



**Buddhist Council of NSW**  
*Working for the Buddhist Community*

The Buddhist Council of NSW

# Annual Report

## 2021





*Cover: Bathing Baby Buddha at Pal  
Buddhist School, Vesak Day, May 2021.*

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## Who we are and what we do

We are a peak body for Buddhist organisations in NSW and the ACT, and a member of the national peak body, the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils. Our vision is of a world where the Dharma – the teachings and practices of the Buddha – are part of everyday life and contribute to the wellbeing of all. We seek to achieve this through supporting a flourishing Buddhist community. We do this by:

### Supporting Buddhist organisations

- Circulating information
- Advertising and taking part in community events
- Providing access to low cost insurance
- Offering training and support in managing an organisation and meeting statutory requirements
- Collaborative projects
- Assisting with visa problems

### Programs for vulnerable age groups and life stages

- Young people: special religious education
- Illness and death: hospital chaplaincy
- People in custody: prison chaplaincy

### Working with government, interfaith and other groups

- Acting as a link between government and Buddhist organisations
- Attending the Multicultural NSW Religious Leaders Forum and other government meetings
- Attending interfaith activities and working with other faiths on issues of common concern
- Advocating on issues of importance to the Buddhist community including climate change and religious discrimination

### Making Buddhism available to all

- Providing information on Buddhist organisations and events on the website and through social media
- Responding to general queries
- Providing resources and running programs on the Dharma

# Report from the Chair

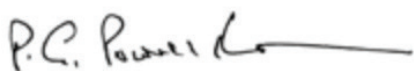
2021 was not meant to be like this. In January we were looking forward to emerging from Covid and resuming our lives. Then came Omicron and we were back in the battle with Covid, finding ways to support our communities and continue our work through very uncertain times. It was difficult, but we came through and are now emerging, if not into the sunlight, at least out of the worst of the storm. So congratulations and thanks to the Buddhist community and its organisations for having stuck together and found a way through. Now, as we emerge, we can start thinking about what matters most to us and how we can best support that.



What matters to the Buddhist Council is contributing to a thriving Buddhist community, improving our programs and continuing to work with government and other faiths for the common good. This we have managed, thanks to the hard work of the Board, staff and volunteers and the support of our members. Our online office management systems have been a life saver, allowing us to work remotely and simplify how we work. Chaplains and SRE teachers have responded magnificently to a very changeable world where traditional face to face contact was often not possible. The Board has been active, and has drawn on their varied talents and connections to support the Council's work.

2021 showed us the strength in working with government and other faith groups, and the importance of advocating on issues that affect the Buddhist community, particularly discrimination and climate change. We will keep this going, and look forward to providing a Buddhist voice on these and other issues.

I would like to thank all those who have travelled with us this year: our members who have invited us in and who have supported and worked with us; the chaplains, SRE teachers and all those who work for the benefit of the community; the staff and volunteers, led by our Operations Manager, Ann MacArthur our General Manager, Glenn Sloan who is always there behind the scenes; and our excellent Board.



Gawaine Powell Davies  
Chair





# Supporting Buddhist organisations

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Membership renewal moves online

In the second year of our annual membership renewal process we emailed links to prefilled forms so member organisations could update their details on our website and make payments. Of the 130 Buddhist organisations we list, 72 took up membership for the year beginning 1 July 2021.

### Discounted insurance

Members report significant savings with the Buddhist Council's group insurance policy which more than covers their annual membership. Insurance renewals in February went smoothly with 46 member organisations taking out Public Liability and 22 Voluntary Workers insurance. An additional seven members used our insurer for property insurance, which is separate to our discounted offering due to the unique nature of each property.

### Promoting member events

Two dedicated volunteers kept up a steady stream of member event calendar listings on the website and Facebook posts.

### Visa and management support

At members' request we provided visa support letters for monastics extending their stay in Australia. We referred members to legal, mediation, tax and accounting professionals where questions came up in their organisations.

### Child Safe Standards

We continued to link member organisations with information from the Office of the Children's Guardian on the requirements for child safe organisations.

### Welcome to New Member Organisations in 2021

Buddhist Counselling  
Central West Buddhists  
Twining Vines Zen Centre



# Member Profile



**PAL BUDDHIST SCHOOL**  
*Enlightenment Through Wisdom, Morality and Diligence*



*Mr Panha Pal at Pal Buddhist School, Vesak Day.*



*School Choir performing, Vesak Day at Pal Buddhist School.*

## Pal Buddhist School

Pal Buddhist School is the first and only Buddhist school for Years 3-12 in Australia. Founded on Buddhist principles, the School welcomes students from all backgrounds, races, religions and walks of life. First established in 2012 by Mr Panha Pal as Pal International School with a group of 17 students from Years 8 to 11, four full-time teachers and two part-time administration staff, the School has now passed many milestones reaching capacity at its Canley Vale premises.

A new property at Leppington will now enable the school to expand. The new campus will

be built over several stages and is expected to accommodate a student population of 900. In May the site was unveiled at a gala Vesak celebration. Buddhist Council Chair Gawaine Powell Davies and Operations Manager Ann MacArthur attended the presentation of a Buddha's relic marking the auspicious occasion which included a host of activities: Cambodian cultural dances and music, bathing of the Buddha, soil turning ceremony for planting of the Bodhi Tree, Dana (almsgiving) to monks, foot-washing ceremony for parents, teachers and guests performed by the school's students, and a Buddhist lecture delivered by the monastics.



## Programs for vulnerable life stages and age groups: Chaplaincy

Buddhist chaplains care, listen and attend to individual's suffering through the grounding of self-knowledge, practice, and the Buddha's teachings. Our chaplains are dedicated to the service of others and the Buddhist Council is committed to supporting their professional development and opportunities to expand our chaplaincy program. In 2021 we were successful in application for funding for a dedicated chaplaincy role at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital representing a .6 FTE position. We also received additional support from the Department of Corrections to provide additional prison chaplaincy hours.

In 2021 we increased our hours of service in hospital chaplaincy by 20 percent and in prison chaplaincy by 15 percent. This is in spite of many enforced breaks due to the COVID situation.

