The organising committee has assembled a very interesting panel of speakers and arranged a number of sessions to be of interest to one and all. Come be a part of this event and help promote it to your friends, colleagues and relatives. Some of the fascinating sessions you can look forward to (all sessions are followed by a question and answer session) include:

**Session - It’s all their fault!**

This session addresses the issues of stereotyping and discrimination. All three speakers have experienced these conflicts in their lives - Ajahn Brahm over the ordination of women, Father Bob over his own ordination and Venerable Robina Courtin as an outspoken female Buddhist leader.

**Presenters:** Ajahn Brahm (Conference Convener), Father Bob (retired Roman Catholic priest) and Venerable Robina Courtin (Buddhist nun)

**Session - Are you ready for the future?**

How will emerging technologies impact our mindfulness and wellbeing in the near future? Wearable and implanted digital devices, stem cell technologies and rapid development of artificial intelligence in robots are hot topics! Three of the speakers explore possible futures with their extraordinary world-class art. This is an opportunity to meet one of the world’s first cyborgs – part machine and part human.

**Presenters:** Bhante Sujato (Buddhist monk), Neil Harbisson (Cyborg), Stelarc (Artist), Guy Ben-Ary (Biotechnical artist) and Damiath Herath (Robotics Researcher)

**Session - It’s Sunday morning - What’s for breakfast?**

Depression and suicide are topics which continue to touch many of us either personally or indirectly. This is a unique opportunity to hear from world-leading experts with generations of experience to share. Become inspired and empowered with their knowledge and experience in this devastating facet of life.

**Presenters:** Peter Fitzpatrick (Businessman), Dr Eng Kong Tan (Doctor), Dr Chien Hoong Gooi (Psychiatrist)

**Session - Buddhist Journeys**

An opportunity for lay people and Sangha to present their personal stories about how they found Buddhism and their practice. We expect a lively discussion in the Q&A session that will follow these presentations!

**Presenters:** Lhakpa Tsamchoe (Actress – Seven Years in Tibet), Sarah Naphthali (Author), Bhikkhu Buddhakakkha (African Buddhist monk)

**Session - Past lives, Hypnosis and psychic phenomena!**

Explore issues (and scepticism) about past lives and psychic phenomena. All the speakers have their special experiences, Dhammaruwan through his remarkable childhood chanting of suttas, Dennis Sheppard through his regression sessions in his hypnosis practice and Professor Bernard Carr as a physicist with an interest in psychic phenomena. This session will be moderated by Ajahn Brahm.

**Presenters:** Dhammaruwan (Meditation teacher), Dennis Sheppard (Hypnotist), Prof Bernard Carr (Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy and Ajahn Brahm’s Cambridge classmate).

**Master of Ceremonies:** Tracy Vo (Channel 9 presenter-journalist), Angie Chew Monksfield (Founder and Director of Brahm Centre Singapore)

**Sponsorship**

The 9th Global Conference on Buddhism offers and invites those who share the values of Buddhism or the aims of the conference, to express their support through a number of sponsorship options. For information, please email: GBCsponsorship@bswa.org

**Benefits**

- International exposure
- Local exposure
- In-conference exposure
- Post conference exposure
- Promotional collateral
- Customisable sponsorship arrangements

Continued overpage
Carrying on from the very successful workshops on Early Buddhism in 2014, we had the first workshop for 2015 entitled ‘Kamma and Rebirth” on Sun 25th January conducted by Bhante Sujato and Bhante Brahmali.

This workshop was entitled “Myth Busting” and included such myths as ‘collective kamma’, ‘rituals are powerful kamma’, ‘you can burn off your kamma by meditating on pain’, ‘birth as a woman is because of bad kamma’ and other myths that were all busted.

The second workshop was entitled ‘Historical Context of Kamma’ and was presented on Sunday, 22nd Feb. The third workshop is “What the Suttas Say About Kamma” and will be held on Sunday, 29th March.

The fourth workshop entitled “The Evidence” will introduce the ground breaking research of Ian Stevenson and Jim Tucker and will look at the evidence for and sceptical response to the notion that rebirth can be supported within the scientific context. This workshop will be held on Sunday, 26th April.

