful garden with a walking path at the back. I remember them working on a hot summer day when the temperature was 40 degrees.



We talked with gratitude about Ven Ayya Sucinta, for giving us a head start to establish a Nuns' monastery. We paid tribute to her and to Venerables Ayya Athapi, Ayya Dhammananda and Ayya Samacita for their contributions to Sangamittarama and its community.

At the back of the Dhamma room Pri had prepared a photographic display of the nuns, and highlights such as the official inauguration of Sanghamittarama in October 2007 when we were able to welcome some 14 Sangha to help us celebrate; 7 monks and 7 nuns.

We applaud the friends of Sangamittarama for their generosity and commitment. Their ongoing support provides daily dana, requisites and health care to the monastics. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of friends ever ready to give a helping hand. If not for their support we would not have had this opportunity to start, the now underway, Forest Monastery Project.



We are grateful to Ven Ayya Upekkha, our senior Bhikkhuni in residence, for working tirelessly along with Ven Jaganatha, who is leading the project supported by the BSV to set up a forest monastery. Ayya Upekkha is currently training Pri who will be ordained as a samaneri in a couple of months. Such meritorious activities are possible as a direct result of the combined effort of the supporters who helped to keep this residence functioning over the past 5 years. I like to share our joy and happiness with all the friends of Sanghamittarama in the hope that your loyal support will also be given to the Forest Monastery Project.

Past is experience, Present is experiment, Future is expectation. We can use our experience in our experiments to achieve our expectations. May all be well and happy.



*With metta, Kanthi
Wijenayake*



LATEST FROM SANGHAMITTARAMA

May 2012 was just as eventful as March 2012 for Sanghamittarama. First, we celebrated Vesak Day on 5 May 2012 with an 8-preceptors program, as well as an evening candle-light offering, and the screening of an animated version of the *Buddha and His Life Story*. We thank all volunteers who worked hard decorating the premises and preparing for the event with joy and enthusiasm, ensuring that everything was well organised and nothing overlooked. The event was well-attended by participants and their family members and friends. Our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to everyone for your generosity in time, energy and kind, in making this a most meaningful and successful holy day!



On 20 May 2012, under the leadership of Khanti and her ever supportive dhamma friends, a fund raising dinner was organised to raise funds to support the Bhikkhuni Residence at Chesterville Drive. Again, we cannot find appropriate words to express gratefulness to the friends who gave their support, and especially to the many “behind-the-scene” heroes/heroines who cooked up a wide variety of food to whet the appetite of those who came. Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu! To one and all!

And..... as a grand finale for May, Sanghamittarama played host to the nuns from Perth and Sydney, who flew over to Melbourne to attend the Australian Sangha Association Meeting held at Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook. It was truly inspiring to see so many bhikkhunis / novices assembled here.

Excellent! Excellent! Excellent! Especially to Pri and Tara, Khanti and friends for working so hard in ensuring that comfort, joy and happiness were rendered to each and every one coming through the doors of Sanghamittarama! Tara was “deva-sent” to Sanghamittarama in April 2012 just when we needed someone to help, and she gave so much time, effort and support to the residents as well as visitors. Tara: you have been such a tremendous friend and support while you were with us; we wish you all the best in your spiritual journey and look forward with working and practicing again with you when the affinity arises in the near future.

June 2012 saw the arrival of Bhikkhuni Nibbida who now joins our Bhikkhuni Sangha to work with BSV towards the forest monastery vision. Welcome on board Ayya Nibbida! Ayya came in time to see Sanghamittarama blossoming into her 5th year on 16 July 2012 but this special occasion was celebrated on 21 July with a gathering of friends and well-wishers and the founder members. A tribute was paid to Ayya Succinta who worked extremely hard as the first resident nun at Sanghamittarama, and also to Ayya Atapi and Ayya Dhammananda who continued to pave the path for the development of the Nuns Residence to what it has become today. It was with deep admiration and joy for the founder members when Padmini, Cora and Kanthi recalled how the idea for the nuns’ residence was conceived and the effort and energy everyone put in, to set up an abode for Theravada nuns, to be known as *Sanghamittarama*.

Soon, the Sangha members will be entering into rains retreat (Vassa) on 3 August for a period of 3 months.

With the continued support of everyone, may we give the residents at Sanghamittarama more time to focus on their dhamma-vinaya studies and enjoy more hours of meditation practice.
May all beings be well, happy and healthy; May all beings have peace!



Offering of light



8 Preceptors

Venerable Ayya Upekkha



AJAHN BRAHM'S RETREAT IN MAY

Last May 13 and 14 I was fortunate to attend the two-day meditation retreat with Venerable Ajahn Brahmavamsa Mahathera at the BSV as part of the Vesak celebrations. Although I had listened to a number of his recorded talks and was well aware of his popularity, this was the first time I had the opportunity to see Ajahn in person.

