



BUDDHIST COUNCIL
OF NSW

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NSW

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Cover Photo:

2022 Cultural Festival
at Nan Tien Temple

Graphic Design:

Michelle Tracey

CHAIR'S REPORT



Gawaine Powell Davies



In 2022 we finally emerged from Covid lockdowns, many of us with a clearer sense of what mattered. How much of this will we take forward with us?

At last we could re-connect with each other, seeing each other in the flesh again as we moved beyond Zoom, visiting temples and community centres and taking part in each others' celebrations. We still use Zoom, but are delighted once again to be in the same room together.

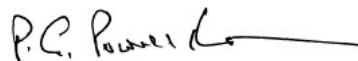
At the Buddhist Council programs like Special Religious Education and Chaplaincy opened up again, sometimes strengthened by the work arounds that we had developed during Covid.

Towards the end of the year we celebrated coming out together again with a gala dinner: nearly 400 guests filled the function centre, with the all the colours and the cultures of the Buddhist community.

Another legacy of Covid was a closer relationship between different faith groups, and with the government. We maintained this during the year, culminating in the establishment of a Religious Communities Advisory Council to advise government on the needs of faith communities. We hope that this will be continued by the new government.

Covid reminded us that the world is a vulnerable place. With this in mind we have continued to work on the climate crisis with the Religious Response to Climate Change, and received a grant from the NSW government for community education on the Uluru statement and the referendum in late 2023. We also continued to focus on discrimination, child protection and other issues which affect the most vulnerable members of society.

I would like to thank everyone who worked at, with, around and through the Buddhist Council in 2022: our Operations Manager Ann MacArthur and General Manager, Glenn Sloan and everyone in the office; the Board, who have worked hard in the interests of the Buddhist community; our chaplains and Special Religious Education teachers; and finally all those in temples and community organisations who have supported us and invited us to their events during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.G. Powell Davies', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

GAWAINE POWELL DAVIES
Chair

WHO WE ARE
AND
WHAT WE DO

“ *The Buddhist Council of NSW is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation set up to help Buddhist temples and societies in New South Wales present a Buddhist voice to mainstream society.*



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:

1. SUPPORTING BUDDHIST ORGANISATIONS
2. MAKING BUDDHISM AVAILABLE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY
3. OFFERING CHAPLAINCY AND BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS
4. WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND INTERFAITH GROUPS
5. PROVIDING A BUDDHIST VOICE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

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.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

“

Members of the Buddhist Council include places of worship and retreat centres, educational institutions and professional organisations. We have three levels of membership according to the size of the organisation.

We welcomed three new members in 2022:

- *Coogee Buddhist Community*
- *Shaolin Kungfu Meditation Temple of Australia*
- *Vidarshana Buddhist Vihara and Meditation Centre*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

“

A generous offer from the Australian Indonesian Chinese Community gave us the opportunity to offer grants to member organisations for the purposes supporting vulnerable people, building community capacity, extending community reach through events and marketing and activities in response to Covid 19.

Expressions of interest were circulated in July and grants of up to \$1000 were awarded in August. Here are some of the projects devised by our members.



Photo top:
Manjushri Buddhist Centre

Photo bottom:
Teaching with Venerable Robina Courtin for Manjushri Buddhist Centre



MANJUSHRI BUDDHIST CENTRE

Meditation for all ages course promotion

Funds were used to buy a printer to print marketing flyers, texts, and content for students of their regular Calm Abiding Meditation Courses. The new multifunction printer - Epsom EcoTank Cartridge Free - reproduced flyers for distribution to many local businesses and noticeboards and resulted in a booking of over 30 students for the following term.

The printer is now a long term asset that will be used to continue to assist us with producing content for courses and also when we host “Our courses are helping so many in our local community to adopt a daily meditation and mindfulness practice calming busy minds and discovering that the cause of genuine happiness is something that we can cultivate from within.”



Photo: BCNSW Board members Dr Gamani Goonetilleka and Sherene Tan with Amitabha Foundation Jane Crancher

AMITABHA FOUNDATION

Reconnecting Sangha project

On a clear and bright Sunday, the Springtime Open Day at the Amitabha Foundation encouraged new and prospective members to emerge from pandemic lockdowns and restrictions. The program included a half-hour guided meditation and Dharma talk with resident teacher Jane Crancher followed by a generous afternoon tea in the garden next to the Gomba. The grant covered the hire of pergola and chairs as well as some catering.

This outreach proved to be a wonderful success, with around 80 people joining. Many expressed their inspiration to deepen their dharma pursuit and spoke of their gratitude for the opportunity to re-connect and re-engage at the Amitabha Foundation.



Photo:

*Catering at Coogee Buddhist
Community Fete*

COOGEE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

Coogee Fete

The inaugural Coogee Fete held at the Coogee Croquet Club drew a large

number of local Eastern Suburbs community, who had never before experienced the Buddhist meditation and dharma study context of Coogee Buddhist Community. The sangha team of approximately 12 people covered preparation, publicity and clean-up / pack-up for the event attended by 150 – 200 over a four-hour period.

Activities included meditation and meditative experiences, live music, poetry, silent auction and jumble sale. The food and drink menu featuring curries and cakes plus chai and lemonade was heavily patronised. The Community raised a few thousand dollars towards establishing dedicated premises in the Eastern suburbs.



