Joy. On everyone’s faces, expressions of joy. How well Jake has captured this beautiful emotion, I think as I look through the photographs.

Rarely does an occasion elicit muditha in this way – no complaints, no fault-finding, just everyone bound by great joy. It’s a glorious day with a rainbow overhead, the gentle rain a blessing in this parched land at the edge of a desert.

With joy we watch our daughter receive higher ordination. My three siblings and most of the family have come from many parts of the world to be part of this joyous day. Bhikkhu Buddhakakkita too has come from Malaysia and he sits with Venerable Siri Sobhitha and the other bhikkhus from the Sri Lanka Vihara who have come to witness this momentous occasion.

A spark of sunlight on the golden column on the hill catches my eye – my mind’s eye wanders behind the chedi (stupa) to the caravan and the shed that once served as a dana sala, and memories stream back. How long a way Dhammasara has come!

I recall with joy and appreciation the pioneering efforts of Ajahn Vayama — the grit and courage of a woman there by herself in the bush, enduring the searing heat of summer and the cold, wet and winds of winter. My heart overflows with gratitude. My eyes stray to the cottage below. How we’d trek down after dana to see the rammed earth walls go up!

Memories of Elizabeth shedding her tresses and becoming the first anagarika. Of women from different places coming to practice – some staying on - and today, there had been hardly enough space in the little hall for the 20 meheni present for the ordination to sit comfortably for dana. My mind comes back to the present moment to Ayya Santini’s clear voice reciting in Pali. I take in the concrete footprint of the future I am sitting on.

Earlier that day as we were taking our seats someone commented on what a large place this complex was going to be and questioned if there was demand enough for such a venture. My mind sees a vision of the future – a waiting list of women wanting ordination!

After the ordination at Dhammasara, we drove to Serpentine for the ordination before the monks to complete the upasampada.
The nuns have already taken their seats and the monks trickle in, their robes a soothing rustle. Ajahn Brahm comes in and takes his place in front. His face is full of joy too – but then, his face is always full of smiles! Yes, there would have been great mudita in him to see the Bhikkhuni Sasana well established and growing. He must have felt justified that in spite of all the opposition – still not over and done with – he helped create a sanctuary for women to practice and progress along The Path, following the rules of training established by the Buddha.

The second part of the ceremony takes place before the fourfold Sangha; Bhikkhu, Bhikkhuni, Upasaka, Upasika. The monks and nuns line up for a photo-shoot. A rare, rare sight to see so many bhikkhus and bhikkhunis together. Impossible to see at this time in a Theravada country Ajahn Brahm said later.

I am filled with a strong feeling of ‘connection’– to the monks and nuns of yore, to the Blessed One himself. ‘Who knows, we may have been there in the presence of the Buddha’ says a Sinhala song. ‘We didn’t have enough merit to enlighten then – and we are here still, wandering through samsara’

I feel connected to the brave women through the ages who dared. To Mahapajapati Gotami and her entourage of noblewomen walking barefoot, their delicate feet bleeding, asking for nothing more than the opportunity to train so that they too might realise the Truth; to Bhikkhuni Sanghamitta coming to Sri Lanka, responding to the request initiated by Queen Anula, that the Bhikkhuni order be established there; to the nuns whose names I do not know who sailed from there centuries later, to China, a strange land far away, carrying the gift of ordination to women there; to Bhikkhuni Kusuma and the group of nuns who gently, with great faith, faced the wrath of the establishment and helped revive the order.

And I watch with mudita my daughter too become a Bhikkhuni – a daughter of the Buddha, a flagbearer of the Sasana. My cup overflows.

Ode to a Pilgrimage

Bodhi Gaya today,
So different
From a scene of yesteryear,
Where a lone man,
Sitting under a tree
In silence,
In stillness,
Awakened from the dark.

The leaves have fallen,
The tree trunk decayed,
The shrine destroyed.
Through a crack in collapsing walls
Appears a brave new sapling.

Long gone is the ancient tree of wisdom,
But hope for refuge still blossoms,
As descendants of the great tree
Diligently preserve the lineage.