The 5th workshop “Going Deeper” will investigate how kamma and rebirth fit into the Buddha’s teachings on liberation, especially the 4 Noble Truths, Dependent Origination and Awakening. Such questions as "How do we contemplate rebirth so that it has a real spiritual impact on our lives?" and "How does rebirth happen without a self work?" will be explained. This workshop is on Sunday, 24th May.

The 6th and final workshop in this great series will be conducted on Sunday, 28th June and is entitled "Reflections". All workshops are at Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre and begin at 12.30pm and finish around 6.30pm. There is recommended reading of many Buddhist Suttas and also of Bhikkhu Bodhi’s article "Questions on Kamma" and Bhanti Dhammika’s book "Good Kamma, Bad Kamma, What Exactly is Kamma?"

Please come along and join in these great workshops. And a special thank you to Bhante Sujato and Bhante Brahmali for all their hard work they have put into researching and presenting these interesting and insightful workshops.
The Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre in Nollamara holds the following activities regularly. Members of BSWA are encouraged to attend these activities.

Yoga classes each week are continuing in 2015 on Monday and Tuesday at 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Qi Gong classes are held on Thursday 6.00pm to 7.00pm and Yoga classes are held on Sundays at 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Guided meditation are held on Monday afternoons at 2.00pm to 3.00pm and Wednesday evenings at 6.00pm to 7.00pm. All classes are well attended and are conducted by fully trained yoga and meditation teachers. These classes are free and the teachers all volunteer their time.

Sunday Dhamma classes for children have recommenced in 2015 and these classes are from 9.00am to 11.00. Each Sunday, over 100 children come with their parents to participate in these classes organised by Lee Chan. The Buddhist Society of Western Australia committee would like to thank her and the other teachers for all the hard work and commitment in making the Dhamma School a conducive place for Children to come and learn the Dhamma.

Each Saturday at 5.00pm to 6.00pm, we have the Kalyana Mitta discussion and meditation group and anyone wanting more information on this group can contact: perthkalyanamitta@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, we have been having some trouble with cars being broken into on Friday nights so we have now employed 2 security guards that patrol the area and so far there have been no more cars being damaged. If you are coming on Friday night, we do ask that you leave the premises and remove your cars by 10.00pm as the security guards leave at 10.30pm.

We do hope you enjoy your visit to Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre and know that you are always welcome to use the shrine room on the right hand side of the meditation hall any time between 8.30am and 6.00pm for meditation, to read or just be peaceful each day of the week and weekends.

Jhana Grove Report

Jhana Grove is been well utilised to provide a venue for meditators to undertake their meditation practise. During the recent Rains Retreat, a dozen full time rains retreatants with around a dozen part timers came to Jhana Grove to cultivate their mindfulness. The Dhammaruwan retreat lasted around 2 weeks and went well.

The Buddhist Fellowship had their 9 day retreat at the end of October followed by Kathina. Venerable Amaranatho had his 9 day retreat, a weekend retreat by Dania & Mike Percy and followed by another weekend retreat run by the Tibetan group.

Ajahn Brahm had a 9 day retreat at the end of November followed by the Sri Lankan group having a retreat during Christmas time at Jhana Grove. Mike and Dania organized a weekend retreat in January. Self retreatants have been coming in between organised retreats.

Building and Maintenance

Over the past few months, the doors in the meditation hall have been painted and the lawn has been improved through aeration and weeding. The Karnet prison man, Sam, has been doing some collecting of dead wood and weedings. The firebreak along the top of the property has been extended to allow for parking lot at Kathina.

The buildings plans for the extra cottage where the nuns would be staying during Ajahn Brahm’s 9-day retreats had been approved by the Serpentine Shire and the contract has been signed.

The IT monk is looking at ways to make the internet at Jhana Grove more secure through a password protection system.
In September last year, Ajahn Brahm participated in Ajahn Santithito Mahathera's funeral in Sydney.