Photo:

*(Left to right)
Ada Lee, Tina Ng,
Daniel Troyak and
former BCNSW
Treasurer Zen Low
at the launch of
Social Buddy*

BUDDHIST COUNSELLING

Social Buddy Launch

A group of Buddhist friends, including Daniel Troyak from Buddhist Counselling and Ada Lee from Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association, joined together to address loneliness and social isolation in our community

through making friendship phone and video calls. Social Buddy organises training for volunteers in deep listening and social skills and pairs them with vulnerable community members.

The Community Development Grant supported a launch function for Social Buddy at Woollahra Council's

Dunbar House in Watsons Bay. Buddhist Council Ambassador Tina Ng spoke to offer congratulations and commendation for the worthy initiative that serves the whole community. Having an 'in real life event' was important to recruit volunteers as the only avenue for promotion had been Facebook.



Photo:
Treasurer Sherene
Tan (right) got to work
preparing lunch
packets for the
Vidarshana Buddhist
Vihara fundraiser

VIDARSHANA BUDDHIST VIHARA

Lunch packets fundraiser

The purchase of large stainless steel pots, gas burners, hoses and two rice cookers lifted the capacity of Vidarshana's community kitchen to

produce up to 1500 lunch packets. These mouthwatering vegan meals prepared in Sri Lankan style are fundraising favourites. The meal preparation typically involves 20-30 of members under the supervision of a qualified chef. With increased capacity both Venerables stepped in, working

until the early hours of Saturday morning and returning soon after at 4.30 am.

The exercise built fellowship and teamwork amongst members and it was reported that the community enthusiasm was electric!

METTA CENTRE

Annual Dinner

Bringing the community together in friendship and celebration was the theme for Metta Centre's annual dinner. The dinner was an opportunity to thank

volunteers and supporters, launch new projects and bring awareness to existing projects.

Metta Connections, a Buddhist professions network, was introduced and ongoing projects including Ask a

Buddhist, online Dhamma and weekly events were celebrated.

The full impressive program of speakers was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9JESTPSI2Q>



Photo:

Guests at Metta Centre's Annual Dinner

GALA DINNER
ONE FAITH,
MANY CULTURES

“

We gathered to celebrate and share our members' cultural diversity with the wider Australian community at a fun-filled Gala Dinner in May.

*We were
pleased to host
over 400 guests
and raised over
\$23,000.*

The Gala's purpose was to raise funds to support our work in sustaining and developing our key programs, including Special Religious Education, chaplaincy training, advocacy and member services; we were pleased to host over 400 guests and raised over \$23,000.

Photos:

*Celebrating with friends
at the Gala Dinner*



WHAT WE

Experienced

The function at Crystal Palace in Canley Vale included a Chinese style banquet with vegetarian options. Guests entered to tunes from the traditional Lao band followed by cultural performances. These were Rainy season dance by Cambodian Living Arts & Culture of NSW Inc, Sri Lankan dance performance by Thilini Wanigathunga from the Sri

Lankan Dance Academy of Sydney, Blessing Dance performance 'Klisd Apinharn' by the RARG Thai Dancing Group and 'Kup thoom Luang Prabang' by the dancing group from the Lao Community Advancement (NSW) Co-Op Ltd. Joseph La Posta, CEO of Multicultural NSW and Reverend Rev. Dr Patrick

McInerney, Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations were invited as special guests to make remarks. Chair Gawaine Powell Davies and prison chaplain Daniel Troyak also spoke to welcome guests and give them a glimpse into our programs. Our board member Tina Ng acted as the night's MC.



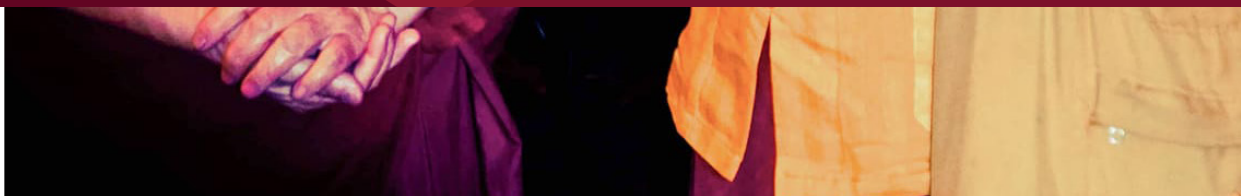
Photo top:
Volunteers at the
reception table

Photo bottom:
Venerable Anila
Yangkyi (left) and
Venerable Sonam
Tenzin Rinpoche
(right)



We are grateful to
those organisations
who supported us
by buying a table/s:

- Australia Chinese Buddhist Society
- Metta Centre
- MITRA
- Prajna Monastery
- Sakya Tharpa Ling
- Wat Buddhalavarn
- Wat Khemmarangsaram



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Photo top:

*(Left to right) Reverend
Shigenobu Watanabe,
Venerable Banruo Shi
and Gawaine Powell
Davies*

Photos:

*Entertainment from
the Lao Band*



CONNECTING

The community

Following the formal program and dinner guests the Lao community invited everyone to the dance floor to experience the traditional Lao lamvong dance. That set the tone for lots of laughter with new and old friends and more dancing into the night.



CHAPLAINCY

“ 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.