### Corrections Centre Chaplains

**Venerable Aileen** Dillwynia Women's

**Bo-an Sunim** Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre

**Norbert Bohler, John Morony** Lithgow

**Anna Carmody** Long Bay

**Christopher King, Mary Wade** Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre

**Elizabeth Mowlem** Junee

**John Murray** Bathurst, Kirkconnel, Macquarie, Wellington

**Christine Thompson** Goulburn

**Pema Thubten** Macquarie, Wellington

**Daniel Troyak** Long Bay

### Hospital Chaplains

**Barbara Burke** Royal North Shore

**Vivienne Fettell** Milton

**Lisa Fung** Westmead

**Nicola Le Couteur** Macquarie, Cumberland

**Dane Millanta** Royal Prince Alfred, St Vincents

**Anthony Mills** Goulburn

**Jeff Newton** Goulburn

**Trish Nguyen** Royal Prince Alfred

**Minh Phan** Liverpool

**Glenn Sloan** Westmead Childrens, Hornsby

**Reverend Heather Topp** Canterbury

**Reverend Shigenobu Watanabe** Royal North Shore

**Debbie Whitney** Prince of Wales

**Don Yasalal** Westmead

Chaplains retired or on an extended break during 2021: Ettianne Anshin, Norbert Bohler, Jackie Iskandar, Susanne Jones, Christine Thompson, Gary Thornell, Pema Thubten





## Vale Ettianne Anshin

Prison chaplain Ettianne Anshin had been on leave for much of 2021 due to health issues. We were saddened to learn of her death in December. Ettianne began her work with the Buddhist Council in 2013 supporting SRE teachers. She later took up the role of chaplaincy support before finding her calling as a prison chaplain. She left the office role at the end of 2018 to devote her time to supporting women inmates as chaplain in Dillwynia, Emu Plains and Silverwater corrections centres.

Ettianne followed the Plum Village tradition and was a member of Lotus Buds Sangha in Camperdown. She took the Order of Interbeing transmission in 2010 receiving the name True Auspicious Path.

She will be remembered as a strong and passionate advocate for women in prisons, the LGBTQI community and people with disabilities and a devoted follower of Thich Nhat Hanh's teaching. May she rest in peace knowing how greatly her intelligence, warmth and love of the Dharma benefitted us all.







## Strengthening Chaplaincy Training

In 2021 we made a commitment to offer two professional development sessions to chaplains per year. We were able to draw on the extensive experience of the chaplains themselves.

In the first workshop in July Venerable Aileen gave guided meditations and shared spiritual resources. She spoke on the importance of looking in-depth and clearly into oneself and others, of not-knowing and of listening and expressing from the heart.

In the second workshop in October, Daniel Troyak introduced 'The Four Remedial Forces' with great energy. The forces are reliance, remorse, resolve, and remedy. He explained the idea of intentional action by body, speech and mind, and that purification is not invoked by an outside power but is done in our minds.

In January we welcomed graduates of the second offering of the Buddhist Basic Unit (400-hour) of Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE. Five Buddhist chaplains received certificates of completion at a hybrid ceremony. Congratulations to Lisa Fung (Westmead Hospital), Debra Kelly (St Vincents Private Hospital) and Don Yasalal (Westmead Hospital) who joined us in person and Jeff Newton (Australian Defence Force) and Debbie Whitney (Prince of Wales Hospital) on ZOOM.

The group was feted by fellow chaplains and the significance of their efforts was expressed by chaplain Daniel Troyak:

*Once you know the Dharma you can be sure  
contemplative care becomes second nature.*

*You have the ability to support, care and guide  
just as the great Buddhas and Bodhisattvas  
once did and still do.*

*Right now, your heart should be full of joy.  
Joyfully rejoicing in each others virtue.*

*The motivation this gives us is to help all  
sentient beings.*



Chaplains 400-hour CPE graduation.



## Strengthening Chaplaincy Training

In the middle of the year, the Introductory Unit (40-hour) CPE course met over five Thursdays on ZOOM with ten participants, and at the end of 2021 another group of Buddhist 400-hour CPE students were nearing the end of their course.

### Buddhist CPE Team

We extend our gratitude to the individuals who deliver our Buddhist CPE training for their compassion and wisdom.

**Rev Alan Galt OAM** Level 3 Supervisor, CPE Education Consultant, Centre Director, Mental Health CPE Centre

**Dr Nicola Le Couteur** Acting Level 1 Supervisor, Provisional CPE Supervisor, Mental Health & Buddhist supervision

**Ms Debra Kelly** Acting Level 1 Supervisor, Buddhist supervision

### Buddhist supervisor on sabbatical:

**Venerable Thich Truc Thong Phap** Acting Level 2 Supervisor, Provisional CPE Educator, Buddhist supervision

### Representing Buddhist chaplaincy

Nicola Le Couteur was elected to serve as the Buddhist representative to the New South Wales College of Clinical Pastoral Education board. The NSW College of CPE is responsible for setting educational standards for chaplains.

Buddhist Council Chair Gawaine Powell Davies served as Chair of the Civil Chaplains Advisory Committee, the multi-faith coordinating body for chaplains in corrections, health and juvenile justice.



## What do hospital chaplains do?

### Dane Millanta and Trish Nguyen at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

*Dane Millanta and Trish Nguyen have together spent 22 years as chaplains at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) in Camperdown. Since we were awarded an additional subsidy last year they each increased their hours so we have a presence in the hospital four days a week. We asked them both to let us know a bit more about hospital chaplaincy.*

In hospital people find themselves in an unfamiliar setting whilst being confronted by unforeseen circumstances. Dane's vision is to be a compassionate & peaceful presence in a time of chaos. Trish notes that every patient's concerns are different: 'Some patients are afraid of isolation and loneliness or just want to talk about things they haven't told anyone about before. A lot of patients are dealing with serious illness, pain, confusion and sadness or shock. Some are afraid of what will

happen in the future and feeling anguish. Some are preparing for dying.'

Chaplains may support staff in delivering difficult news to family, friends and loved ones. Staff also have personal matters to discuss and as Dane points out it is important to be 'supportive of their individual belief systems.' As a Vietnamese speaker Trish is often asked to help staff explain or discuss treatment with Vietnamese-speaking patients.

What is the best thing about working as a hospital chaplain? Both Trish and Dane were overflowing with their favourite aspects of the role:

#### Dane

Meeting and sharing humanity with some incredible individuals bringing compassion and companionship into reality.

Continually challenging my comfort zone, which makes me a better person in my life and in the people's lives that I serve.

#### Trish

Assisting patients and their families with Buddhist practices and seeing their mood lighten.

Witnessing patients loosen their anxiety and relax with some simple mindful breathing guidance (meditation).

Receiving the gratitude of patients learning about Buddhism for the first time.



*Trish Nguyen and Dane Millanta.*

Dane and Trish form part of a multifaith team at RPAH and benefit from their supportive relationships with colleagues. As Trish says 'We are like a family!'