Teaching Commitments

Besides Ajahn Brahm, several of the monastics travelled interstate and overseas to teach the Dhamma or as part of a pilgrimage tour. In October 2014, Ajahn Brahmali travelled to Europe where he led an Introduction to Buddhism course in Oslo, Norway (18-19 Oct) and a weekend retreat in Helsinki, Finland (31 Oct – 2 Nov). Early this year, Ajahn Brahmali led a pilgrimage tour to India from 7-25 January 2015.

Bhante Sujato made a teaching trip to Singapore, Malaysia and Sydney, Australia from 4-12 December last year. Early this year, Bhante made another teaching trip to Sydney (9-19 Jan 2015).

Dhamma Activities

The ending of Rains Retreat Kathina Ceremony was held at Jhana Grove pm 27 October last year. As in previous years, a very large crowd gathered to provide the requisites for the Bhikkhus. A lot of the devotees raised $63,500 for use in Bodhinyana and the new hermitage.
For three weeks (7-25 January), a total of 35 participants, led by Ajahn Brahmali, Ven. Nitho, Ven. Cunda, four Bhikkhunis and laypeople went on a pilgrimage tour to India. They visited all the holy places when they were there. Currently there is no possibility for Buddhist monastics who have taken the vow of poverty to get permanent visa in Australia. Bhikkhu Bodhidhaja is in the process of appealing to the Minister of Immigration through Senator Cash (WA) to raise this issue.

**Comings and Goings**

- Bodhinyana Monastery is very popular with monks wanting to stay for the Rains Retreat. The list below gives a good indicator of the movements of the monks during and after the Rains Retreat
- 28th Jan: Tim Aarts and Wichai Phongthongdee ordained as anagarikas while Ven. Kimbala left to Wat Buddha Dhamma, but is coming back for this year’s rains retreat
- 8th Jan: Anagarika Sim (Ven. Suño) ordained as a novice.
- 6th Jan: Ven. Sampasadana ordained as a bhikkhu
- 5th - 15th Nov: Bhikkhu Dhammavuddho (Adrian Kemp) visited Bodhinyana Monastery.
- 14th Nov: Bhikkhu Vimutta (Arne Dietze) from Germany disrobed and went to India.
- 20th Sept: Venerable Hue Chuyen, a US/German Zen monk, left to US and India, but he wants to come back to Bodhinyana monastery in 2015.
- 16th Sept - 29 Dec: Ajahn Appi left to visit the Newbury Buddhist Monastery (BSV), Melbourne, for six weeks.
- 7th August: Simon John Martin took samanera ordination, and he is now known as Ven. Kassapa.
- 26th August: Dilbag Singh Bhangu (originally from India, but he has been living in WA for 6 years), ordained as an anagarika.

**Building and Maintenance**
The following work has been done to maintain the monastery:
- Planning approval had been granted for a new vehicle workshop several months ago. The new vehicle workshop is almost assembled, including the vehicle-hoist. A friend of Ven. Cunda donated the vehicle hoist, an engine crane, a hydraulic press, a gear box jack and an oil tank.
- New kitchen appliances and a washing machine for the female guest block were donated, and they are now all installed and working.
- A German rains retreat guest donated and installed new software and hardware for audio recording.
- The concrete slab is finished for the new main building at Hermit Hill, and the septic system pipes are in place.
- Planning approval has been granted for 5 new kutis at Hermit Hill. Ven. Mudu is redrawing the new Hermit Hill kutis to get a building license.
- The underground kuti has been totally refurbished and the ceiling in two kutis has been painted.
- A concrete walking path was added to Ajahn Brahm's kuti/cave.
- A concrete ceiling has been added to Ajahn Brahmali's kuti.
- Extensive weeding has been done around the monastery.
‘Massive crowd to listen to bana in London’ was the headline in the most read Sinhala national daily in Sri Lanka, ‘Lankadeepa’ on Saturday, 1 November 2014 reporting on the large crowd present to listen to Ajahn Brahm at the London Buddhist Vihara.

The news story mentioned that the temple located in Chiswick is the town adjoining Ackton, where Ajahn Brahm grew up. It then gave a brief description of Ajahn’s career.