But…

Scriptures and stupas
Are just shadows, ghosts and echoes
Standing on the rock of truth.
Hunts for ghosts and shadows
Bear naught but pain and despair.

The real teachings
Are not in the words that are spoken.
The real teachings
Are not in the texts that are written.

The real teachings
Are the light
That shines into our heart,
Brightening all tiny cells,
Melting clinging and craving,
Setting free
The sense of self,
And opening up the flower of truth.

A true pilgrimage,
A real homage to our Teacher,
A great sage,
Is a journey to the centre
of our own heart
Where the Dhamma dwells.

Inspired by the Dhamma Bhante Sujato delivered in India and in his talk “Being the Nothing not the Much Ado”
We landed in Bodhgaya and immediately were introduced to Indian culture. The immigration officer in charge seemed like an army general and he conducted himself in a similar fashion. We went through immigration and got our bags. I saw Phalinee behind the screen talking to the officer and can only guess what transpired to have a smooth clearance.

Most of us wore masks because that was the wise thing to do as the pollution is very bad in India. I felt that the Bodhgaya's Maha Bodhi temple is probably one of the most important sites for a Buddhist pilgrim.

It was here that Lord Buddha achieved enlightenment after working very hard for six years as an ascetic seeking Enlightenment (Nibbana).

It was wonderful to have Bhante Sujato and three other monks with us. They explained and taught me many things that I didn’t know. I’m a practicing Buddhist and I got most of my knowledge from listening to Ajahn Brahm, both in person and on YouTube. However, I am not very knowledgeable about Buddhist history or suttas. This pilgrimage helped me learn more about Buddhist history and gave me a connection to the past, directly to the time of the Buddha himself!

For the next fifteen days we travelled to many places. Rajgir, Vaishali, Kushinagar, Sravasti, Sarnath, Rajagha, Varanasi, etc. It was educational to visit these holy sites where Lord Buddha taught the Dhamma. It gave me the opportunity to live like an ancient disciple seeking knowledge and learning Dhamma in the land where the Buddha was born, raised and became enlightened.

The most memorable place for me is the Jetavana Grove. When I sat on the lawn to meditate, I felt immense joy, knowing that it was this place that Lord Buddha and his disciples sat and meditated. Lord Buddha spent nineteen rains at this place, teaching and meditating. I visualised those noble ones sitting cross legged like me, practicing diligently and achieving Nibbana. Oh, it was so wonderful!

At Lumbini, I took a walk with Linda Fiera to the temple, ahead of the group. It was a brave act on my part as I really wasn’t comfortable being on my own in India. We were accosted a few times but Linda took care of it. Linda relived memories of her last visit and shared them with me. We visited the Vietnamese temple and the Hindu temple before going to the Buddhist temple.

Our last stop on this trip was the Taj Mahal. The tomb represented Shah Jahan’s undying and eternal love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It was very majestic, beautiful and unforgettable. However, as the Buddha said, all things are impermanent. It is just the Dhamma that is timeless.

I was reminded of this Truth, that all life is impermanent, a couple of months after returning from the pilgrimage. I heard that Linda had died while on holiday in Chile. Needless to say it was a big shock. Memories of eating breakfast with her, laughing and joking about life came to mind.

So, what is the important lesson that I’ve learned? The answer is Ajahn Brahm is right. The future is uncertain. We should learn to let go, have no expectations of people, be happy because we don’t know when we are going to die.
Vesak Day, being the full moon day in the month of May, is one of the most important days for Buddhists. It marks the day when the Buddha was born, achieved enlightenment and attained parinibbana (the state of nibbana after death).

Typically, Buddhists the world over would celebrate this day by going to Buddhist temples or take part in meditation, take precepts or march in Buddhist processions. The Vesak Day celebrations at Dhammaloka Buddhist Temple was held on Sunday, 18 May 2014.

It was a lovely day, slightly overcast but it did not impact on the Vesak Day activities. This reminded me of a talk given by Ajahn Brahm years ago where he mentioned that even the weather behaves during Vesak day celebrations. The Dewas must be protecting Dhammaloka so that the Vesak celebrations could occur without any disruptions.