# Special Religious Education

## Focus on classroom management skills

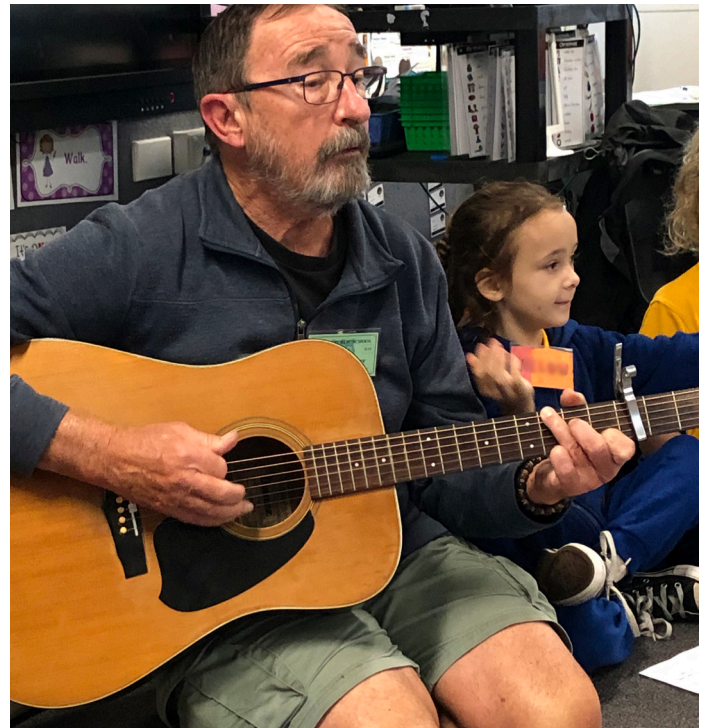
With SRE teachers back in the classroom at the start of the 2021 school year, we focused on strengthening the capabilities of our current



group of 59 teachers rather than on recruiting increasing numbers of volunteers. Prior to teacher authorisation at the start of the year we ensured all teachers had completed the Department of Education's online child protection awareness training. For our own training for the year we chose a focus on building classroom management skills. The Back-to-School networking event at the Buddhist Library and on ZOOM attended by 20 teachers set the tone by inviting teachers to consider their own style and share tips with the group.

## New training model

With the goal of creating greater cohesion amongst teachers and offering increased professional development opportunities, we moved from a weekend-only training model to spreading training out over several months and inviting participation



*Wyn uses his musical talents in SRE class.*

from current teachers. Regular communications with teachers regarding COVID updates was an ever present task during the year prompting further adaptations to our training program. While our first session in May at the Metta Centre was a hybrid event, we moved online for the rest of the year.

A training highlight was a class demonstration by Wynford Morris and Anthony Grenfell, who team teach at Milton Public School. It was joyous to hear the songs, chants and mindful movements they use in their primary school class.

The new format kept us connected whilst in lockdown and provided ample time for reflection and questions. Teachers' sharing of how they maintain their own practice and intentions whilst in isolation was an inspiration for all.





## Teacher resources and outreach

A grant from the Hsing Yun Education Foundation to support Special Religious Education ongoing operations and increased capacity was invaluable support during the year. It enabled us to provide each teacher with a copy of The Behaviour Management Pocketbook, a Lesson Planner notebook, new name badges and lanyards. It helped us address training for regional teachers resulting in increased participation from the South Coast and attendance at our training sessions by



volunteers from Orange to Byron Bay. The grant also boosted our ability to deliver online resources resulting in three new 'off-the-shelf' lesson plans and videos of our ZOOM training sessions. A further grant was awarded by HYEAF in November to focus on production of a video.

As COVID restrictions kept SRE teachers out of the classroom for the second half of 2021, they cautiously looked forward to returning to the classroom in 2022, mindful of the challenges that school communities face. We approach the new year with the positive intention to support the wellbeing of our students.

## Volunteer profile

### Thanh Nguyen, SRE Coordinator and Teacher

*If we had a 'Super Volunteer' title we might give it to Thanh Nguyen, who teaches in two primary schools in Inner West Sydney while also coordinating the administration and training of our 50+ volunteers across the state. We asked Thanh to tell us more.*

I learned about SRE when my first child started kindergarten. In selecting the religion option during enrolment, I discovered there was no Buddhist teacher at the school. I did the Buddhist Council's SRE training and have been teaching for five years now. I teach two groups of Kindergarten to Year 2 at each school. The children are diverse, many not from a Buddhist background. I use simple yoga and mindful movement rather than walking or seated meditation, as I found they really need to move at that age! Fortunately both of my schools are near home and have SRE classes on the same day, so SRE teaching fits very well into my busy family schedule.



*Thanh with lead SRE teacher John Barclay and Operations Manager Ann MacArthur.*

While my practice is rooted in the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh and the Plum Village tradition, I am amazed by the rich and beautiful diversity of Buddhist traditions of SRE teachers across NSW. As SRE coordinator, I have learned so much from everyone who has participated in our training workshops - there is so much wisdom, dedication and service amongst SRE volunteers! Much gratitude to teachers current, past and those to come.

# Making Buddhism available to all



## eVesak: Buddha's Birthday celebrations online

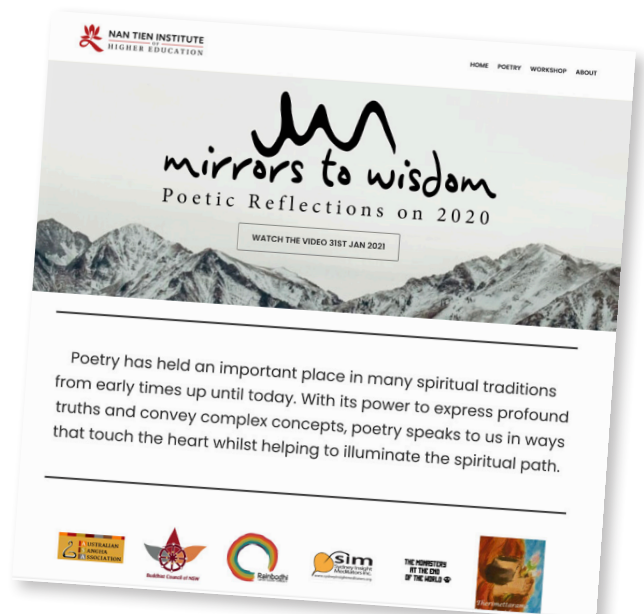
Again in 2021 COVID restrictions limited Vesak gatherings. We formed a national e-Vesak committee with colleagues from national and state Buddhist councils to create the online event Buddha's Birthday: Prayers, healing and hope. Buddhist communities from around Australia, contributed video messages, chanting, song and talks. Highlights included a video from Uluru where Drogmi Buddhist Institute members were on retreat and a compilation of all the elements of Buddha's birthday at JongBopSa Korean Buddhist Temple.

