



Buddhist Council of NSW
Working for the Buddhist Community

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





Flickr: Megan Hansen

A message from our **CHAIRMAN**



Our work is all about bringing the Buddhist community together to collaborate and share resources.



Welcome to the Buddhist Council of New South Wales annual report for 2015. Our role is to help individuals and organisations in the Buddhist community. For example, we help anyone who is new to Buddhism to find a Buddhist centre that fulfils their needs. Our website has an event portal which lists upcoming Buddhist events across Australia. Our training unit helps people to prepare for volunteering in the community. And of course, our programs in schools, hospitals and prisons provide meaningful volunteering opportunities.

For Buddhist organisations, we provide free advice, internet promotion for events, low cost insurance, letters of support (e.g. visas, development applications), fundraising support, and training on how to run a Buddhist centre.

Our work is all about bringing the Buddhist community together to collaborate and share resources. Although we represent the Buddhist community to government, media outlets and other religions, we don't tell anyone what to do. We ask the

question: what does the community need? To which we can answer, engaging our youth, or helping the elderly. This is why we simplified our motto to "Working for the Buddhist community".

Please spread the word that we have interesting and fulfilling community projects. If you don't have time to volunteer, your donation means that many people and Buddhist centres are helped in the community – we call this the *donation multiplier*.

I would like to recognise the significant contribution of Brent Carswell who retired this year after four active years on the board. Brent helped in many areas, particularly our website and branding. I sincerely thank our member organisations, our dedicated and hardworking staff, our many volunteers, our generous donors, our friends and supporters and my fellow directors on the board.

I hope you enjoy this annual report.

**Yours in the Dharma,
Brian White
President and Chairman**



Flickr: Maks Karochkin

A message from our
GENERAL MANAGER



“

This year, we had a solid core team coming in each week to support the community programs

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We are so grateful for the constant help from volunteers while understanding that the nature of a volunteer-run organisation means people come and go, as life situations change.

This year, we had a solid core team coming in each week to support the community programs in Chaplaincy, Special Religious Education, and Member Help, and to carry out communications and day-to-day finance operations. In addition, some general volunteers kept it all running smoothly.

Some of our volunteers moved on as the year ended, to other experiences, and a couple to their first full-time jobs. We wish them all well and were happy to have shared the path with them.

As an ongoing thank you to our wonderful volunteers we regularly invite guests to give a talk over lunch during the year and we were blessed to have visits from Rev. Heng Sure,

and Ayya Phalayani in 2015.

A volunteer with us for a short period completed a project of auditing our office processes which was enormously helpful.

In June, our AGM was held at member group Dharma Drum Mountain, and we combined this with a forum on technology and education. We heard from a range of speakers, who provide education to all age ranges, and it was great to engage with the community.

A major project carried out in last part of 2015 was the revamp of our website. Considerable time was spent editing current content and creating new content, and we believe the fresh look is visually more attractive and also simpler to navigate. We're looking forward to launching it as 2016 begins!

**Metta,
 Anita Lau
 General Manager**

Buddhist

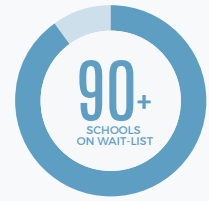
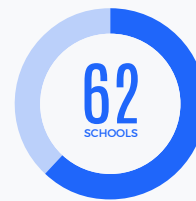
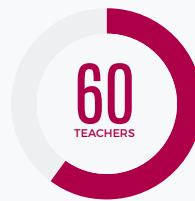
COMMUNITY SERVICE

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Buddhist Council provides over 60 Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers to approximately the same number of schools around NSW. Most are in primary schools. We are very grateful to all the SRE teachers who give their time generously to share the Dharma with students. It is a great gift they give to our young people. We are also very grateful to the donors for their support so we can continue this valuable program. We want the students to learn "Values

and Life Skills" that the Buddha taught so that they can better manage their lives in what is a busy and stress-filled world for many. By empowering them with these tools at an early age, it is hoped that we will be giving them solid foundations for the future.