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Our chaplains started 2022 with much uncertainty about the COVID situation, but we were able to adapt to the many challenges and even strengthen our activities.

In 2022 we were awarded an additional full-time chaplaincy stipend by the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee at Royal North Shore Hospital.

We also received additional support from the Department of Corrections to provide additional prison chaplaincy hours. Prison chaplains attended 12 correctional centres across the state providing a total of 2.2 FTE hours of service. From his base at Long Bay, Daniel Troyak scheduled regular visits to South Coast Correctional Centre in Nowra and also visited Mid North Coast in Kempsey - the first for a Buddhist chaplain! Audio-visual link, or AVL, sessions became another way to connect with inmates remotely and provide one-to-one Buddhist chaplaincy sessions.

In 2022 hospital chaplains provided 1.6 full time equivalent hours of service. Dane Millanta extended his role to include mental health chaplaincy at Professor Marie Bashir Centre in Camperdown.



Photo:
Daniel Troyak,
Prison Chaplain

“

Buddhist chaplains care, listen and attend to individual's suffering through the grounding of self-knowledge, practice, and the Buddha's teachings.

CORRECTIONS CENTRE

Chaplains

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
Venerable Aileen	Dillwynia Women's
Bo-an Sunim	Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre
Anna Carmody	Long Bay
Christopher King	Mary Wade, Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre
Elizabeth Mowlem	June
John Murray	Bathurst, Kirkconnel, Lithgow, Macquarie, Wellington
Daniel Troyak	Long Bay, Mid North Coast, South Coast

HOSPITAL

Chaplains

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
Barbara Burke	Royal North Shore
Vivienne Fettell	Milton
Nicola Le Couteur	Macquarie, Cumberland
Dane Millanta	Royal Prince Alfred, Professor Marie Bashir Centre
Anthony Mills	Goulburn
Trish Nguyen	Royal Prince Alfred
Minh Phan	Bankstown Lidcombe, 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 2022: Jeff Newton, Lisa Fung.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

JOHN MURRAY

Prison Chaplain

Before enrolling in the Buddhist Council's Introductory course in Clinical Pastoral Education in 2020, John Murray had volunteer experiences in tree planting, LandCare training, tutoring reading, visiting nursing homes and working in crisis accommodation. He travelled from home in Orange to attend Buddhist teachings at Tharpa Choeling in Wellington over more than a decade. His teacher there Pema Tubten, also a prison chaplain, suggested he would be a good candidate for the role as she was planning to retire.



It is incredibly satisfying to be working in the Justice system. While it is a big lumbering machine and sometimes feels hard to get things done, the relationships with staff and inmates are deeply rewarding. Although people are lonely and scared and have different feelings about their past, I like to let them know that they can build the skill to make good choices through Dharma. If I can inspire even one person not to reoffend, I feel I will have done good work.

Since embarking on prison chaplaincy in 2021 John has completed two units of CPE and expanded his work from Bathurst Corrections Centre to include Wellington, Macquarie, Kirkconnell and Lithgow. At prisons John interacts with individual inmates as he moves around the facility and they may also request a visit from the Buddhist chaplain. Group meditation sessions are offered followed by discussion. John has experienced group numbers growing as word gets around.

STRENGTHENING CHAPLAINCY TRAINING



Photo: Chaplaincy workshop with Venerable Robina Courtin

BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY WORKSHOPS

In 2022 chaplains gathered for two professional development workshops. In April Anna Carmody offered *16 Guidelines for Life*, a program of The Foundation for Developing Compassion and Wisdom www.compassionandwisdom.org that she is accredited to teach. Anna explained that in her initial volunteer role as an SRE teacher and later as a prison chaplain she questioned how, with the goal of developing wisdom and compassion, she could teach the ethics that lie at the core? She wanted to teach without resorting to a 'this-is-the model, these-are-the-rules' framework and found 16 Guidelines to be invaluable.

In August chaplains gathered in person at Vajrayana Institute to meet touring Dharma teacher Venerable Robina Courtin. We expected insights from Venerable Robina's experience as founder of Liberation Prison Project in 2000 in the US to help transform prisoners' lives and were also called up by her to imagine what the future of Buddhist chaplaincy in Australia could be. During her time in Sydney Venerable Robina also addressed staff at Long Bay Correctional Centre.

BUDDHIST CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

For the first time we had two offerings of the Introductory Course of CPE (40-hour). Demand is growing for the course, which is the entry point to our Buddhist chaplaincy program, and also provides a background to spiritual care for people interested in a range of areas from aged care to their own families and sanghas. Both courses were offered solely on ZOOM and booked out at a maximum of 12 participants.

Five individuals completed the 400-hour Unit of CPE in March including Buddhist Council chaplains John Muray, Glenn Sloan and Don Yasalal.