I had not been in Melbourne long having returned from some time at a meditation centre in Lumbini, Nepal and was staying at Sanghamittarama nuns' monastery. I accompanied Pri Peters, resident and aspirant bhikkhuni from Sanghamittarama, to BSV for the retreat. Pri took her seat in the meditation hall at BSV in the front row so I joined her there and had the benefit of being in close proximity to Ajahn. I do enjoy observing as well as listening to great Dhamma teachers, finding inspiration not just from their words but also from the qualities that they radiate.

Ajahn Brahm, as he is fondly known, was in fine form with the jokes he is renowned for coming thick and fast, especially on the first day. I like a good laugh and found this approach lightened and opened the heart making it more responsive to the profound Dhamma that lay beneath or was woven between those jokes. The second day was a bit more sedate although both days were a full and rich combination of teachings and meditation sessions. But it wasn't the jokes or the more traditional Dhamma teachings, wonderful as they were, that moved me as deeply as Ajahn's demeanour. On those two days I felt my faith in the Dhamma was greatly encouraged by his strong, clear and joyful presence. How fortunate the BSV is to have Ajahn as its spiritual director.

I want to express my gratitude to Ajahn Brahm for his gift of the Dhamma, and also to all who made this retreat possible. Sādhu, Sādhu Sādhu.

Tara Frances

MY BOOK LAUNCH – VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF AJAHN BRAHM’S “MINDFULNESS, BLISS & BEYOND”

AT QUANG MINH TEMPLE

Maybe many of you have heard of my Book Launch at Quang Minh Temple on the 1st of July and wanted to know more about the details. Where do I start to tell the long story of this meaningful event? Perhaps I should start from that memorable date, the 1st of July 2012, and work backwards.



It was the launch of my Vietnamese translation of Ajahn Brahm’s book entitled “Mindfulness, Bliss and Beyond”. I can say it was “my dream project came true” when I could join my efforts with Quang Minh Temple, the largest and most magnificent Vietnamese Buddhist Temple in Melbourne, and organise a book launch, matching Ajahn Brahm’s “celebrity monk” status with his bestselling book “Mindfulness, Bliss and Beyond”!

Thanks to the kind support of the Abbot of Quang Minh Temple and his wonderful team, everything was well organised for the great event. An estimated 500 participants filled the huge Main Shrine, and 403 copies of my Vietnamese translation were going, going, gone within 3 hours! Then, afterwards, all the participants were offered a free lunch (a hot bowl of Vietnamese noodle) to warm their hearts with joy on that cold winter afternoon! I can say the Book Launch event was ‘nearly perfect’ (not 100% of course!). What else could you expect from a book launch like this?

You might ask “How could you invite Ajahn Brahm to participate in this Book Launch?” Well, everyone knows Ajahn Brahm is a very busy Abbot, and it’s not easy to invite him to your event. We had to wait for a while until finally Ajahn Brahm could find a date to join us and gave an amusing Dhamma talk. All I can say is that it was the result of a process (of the law of cause and effect), not something that happened by chance! If you do something for the benefit of many people, the Triple Gem will help you and so will Ajahn Brahm.

Why did I choose to translate this book? To explain briefly, I practised meditation for a long time with many meditation masters in Vietnam and overseas, but I still had a lot of problems with my practice, I felt I got stuck in my meditation. Then in 2005, a friend invited me to a Dhamma talk and meditation session by Ajahn Brahm at the Buddhist Society of Victoria. The talk was so fascinating that afterwards I tried to find out more about Ajahn Brahm's teachings by downloading his talks from the internet. I then listened to them every day, bought his books, read them carefully and followed his instructions. I felt my meditation improving and could overcome my problems little by little. This book has opened my eyes to many aspects of Buddhist meditation that I did not know very well before; there was a breakthrough in my understanding of Buddhist meditation. I was so happy to find the right direction for my practice.

I felt so grateful to Ajahn Brahm that I decided to translate his book into Vietnamese as an expression of gratitude to him and the Triple Gem, who showed me the right direction towards liberation. I also wanted to share the valuable teachings in this book with my fellow Vietnamese Buddhists so that they could get the same benefits as I did. And finally, I wanted to introduce this book to a wider Buddhist community in Vietnam and overseas, since a practical and comprehensive handbook on Buddhist meditation like this is very rare, and perhaps the first one to be published in Vietnam. I hope this book will bring a fresh perspective to Vietnamese meditators and help them learn the method of meditation by a famous Western monk like Ajahn Brahm.