Venerable Boodaa Silawimala Nayaka Thera, chief prelate of the Buddhist Vihara, welcomed Ajahn Brahm and also made the farewell address. The article showed ten photographs of the event - possibly the first time that so many pictures were used for a Buddhist event outside of Sri Lanka. Some of those photographs are reproduced here.
Meditation Retreats at Jhana Grove Retreat Centre

Nine Day Retreat

02-11 April 2015 (Ajahn Brahm)
Bookings:
• 16 January 2015 (Full members)
• 23 January 2015 (Others)

05-14 June 2015 (Ajahn Brahmali) Happy Sutta Retreat
Bookings:
• 10 April 2015 (Full members)
• 17 April 2015 (Others)

20-29 November 2015 (Ajahn Brahm)
Bookings:
• 28 Aug 2015 (Full members)
• 04 September 2015 (Others)

Weekend Retreat

22-24 May 2015 (Senior Sangha)
Bookings:
• 27 March 2015 (Open For All)

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

At the moment, the Dhammasara Nuns community is comprised of 11 people (9 brownies, 1 Anagarika & 1 long term lay resident). There are 2 spaces available for lay/monastic visitors. However, are a lot of people on the Dhammasara Waiting list. The completion of the new accommodation pods (6 rooms for lay & 6 rooms for trainees) will help provide more accommodation for the influx of people wanting to stay at Dhammasara.

Ven. Nirodha has decided to prolong her stay at Santi Forest Monastery. The Bhikkhunis are hopeful that she will come for the Sala Complex Opening Ceremony. Ven. Sukhi decided to leave Dhammasara to stay at Santi forest Monastery for good. The Bhikkhunis wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Activities

The Official End of Vassa 2014 was on 8th October and the Bhikkhunis from Dhammasara went to Bodhinyana for the Pavarana (Inviting Admonition). On the following week, 19th October, well over 400 people participated in the first Kathina ceremony at Dhammasara. The Bhikkhunis would like to thank the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to set up before the event and clean up after the event. There was a Busy Bee on Sunday, 26th October, where around 10 people participated in this meritorious event.

The Dhammasara Fire Team did a control burn on 21st October with the assistance of John Mangini (Captain of Fire Fighting Volunteer from West Gidgegannup).

After the Kathina, the Bhikkhunis travelled to attending and to give teachings of the Buddha Dhamma. Ven. Hasapanna left for Malaysia on 5th-23rd November to conduct a Nun Novitiate Program organised by The Bodhinyana International Foundation at Subang Jaya Buddhist Association.

Ven. Sukhi and Ven. Dhammabheri (a visiting nun) attended Ajahn Brahm’s 9 day retreat from 21st November to 30th November, 2014.


Ven. Pasada, Upekkha, Canda and Achala were invited to join the Buddhist Pilgrimage to India from 7th January to 25th January, 2015.

Coming and Going

Ven. Annya left for Melbourne to visit her daughter on 24th November, 2014 and returned on 17th December, 2014. Ven. Canda went to England to visit her family on 9th October and returned to Dhammasara on 9th December.

Ven. Sukhi spent the Rains at Santi Forest Monastery and returned to Dhammasara on 29th October. She then decided to leave Dhammasara and stay at Santi. She left for Santi Monastery on 5th December, 2014.

Diane left for Burma for her personal retreat on 18th January, 2015 for a month and has returned to Dhammasara on 21st February, 2015.

Building and Maintenance

The nuns with the help of John Field have finished building a kuti at the campsite that was previously the dana shed when Dhammasara first started.

Photo Courtesy John Mangini West Gidgegannup volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Sala Complex Project

The sala complex project is coming along with good progress. All of the brickwork has been done and other construction phases are around 50% complete. There were some cost savings which has been re-invested for the building of a new accommodation pod. Details are provided below:

Annex Building
Due to the change of Builder, Dhammasara saved around $600,000.00 for the Sala Complex Project. A new accommodation pod (Annex Building) with 3 bed rooms, bathroom, toilet, kitchenette will be built with these savings. This new accommodation pod will be located at the back of the 5 bay garage facing the first dam and Stupa 1.

The design of this building was done free of charge by the architect and the DA application was submitted. The application for DA has been approved by the council and the building permit application was submitted.