One of the most important events on this Vesak Day was the ceremony for New Buddhists. This event is held every year, where new Buddhists would take the five precepts – refraining from killing, from taking what is not given, from sexual misconduct, from untruthful speech and from taking intoxicants – and be practitioners of the Dhamma. After the ceremony, when I talked to several of the new Buddhists, I found that they have been following the Buddhist precepts and principles for many years. They wanted to use this Vesak Day to formalise their commitment to the Triple Gem (Buddha, Dhamma – His Teachings, and the Sangha) and put in Right Effort in attaining liberation. A big Sadhu to all of those who became new Buddhists, may they be inspirations to all of us.

I found that the number of new Buddhists who take the five precepts keep on increasing from year to year. This is very encouraging as it shows that the Dhamma is spreading, not only in Western Australia but internationally. In this ceremony, we had people who took the five precepts from overseas. The entire ceremony was broadcast live so that everyone, no matter where they were, could be part of this ceremony.

BSWA wishes their heartiest congratulations to all of those who took the vows to become a Buddhist. May all of you follow the five precepts and achieve enlightenment in this life-time.

The Dhamma School Children prepared a skit about the ‘Elephant King and the Hunter’. The story was well performed and highlighted many characteristics that we face in our
everyday lives, such as greed, foolishness, generosity, compassion and wisdom. I would like to congratulate all those involved in the preparation and performance of this skit as it was very well done.

Later in the evening, a special treat was unveiled at the Dhammaloka carpark. Many volunteers worked tirelessly to build a massive and very beautiful Vesak Day Lantern. The use of colourful lanterns (or Vesak Kuudu) during Vesak Day is common in Sri Lanka as it signifies the Light of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha. The use of large Vesak Lanterns are becoming more popular and an army of volunteers got together to build this massive Vesak Lantern at Dhammaloka. Everyone there were mesmerised when the large Vesak Lantern was unveiled as it was very beautiful. It was quite calming and very meditative when watching the lantern rotate in time to music. A very big thank you to all the volunteers that worked hard to get the lantern made for the unveiling during the Vesak Day Celebrations at Dhammaloka.

To bring this very long but fun day to a close, everyone gathered in the main shrine hall to give offerings to the triple gem. The ten preceptors walked around the hall to give everyone a chance to make an offering before making offerings to the Triple Gem. This practice helped the people calm down and become mindful. Once the offerings were made, everyone went out and lit a candle for the circumambulation around the park three times. They did so in a respectful and mindful manner before offering flowers and incense to the Buddha.

The Vesak Day Celebration for 2014 was a very long day but at the end of the night, the spiritual energy charged people up. May the power of their merits help themselves and their loved ones reach one step closer towards attaining the goal of Enlightenment.
From left to right

Back row: Valarie Filevski, PJ Gunasekera, Sol Hanna, Ajahn Brahm, Venerable Hasapanna, Lincoln Mitchell, Jaipal Singh

Front row: Lynne Jackson, Vaneta Huynh, Poh Lian Suan, Cecilia Mitra, Lucky Kodituwakku, Pey Loke, Tammy Yeoh

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The Magical Month of May

By Rachel Green

Co-ordinator of the Armadale Meditation Group

Full moon in May fell on a Tuesday night this year, so the Armadale Meditation Group held it’s own Vesak Day celebration. We were a little uncertain, at first, as to whether anyone outside of the leadership team would want to join us, as most of our members are not Buddhists, but they did. We set up a small table with a Buddha statue on it, in an enclosed grassed area outside the meeting hall.

Venerable Cittapalo led twenty-four of us around the lawn, three times, in silence, while we held our candles. The full moon shone on us. Everyone was so wonderfully engrossed, silent and mindful and no candles blew out. It felt magical and deeply moving.

The candles didn't blow out because we had all brought battery operated ones. Naked flames are not allowed in our room. The battery ones were beautiful. They even flickered. Better still no one was distracted by trying to keep them alight. This all added to the deep peace.