“ You do not have to be a teacher to be part of the SRE program. ”



CHAPLAINCY

The Buddhist Council has a modest-sized yet strong team of dedicated chaplains ranging from regular chaplains who commit their time to visit hospitals and prisons to emergency response chaplains who are on-call. They complete a range of activities to suit the organisation, the people they visit and the type of caring needed. Some will hold guided meditation sessions or be a non-judgemental listening ear. Primarily, they offer support and their presence to those who are going through challenging times. We actively seek interest from those in the community who are considering becoming a prison chaplain. In 2016 and beyond, we aim to establish similar services for aged care facilities across the state.

“ Majority of our prison chaplains are women. ”

11 HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS
 9 Lay
 2 Ordained

6 PRISON CHAPLAINS
 4 Lay
 2 Ordained

TRAINING UNIT

3

Special Religious Education Training WORKSHOPS

1.5-day training courses catered for those interested in ways to connect young children with the Buddha's teachings.

2

Buddhist Organisation Upskill WORKSHOPS

Member organisations new and established have benefited from our workshops that help member groups with governance, organisational skills and more.

5

General Interest WORKSHOPS

Open to the public, these short workshops gave information to people who wanted to learn about Buddhism and practical ways to apply this in daily life.

1

Chaplaincy WORKSHOP

For those interested in providing spiritual care to those facing challenging times, we ran a 5-day accredited training program in Clinical Pastoral Education.



Flickr: tonko3

Our FINANCIALS

5 YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

SURPLUS

This year, the Buddhist Council has generated a surplus of \$17,950.

REVENUE

Total revenue for 2015 was \$186,084 which was an 8% increase from last year (2014: \$172,450). This slight increase came mainly from the growing support from the community for our education programs.

EXPENSES

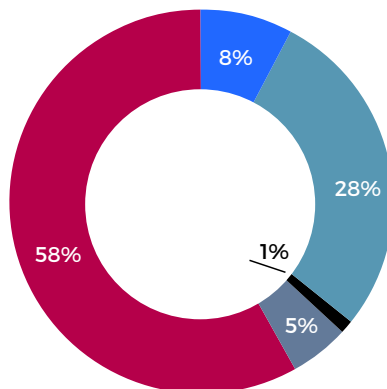
Expenses for 2015 totalled \$168,134 which was again slightly higher than last year (9% increase). This reflected growth of our staff providing increased support to the community and our member organisations.

FINANCIAL POSITION

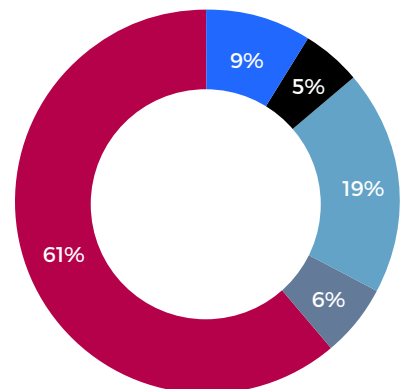
The Buddhist Council's financial position improved by \$17,950 which is attributed to the surplus in 2015. The five-year trend shows a strengthening financial position which enables more support to member organisations and the community.

	\$ 2011	\$ 2012	\$ 2013	\$ 2014	\$ 2015
Income	143,534	122,267	146,924	172,450	186,084
Expenses	131,711	120,961	132,538	153,760	168,134
Operating Surplus	11,823	1,306	14,386	18,690	17,950
Increase in Members' Funds	11,823	1,306	14,386	18,690	17,950
Funds					
Total Members' Funds	93,791	95,097	109,483	128,173	146,123

REVENUE



EXPENSES



* A full set of 2015 Financial Statements and the Auditor's Statement have been published. Please contact our office for a copy

- Chaplaincy
- Education (SRE)
- Interest
- Donations
- Training

- Chaplaincy
- Education (SRE)
- Personnel
- Other Admin Costs
- Training



Flickr: Andrea Kirby

Our GOVERNANCE

MEETINGS

	Meetings attended during 2015	Board Role	Change in 2015
Brian White	3	President	-
Benjamin Webster	3	Secretary	-
Ranmal Samarawickrama	3	Director	-
Brent Carswell	2	Director	Retired from board
Les Tscherne	2	Director	-
Lianne Ngo	3	Director	Joined board
Gawaine Powell-Davies	2	Director	Joined board

REVIEW

Using experience in assisting member organisations over the years, the Buddhist Council has developed an assessment method which indicates the level of attainment on a number of governance criteria. This assessment is the foundation of the governance training offered by our training unit to help member organisations. The attainment is at four levels: Non-compliant (no stars), Compliant (1 star), Functioning (2 stars) and Flourishing (3 stars).