The 25 videos which were broadcast on Facebook and Youtube are still available through the Federation of Australian Buddhist Council's website <http://evesak.buddhistcouncil.org.au/>

## Mirrors to wisdom: poetic reflections on 2020

We started the year with a collaboration with member organisation Nan Tien Institute, the Australian Sangha Association and others to present an interactive online poetry workshop. Poems were solicited exploring spirituality, contemporary life, and what it means to be human. The poems and video are accessible at

<https://poetry.thebbep.org/>



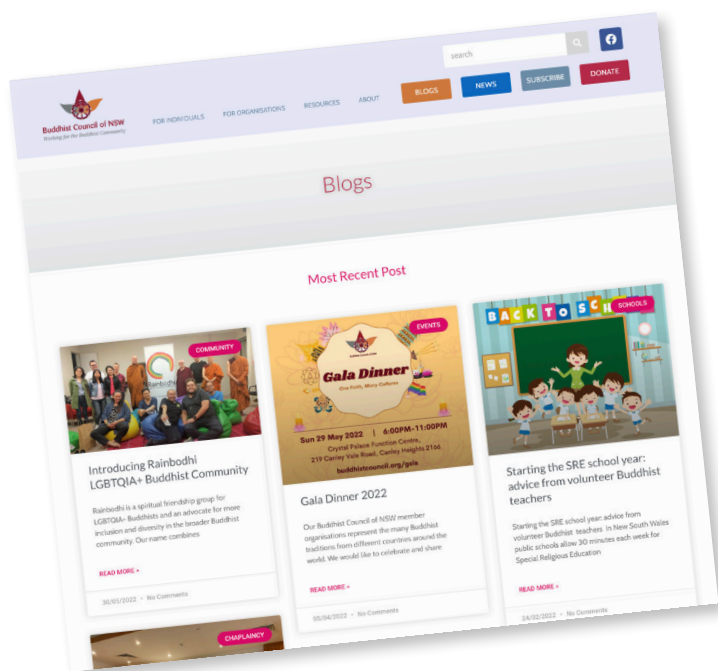


## New Blogs page

In August we launched a new page for blogs on our website. We began with contributions to spur the growth of helpful practices, delve deeper into the wisdom of the sutras and take action in the world:

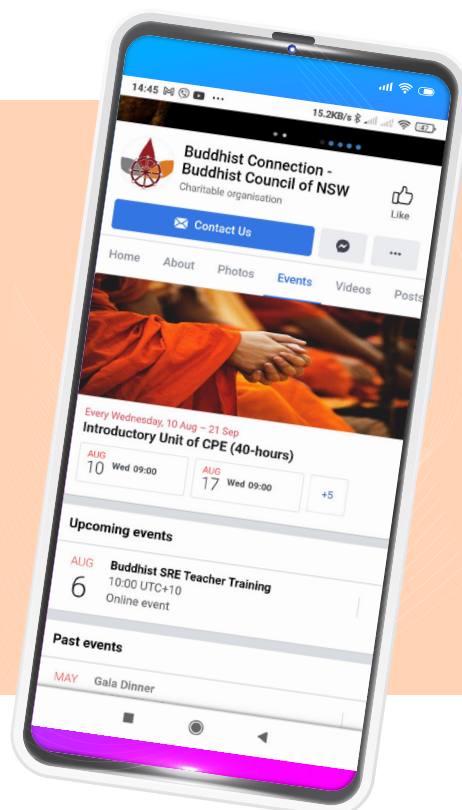
- Break the cycle of unhappiness by Buddhist chaplain Daniel Troyak
- Faith in Buddhist thought by Akaliko Bhikku, founder of Rainbodhi
- Taking compassionate action for the climate by Buddhist Council chair Gawaine Powell Davies

We moved on to include topics from spending Christmas inside by prison chaplain Anna Carmody to the consecration of the Bodhi tree at Pal Buddhist School. We have great scope to offer insights into many aspects of our operations from teaching Buddhism in schools to contributing to interfaith forums.



## Facebook and Event Finder

Our Facebook page and Event Finder continued to expand coverage of Buddhist happenings with a dedicated focus on promoting member events.





## Working with government, interfaith and other groups

This was an important part of our work in 2021, working with government and faith groups working on responses to the Covid pandemic and issues of discrimination and climate change. We also took part in festivals and celebrations with other faiths.

### Meetings with government

We attended regular meetings with government on Covid throughout the year and distributed information to members. We were also part of an interfaith group negotiating the restrictions that applied to religious activities. This has since evolved into a group that is trying to create more permanent channels of communication between government and faith groups. We also took part in consultations by the Australian Human Rights Council on a framework for addressing racism in Australia, and a meeting on the future of cemeteries in Sydney.

### Advocacy

In addition to work on climate change, we joined with others to advocate on issues of religious discrimination, opposing the proposed bills in NSW and nationally because of their likely impact on minority religions and vulnerable groups, and supporting a Local Government councillor who suffered discrimination because she was Buddhist. We continued our work with SEIROS, the Social and Economic Impact or Religious Observance Study, analysing the economic impact of volunteering and giving by people with a religious faith. Finally, we joined a coalition (Hands Off Our Charities) opposing new restrictions on advocacy by charities and not for profit organisations.



*Meditation for climate change action outside Parliament House.*

### Climate change and ecology

We continued to work with the Faith Ecology Network and the Australian Religious Response on Climate Change for climate action and climate justice. We organised meditation outside State Parliament as part of an international day of action with Greenfaith International, and took part on consultations on climate change with the ALP.





## Festivals, celebrations and other events

During 2021 we took part in celebrations with other faith groups and invited them to take part in the online Vesak program. We attended:

- Iftar celebrations making the end of the Islamic fasting day during Ramadan with the Islamic iftars, the meal that follows the end of the day's fasting during Ramadan, with the Affinity Intercultural Foundation, the Pitt St Uniting Church, the NSW government, the Parramatta Catholic diocese and in a private home.
- The Founders Day celebration at Ahmidiyya Muslim Community Centre
- The Baha'i celebration of the centenary of Baha'i faith in Australia and their conference on social resilience
- Sikh launch of a film on the tapestry on Guru Nanak's travels
- The Holocaust Remembrance and Reading of Names at Rookwood Cemetery and the remembrance of Kristallnacht
- Panel member on interfaith dialogue for Affinity symposium.
- Attended Jewish remembrance of Kristallnacht (online)



Chair Gawaine Powell Davies at Ahmidiyya Religious Founders Day.