BUDDHIST CPE TEAM

We extend our gratitude to the individuals who delivered our Buddhist CPE training in 2022 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

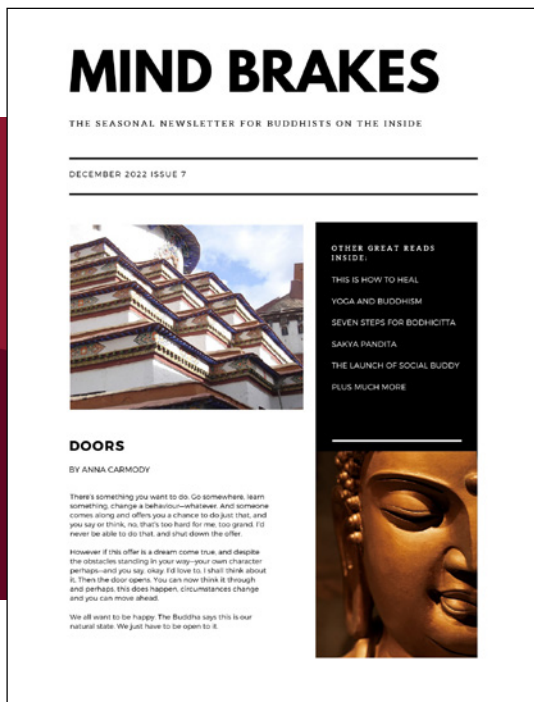
Ms Debra Kelly
Acting Level 1 Supervisor,
Buddhist supervision

BUDDHIST CHAPLAINCY

Resources

Our full time presence at Long Bay Correctional Centre has allowed chaplains Daniel Troyak and Anna Carmody to build up our library of resources to assist inmates in their spiritual growth and development. From there they can be distributed to chaplains in other centres.

Additionally with the introduction of tablets for use by inmates and thanks to Daniel Troyak's expertise, Buddhist chaplaincy took the lead in providing electronic resources. The range of multimedia resources now includes MP4 Dharma talks, guided meditations, books and foreign language Dharma texts.



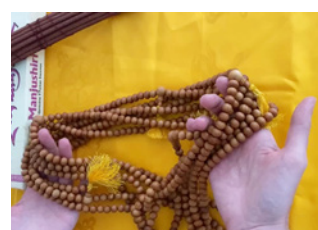
The printing of **Mind Brakes**, a quarterly Buddhist magazine for inmates and staff which receives excellent feedback, acknowledging the positive impact of the publication from inmates, correctional staff and chaplains of other denominations.

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

The reprinting of the **Lama Yeshe book, Becoming Your Own Therapist**. The book is especially relevant in prisons, and also made available to hospital chaplains.



The printing of the **Liberation Prison Project's Tibetan Calendar**.



The purchase of 120 high-quality **sandalwood malas** from India, for distribution to distributed to Buddhist inmates.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“ *The Buddhist Council is an Approved Provider of Special Religious Education (SRE) developing an age appropriate curriculum and a teacher training program. In 2022 just over 50 dedicated volunteer teachers shared the dharma in as many public schools around the state.*

COVID RECOVERY

We experienced some attrition of teachers during the extended lock-out periods of 2021 and found it challenging during the year to get back up to speed.

The year started with a Back-to-School ZOOM workshop on 12 February with a presentation by Bhante Akaliko, sharing of ice-breaker strategies and confirmation of COVID-safe protocols. Some of the discussions that day were adapted into a blog www.buddhistcouncil.org/sre

Recognising it is a chaotic process to settle into the new school year at the best of times. Buddhist Special Religious Education teachers are resuming classes and adapting to school guidelines around COVID. At our recent Back-to-School workshop teachers shared ideas for setting up the structure that contributes to a calm learning environment. We thought parents and families would also benefit, so we have shared ideas on the blog.



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Read our blog:

*Starting the SRE
school year: advice
from volunteer
Buddhist teachers*

www.buddhistcouncil.org/sre

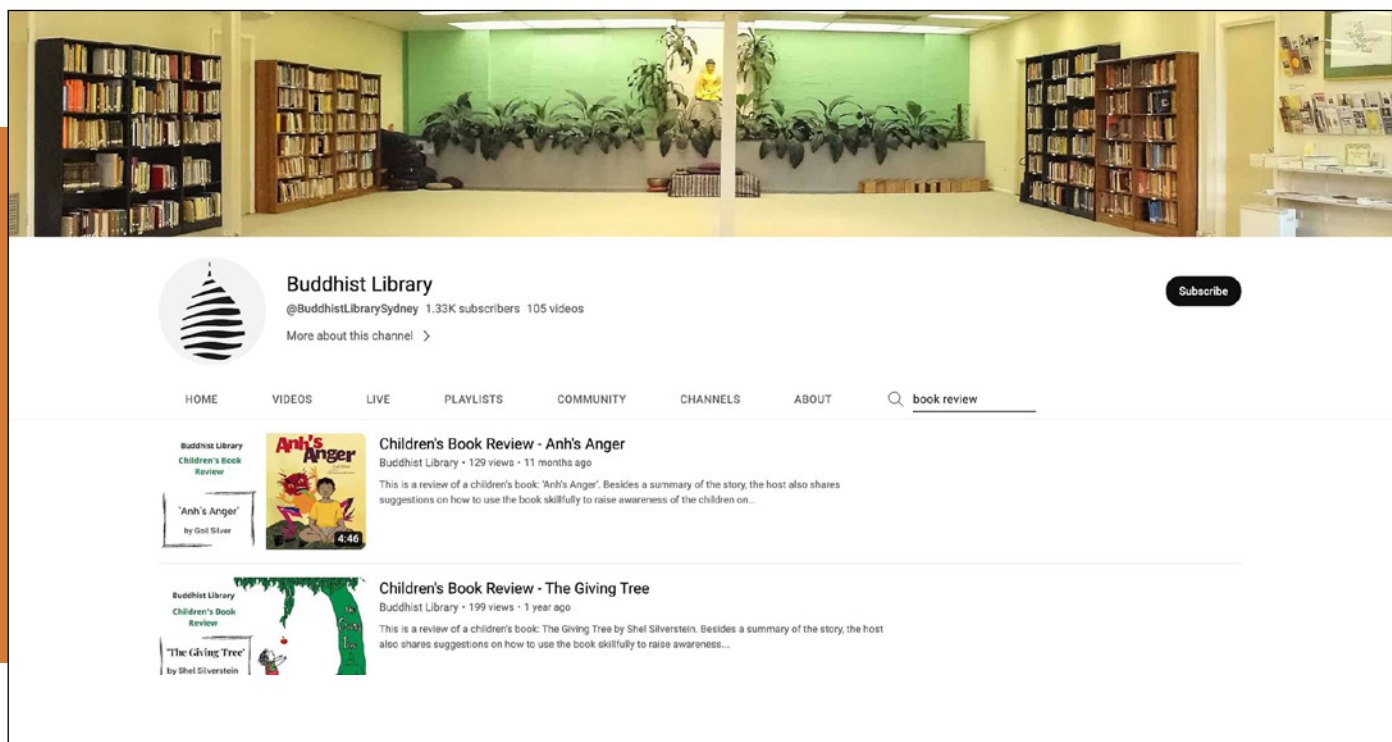


Photo: Buddhist Library YouTube Channel

BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

We have begun a collaboration with the Buddhist Library to provide video reviews of children's books from their large collection. In these reviews with a difference the host gives a brief summary and makes suggestions on questions and activities that link to Buddhist values. The books are not necessarily religious. The first review by Buddhist Council SRE teacher John Barclay considers Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*. We hope the project is of great help to parents, teachers, carers and friends of children.

The reviews are available on the Buddhist Library YouTube Channel: [@BuddhistLibrarySydney](https://www.youtube.com/BuddhistLibrarySydney)



Photo:

*SRE Teacher Training at
Buddhist Library*

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The first SRE teacher training date was postponed. It was rescheduled for Saturday, 6 August, with follow-ups on 27 August and 17 September. **Hybrid SRE Teacher Training** on three Saturdays, 25 June, 6 August and 17 September, attended by 9 people. 10 current teachers attended, many offering presentations. The hybrid format stretching over a few months worked well in 2021 but with less participation this year.

Photo:

*Avis Wun (right) with
mother and co-teacher
Mary Ann Wun (left)*



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

AVIS WUN

SRE Teacher

Avis Wun has been a dedicated SRE Teacher for about five years, teaching Buddhism to two classes at Beaumont Road Public School in Killara. Avis teaches Kindergarten to Year 2, and Years 3 to 6, with her mother, Mary Ann. Her involvement in the program came about as her mother was already a SRE Teacher. Avis thought she would enjoy volunteering with children and believed that it's easier to learn about Buddhism when young.

The SRE lessons follow a structure which starts with taking refuge in the Triple Gem, dedication of merit, then chanting and meditation, followed either by teaching the life story of the Buddha and a discussion of Buddhist values, or for the older, Years 3 to 6 students, instruction on how to meditate.

A regular routine for the lesson is calming for the children. The use of visuals, such as videos or PowerPoint presentations, assist Avis in her teaching as it can be difficult for the young students to just sit and listen. Teaching with her mother helps with efficiency and makes the task of teaching easier.

The volunteer role is both rewarding and inspiring, and makes a positive contribution to her students' education. The children tend to be receptive and open to Buddhist teachings. They often remember the lessons, meditate in their own time and share relevant experiences with their classmates.

WORKING WITH
GOVERNMENT,
INTERFAITH AND
OTHER GROUPS

“ *The Covid pandemic brought us all together, and this culminated in the formation of the Religious Communities Advisory Council, a body to advise government on issues of concern to faith communities.* ”



“

The Buddhist Council cannot work alone: we can only support Buddhist communities and work for the benefit of wider society if we work with government and other faith and social groups that share our aims.

The Covid pandemic brought us all together, and this culminated in the formation of the Religious Communities Advisory Council, a body to advise government on issues of concern to faith communities. Gawaine Powell Davies and Rev. Heather Topp were the Buddhist representatives.

During the year we continued to attend festivals and other events from other faith groups and work together on issues such as climate change and ecology and make representations on issues of common concern such as discrimination that affect all faith groups.



Photo:

*Chair Gawaine Powell
Davies (left) with NSW
Premier Dominic
Perrottet (right)*

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT

Our focus in 2022 was establishing the Faith Communities Advisory Council involving Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and Christians. This brought us closer to key people in government and other faith organisations and has strengthened friendships between us. This group met only once before the NSW elections in 2023 but is likely to be continued with a slightly different structure under the new government.

We took part in consultations with government, including an Australian Human Rights Commission interfaith consultation on the National Anti-Racism Framework (organised by the Baha'i community), a NSW government review of the future management of cemeteries and made submissions to national and state parliamentary enquiries on proposed religious discrimination legislation. This led to an invitation

to appear before the Senate Enquiry on this legislation in a joint panel with the Australian Sangha Association and the Hindu Council, with whom we also discussed proposed legislation banning the use of the Nazi Hakenkreutz, while protecting the use of the swastika as a religious symbol. We lobbied the NSW government to relax regulations on the zoning of temples, which can now be established in industrial areas. We were invited as a guest at Australia Day celebrations and citizenship ceremony.