Category	Attainment Level	Comment
Governing Body	★★★	Merit-based board
Governance	★★★	Governing body achieves good governance
Constitution	★★	Incorporated with constitution modified to support the organisation
Clear Purpose	★★	Clear objects in constitution understood by core team, volunteers, staff & members
Solvency	★★	Can pay all debts that are due in next 12 months
Financial Management	★★★	Independent audit
Reporting Internal	★★★	Performance Based Annual Report
Reporting External	★★★	Publicly accessible annual report (website)
Performance Monitoring	★★	Some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Compliance	★★	Register for GST, submit BAS, claim GST credits
External Relationships	★★★	Good relationships with Local government, neighbours and local community
Clear Direction	★★	Strategic direction agreed and documented
Risk Management	★★	Key risks understood and addressed by governing body



Flickr: Edwin Lee

Our MEMBERS

AABCAP (Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists Inc.)
 Adeikhtan Buddhist Missionary Company (Aust)
 Aloka Community Inc.
 Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW Inc.
 Amitabha Foundation (Australia)
 AMRTA Monastery
 An Khong Association Inc
 Association of Engaged Buddhists
 Australian Buddhist Mission
 Australian Chinese Buddhist Society
 Australian Chinese Pure Land Buddhist Association (Sydney) Inc. (ACPLBA)
 Australian Institute of Buddhist Learning and Practice
 Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices
 Bangladesh Bouddha Samiti
 Barom Kagyu Chodrak Drupju Chuling
 Bhante Sujato in Sydney Group
 Blue Mountains Insight Meditation Centre (Buddha Sasana Association of Australia)
 Blue Padma Services Inc.
 Bluegum Sangha
 Bodhi Books & Gifts
 Bodhikusuma Buddhist & Meditation Centre
 Buddha's Light International Assoc of Aust Inc
 Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Aust
 Buddhist Peace Fellowship (Sydney) / Kalyana Mitta Sangha
 Bul-Kwang Meditation Institute
 Bup Bo Temple
 Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc of NSW
 Chagdud Gonpa Australia
 Chan Tam True Mind
 Dhammaduta Buddhist Association of Australia
 Dhammaduta Buddhist Association (Coffs Harbour)
 Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated
 Dhammakaya International Society of Aust
 Dharma Drum Mountain Sydney
 DharmacCloud
 Diamond Cutter Buddhist Study Centre
 Diamondway Buddhism Sydney
 Ding Hui Monastery

Drogmi Buddhist Institute
 Dzogchen Community of Namgyalgar
 Golden Wheel Buddhist Association
 Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia
 Huayen Buddhist Community of Australia Inc
 Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW
 International Cham Shan Temple
 Kadam Sharawa Institute Inc
 Kalyanamitra & Bodhicitta Foundation
 Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre Inc.
 Karma Dro Phan Ling Institute
 Karma Samten Choeling Inc.
 Karma Yiwong Samten Ling Buddhist Centre Inc.
 Kempsey Buddhist Meditation Group
 Khachodling Inc.
 Khmer Krom & Aust Buddhist Assoc
 Koyasan Shingon Mission Of Australia
 Kuan Yin Buddhist Temple
 Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre Inc.
 Kwan Um Sa
 Kwan Yin Kur Temple (Wong Sin Tai)
 Kyegu Buddhist Institute
 Lao Buddhist Society of NSW
 Liberation Prison Project Australia Ltd
 Lin Yim Buddhist Institute
 Ling Yen Mountain Temple (Australia)
 Macquarie University Buddhist Association
 Maha Bodhi Monastery
 Mahamakut Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore Inc.
 Mahamevnawa Bhavana Monastery & Meditation Centre of Sydney
 Man Su Vihara
 Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc
 Metta Centre Incorporated
 Mitra - Youth Buddhist Network
 Mukyoho
 Nan Tien Temple
 No Problems Publishing Inc.
 Open Way Zen Centre
 Pal Buddhist School
 Phuoc Hau Temple
 Pointing Out Australia
 Prajna Monastery Australia Inc.
 Prasarn Bun Prasarn Jai Group
 Recollective Awareness (Aust)

