Scenes from the life of the Lord Buddha.
Sculpture from Sarnath, India, 6th century A.D.
The Newsletter of the Buddhist Soc. of W.A.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1984

The Buddhist Soc. of W.A.
4 Magnolia St
North Perth, 6006
tel: (09) 444 7013.

Serpentine Buddhist Monastery
Lot 1/Kingsbury Drive
Serpentine, 6205
tel: (095) 252420

Resident Sangha: Venerable Ajahn Jagaro
Venerable Brahnavamso
Venerable Pannavaro.
"Namo Tassa Bhagavato Sammasambuddhassa"

Dhamma greetings to all,

In the world today there are many people, whole nations even, with the mentality of little children who fight and argue. "My father is stronger than your father","My car is faster than your car". Because of this there seems to be a never ending series of wars, conflicts, persecution and exploitation going on. Nearly all of this conflict, physical or verbal, shams respectability under the name of nationalism or patriotism, communism, capitalism, even seeking justification in the name of a religious 'ism'. It is all fanaticism.

Within this madhouse of conflict and trouble the Teaching of the Buddha can only be a calming influence, a blessing shining on all humanity:

"Hatred does not cease by hatred, 
Hatred ceases by love, 
This is the eternal law". (The Dhammapada).

It is important to remember that the Buddha did not offer His Teachings of the path to Peace only to a chosen people of a particular tribe, caste or nation. On the contrary He taught that identifying with a particular race or creed, holding that my nation is in any way superior to another, is a form of self pride which defiles our mind and acts as a block against the arising of loving kindness, compassion and charity. The Buddha saw the Oneness of humanity and so His Teachings cut right through such barriers created by the deluded mind. When we undertake to follow in the footsteps of the Buddha we have to leave behind the shackles of racism, patriotism and nationalism which only act to set one group against another.

These were some of the thoughts which passed through my mind on Sunday 14th October, the day of the End of the Rains Alms Giving ceremony. Gathered together at Serpentine Buddhist Monastery were over 200 people of different races, from different countries with different languages, different customs, different food - and who would know this last better than the monks who had a sample of all the different varieties of food mixed up in their bowls! But all these differences fade to insignificance when people have the Dhamma in their hearts. We are all companions in birth, old age, sickness and death, we are all friends in our common search for happiness. Thus for a true Buddhist these superficial differences are irrelevant. A true Buddhist cultivates a mind of loving kindness towards ALL living beings.

What is happening here in Perth amongst our mixed Buddhist community should be an example of the peace and harmony that is possible between all peoples. The only requirement is that we nurture the growth of the Dhamma and wisdom in our hearts instead
of giving way to prejudices and biases. Of course, we may use the ordinary conventions of this world to refer to ourselves as born of this race, belonging to that nation, holding this religion, but in our minds we know ourselves as simply belonging to the international human race, adhering to the religion of peace. In this way we will truly be following the example set by the Buddha and all the Noble Ones.

"May all beings be happy hearted!
May no one deceive another,
or with anger or thoughts of hate
wish suffering for each other.

Just as a mother would protect her child,
her only child with her life —
in the same way let one cultivate
this boundless love for all living beings".

(From the Discourse on Loving Kindness).

May you all be happy and peaceful,

Jagaro Bhikkhu.

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Our resident Sangha in Perth, W.A. standing outside the first permanent monastic dwelling at the Serpentine Buddhist Monastery.

From left to right - Ven. Brahmavamso,
Ven. Ajahn Jagaro and
Ven. Pannavaro.
"NOT GRASPING"

The path that was pointed out by the Buddha for us to follow is called in Pali "Ekayana Magga" - this means a "single path" for each person which, when followed, takes us to the "one goal". Some may travel along this path slowly while others progress quickly. It depends on how much their minds are bound up with the things of the world. For instance, an ordained person in Buddhism, provided that he does not allow his mind to become tied up with those things that lead to confusion, has the opportunity to walk along this path much faster than the ordinary lay person. The monk or nun has fewer encumbrances to slow them down. Although a lay person can also progress quickly if one knows how to deal with one's mind.