When we placed all our candles in front of the Buddha statue it shone brightly. Then we burst into a gutsy rendition of "Happy Birthday", to the Buddha, of course. Vesak Day Australian style! Then we all enjoyed a delicious chocolate cake social.

The magic of May continued when 25 members of the Armadale Meditation Group went on the Metta retreat at Jhana Grove. More wanted to go but couldn't get in. In case you think 25 is a small number it was an enormous milestone for our group. Of the 25, I think only 3 of us had been on a retreat before, and usually if we get 1 or 2 on a retreat we are doing well.

In fact, the whole Metta retreat came about directly as a request from our group. Kathryn, one of our members asked if we could have one, I asked Bhante Sujato and he agreed, and then Ber Sun helped us get a date for it. So we thought of it as our retreat!

I am proud of everyone who attended. Most would never have contemplated such a thing or even known such a thing was possible some months ago.

Some people had only joined the group this year after seeking shelter from stress, anxiety, depression, or physical pain. Most were relatively new to meditation and had never meditated for more than 30 minutes before. Their first meditation was only in the last 10 months.

Some were scared, anxious and overwhelmed by the prospect of doing the retreat. Many had families, sick parents, and other difficulties to overcome in order to attend. And some were daunted by the prospect of silence and for so long.

Because of this we held two practice sessions in March and April, on a weekend afternoon. This made an enormous difference to their confidence and willingness to try the retreat. Each time, we participated in an hour-long guided Metta meditation, followed by a 30-minute silent walking meditation. We even ate tea silently!

Now that so many in the group have been on the Metta retreat, we are considering holding a regular Metta practice session about every 6 weeks. Such is the love and joy the practice generates.

People who have been meditating for years or who have been brought up to Buddhism as a way of life may not realise how daunting it can be for the first time. It is so easy to take our understanding of it for granted and not to assist others on the journey.

I was reminded of this when we were setting up to have our photographs taken at Jhana Grove. Someone said, "Let's have the picture taken in front of one of the chimneys"! Sure enough if you are new that is what the grey monuments may look like. (For those who don't know, those "chimneys" are stupas, a building that house Buddhist relics – Editor)

The month of May has indeed been a magical month of the Armadale Meditation Group. Through accepting others and teaching them, we all grow together on our journey towards Enlightenment. Let us all embrace newcomers to meditation and the teachings of the Buddha. When we help people to feel safe and secure, they too can feel at home.

Significance of the full moon day of June

People the world over know about the importance of the full moon day in May (Vesak Day), celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment and Parinibbana of the Buddha. However, not many people know that the full moon day of June is also an important day for many Sri Lankan Buddhists.

The full moon day of June marks the introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka by Arahant Mahinda Thera in the year 308 BCE. King Asoka of India sent his son, Mahinda Thera and later his daughter, Sanghamitta, to Sri Lanka in order to spread the Dhamma to the people there. Arahant Mahinda Thera made the journey to Sri Lanka with four other Arahats, several novice monks and an anagarika. He established the community of Sangha in Sri Lanka, which continues until today.

On this fortuitous full moon day in June, King Devanampiya Tissa of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka was out hunting near a mountain called Missala. The king was chasing a deer when he heard someone calling him by his name. The King was surprised as no one on the Island would call him by his name. He though that the person speaking was a 'yakka' or demon but then he saw Arahant Mahinda in yellow robes, who declared he was a recluse and disciple of the Buddha.

Afterwards, they conversed a little and Arahant Mahinda questioned the king to test his knowledge. Satisfied at the King's intelligence, Arahant Mahinda preached the parable of the Elephant's foot print or Chula Hatti Padapunna Sutta, the very first sutta preached in Sri Lanka. At the end of the sermon, the King and his followers, all forty thousand of them, took the three refugees.

With the introduction of Buddhism, Sri Lanka gained moral, intellectual, cultural and spiritual development. It is known as the Island of the Dhamma. In reverential gratitude for his selfless service to Sri Lanka, Arahant Mahinda Thera was known as the Anu Buddha or second Buddha. Thus, this important event is celebrated by Sri Lankan Buddhists during the full moon day of June.