Rigpa Fellowship Inc.
 Sakya Tharpa Ling
 Santi Forest Monastery Inc.
 Sasana Daja Burmese Temple
 Siangthum Phrapotiyon Incorporated
 Siddhartha's Intent Australia
 Silky Oak Zen
 Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara Association
 Sunnataram Forest Monastery
 Supporters of Homeless Buddhist Monks NSW
 Sydney Burmese Buddhist Vihara Inc.
 Sydney Insight Meditators
 Sydney Meditation Centre
 Sydney Zen Centre
 Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute
 Thai Buddhist Student Association
 Tharpa Choeling Inc
 The Australian Contemplative Observatory
 The Korean Buddhism Jongbopsa Society
 The Quan Am Thien Tinh Buddhist Charitable Association Inc
 The Vinh Nghiem Pagoda Buddhist and Charitable Soc.
 Theravada Buddhist Association of Australia Inc.
 Tibetan Buddhist Society (Sydney)
 Tinh Xa Minh Dang Quang
 Triratna Buddhist Community (Sydney) Inc.
 Unibodhi-University of Sydney Buddhist Society
 Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of A-NZ
 University Buddhist Education Foundation
 UTS Buddhist Meditation Society
 Vajrayana Institute Inc.
 Vien Giac Temple
 Wat Buddha Dhamma Foundation Ltd
 Wat Buddhavarav Inc
 Wat Buddharangsee
 Wat Buddhavongsa-Yaram
 Wat Dhamma Sameakky
 Wat Lao Buddhometta
 Wat Pa Buddharangsee
 Well-Aware-Ness Psychology
 Wisdom Song
 Won Buddhism of Australia
 Won Buddhism of Gosford Assoc Inc.
 Zen Open Circle Inc



Buddhist Council of NSW

Working for the Buddhist Community

The Buddhist Council of NSW logo is made up of a number of symbols that are meaningful to the Buddhist community we serve. The central wheel is a Dharmacakra, which is set in front of a three-coloured lotus flower backdrop.

The Dharmacakra represents the Dharma wheel which began turning when the Buddha gave his first teaching after enlightenment. The eight spokes represent each element of the Eightfold Path which form the path to enlightenment, expounded in this first teaching. In the background are the three petals

of the lotus flower. The petals in grey, maroon and earth, are the colours of the sangha robes found in all Buddhist traditions.

In Buddhism, the lotus plant represents all sentient beings and their inherent Buddha nature. As lotuses grow in the muddy waters, so do we, in samsara. When the lotus matures, it rises above the mud, blooming into beautiful, fragrant flowers. We too, have an inherent potential to transcend suffering into perfect enlightenment, by growing wisdom and compassion through practice.

OUR FOUR PILLARS OF ACTIVITY

MEMBER HELP

Supporting our members with:

- Advice and information
- Low cost insurance
- Representation to government

BUDDHIST EDUCATION

Teaching the application of the Dharma through:

- Special Religious Education (weekly Buddhist classes in government schools)
- Training Unit

BUDDHIST CARE

Providing Care and Support to those in need through:

- Hospital Chaplaincy
- Prison Chaplaincy
- Programs in nursing homes

BUDDHIST CONNECTION

Reaching out through the internet and social media by:

- Developing and publishing useful information
- Organising community projects and events
- Engaging in public relations, linking with the government, media and other interfaith organisations

The Buddhist Council of NSW does not receive government grants. We depend on donations from the community.

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NSW

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www.buddhistconnection.org