We contributed to the Sydney Statement, an interfaith statement from young people that was launched during the year, helped launch a book on teaching meditation to children and contributed a reflection for the Australian Catholic University's book of prayers and reflections for parliamentarians.

### Statement of Commitment on Child Safety endorsed by the Board on 27 February 2022

The Buddhist Council supports children to lead happy and healthy lives by promoting values and life skills based on the understanding and practice of the teachings of the Buddha.

Our work is guided by the ethical principle of non-harm in providing a safe environment for children in our programs and activities.

The BCNSW is committed to implementing the NSW Child Safe Standards. We understand that children's safety requires a sustained focus in our governance activities so that:

- The best interests of children and their protection from harm is paramount
- Child abuse is not tolerated
- Children's rights are understood and respected
- Concerns about child safety raised by children and their parents and carers are acted on
- Reporting abuse is not obstructed or prevented.

# Our People

## Board of Directors

Gawaine Powell Davies	Chair
Venerable Dr Juewei	Secretary until June
Sourina Simmalavong	Secretary from June
Zen Low	Treasurer
Tina Ng	Public Officer
Akālīko Bhikkhu	Board Member
Tonto Kaewsatuan	Board Member
Justin Luu	Board Member
Glenn Sloan	Board Member
Sherene Tan	Board Member from December

## Our Team in 2021

Glenn Sloan	General Manager
Ann MacArthur	Operations Manager
Jackie Iskandar	Finance Manager
Diane Ong	Finance Manager from December
Lay Lim	Finance Assistant
Wendy Nash	Member Services Coordinator
Thanh Nguyen	SRE Coordinator
John Barclay	SRE Teacher Trainer
Vivian Salim	Chaplaincy Assistant
Bonnie Yiu	Office Assistant
Annie Ng	Web and Database Assistant
Anne Marie Dwyer	Policy and Reporting Assistant
Kanupriya Bhardwaj	Social Media Coordinator from September
Ada Lee	Aged care research from October
Chi-Wei Chen	Special projects from December



## Our Board

### Gawaine Powell Davies - Chairperson



Gawaine is now retired, having spent his working life as a practitioner and researcher in health promotion, public health and primary health care. This gave him a strong sense of the importance of community, and of the crucial work that community members, leaders and service

providers play in our collective wellbeing. Outside of work he has been on the Board/executive of Nan Tien Institute, Sydney Insight Meditators and the Civil Chaplaincy Advisory Committee, as well as the Buddhist Council.

Gawaine grew up in a Christian culture but has been interested in Buddhism since encountering it at age 13. He has been a committed practitioner since about 1990, in Insight and Secular Buddhism sanghas but with an appreciation of the contribution of all traditions. He was very moved by a visit to Bhutan in 2020 where he experienced, for the first time, a country where Buddhism is woven into every aspect of daily life.

As Chair, he has tried to help the Buddhist Council become more open to its members, strengthen its programs and be more active on issues like child safety, religious freedom and global heating that affect us all. The next step is to find the next person who will take the Council into the future.

### Zen Low - Treasurer

Zen discovered Buddhism while studying as a university student. Experiencing an immediate affinity with the Buddha's teachings, he was amazed by the immense benefits of combined Buddhist meditation practice and ethics. Since then, he has attended meditation retreats in Australia and abroad, and has organised meditation courses in Australia and Fiji. His primary interests include the early Buddhist texts and applying the Dhamma in daily life.

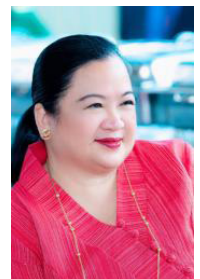
He is also a Chartered Accountant and has assisted numerous boards of Buddhist organisations with their financial and board duties.



### Sourina Simmalavong - Secretary

Sourina is a lawyer by profession but is currently working as a Commonwealth public servant. Her background in community development and service was from growing up in the Lao community in Sydney, where her parents helped establish a community welfare

organisation and a Temple to meet the needs of the Lao refugees settling in South Western Sydney. In her adult years, she volunteered and served on the Board of Lao Community Advancement (NSW) Co-operative Ltd (LCAC) for 15 years and has also been a member of the Lao Buddhist Society of NSW Inc since its inception in 1989. Sourina is interested in community development and advocacy on issues relating to young people, women, cross cultural matters and human rights.



*Continued page 20*

## Our Board

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Sourina grew up in the Theravada Buddhist tradition and helped her parents raise funds to build the first Lao Temple in Sydney and participated in many of its festivals and rituals.

Her keen interest in the Dhamma and the Buddhist Thai Forest Tradition was cultivated and influenced by Tan Chao Khun Samai (aka Ven. Ajahn Samai), Abbot of Wat Pa Buddharangsee at Leumeah. Sourina saw a gap between the practice/rituals and the religion due to language barriers, and as a result established Lao Dhamma School in 2019, a Sunday school based at Wat Prayortkeo Dhammayanaram, Edensor Park for local children with lessons conducted in English. The vision is for our children to be living positive and fulfilling lives by incorporating Buddhist values from an early age and incorporating them into their daily lives. This gives children the foundation to grow into responsible adults with a positive outlook on life, armed with resilience for future challenges.

Sourina has an interest in membership engagement and providing more services to our members. Last year she established a Not-for-Profit Guide which walks through the steps required to set up a community/NFP organisation in NSW and the issues to consider in establishing a community organisation. The plan for this year is to hold workshops on constitutions and the role of management committees/governance.

### Tina Ng - Public Officer

Tina Ng is a practicing and devout Buddhist. She is the Founder and President of the Metta Centre, a Buddhist centre to support Buddhism in Western Sydney by providing a space for monastics and lay teachers to share the Buddha's teachings freely. She is also the Principal Solicitor of Metta Legal, a law firm encouraging practice through Buddhist principles. She is an accredited mediator at



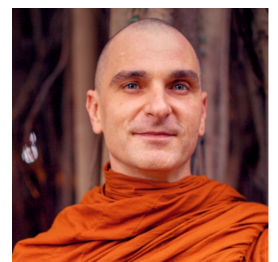
her mediation centre, Metta Resolution. She has been an advisor to temples, Buddhist organisations and university groups. She has a keen interest in supporting youth and has run various mentoring programs for students. She has organised various events and played the role of coordinator, emcee, and auctioneer at charity functions. She has shared the Buddha's teachings in conferences, talks, workshops, and in her writings.