By Chandra Abeysiriwardene
Message from our President

Dear Members,

It is an honour and privilege to serve on the 2014 BSWA Committee. It is a wonderful opportunity to do some good dhamma work as well as to be able to work closely with and under the guidance of our Spiritual Directors and the Sangha.

On behalf of all the members, I would like to welcome our 2014 Committee, some familiar faces with experience from past Committees and some new faces. I look forward to working with this energetic team of volunteers.

My background
I was born in Singapore and migrated to Perth in 1996. Prior to my arrival in Perth, I was running my own Law Practice and was active with the Buddhist Fellowship in Singapore. My husband and I have three beautiful children and I am a co-director of our family business.

My Role
I would like to say that I am not here to make any major changes. I have gone through the minutes of the previous meetings from 2008 to date and have realised that the issues we have at hand are ones that keep re-appearing. As fundraising and donations are one of the key activities of BSWA, this committee will ensure that we have proper processes and guidelines in place and that Volunteers are fully aware of these guidelines.

My Vision
Better Internet Presence- The Buddhist Society of WA is now a global community serving the needs of not only members in WA and Australia but also around the world. Many people use our websites, Live-Stream and YouTube channels to improve their spiritual practice.

To give you an idea of the number of people tuning in, Buddhist Society WA YouTube Channel alone has more than 38,000 subscribers. This is even more than two popular Australian broadcasters (ABC News and SBS Australia) YouTube Channels, which combined have less than 35,000 subscribers!

Due to the surge on demand for the Buddhist and wider community to interact with BSWA, we are planning to improve our Internet presence even more. I am working closely with our IT Team and we are upgrading our equipment, technology and skills. As we are running on a skeletal team of volunteers, we plan to get paid help to cope with our growing demand. You can look forward to an improved digital presence in the near future.

Global Buddhist Conference 2015
I am pleased to announce that BSWA will be holding a Global Buddhist Conference on 8 and 9 August 2015 at the Perth Convention Centre. We feel that the time has come for BSWA to hold another Global Conference as the last Conference we had was in 2006. We are confident that we will draw a full capacity. I assure you that the 2015 Conference will be enlightening, entertaining and exciting. We hope to see all of you there.

With Warmest Regards,
Cecilia Mitra -
President BSWA

‘Secret’ Meditation Garden

After a very long gestation period (going on 6 years!) the garden - at Jhana Grove, just below the 2nd dam - is now ready for formal use. At a blessing ceremony last week, Ajahn Ekaggata chanted over the carved teak reclining Buddha which he had brought down from Thailand to complete the shrine which is the centrepiece of the area.

Several years ago, shortly after the establishment of the Buddha garden at Karnet prison, Ajahn and up to a dozen prisoners who qualified for the section 95 work release scheme, began the project of clearing, landscaping, fencing and planting, which was completed only last week by the installation of a E. lane-poolei (white salmon gum) in the plot. This will be the final item in a garden which is presided over by a very healthy, and happy, 3-metre-tall ficus religiosa (bodhi tree), which has survived 3 vassa’s on underground water alone.

With the able assistance of ardent supporter John Johnson, the whole area has been re-cleared and re-pruned and whipper-snipped so that it now looks, and feels, like a small park. Around the shrine, several hand-crafted jarrah seats have been installed for the convenience of those who wish a suitable outdoor venue to continue their meditation practice.

Ajahn would like to extend his anumodana to John, all the prisoners from Karnet who aided in the project, Alan Clements, the current superintendent, Graham Bond, the former assistant super, and the monks and lay people who occasionally assisted (and will, hopefully, continue to do so), without whom the garden would still only be an idea. And, of course, a special vote of thanks to Ajahn Brahm, without whom Jhana Grove itself would still only be an idea!
Ajahn Brahm addressed over 6,000 Buddhists and non-Buddhists at Colombo's largest conference hall on Sunday 15 June at a full day programme comprising Dhamma talks, meditation sessions and discussions. A well planned pre-publicity campaign in the electronic and print media created awareness of Ajahn’s visit. There was a clamour for free passes issued over several weeks and the organisers – Ajahn Brahm Society, Sri Lanka - made makeshift arrangements to accommodate as many as possible.