The builder (BE Project) is happy to build it at cost price with no margin on top. The practical completion for this building will be on 22nd May, 2015 (same as the Sala Complex).

Accommodation Pods
The brickwork, roof & roof plumbing, columns & roof trusses and ceiling wall linings have all been completed for the accommodation pods. The joinery and cabinetry, hydraulic and electrical services are about 50% completed. The concrete is about 30% completed.

Meditation Hall
The brickwork has been completed fully while the columns and roof trusses are 95% completed. The electrical services are about 50% completed. The concrete is about 25% completed.

Library
The brickwork, columns & roof trusses have all been completed. The electrical services, roof and roof plumbing are about half way completed.

Amenities Block
All of the brickwork, columns & roof trusses, and roof & roof plumbing are completely finished. The hydraulic and electric services, ceiling and wall linings, and joinery and cabinetry are half completed. The concrete is about 30% completed.

Dining/Kitchen
The brickwork has been completed while the concrete is only 30% completed. The columns and roof trusses are only about 15% done for the dining and kitchen area.
When we talk about the Buddha, we think of a man who went from two extremes – extreme wealth to extreme poverty – before he found the middle way of living. We also think a lot of cultivating our minds through meditation to achieve the final end of suffering like the Buddha did over 2,500 years ago. Most people think of him as a great teacher, expounding the Truth, or Dhamma, to people that still ring true today. This article will touch on another aspect of the Buddha and how his Great Compassion of all living beings touched the lives of people living in his time.

Gautama Buddha was an exemplary man whose teaching spread all over the world, helping people be better human beings. He gained ultimate wisdom through his own experience and understand of the true nature of existence. He coupled his wisdom with compassion and taught many people how to achieve ultimate peace by breaking the cycle of life and death.

The Buddha was born in 623 B.C. in Northern India to the King of the Shakya clan. He was named Siddhartha Gautama and raised in the royal place amidst all the comforts and luxuries befitting a prince. He eventually married Princess Yasodhara and both of them had a son named Rahula.

Even amidst all the splendour, he found that suffering affected everyone. There was no escaping, old age, sickness and death. He was moved by his boundless compassion and wanted to find out a solution to free people from this suffering. He saw an ascetic who looked peaceful. If wealth and luxury was no escape from the cycle of birth and death, he wondered if being a wondering ascetic was the way to being free of suffering.

Thus, at the age of 29, Siddharta Gautama left the royal palace at night, discarding all of his fine clothing and even cutting off his hair! His quest to help humanity find a way out of the cycle of birth and death was greater than the comforts of his kingdom and his life with his beloved wife and infant. This even was called the Great Renunciation.

After six years of torturing his body in the quest of truth and wisdom, he realised that extremes of comfort and discomfort were not conducive towards attaining the ultimate Truth. With this realisation, he then undertook the middle-path, ensuring his body was healthy and his mind was clear of all desires and discomforts. In his 35th year, through his own effort, he made a vow to achieve Enlightenment. While meditating under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, Siddhartha Gautama became fully enlightened and became the Buddha, the Great Teacher.

He showed the world that the middle-way is what is required to achieve enlightenment and that you are your own saviour, gaining enlightenment through your own effort. After becoming the Buddha, he did not live a life isolated from the rest of humankind but with wisdom tempered with compassion, he went forth to help people who were on the same journey as himself, to find liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

With his great compassion vision, the Buddha surveyed the world every morning and evening to see whether anyone needed his help. One such person was Sapaka who was only 7 years old and from a very poor family. After his father's death, his mother remarried but Sapaka's stepfather was very cruel and unkind to Sapaka.

One evening, the stepfather tied Sapaka to a corpse in a cemetery and left his alone. Afraid and alone, Sapaka cried. The Buddha seeing this distress, came to Sapaka and consoled him. He freed the boy, bathed him, fed him and ordained him as a monk. Shortly after, Sapaka's mother came crying to the Buddha and told him that Sapaka was missing. The Buddha showed that her son was safe and in a monk's robe. She was very pleased that her son would now be trained under the Buddha.