We received funding through Multicultural NSW for a community education program for Buddhist communities on the Uluru Statement, the Voice and the referendum, in partnership with the Sydney Alliance and the Radical Centre Reform Lab at Macquarie University. This work will commence in 2023.

WORKING WITH OTHER FAITHS AND NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS

During the year we were active on the Civil Chaplaincy Advisory Committee, which oversees all government funded chaplaincy (Muslim, Christian and Buddhist) in prisons, youth justice and hospitals, using our position on the Faith Communities Advisory Council to lobby the government for better funding support for hospital chaplaincy. We also attended a consultation with the Victorian Spiritual Health Australia on a more 'professional' model of chaplaincy, now about to be trialed.

With the Hindu Council we convened two meetings of an informal Minority Religions Council, bringing together people from different smaller faith groups, including Jains and Zoroastrians. It is not clear whether

this will continue, but it might provide a useful channel of communication for these smaller groups with the Religious Communities Advisory Council.

We presented at an interfaith meeting with the Affinity Intercultural Foundation and an in-service education on teaching religion for the Association of Independent Schools. We also gave talks on Buddhism at Trinity Grammar and Loreto schools. We have also been members of the Research Advisory Committee of Dying Buddhist, a research project out of Melbourne University.

As in other years, we attended members' Vesak events and the celebrations, festivals and days of

remembrance of other faiths. This included iftar dinners organised by different groups to mark the end of the day's fast during Ramadan, Yom Hashoah (the Jewish remembrance of the Holocaust) and the remembrance of Kristallnacht, and a shared Festival of Lights between Hindu and Jewish communities.

We also attended the signing of the Uluru Statement by faith leaders, organised by the Radical Centre Reform Lab from Macquarie University. This event marked the beginning of the Buddhist Council's support for the Uluru Statement. The Uluru Statement is continuing in 2023 with a program of education for Buddhist organisations.

AS A STATE BUDDHIST COUNCIL, WE HAVE TWO POSITIONS ON THE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN BUDDHIST COUNCILS (FABC).

These positions were held by Bhante Akaliko and Gawaine Powell Davies, who was also Chair. The Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils also works closely with the Australian Sangha Association.

In response to the climate and broader ecological crises we continued to be represented on the committee of the Australian Religious Response

to Climate Change and presented a Buddhist voice on the Faith Ecology Network.

Finally, we are members of the Stronger Charities Alliance, a network that advocates for the concerns of such charities and not-for-profit organisations. This has been very effective in bringing our collective concerns to government.

TREASURER'S REPORT

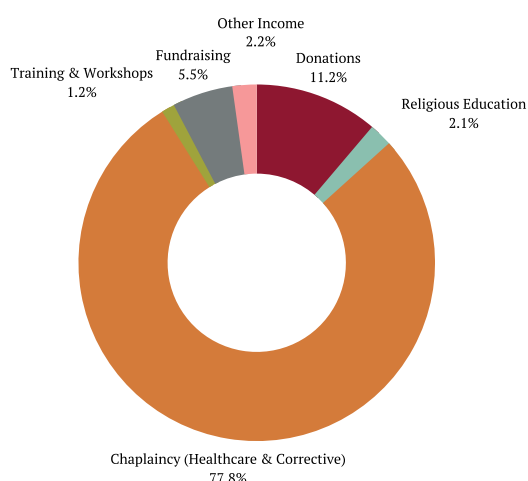
“ *Total revenue for 2022 was \$424,757 which was considerably higher than 2021 income. Both Chaplaincy Health and Corrective transactions increased due to additional subsidies received resulting in extra headcount, and extraordinary stipends donated by the chaplains.* ”

FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF THE BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NSW

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Income	424,757	354,260	260,513	176,931	176,621	173,599
Expenses	338,018	315,913	225,850	207,038	206,896	172,224
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	86,739	38,347	34,663	- 30,107	- 30,274	1,375
Increase/(Decrease) in Members' Funds	86,739	38,347	34,663	(30,107)	(30,274)	1,375
Total Members' Funds	243,535	156,796	118,381	83,719	113,827	144,101

In the financial year 2022, Buddhist Council of NSW had an operating surplus of \$86,739

REVENUE

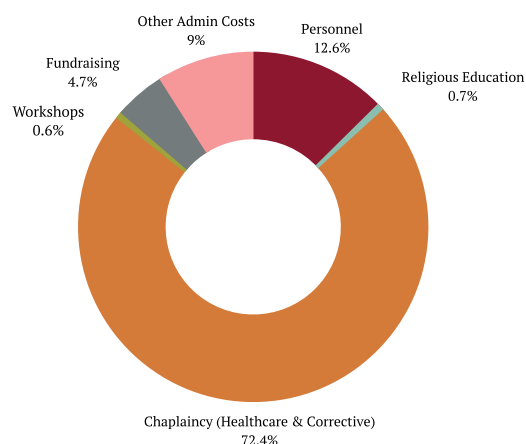


TOTAL REVENUE

\$424,757

Total revenue for 2022 was \$424,757 which was considerably higher than 2021 income. Both Chaplaincy Health and Corrective 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. We also had a very successful first Gala Dinner, which brought Buddhist communities together again after two long years of Covid and celebrate all that we had achieved, raising \$23,520. Other revenue items comprised membership renewal fee, training and workshops.

EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$338,018

Total expenses for 2022 was \$338,018 which was a 7% increase from last year. This increase was in line with the increase in Chaplaincy revenue, and costs related to the Gala Dinner. We utilised a portion of the Chaplaincy Development Fund to pay for most chaplaincy expenses such as printing of newsletters, supervisory costs and workshops.

FINANCIAL POSITION

As of end of 2022, the Council's financial position was \$243,535, with surplus of \$86,739.

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) status from the Australian Tax Office.

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR DONATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS IN 2022

INDIVIDUALS

<i>Name</i>		
Arunava Das	Hassib Bou Said	Miao You Shih
Andrew Fraser	Haw Chi Low	Minh Phan
Anh Phuong Nguyen Le	Heather Topp	Nicola Le Couteur
Anita Liao	I Gede Raka Putra Gunawan	Phallamony Suor
Anna Carmody	Jay Tanchangya	Phu Dai Ta
Anthony Mills	John Murray	Sam Naidu
Bo-an Sunim	Jonathan Page	Sauliana Lie
Chi-Wei Chen	Jyy-Wei Kuo	Suek Fong Ng
Dean Pistilli	KienEng Chan	Thanh Thao Tran
Debbie Whitney	Lay Lim	Thi Anh Huynh
Deepika Dogra	Lili Tran	Tonto Keawsatuan
Dicky Tanuwidjaya	Luke Shorter	Trish Nguyen
Don Yasalal	Mahinda Senadeera	Vivienne Salim
Gemma Choy	Matthew Rayner	Wei-Loi Chong
Hao Thon		

ORGANISATIONS

<i>Name</i>		
AMRTA Monastery	Gebchak Rigpa Har-Sey Inc	Sunnataram Forest Monastery
Association of Engaged Buddhists	Golden Wheel Buddhist Association	Sydney Zen Centre
Australia Indonesian Chinese Community	Lao Buddhist Society of NSW (Wat Phrayortkeo Dharmmayanaram)	Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute
Australian Institute of Tibetan Healing Practices	Mahamakut Buddharingsee Stanmore Incorporate	Tibetan Buddhist Society (Sydney)
Barom Kagyu Chodrak Drupju Chuling	Nan Tien Temple	Vabat Incorporated (Phuoc Hue Temple)
Coogee Buddhist Community	No Problems Publishing Inc	Wat Buddha Moungkoun Inc
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated	Santi Forest Monastery Inc	

OUR TEAM

“ *Our board members and office volunteers come from diverse personal and professional backgrounds. They are united in a commitment to sharing their skills to benefit the Buddhist community.*

OUR TEAM

OUR STAFF IN 2022



Photo:

*BCNSW Board meeting
on 5 May 2022*

BOARD MEMBERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>
Gawaine Powell Davies	Chair
Sourina Simmalavong	Secretary
Zen Low	Treasurer until June
Sherene Tan	Treasurer from July
Tina Ng	Public Officer until June
Glenn Sloan	Public Officer from July
Akālīko Bhikkhu	Board Member
Tonto Kaewsatuan	Board Member
Justin Luu	Board Member
Gamani Goonetilleka	Board Member from July

OUR TEAM

<i>Name</i>	<i>Role</i>
Glenn Sloan Ann MacArthur Bonnie Yiu	Operations
Diane Ong Lay Lim	Finance
Wendy Nash Chi-Wei Chen	Member Services
Thanh Nguyen John Barclay	Special Religious Education
Nirekha De Silva Vivian Salim	Chaplaincy
Deepikla Dogra Annie Ng	IT
Anne Marie Dwyer Pravin Menon	Policy
Kanupriya Bhardwaj Michelle Tracey Lianne Shadwell	Social Media



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

DR GAMANI GOONETILLEKA

Member of the Board

Gamani was born into a traditional Sinhala (Sri Lankan) family in Colombo Sri Lanka, with very strong Buddhist spiritual and cultural traditions. He lived and studied in England for about ten years and qualified as Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons in England, before migrating to Australia in 1978.

Gamani was in the Dayaka Sabha of the Australian Buddhist Vihara in Katoomba for many years. He also worked as President / Public Officer of many community organisations in Sydney NSW and has much experience in multifaith work. He has participated in fundraising for the Blue Mountains and Springwood Hospitals and has worked with groups like the Lions Clubs.

One of his last appointments was Public Officer of Amawatura Buddhist Centre (Inc) which he was primarily involved in setting up in Carlingford NSW from 2015. He handed over the reins of management to others in 2020 and is now 'Advisor' to a new organisation Vidarshana Buddhist Vihara and Meditation Centre' (Inc), Carlingford and is involved in their activities.

Gamani is still active in his work as a surgeon but likes to say he is semi-retired now. He has varied interests, such as helping the Buddhist community and their organisations in various aspects of the Arts and protecting Fauna and Flora.