A large attractive display board at the entrance to Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (one of Sri Lanka’s distinguished Prime Ministers) announced the event weeks ahead. Sri Lankans eagerly awaited the arrival of Ajahn Brahm, who has become a household name in Sri Lanka.

On Poson Poya day – 12 June - after a live telecast of a discussion on meditation over the popular ‘The Buddhist’ channel, Ajahn Brahm delivered a talk to the business community on ‘Managing for Better Results’ which was very well received. This was the first time that directors and senior executives in Sri Lanka’s corporate sector listened to Ajahn Brahm at an exclusive meeting.

Crowds thronged to three Buddhist temples – one in the suburbs of the capital city, Colombo and others in deep South Sri Lanka to hear Ajahn Brahm. He also had an exclusive session for the Maha Sangha.
Community

Ven. Upekkha, Ven. Gotami, Ven. Karunika and Ven. Canda ordained as Bhikkhunis on 27th April, 2014 at Dhammasara (1st part of the Ordination) and Bodhinyana (2nd part of the Ordination). Now, we have a community of 7 Bhikkhunis, 4 Samaneris and 2 long term laywomen.

Activities

We installed the marble Buddha Statue in the future Sala Hall on 23rd April and consecrated the Dhammasara Nuns’ Monastery Sima Stones at the four corners of the future Sala Hall on 26th April.

On 27th April, well over 200 people attended this very Auspicious 1st part of the Bhikkhuni Ordination at Dhammasara future Sala Hall at 1pm, followed by the 2nd part of the Ordination (confirmation) at Bodhinyana at 6pm.

Ven. Hasapanna was invited to Singapore (Buddhist Fellowship Vesak Celebration), where she gave talks, conducted Meditation Retreat from 8th May to 13th May and also conducted the weekend program (Friday night talk, meditation & Sutta Class) at Dhammaloka from 23rd May to 25th May.

Ven. Nirodha and Ven. Karunika attended the Opening Ceremony of Buddha Mandala Temple, Chittering on 11th May. Ven. Nirodha also conducted the 1 day silent retreat at Dhammaloka on 14th April.


Coming and Going

Ayya Satima from USA arrived on 13th April to participate in the Bhikkhuni Ordination and stay until 30th April, 2014. Sister Sumangala from Malaysia arrived on 22nd April to attend the Bhikkhuni Ordination and left for Malaysia on 29th April.

The Pavattini (Preceptor) Ayya Santini from Indonesia (accompanied by Samaneri Vijayani) arrived on 25th April to perform the Bhikkhuni Ordination and left for Indonesia on 28th April.

Ayya Upekkha, Ayya Nibbida from Sanghamittarama, Melbourne, arrived on 25th April to participate in the Bhikkhuni Ordination and they left for Melbourne on 30th April and 10th May respectively.

Ayya Dhammadhira and Ayya Adhimutta from Santi, NSW arrived on 25th April and 26th April to participate in the Bhikkhuni Ordination and left for Sydney on 2nd May and 8th May respectively.

Ven. Nirodha will be spending the Rain Retreat’14 at Santi Forest Monastery and she will be leaving for Santi on 20th June, 2014 and return to Dhammasara after the Rains. Ven Sukhi left for Malaysia to visit her sick mother, she will return to Australia in July to spend the Rain Retreat’14 at Santi Forest Monastery and return to Dhammasara after the Rains.

Building and Maintenance

We have pulled down the iron shed kuti (ex-Dana shed) at the camp site to rebuild a new kuti out of insulated concrete panels including security doors that is estimated to cost $15,000.00. The Dhammasara nuns are building this new kuti with the supervision and assistance of John Field.

grant by the council. We have finished the retaining walls of the accommodation pods, Meditation hall, dining hall, the terrace single block walls and then, the rest of the excavation in the walkway, and around the administration/ablution building and library.

We completed the concrete slab work in April, 2014. The application to the DFES (Department of Fire & Emergency) has been approved. This is in regards to hydrants, any sprinklers and so on to comply with the fire codes. It is also part of the Building Permit application.