What is the goal of this path? It is nothing but the end of suffering, of all troubles. In Pali, this is called Nibbana. Nibbana means coolness, peace, the cessation of suffering. This coolness, this peace which arises in the mind of a person who manages to free ones mind from worrying and suffering over some matter is called "cessation with regard to that matter". For example, we have a problem and worry over it so we go to see somebody who understands about the nature of mind. That person explains things in a way which gives us a new perspective on the problem. We follow this advice and find that the worrying and suffering cease and do not come again to disturb the mind. We may thus say that we have reached Nibbana with regard to that problem for the suffering over it has ceased.

Concerning Nibbana, please understand that it is something quite natural for everyone, it is not beyond the ability of anybody. It is not something to be found in the remote Himalayas. Rather it is to be found and used by everyone in their daily lives. The Teaching of the Buddha is useful for all people not just for a few. It does not matter whether one is male or female, young or old, rich or poor - all can benefit from this Teaching.

We should have a correct understanding of the Dhamma, the Teachings in Buddhism. For instance regarding Nibbana, in days of old the word Nibbana was a common word used by ordinary people in everyday situations. When a plate of hot rice was left to stand until it became cool, people would use the word Nibbana or Pari-nibbuti which means "to extinguish the heat". Similarly, when we extinguish the heat in our minds, that is extinguish our suffering, we may say that we have Nibbana for an instant with regard to that thing, that problem.

Now the question arises as to why we are unable to solve our problems. Our mind can be likened to a leech for it clamps on to our various moods. This is the cause for our suffering and worry. The inability to let go is the real problem.
On one occasion a Brahmin approached the Buddha and asked Him whether it was possible to summarize all of His Teaching, which was more than one could remember, into one single sentence. The Buddha replied that it was indeed possible to do so and He then summarized the Teaching in the phrase "Sabbe Dhamma Nalam Abhineyasay", which means that 'nothing whatever should be grasped or clung to (as me or mine)". This is the essence of Buddhism or one can call it the 'heart' of the Buddha's Teaching.

Grasping and clinging is called Upadana and it arises from a misunderstanding about the way things are. It is like someone who grasps a snake thinking that it is a fish and refuses to let go. The snake turns and bites that person causing his death. He came to his death as a result of grasping the snake thinking it to be a fish. This is the way of all grasping.

Look and consider your own daily lives to see what is the cause of your suffering. Suffering about work or profession, suffering over your income, suffering about expenses, suffering about the people you associate with, suffering about this, about that. We all have problems in our lives which make us worried and unhappy. All of this worry and unhappiness comes from one thing - grasping, Upadana, this grasping and clinging onto all things as being 'me' and 'mine', taking things to be part of ourselves, thinking that we are like this or like that, forming images of ourselves in our minds - all this suffering arises because of this. Weak minded people in particular end up thinking and worrying so much that they can't even get to sleep! This is a waste of our lives. We even grasp on to small trivial things let alone the big and important things. Our minds become heavy and burdened with all these things we collect and accumulate within it. Therefore it is very important that we remove this grasping and clinging so that we are no longer obsessed with worry. Then if we do think about a problem it will be in a way which is skillful and beneficial. For instance, let us say that your Father or Mother has passed away. Maybe the suffering lingers on for a very long time. This lingering on of the suffering is due to nothing other than grasping, clinging. Even though it is our Mother or Father, if we have wisdom we do not think in ways which result in suffering. Instead we would think along the lines that all things have the nature to be born, grow and change, and finally must die. It is so for all things, for trees, for buildings and houses, even for the lives of us human beings. The body of our Mother or Father was born, grew to maturity, then to old age and in due course it died. It is only natural that it be so.

We are all of the same nature. How old are we now...forty, fifty? we should remind ourselves that one day we too will die like our Father or Mother - it is nature. But people tend to resist this law of nature, wanting things to be this way or that way
all according to their wishes. Thinking in this way is trying to
go against the law of nature and this is futile. So, when things
do not go according to our desires we experience suffering. This
kind of suffering arises as a result of not knowing the Truth
about life.