STATEMENT OF
COMMITMENT ON
CHILD SAFETY

“ *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.*



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT ON **CHILD SAFETY**

endorsed by the Board on 27 February 2022

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

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

“ *As the ancient Chinese proverb goes, it is easy to break one chopstick, but when bound together, they become unbreakable.*

Becoming a member organisation of the Buddhist Council works in a similar vein. Members are open to a Buddhist network that supports them through the technical challenges of running a Buddhist organisation.

FINANCIAL

<i>Member</i>	<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Culture</i>
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 Tibetan Healing Practices	Vajrayana	Tibetan
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
Bori Korean Buddhist Society of NSW	Mahayana	Korean
Buddhist Compassion Australia Incorporated	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Buddhist Counselling	Vajrayana	Tibetan, Western
Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc of NSW (Wat Khemarangsaram)	Theravada	Cambodian
Central West Buddhists	Theravada	Thai, Western
Chagdud Gonpa Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Coogee Buddhist Community	Non Specific	Western
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated	Theravada	Non specific
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association (NSW)	Mahayana	Taiwanese, Chinese
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
International Buddhist Cham Shan Temple Of Australia	Mahayana	Chinese
Kadri Bodhi Monastery Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Karma Dro Phan Ling Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
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
Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Kyegu Buddhist Institute	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Lao Buddhist Society of NSW (Wat Phrayortkeo Dhammayanaram)	Theravada	Lao

FINANCIAL

<i>Member</i>	<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Culture</i>
Mahamakut Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore Inc.	Theravada	Thai
Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Metta Centre Incorporated	Non specific	Non specific
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
No Problems Publishing Inc.	Vajrayana	Western
Prajna Monastery Australia Inc.	Mahayana	Chinese
Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community	Non specific	Non specific
Rigpa Fellowship Inc.	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Sakya Tharpa Ling	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Santi Forest Monastery Inc.	Theravada	Western
Shaolin Kungfu Meditation Temple of Australia Incorporated	Zen	Chinese
Siddhartha's Intent Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Silky Oak Zen	Zen	Western
Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara Association (Lankarama)	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Sunnataram Forest Monastery	Theravada	Thai
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
Vidarshana Buddhist Vihara & Meditation Centre	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Vien Giac Temple	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Wat Buddha Dhamma Foundation Ltd	Theravada	Thai
Wat Buddha Mounghoune	Theravada	Lao
Wat Buddhavarn Inc	Theravada	Lao
Well-Aware-Ness Psychology	Theravada	Western
Won Buddhism of Gosford Assoc Inc,	Mahayana	Korean
Yeshikhorlo Tibetan Buddhism Association Australia	Vajrayana	Tibetan, Chinese

OTHER

<i>Member</i>	<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Culture</i>
AABCAP (Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists Inc.)	Non Specific	Western
Aloka Community Incorporated	Theravada	Western
An Khong Association Inc	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Australia Buddhist Foundation - Dharma Cloud Monastery	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Australian Institute of Buddhist Learning and Practice	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Bhante Sujato in Sydney Group	Theravada	Western
Bodhi Books & Gifts	Non Specific	Western
Bodhi Events	Vajrayana	Western
Bodhicitta Foundation (India) Australia	Theravada	Tibetan, Western
Bodhikusuma Buddhist & Meditation Centre	Theravada	Thai
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Aust	Mahayana	Chinese
Chan Miao Zen Centre	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Chan Tam True Mind	Mahayana	Vietnamese
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
Dharma Cloud Monastery - Australia Buddhist Foundation	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Diamondway Buddhism Sydney	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Huayen Buddhist Community of Australia Inc	Mahayana	Chinese, Taiwanese
Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW	Theravada	Indonesian
Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre Inc.	Theravada	Cambodian
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
Liberation Prison Project Australia Ltd	Vajrayana	Tibetan
Lin Yim Buddhist Institute	Mahayana	Chinese
Ling Yen Mountain Temple (Australia)	Mahayana	Chinese
Macquarie University Buddhist Association	Non Specific	Youth
Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery of Sydney	Theravada	Sri Lankan
Man Su Vihara	Mahayana	Chinese
Mudita House Limited	Non specific	Non specific

OTHER

<i>Member</i>	<i>Tradition</i>	<i>Culture</i>
Mukyoho	Mahayana	Japanese
Open Way Zen Centre	Zen	Western
Pal Buddhist School	Secular	Youth
Panditarama Sydney Meditation Centre Inc.	Theravada	Burmese
Phuoc Hau 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
Sasana Daja Burmese Temple	Theravada	Burmese
Shantideva Buddhist Foundation Limited	Mahayana	Tibetan
Siangthum Phrapotiyon Incorporated	Theravada	Thai
Sydney Burmese Buddhist Vihara Inc.	Theravada	Burmese
Tinh Xa Minh Dang Quang	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Unibodhi - University of Sydney Buddhist Society	Non Specific	Youth
UNIBUDS	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
Vinh Nghiem Pagoda Buddhist and Charitable Soc. (The)	Mahayana	Vietnamese
Wat Buddharangsee	Theravada	Thai
Wat Buddhavongsa-Yaram	Theravada	Lao
Wat Lao Buddhametta	Theravada	Lao
Wat Pa Buddharangsee	Theravada	Thai
Won Buddhism of Australia	Mahayana	Korean
Zen Open Circle Inc	Zen	Western



Buddhist Council of NSW

Working for the Buddhist Community

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED

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