We have finalised the working drawing plans, specification and in the process of developing the building proper contract. We are hopeful we can submit our Building Permit application in June/July.

Jhana Grove Report

Jhana Grove has had the following retreats over the last few months:
• A weekend retreat with Ajahn Appicato in early March
• A nine day retreat by the PIMG group taught by Patrick Kearney.
• A weekend retreat with videos of Ajahn Brahm’s retreat.
• April was busy with a Sri Lankan retreat with Bhante Wimalagnana in Sinhalese
• Ajahn Brahm’s nine day retreat in April.
• A metta retreat with Bhante Sujato in May.

The following developments occurred at Jhana Grove:
• Fire breaks were extended above the dam and connecting to the existing fire breaks on the Eastern boundary of the property.
• Sound panels were installed in the meditation hall to improve sound quality.
• Irrigation was improved using the grey water from the biomax system.

Petition

Dear Respected Venerables and Friends,
Warm greetings from Bodhinyana Monastery in Perth.

You may have heard of the recent banning of Ajahn Brahm’s paper on gender equality at the recent United Nation Day of Vesak in Vietnam. The paper had been approved by the appointed committee, but was then banned about 36 hours before it was to be presented. The paper was on gender equality in Buddhism, which was directly related to the conference theme of the UN Development Goals.

A petition has recently been started to complain to the organisers about this unreasonable case of censorship. To sign this petition, please go to the following site: http://goo.gl/21LZe

Please pass this message or link on to whoever you think might be interested in signing.

Thank you for support.

With much metta,

Ajahn Brahmali
Ajahn Brahm has been busy in March and May. Ajahn made a teaching trip to Indonesia from 8-13 March followed by a 9 day executive retreat organised by the Buddhist Fellowship in Penang, Malaysia. At the completion of the retreat, Ajahn flew to Melbourne for the ASA conference.

Ajahn Brahm was in Perth for the whole month of April but the month of May was Vesak season and Ajahn packed himself with a variety of teaching and Vesak engagements both in Australia and overseas. Ajahn made a teaching and in-house retreat at Buddhist Society of Victoria (BSV) in Melbourne from 3-6 May. After the retreat, Ajahn went to Vietnam for the UN day of Vesak and back in Perth for Vesak day at Nollamara temple. He then went to South Korea for a teaching trip from 19-30 May.

In June, Ajahn Brahm made a very successful trip to Sri Lanka, with packed audiences for his talks.

Dhamma Activities

From March 24-26, Bhante Sujato attended the ARRCC conference in Canberra followed by the Mitra Conference in Sydney from 3-4 May. Bhante conducted a weekend Metta retreat in Jhana Grove from 23-25 May.

Ajahn Brahmal led two 9 day retreats, one in Melbourne from 4-13 April and another retreat (sutta retreat) in Perth from 6-15 June. In May, Ajahn also attended the Mitra Conference and then visited Santi Forest Monastery in Sydney.

Comings and Goings

Ven. Nandiya has left the monastery and is now residing in Santi Forest Monastery. Ven. Sambodhi (13 vassa) from Sri Lanka is staying at Bodhinyana for the rains retreat. Ven. Jhanarato will be doing his rains retreat in Sri Lanka before going on to Wat Buddha Dhamma for one year. Anagarika Shane Brunning took Novice ordination on 10th April 2014. He took the name Dhammapala.

Three new anagarikas were ordained in March and April 2014. Rubin Ha and Craig Picking, both from Western Australia, were ordained as anagarikas on the 2nd and 26th of March respectively. Trent Doyle from Queensland was ordained as an anagarika on the 30th of April.

Building and Maintenance

The following work has been done to maintain the monastery:

• Reverse cycle air-conditioning was installed in the main hall.
• The foundation slab for the new vehicle maintenance garage has been laid.
• A gas heater was installed in the A-frame kuti.
• Work was done to clear the forest and reduce the forest fire fuel load.
• The ground works for the main building at Hermit Hill was completed and an extensive clearing of vegetation around the building site was done for fire safety reasons.
• Ven. Mudu drafted the design for the new Hermit Hill kutis, and submitted them for structural certification.
• Derek Carter has kindly volunteered his time to survey the sites of the new kutis at Hermit Hill.
• Ajahn Brahmal built a pedestrian bridge over a creek to ease the walk from Hermit Hill towards Bodhinyana.