Tina has been assisting the Buddhist Council for many years and continues her assistance now as a board member. Tina started the Ambassador Program for the Buddhist Council, which continues to today, and she has represented the Buddhist Council at various events. Tina coordinated the eVesak Celebrations in 2020 and 2021 with organisations across Australia. She was also part of the working committee for the Combined Vesak celebrations in 2019, and other Buddhist Council events, including the Buddhist EXPO.

During the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Tina assisted Buddhist Council in liaising with translators to provide important Covid-19 related information to the Buddhist temples and organisations in a wide range of languages. Tina also initiated the Ask a Buddhist Program, which continues to draw on the expertise of a panel of Buddhist practitioners who respond to Buddhist questions received from people from all around the world.

### Akālīko Bhikkhu

Akālīko Bhikkhu (he/him) is an Australian monk in the Theravada forest tradition. Bhante Akālīko first encountered Buddhism as a teenager and spent over twenty years practising in different traditions before taking full ordination with Ajahn Brahm as his preceptor at Bodhinyana monastery in 2016. He currently resides with his long-term teacher, Bhante Sujato, at the Monastery at the End of the World in Harris Park, Sydney.



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## Our Board

*From page 20*

Bhante Akāliko is the founder of Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community and a Buddhist chaplain at Western Sydney University. He has served as a Board director with the BCNSW since 2020, with the aim of bringing diverse member organisations together to help foster a stronger and more connected NSW Buddhist community. He regularly works with numerous Buddhist Council member groups, giving Dhamma talks, teaching meditation retreats and other cultural activities.

Whilst serving on the Board, Bhante Akāliko helped organise the Council's 2020 fundraiser, Stillness in Spring and the online event Mirrors to Wisdom: Poetic Reflections on 2020. He also authored BCNSW submissions on the recent state and federal Religious Discrimination Bills and represented the Buddhist Council at parliamentary committee hearings on this legislation.

### Tonto Kaewsatuan

Tonto Kaewsatuan, is a Buddhist but grew his interest since studying at university, joining the Macquarie University Buddhist Society (MacBuddhi). He is a current board member of the Buddhist Council of NSW (BCNSW), where he continues to help BCNSW to promote Buddhism, support member organisations, and grow the community.



Before being a board member, Tonto was a BCNSW volunteer, contributing his capabilities in digital operations and marketing, including digital experience management, search engine optimisation, search engine marketing, social media management, and digital analytics.

Since joining, he has worked on the 'Stillness in Spring' 2020 campaign, promoting mental health and meditation, raising funds to not just help BCNSW operations, but also provide chaplaincy for prisoners and hospitals, providing chaplaincy training, supporting

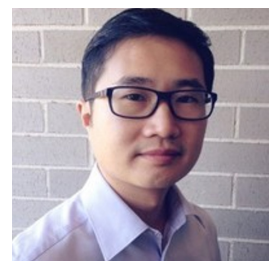
SRE support to schools, providing latest information and content to the community.

Prior to BCNSW, he was a former president of MacBuddhi. During his time, he maintained on-campus operations, organised weekly dharma talks and meditations sessions, contributed articles in the university publication, social catch-ups, and ultimate frisbee games, leading to the growth and expansion of the society.

Outside of BCNSW, he is a digital marketing professional, currently for Torrens University, promoting education and future career paths, with a focus on growth and acquisition. A strong all-rounder in this space and has used this experience and skill to contribute to the growth and expansion of BCNSW.

### Justin Luu

Justin Luu has been actively serving the Buddhist community in Sydney for many years, having been a founding member of the Mitra Youth Buddhist Network, and is also currently serving as the Vice President of the Metta Centre.



His background as a software engineer and consultant enables him to support the BCNSW's IT strategy and overcoming challenges.

### Glenn Sloan

Glenn has been the General Manager of BCNSW since 2015 and a director since 2021. He is the Secretary of the Amitahba Foundation since 2014 and currently volunteers as a Buddhist Chaplain at The Children's Hospital Westmead and Hornsby Hospital.



*Continued page 22*

## Our Board

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Glenn has been a Buddhist practitioner for 35 years. He is currently a Vajrayana practitioner with the Amitabha Foundation Australia, Waitara.

At BCNSW Glenn has developed and implemented core business support IT systems and infrastructure and systems to support our Community Engagement Network program. He is also a member of the Chaplaincy management team.

Glenn's focus for this year is to continue development of both Prison and Hospital chaplaincy service offerings and improve the funding model to support these services. He plans to continue his role as a Hospital Chaplain. Glenn is also keen to increase BCNSW Health Care support footprint to include aged care spiritual support services.

### **Sherene Tan**

Sherene Tan grew up in a Buddhist family, influenced by both her paternal and maternal grandmothers, who had respectively practised Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. As a child, along with her younger brother, she used to regularly follow her paternal grandmother to a Thai Buddhist temple near home. Years later, as an adult, she was involved with Sunday pindapata at Brickfields Sri Lankan Temple in Kuala Lumpur.

Following her family migration to Sydney, both her sons attended Dhamma School at Lankarama Buddhist Temple Schofields from 2009 to 2017. At the same time, Sherene volunteered as a Dhamma teacher at Lankarama for the Year 2 children for 6 years.

She is now pleased to be able to combine both her religious interests and broad skills to contribute to the Board of BCNSW (joined the Board December 2021) as the incoming Treasurer, assisted by her niece Diane Ong, as Finance Manager. Professionally, she is a Fellow of CPA Australia, was Director of Finance for 14 years before becoming Hotel General Manager. Sherene is also an NSW Justice of the Peace, and a Non-Executive Director/ Secretary at another separate community organisation.