We should understand the law of impermanence, that all things
are unstable and have no essence that is unchanging. They arise
depending on conditions and when these conditions are no longer
there these things break up. Our Father and Mother, children and
grandchildren who have died have done so according to this unbend-
ing law of nature. If we think according to Dhamma, the Truth, in
this way our minds will be at peace for we see the way things must
be. If we don't see the Truth then we have suffering but when we
see the Truth of all things according to their nature then our
mind is happy and at peace.

So, in Buddhism we teach that one should look at all things in
the light of their true nature rather than distorted according to
our desires, our grasping.

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The above Dhamma talk was translated and adapted from a talk in
Thai given by Ven. Chao Khun Pannananda.

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A VISIT TO PERTH

Ven. Chao Khun Pannananda will be visiting us in Perth during
the middle of November. He will arrive from Bangkok on the even-
ing of Saturday 10th November, spending 14 days in Australia.
Though his schedule while here is yet uncertain, it is expected
that he will spend the first week at the Buddhist Centre in North
Perth, then a few days at Serpentine Buddhist Monastery, before
departing for a brief visit to the eastern states. A more definite
schedule will be posted at the entrance way to the Buddhist Centre
as soon as it is available.

During the venerable monk's stay in Perth, he will give a talk
on Buddhism each evening at 7.30pm at the Buddhist Centre. We
warmly invite you to make use of a rare opportunity and come and
listen to the teachings of one of the most widely respected monks
in Thailand. Alternatively, if you prefer to meet with Ven.
Pannananda Bhikkhu at a more informal occasion then you are in-
vited to come and help in offering Dana - the monk's one meal of
the day during the morning of any day. For more information about
the venerable monk's activities while in Perth, or about the times
to come and offer dana, please ring the Buddhist Centre on
444 7013.

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NEWS FROM THE FOREST MONASTERY

A few days ago, the October full moon rose above the trees of the state forest to the east of the monastery signalling the end of the first Vassa, the Rains Retreat, at Serpentine Buddhist Monastery. The Rains Retreat was intended by the Buddha as a time when monks and nuns could quietly devote themselves to formal meditation. However, our Rains Retreat was a little untraditional as the monks had to sacrifice a considerable part of their time to building work, maintenance and teaching engagements. Nevertheless there were many free days of this last Retreat when we could fully enjoy our good fortune of being in a peaceful forest monastery. A lot of time was spent meditating, each in his own hut alone amongst the trees, watching the only sounds of birds and the wind fade beneath the sound of one's breath, the chosen meditation object. One could wander the 97 acres of the monastery, to the high places with view over all the world between you and the Indian Ocean from the columns of the distant Perth skyline to the north, to the light of Bunbury in the south, or walk along beside the creek fast flowing with the winter rains, stopping by the waterfalls, then down to the silence in the valley below. At dusk one would be walking meditation, slowing down one's thinking as one paced to and fro with the setting sun colouring the gaps between the silhouetted trees a bright gold. One late afternoon during the Retreat, while sitting motionless beneath a white gum tree I was disturbed and opened my eyes. A few yards away was the head of a kangaroo, his body was hidden by the slope, turned towards me checking me out. It was easy after meditating to remain still and soon the 'roo stood up (he had, apparently, just awoken) and began eating. Soon, four other kangaroos thump-thump-thumped into sight and for an hour I watched them peacefully grazing, sometimes stopping for a good scratch, occasionally turning their attention to their observer, staring for a short while with a mouth stuffed with grass - kangaroos look most undignified while eating!

In the meantime we managed to put the finishing touches onto the 'A' frame, the first monastic hut (kuti) at the monastery. It turned out a little larger than expected, but just big enough so that all involved, the builders and those who donated the materials, could all sit inside to hear the auspicious chanting by the monks commemorating the importance of the occasion.
Visitors to the A frame kuti have been quite impressed, somebody even called it 'swanky'!