The Buddha and his boundless compassion

By Chandra Abeysiriwardene
Another person in distress was Parachara, who lost her whole family - two sons, husband, brother and parents! She was found roaming about naked, her mind was greatly disturbed. Out of kindness, people took her to Jetavana Grove where the Buddha was giving a sermon. The Buddha requested some ladies to wash Parachara, clothe her and feed her, then he consoled her through preaching. Then she regained her senses, begged the Buddha to ordain her. She was ordained by the Buddha.

Angulimala the bandit whose real name was Ahimsaka, meaning innocence. At the University of Taxila, he was a very bright student and other students were jealous of him and made false allegations against him.

The teacher became envious and wanted to destroy him. When he finished studies instead of paying cash as fees, he was asked to bring a garland of 1,000 human fingers. To obey the teacher, he started killing people, made a garland of fingers and got the name of Angulimala. The Buddha appeared before him and subdued him with his loving compassion, then ordained him. He later became an Arahant.

The Buddha's compassion extended to animals and insects. Devadatta tried many failed attempts to harm the Buddha. Elephant Nalagiri was intoxicated with liquor and sent to attack the Buddha. The Buddha subdued the elephant with his great compassion and the elephant paid respect to the Buddha. By this act, the Buddha's fame increased in leaps and bounds while Devadatta became very unpopular.

With the Buddha's great compassion and vision, he saw the monk Tissa from Savatthi suffering with a skin disease and he was left alone by the other monks. The Buddha visited Tissa and attended to his physical needs by washing and bathing him. This was done in the presence of many of the Buddha's disciples. The Buddha then told them that when they attend to the sick, it is similar to attending to the Buddha.

The above are only a very few examples to show the Buddha's compassion. His great compassion is much bigger than the ocean. What I write has just a drop in that ocean.

The Buddha's great compassion for humanity led him on a quest to find the end of human suffering. To do that, he renounced his kingdom, his royal comfort, luxuries, royal splendour, beloved infant son, and wife. He then led a life of extreme poverty for 6 years to search for this answer to humanity's woes.

“Abstain from all evil, do good. Purify the mind”. The Buddha travelled far and wide to preach the truth (Dhamma) for 45 years. He passed away as an exemplary human being at the age of 80 years at Kusinara, India. May all of us live our lives with wisdom and compassion for the betterment of ourselves, our loved ones and our fellow beings.
She is the first Tibetan woman to break into a mainstream film, starring Lhakpa Tsamchoe and the Nirodha City Centre.

ordination as Samanera Dhammaratana. He founded the Nirodha Trust during which time he took temporary
became known for spontaneously chanting suttas in his Dhammaruwan creed and socio-economic backgrounds.

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Angie Chew Monksfield, one of two M Cs, is the Founder and Director of Braham Centre in Singapore, a charity dedicated to Happier and Healthier Living. She is a certified mindfulness trainer and has been teaching mindfulness at companies, schools and community clubs in Singapore. She has spoken at numerous conferences and been interviewed on radio on Mindful Parenting, Stress Management and Mindfulness.

Speakers

Bhante Sujato is a popular Dhamma and meditation teacher. He is the founder and former Abbot of Santi Forest monastery. Bhante Sujato is a scholar of early Buddhism, with several books and essays of original and often ground-breaking research.

Ajohn Brahmal is an accomplished Pali scholar who teaches the monastic rules and gives Pali classes to the monks and anagarikas at Bodhinyana Monastery. His delivery of these subjects makes the teachings of the Buddha accessible to all.

Ven Robina Courtin is an Australian-born Tibetan Buddhist nun who works full time for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), a worldwide network of Buddhist centres. She has served as editorial director of Wisdom Publications, editor of Mandala Magazine and executive director of Liberation Prison Project. Her life and work with prisoners have been featured in the award-winning film, Chasing Buddha.

Bhikkhuni Zinaj is a Buddhist scholar, teacher and meditator. She has taught Buddhism at the Department of Asian Cultures and Languages at U.C. Berkeley and served as the Vice-Director of Luminary Buddhist Institute at Taiwan (2005-2010). Her research interests cover Buddhist meditation in early Buddhism, Buddhist monastic education and pedagogy, and the dialogue between Buddhist psychology and modern psychology.