# Financial Summary

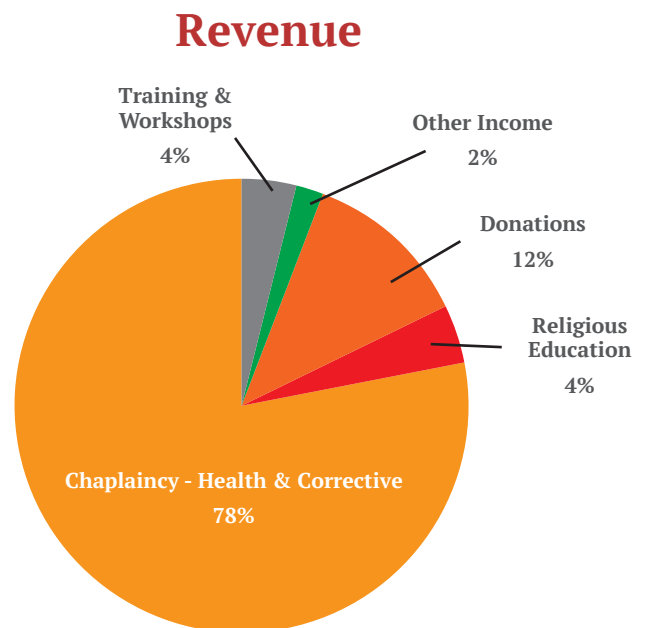
Five Year Financial Summary of the Buddhist Council

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Income	354,260	260,513	176,931	176,621	173,599
Expenses	315,913	225,850	207,038	206,896	172,224
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	38,347	34,663	30,107	30,274	1,375
Increase/(Decrease in Members' Funds)	38,347	34,663	(30,107)	(30,274)	1,375
Total Members' Funds	156,796	118,381	83,719	113,827	144,101

In the financial year 2021, Buddhist Council of NSW had an operating surplus of \$38,347.

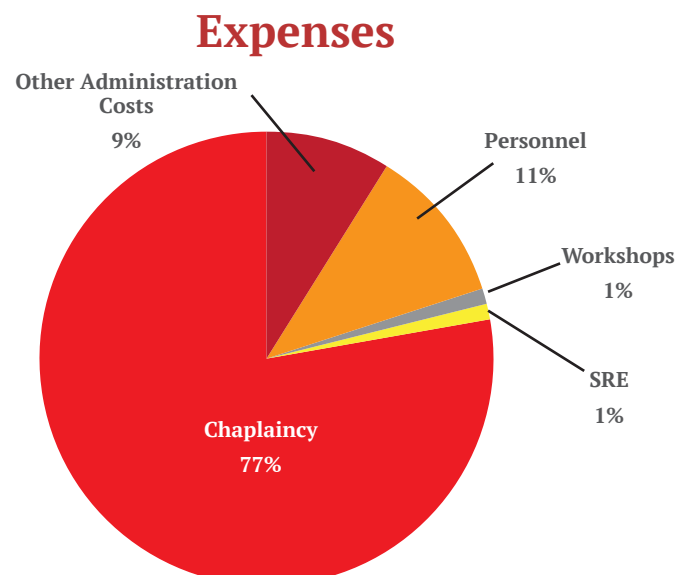
## Revenue

Total revenue for 2021 was \$354,260 which was considerably higher than 2020 income. Due to the pandemic, Chaplaincy Health transactions increased due to additional subsidies received resulting in extra headcount, and extraordinary stipends donated by the chaplains. We continued with a full-time dedicated Corrective chaplain for the full year. Other revenue items comprise membership renewal fee, and training & workshops held online.



## Expenses

Total expenses for 2021 was \$315,913 which was a 40% increase from last year. This increase was in line with the additional headcount in Chaplaincy. Other admin costs decreased compared to the prior year, due to costs reduction exercises.



## Financial Position

As of end of 2021, the Council's financial position was \$156,796, with surplus of \$38,347.

Buddhist Council of NSW relies on the generosity and kindness of its donors for its continued operations to support the community. Any donations or bequests would be much appreciated.





# Donations

## Donations

The Buddhist Council relies on donations from the community for our financial sustainability. Any donations or bequests are much appreciated. The Education Fund has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) statuses from the Australian Tax Office. We are grateful for donations from the following organisations and individuals in 2021.

Aloka Meditation Centre  
Amawatura Buddhist Centre  
Amrta Monastery  
Andrew Fraser  
Ang Guan Lim  
Ann MacArthur  
Anna Carmody  
Anna Crossley  
Annie Ng  
Anthony Mills  
Association of Engaged Buddhists  
Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices  
Bo-an Sunim  
Bodhicitta Foundation  
Dean Pistilli  
Debbie Whitney  
Dharma Cloud Monastery  
Dicky Tanuwidjaya  
Don Yasalal  
Elizabeth Mowlam  
Gamani for Vidarshana BV D  
Gebchak Rigpa Har-Sey Inc  
Gemma Choy  
Hassib Bou Said  
Haw Chi Low  
Hoang Hoa Lam  
I Gede Raka Putra Gunawan  
J Kuo  
Jacqueline Iskandar  
Jonathan Page

John Murray  
Katina Prokhovn/Heather Topp  
Keith Kong  
KienEng Chan  
Lao Buddhist Council of NSW  
Lie kiun Tju  
Lisa Fung  
Matthew Rayner  
Michael Congo  
Michelle Halim  
Minh Phan  
Nicola Le Couteur  
Nimal Kankanamalage  
No Problem Publishing nc  
Pat of LGC (Annie Ng)  
Pavitra Kulkarni  
Phu Dai Ta  
Reverend Heather Topp  
Sam Naidu  
Sandy Min Hartley  
Santi Forest Monastery  
Shirley Sham  
Suek Fong Ng  
Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute  
Thi Anh Huynh  
Tibetan Buddhist Society Sydney  
Trish Nguyen  
Twining Vines Zen Centre  
Wei Loi Chong  
Won Buddhism of Gosford Assoc Inc

# Member Organisations

Financial Members	Tradition	Culture
Aloka Community Incorporated	Theravada	Western
Amawatura Buddhist Centre (Inc)	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW Inc.	Mahayana	Chinese, Vietnamese, Taiwanese
Amitabha Foundation (Australia)	Vajrayana	Tibetan
AMRTA Monastery	Mahayana	Chinese
Association of Engaged Buddhists	Theravada	Western
Australian Buddhist Mission & Aloka Meditation Centre	Theravada	Non Specific
Australian Chinese Buddhist Society	Mahayana	Chinese
Australian Institute of Buddhist Learning and Practice	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Bangladesh Australia Buddhist Society	Theravada	Bangladesh
Barom Kagyu Chodrak Drupju Chuling	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Black Mountain Zen Group	Zen	Japanese, Western
Blue Mountains Insight Meditation Centre (BMIMC)	Theravada	Western
Bluegum Sangha	Theravada	Western
Bodhicitta Foundation (India) Australia	Mahayana	Tibetan, Western
Bori Korean Buddhist Society of NSW	Mahayana	Korean
Buddhist Compassion Australia Incorporated	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Buddhist Counselling	Vajrayana	Tibetan, Western
Central West Buddhists	Theravada	Thai, Western
Chagdud Gonpa Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Chan Tam True Mind	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Coogee Buddhist Community	Non Specific	Western
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated	Theravada	Non Specific
Dharma Cloud Monastery - Australia Buddhist Foundation	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association (NSW)	Mahayana	Taiwanese
Drogmi Buddhist Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Dzogchen Community of Namgyalgar	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Gebchak Rigpa Har-Sey Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Golden Wheel Buddhist Association	Mahayana	Chinese
Guan Yin Buddhist Temple	Mahayana	Chinese
Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia	Mahayana	Japanese
Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW	Theravada	Indonesian
Karma Yiwong Samten Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Khachodling Ltd	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Koyasan Shingon Mission Of Australia	Vajrayana	Japanese
Kuan Yin Meditation Centre	Zen	Western