You might also want to know if it was easy to get my translation book published. The answer is, "No, not at all!" As you know, Ajahn Brahm's book is a copyright book by Wisdoms Publications. To be able to publish my Vietnamese translation, I first had to find an organisation or institution who agreed to publish my book and pay for the copyright.

It was not easy to do in Australia, because the costs of printing and the copyright are very high. So I had to go back to Vietnam, and thanks to the Vietnam Buddhist Research Institute, who had a high evaluation of the content of this book and the accuracy of my translation, my book was finally published by the most prestigious Buddhist organisation in Vietnam. Then, shipping 500 copies of this book back to Australia was also a matter of time and money, but finally they arrived in time for us to do a book launch in Melbourne!

So, what is the significance of this Book Launch? I think the significance is not only the donations we received for Buddhist good causes, and the free Dhamma gifts to the Vietnamese Buddhist community, but also the establishment of a connection between Ajahn Brahm and the Vietnamese Buddhist community, and friendly relations between the Buddhist Society of Victoria and Quang Minh Temple.

To conclude,

*I just want to be a small and humble bridge,
To connect you with my fellow Buddhists,
So we can support one another,
In our long term and noble endeavours,
To sow the seeds of compassion,
Peace, happiness and wisdom,
And mutual understanding...*



Mai Tran, July 2012

RESIDENTIAL RETREAT – DEVELOPING JOY IN PRACTICE – WITH VENERABLE JAG

Forty meditators braved the cold from June 29th to July 2nd to attend a silent meditation retreat led by Venerable Jag, resident monk of the BSV.

The purpose of the retreat was to learn about cultivating joy in meditation practice. Joy, Venerable Jag explained to participants, creates a positive attitude in the heart and it forms a firm foundation to enable deep meditation practice.

Through guided meditations, Dhamma discourses, interviews with the teacher, and silent sitting and walking meditations, participants were given the opportunity to cultivate joy through direct experience.

These skills developed in a residential retreat setting can then be harnessed in daily life, allowing individuals to approach daily challenges with greater wisdom and compassion.

The retreat, held at the Maitripa Contemplative Centre in the hills above Healesville, was a great success despite the cold, rainy weather. For many participants, it was their very first experience with a silent residential meditation retreat. Venerable Jag's accessible teachings and warm-hearted nature ensured that these beginner meditators felt supported in their endeavour to reconnect with the inner world of mind and heart.

The retreat was also supported by the nourishing food created by cooks Abbey and Yong. From my personal perspective, I can assure you that meal time definitely put a smile on my face!

Heartfelt thanks to Venerable Jag, Abbey and Yong, Bill (the caretaker of Maitripa centre) and of course all participants for collectively creating such a positive and meritorious retreat experience. It is my wish that more members of the BSV, and indeed the community at large, can benefit from BSV meditation retreats in the future.



*Lydia Brown
Retreat Organizer*



BSV YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

We come together to discuss, share, be challenged and learn with the help of Venerable Jag and one another. Our topic of discussion varies from week to week, however one recurring theme is 'conditioning'. Over many weeks we've inquired into various sources of conditioning including culture, religion, peers and the media. On one occasion we looked specifically at authority figures and how they can influence us and affect our behaviour. We began by watching a short clip on a version of the Milgram experiment. In this experiment participants were asked by an authority figure (a scientist) to progressively inflict more and more pain on another person. Most participants (75% in this case) willingly inflicted the maximum pain (450 volts of electrical shock) - despite hearing the protests of their victim - at the insistence of the overseeing scientist.

Watching this experiment sparked a rich discussion about how authority figures are able to manipulate our behaviour, why we give them such influence over us, how we in turn use these authority figures to legitimise and justify behaviour that we would normally recognise as unwholesome, and also whether authority figures are able to manipulate us into being more wholesome in the same way. Naturally the discussion was related back to our own personal lives in which we began to identify similar experiences (albeit of a less extreme nature). We then discussed the ways in which Buddhism can help to counter such effects. Each week, the Young Adults' Group has left each of us reflecting on how we might use our Dhamma practice in everyday life to bring about more peace and harmony for ourselves and those around us.



The Young Adults Group meets every Sunday at 6:30pm.