Venerable Hasapanna is the Abbot of Dhammasara Nuns Monastery and Assistant Spiritual Director of The Buddhist Society of WA. She is heavily involved in teaching and training nuns, anagarikas and lay people.

Father Bob Maguire is a funny, crusty, pragmatic, Triple J radio star and sometimes known as the 'Lorrikin Priests', Father Bob Maguire is an Australian Catholic priest who has worked tirelessly for the downtrodden. He is currently Chairman of the Fr Bob Maguire Foundation which aims to support disenfranchised people of all colour, creed and socio-economic backgrounds.

Dhammaruwan became known for spontaneously chanting suttas in his childhood. He was trained for many years under Bhante Henepola Gunaratana Nayaka Thero during which time he took temporary ordination as Samarana Dhammaratana. He founded the Nirodha Trust and the Nirodha City Centre.

Lhakpa Tsamchoe is an Indian born Nepalese actress of Tibetan descent. She is the first Tibetan woman to break into a mainstream film, starring alongside Brad Pitt in the 1997 movie “Seven Years in Tibet”. In 2006, she played the role of Aunt Peydon in ‘Milarepa,’ a film about legendary protagonist, Milarepa (1052–1135) who was a famous Tibetan saint.

Sarah Napthali is the author of the Buddhism for Mothers series published by Allen & Unwin which has been translated into nine languages to date. Her recent book ‘Buddhism for Couples’ shows the reader how to apply Buddhist teachings in a long-term relationship. Sarah strives to apply Buddhist teachings to her role as mother, wife and friend. She believes relationships - in all their complexity, messiness, joy and volatility - make excellent ground for spiritual practice if we are awake enough to perceive their lessons.

Dennis Sheppard is a trained and professional hypnotist practicing since 2004. His practice and technique has been informed from his long Buddhist Practice. He has held the position of president of the Buddhist Society of WA and is well known in the community as a Buddhist Celebrant and Meditation teacher.

George Burns is a clinical psychologist whose innovative work is recognised nationally and internationally. He was recently invited to participate in a High Level United Nations Meeting on developing a new world paradigm based more on happiness than on economic values.

Dr Piyal Walpola is involved in research of Theravada Buddhist texts and their applications to mindfulness. He is currently collaborating with clinical psychologist Professor Tony Toneatto at the University of Toronto in educating primary care physicians on mindfulness to improve patient care.

Dr. Eng-Kong Tan is a medical doctor, consultant psychiatrist and analytic psychotherapist. He is Founder President of the Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists (AABCAP) and a Founding Member of the University Buddhist Education Foundation of Australia (UBEF).

Dr. Chien Hoong Gooi is a Clinical Psychologist helping people with Anxiety Disorders, phobias, panic and worry. He integrates evidence-based treatments and mindfulness approaches. He also provides training and supervision for psychologists and counsellors in the fields of anxiety, grief and mindfulness.

Peter Fitzpatrick is Chair of the WA Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention. Peter has made an extraordinary contribution to government and community. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1984 and was a finalist for Senior Australian of the Year in 2009.

Neil Harbisson is a contemporary artist, composer and cyborg activist best known for his ability to hear colours and to perceive colours outside the ability of human vision. He creates synaesthetic art works and performances that explore the relationship between colour and sound, and the relationship between bodies and cybernetics.

Stelarc is an artist who performs with prosthetics and robotics. His projects include the Third Hand, Exoskeleton, Extended Arm, Prosthetic Head and Ear On Arm. In 2010 he was awarded the prestigious Ars Electronica Hybrid Arts Prize.

Dr Damith Herath is the co-founder of Robological - a Sydney based robotics R&D startup. It was named one of the 23 most innovative young technology companies in Australia in 2014. He led a number of multidisciplinary robotic research projects at the MARCS Institute, University of Western Sydney.

Guy Ben-Ary is recognised internationally as a major artist and innovator working across science and media arts, winning first prize at VIDA and exhibiting his works at prestigious events from the Beijing National Art Museum to San Paulo Biennale to the Moscow Biennale. He specialises in biotechnological artwork, which aims to enrich our understanding of what it means to be alive.