## Member Organisations

Lao Buddhist Society of NSW (Wat Phrayortkeo Dhammayanaram)	Theravada	Lao
Liberation Prison Project Australia Ltd	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Mahamakut Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore Inc.	Theravada	Thai
Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery of Sydney	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Metta Centre Incorporated	Non Specific	Western
Mitra Youth Buddhist Network Incorporated	Non Specific	Youth
Mountain Spring Monastery	Zen	Vietnamese
Nan Tien Institute (NTI)	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Nan Tien Temple	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
No Problems Publishing Inc.	Vajrayana	Western
Pal Buddhist School	Non Specific	Youth
Prajna Monastery Australia Inc.	Mahayana	Chinese
Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community	Non Specific	Non Specific
Rigpa Fellowship Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Santi Forest Monastery Inc.	Theravada	Western
Silky Oak Zen	Zen	Western
Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara Association (Lankarama)	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Sunnataram Forest Monastery	Theravada	Thai
Sydney Burmese Buddhist Vihara Inc.	Theravada	Burmese
Sydney Insight Meditators	Non Specific	Western
Sydney Zen Centre	Zen	Western
Tallowood Sangha Inc	Theravada	Western
Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Tenzin Palmo Initiatives	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Tharpa Choeling Inc	Vajrayana	Western
Theravada Buddhist Association of Australia Inc.	Theravada	Burmese
Tibetan Buddhist Society (Sydney)	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Triratna Buddhist Community (Sydney) Inc.	Non Specific	Western
Twining Vines Zen Centre	Zen	Japanese, Western
UNIBUDS	Non Specific	Youth
Wat Buddha Dhamma Foundation Ltd	Theravada	Thai
Wat Buddha Mounghoun	Theravada	Lao
Wat Buddhalavarn Inc	Theravada	Lao
Wat Lao Buddhassetta	Theravada	Lao
Won Buddhism of Gosford Assoc Inc,	Mahayana	Korean
Yeshikhorlo Tibetan Buddhism Association Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan, Chinese



# Member Organisations

Other Members	Tradition	Culture
AABCAP (Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists Inc.)	Non Specific	Western
An Khong Association Inc	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Australia Buddhist Foundation - Dharma Cloud Monastery	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Bhante Sujato in Sydney Group	Theravada	Western
Bodhi Books & Gifts	Non Specific	Western
Bodhi Events	Vajrayana	Western
Bodhikusuma Buddhist & Meditation Centre	Theravada	Thai
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Aust	Mahayana	Chinese
Bup Bo Temple	Mahayana	Korean
Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc of NSW (Wat Khemarangsaram)	Theravada	Cambodian
Chan Miao Zen Centre	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Contemplative End-of-Life Care Southern Highlands Inc.	Non Specific	Non Specific
Dalai Lama In Australia Ltd	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Dhammaduta Buddhist Association (Coffs Harbour)	Theravada	Burmese
Dhammaduta Buddhist Association of Australia	Theravada	Burmese
Dhammakaya International Society of Aust	Theravada	Thai
Diamondway Buddhism Sydney	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Huayen Buddhist Community of Australia Inc	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Kadri Bodhi Monastery Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre Inc.	Theravada	Cambodian
Karma Dro Phan Ling Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Karma Samten Choeling Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Kempsey Buddhist Meditation Group	Non Specific	Western
Khmer Krom & Aust Buddhist Assoc	Theravada	Cambodian
Korean Buddhism Jongbopsa Society (The)	Mahayana	Korean
Korean Buddhist Kwan Um Sa Inc.	Mahayana	Korean
Kuenphen Dharma Centre Australia	Vajrayana	Bhutanese
Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Kyegu Buddhist Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Lin Yim Buddhist Institute	Mahayana	Chinese
Ling Yen Mountain Temple (Australia)	Mahayana	Chinese
Macquarie University Buddhist Association	Non Specific	Youth
Man Su Vihara	Mahayana	Chinese
Mudita House Limited	Non Specific	Non Specific
Mukyoho	Mahayana	Japanese
Open Way Zen Centre	Zen	Western
Panditarama Sydney Meditation Centre Inc.	Theravada	Burmese



## Member Organisations

Phuoc Hau Temple	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Phuoc Hue Temple	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Pointing Out Australia	Vajrayana	Western
Quan Am Thien Tinh Buddhist Charitable Association Inc (The)	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Recollective Awareness (Aust)	Non Specific	Western
Sakya Tharpa Ling	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Sasana Daja Burmese Temple	Theravada	Burmese
Shantideva Buddhist Foundation Limited	Mahayana	Tibetan
Siangthum Phrapotiyen Incorporated	Theravada	Thai
Siddhartha's Intent Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Tinh Xa Minh Dang Quang	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Unibodhi - University of Sydney Buddhist Society	Non Specific	Youth
Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of A-NZ	Mahayana	Vietnamese
University Buddhist Education Foundation	Non Specific	Western
UTS Buddhist Meditation Society	Non Specific	Youth
Vajrayana Institute Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Vien Giac Temple	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Vinh Nghiem Pagoda Buddhist and Charitable Soc. (The)	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Wat Buddharangsee	Theravada	Thai
Wat Buddhavongsa-Yaram	Theravada	Lao
Wat Pa Buddharangsee	Theravada	Thai
Well-Aware-Ness Psychology	Theravada	Western
Won Buddhism of Australia	Mahayana	Korean
Zen Open Circle Inc	Zen	Western





## Our Vision

Our vision is of a world where the Dharma – the teachings and practices of the Buddha – are part of everyday life and contribute to the wellbeing of all.

We seek to achieve this through supporting a flourishing Buddhist community that:

- has strong and sustainable Buddhist organisations
- has productive relationships between Buddhist organisations, with other faiths, with government and other social organisations
- contributes to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and society through putting the Dharma into practice.

We work with and for the Buddhist community and others who share our vision to achieve this.



**Buddhist Council of NSW**

*Working for the Buddhist Community*

## Contact details

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