Quote by Ajahn Brahm:
“Happiness leads to success, not success leading to happiness.”

Jhana Grove

Metta, Metta, Mega Metta
Meritorious Metta, Metta Magnificent,
Marvelous Metta on the wing,
Unburdened Metta wind discerning.

Follow the bliss filled footsteps of the Blessed One, disappearing.
Here, there, every which where birds calling and yet, here; a path to stillness.

So listen well, attend mindfully,
As Venerable Ajahn Bramali in wonder filled quietude, calmly, breathtakingly,
diligently distils an inspired Dharma into our hearts this anti-dote to life and evolution.

Passive observer, a Metta splendidiferous foliage of light, frolics, cascades and plays.
Gladness and joy breaks through shimmering leaves.
An orchestra of contented frogs, birds and bees harmonize at eventide.
Bliss abounding, this Buddha grove, the full moon in Jhana June, glows and grows.

We fortunate ones to be guided so, m-e-d-i-t-a-t-e serenely inspired by the Noble Sangha, bhikkhus and bhikkunis alike, no less than in the Buddha's time.

What marvel is this?
Not one but one in a multitude of one Mega Metta, a fearless and tireless Sangha, disciplined, well-practised, virtuous and wise, render time incomprehensible, dissolving Metta into a radiant outburst.

A generous sun soars into being giving a joy filled gladness.
“Very good” whispers in the wind and winds through the Serpentine valley “Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu”.

Clelia Tedeschi
Regular Activities

Dhammaloka
• Chanting, Guided Meditation and Dhamma Talk - Every Friday, 7pm-9pm.
• Beginner's Meditation Class - Every Saturday, classes start 1st Sat of the Month, 3pm-4:15pm.
• On-going Meditation Class - Every Saturday, 3pm-4:15pm. (Except during Rains Retreat)
• Dhamma School for Children - Every Sunday, 9:15am - 10:15am.
• Sutta Study Group - 2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month, 3 - 4:15pm. (Except during Rains Retreat)
• Sangha Dana - Every Weekend, 10am. (Except during Rains Retreat)

Armadale Meditation Group
Meditation Class - every Tuesdays, 7pm - 8:30pm

Dhammaloka Library Opening Hours
FRIDAY: 6.00 - 7.30pm (closes, then reopens) 9.00 - 9.30pm
SATURDAY: 2.00 - 3.00pm (closes then reopens) 4.00 - 5.00pm

Entry to Rains Retreat
Dhammasara Monastery - 29 June 2014 (Sunday)
Bodhinyana Monastery - 6 July 2014 (Sunday)

Kathina (End of Rains Retreat)
Bodhinyana Monastery - 12 October 2014 (Sunday)
Dhammasara Monastery - 19 October 2014 (Sunday)

The activities are correct at time of printing. Please contact BSWA (info@bswa.org) to verify the times closer to the date.

Dhammaloka Website and Mobile Apps

The committee would like to apologise to the lack on content displayed on the mobile app. This is due to security updates and software upgrades to our online infrastructure. We are currently in the process of redesigning the Android app as well as creating an iPhone app.

The technical team is also hard at work redesigning and implementing a new BSWA website so that it is more mobile friendly and works seamlessly with multimedia streaming content. These updates will enable members to access talks more easily using different devices, including live talks.

It will still be some time until we have a software product ready for publication as our IT team has limited resources. If there are any Android or iPhone software developers who would be keen to help, please email PJ at webmaster@bswa.org.

BSWA becomes social

BSWA content and activities can be accessed through social media:

Twitter: @BuddhistSocWA
Facebook: Buddhist Society of Western Australia
Other Buddhist Organisations in WA:
@BuddhistFedOz or @BuddhistCouncilWA

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