Nuba Jay, Representative, Young Adults Group

BUDDHALOKA PROGRAM

71-73 Darling Road, East Malvern

☎ (03) 9571 6409 www.bsv.net.au

Sundays	8.30 – 9.30am	Unguided silent meditation
	9.30 – 10.30am	Chanting & Dhamma Talk by Monk Jaganatha <i>(This will be the only teaching by Monk Jag throughout the Vassa. All other classes are offered by lay people).</i>
	11.00am	Dana offering and shared lunch
	4.00 – 5.30pm	Sutta discussion led by a lay member <i>Every alternate week beginning 19 Aug</i>
	6.00 – 6.30pm	Unguided / self-directed meditation
	6.30 – 8.00pm	Young adult group – discussion & guided meditation
	Mondays	7.30 – 8.30pm
8.30 – 9.00pm		‘Question and Answer’ session
Tuesdays	7.30 – 9.00pm	Teaching and guided meditation by lay teachers Beginners’ 8 Week program – <i>see BSV website and notice board for Teaching Topics</i>
	Wednesdays	8.00 – 9.00pm
Thursdays	7.30 – 9.00pm	Guided meditation and Dhamma talk by Sayadaw U Pandita
Saturdays	9.30am - 3pm	Hall open for silent meditation – open to all
	3.00pm – 3.45pm	Beginners’ meditation & ‘Q&A’ session – facilitated by lay teacher during the Vassa period ending 31 Oct.

SANGHAMITTARAMA PROGRAM

40 Chesterville Drive, East Bentleigh

☎ (03) 9579 0450 <http://www.sanghamittarama.org.au>

During the Vassa “Rains Retreat” period we will only be open to accept Dana from Mon-Fri at 10.30am
All other activities are suspended until the end of the Vassa, 31 Oct.
Thank you so much for your support.



STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY - SAT 14 JULY

A day of hard work on Sat 14 July as Bhante Jag, Ayya Upekkha and a group of BSV members discussed the vision and mission statements of the Society as we move towards the establishment of the Forest Monastery. In the afternoon we split into 3 groups to discuss requirements and policies for Sangha support and for the committee, and community and volunteer needs and roles.

Work is ongoing for many months with a small group meeting many times per week at present, examining the policy documents written by Ven. Jag, and after mid-August a small group will examine the implementation of this policy and its implications for the BSV. Then there is even more to be done to implement new policies, such as, reworking the constitution. Change requires a lot of work as members of the Fundraising and the Property Search subcommittees are also very aware.



*4.20pm - all still smiling and Cora, as animated as ever!
Everybody's hard work is much appreciated and will bring great results!*

SPECIAL NOTICES

Condolences

To **Alice Chin** upon the passing of **her mother** in Malaysia. Welcome back to the BSV, Alice.

To **Helen Richardson** upon the passing of her **brother, John**. Our thoughts are with you, Helen. The Richardson family is very grateful to Bhante Jag for visiting John during his illness.

Passing of **Traleq Rinpoche**, Seminal Melbourne Dharma teacher. We offer our sympathies to students and friends of Ven. Rinpoche who passed away on 24 July 2012, aged 57. His passing is a great loss to the teaching of Buddhism in Australia. He founded the Kagyu Evam Buddhist Institute (KEBI), and taught there and at his other centres worldwide till his demise. Many BSV members have attended yearly summer schools KEBI ran since 1984, or his retreats at its Maitripa Contemplative Centre in Healesville. H. H. Karmapa has offered a prayer for his speedy return to benefit sentient beings, in which we join.

A Big Thank You

To **David Rutherford** for editing the BSV Newsletter for the past 2 years when 8 editions were produced. His new work responsibilities have made it impossible for him to continue. David was an excellent person to work with and his contribution to the BSV is very much appreciated. Without volunteers such as David the work of the society would be much diminished.



Your change of details?

Could members please advise the BSV of any change of personal details such as address, email address and phone number. Otherwise we cannot communicate with you!!

COMING SOON

Fri 21 Sep, Sun 23 Sep – 2 Day Retreat by Renowned Lay Meditation Teacher, Dhammaruwan, at BSV

It is with great pleasure that BSV will be facilitating the 2 Day Retreat to be conducted by the renowned lay meditation teacher, Dhammaruwan, from Nirodha City Centre, Sri Lanka.

Please see BSV website and notice board for more details

Sunday 06 Oct - International Food Fair to be held at Federation Square, Melbourne City

The BSV Fund Raising Team (in aid of the Forest Monastery Project) is starting to work on the “International Food Fair”. We are calling all willing members and friends of the BSV to provide any assistance they can.

Friday 19 Oct, 7.30 – 9pm: Dhamma Talk at BSV by Wangdrak Rinpoche on “Human nature - Buddha nature”

Wangdrak Rinpoche (Abbot of Gebchak Gonpa nunnery in Eastern Tibet) has trained in the Sakya, Kagyu and Nyingma traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and holds the Khenpo degree (equivalent to a doctorate) in Buddhist philosophy. Rinpoche has taken on responsibility for the material and spiritual support of the nuns, whose dedication to meditation motivated by love and compassion for all beings is widely renowned. For more information go to: www.gebchakgonpa.org

If mail is undeliverable please return to:

The Buddhist Society of Victoria

71-73 Darling Road

East Malvern, Victoria 3145

Australia