With the Rains Retreat over and quite a lot of funds in the bank, Messrs Monks and Partners Building Company have begun work again at 'full throttle'. Another A frame, a bit smaller and hopefully less 'swanky', has been commenced on a spot with one of the most gorgeous views this side of Nibbana. Ven. Pannavaro and helpers have been busy with chain saws cleaning up the many large piles of dead wood which if left would be a fire hazard during the dry summer. We have also marked out a site and begun to conceive the plans for our next major building, the kitchen block. This building will contain a large kitchen, an even larger dining hall (to be used as a meeting hall until a separate meditation hall is built later), an office, a storeroom and a toilet/washroom. The next time, while we are on almsround in Perth, that one shouts out "You bludgers!", I am sure I shall approach the uncouth fellow, explain that monks work harder than he does, at least for less money, and show him the callouses and cuts on my hands to prove the point.

Though the Rains Retreat ended quietly on a full moon evening during the middle of the week, its completion was not formally celebrated until the following Sunday. Traditionally, the end of the Rains Alms Giving ceremony is one of the biggest festivals of the year and at Serpentine Buddhist Monastery this tradition at least was preserved. Hundreds of Buddhists turned up on a sunny Sunday morning - Australians, Cambodians (the Cambodian Buddhists drove down in a convoy of cars from Perth), Laos, Sri Lankans, Thais and Chinese - they all came to acknowledge something very special, the beginning of a Buddhist Monastery and the end of its first Rains Retreat. The large marquee that was hired for the occasion was a bit small as was discovered when it began to rain during the auspicious chanting. People squashed together under cover of the tend not realizing that the shower was probably only 'holy water', which is usually sprinkled during the chanting, only time the monks weren't doing the sprinkling! At any rate, the shower was over by the time the chanting was completed and the rest of the day was sunny and warm. The monks will have to remember to practise the same chant during the dry summer months.

Having acquired a beautiful and convenient site for our monastery, with all the building work that has been successfully completed already and with the healthy state of our finances one could say that Serpentine Buddhist Monastery is progressing wonderfully well. However the real standard by which one can judge the success of a monastery is not a material one - a few weeks ago a visitor to the monastery who had last come in December 1983 told me that the place had changed. Ten months ago when he had come for the planting of the Bodhi Tree he had seen
the land as "just another piece of Australian bush". Now it appeared to him differently - there was an air of serenity, he said, an intangible calm about the forest and it was 'shining' as only a successful meditation monastery does.

... Ven. Brahmavamso.

HIS EXCELLENCY, the Thai Ambassador to Australia Mr J. Sucharitkul and his wife have kindly donated the sum of $1,000 while recently in Perth on an official visit accompanying H.R.H. the Princess of Thailand. This donation is for the construction of a monastic hut for the use of the Sangha at the Serpentine Buddhist Monastery.

On behalf of all the Buddhist community in Perth and the Buddhist Soc. of W.A. we would like to extend our sincere thanks to His Excellency for his generous support of the Sangha and patronage of the Buddhist Society of W.A. in helping establish the Teachings of the Buddha in Australia. May your Excellency and your family find peace and happiness in the Path of the Lord Buddha.

Sadhu - Sadhu - Sadhu.

Do not think lightly of good, saying: "It will not come to me". Even as a water-pot is filled by the falling of drops, so the wise person, gathering it drop by drop, fills oneself with good.

... from the Dhammapada No. 122.

Being one of the monks in Perth for some time now, I have observed two difficulties persisting in our noble band of lay people who frequent our Buddhist Society. Firstly, remembering our names, then managing to pronounce them! To alleviate such an unnecessary source of Dukkha, I would point out that it is respectful to address any Buddhist monk as BHANTE. This mode of address once remembered, and having mastered the pronunciation (BUN-TAY), may safely be used in talking with any monk, big or small and from any country. With compassion,

... One of the Bhantes.

EIGHT PRECEPT OBSERVANCE DAYS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

November 7th, 15th, 22nd and 30th.

December 7th, 15th, 21st and 29th.
SISTER KHEMA'S VISIT TO PERTH

Sister Khema of Wat Buddha-Dhamma in Sydney will be visiting Perth from Nov. 16th to Dec. 4th. During her stay she will be giving nightly Dhamma talks and will be conducting a 9-day meditation retreat from Nov. 23rd to Dec. 2nd. Following is her schedule:

Sat. Nov. 17th  9am to 5pm at Seekers Centre, 44 Barker Rd, Subiaco. 7.30-9.30pm a talk at Hamersley Centre, Aintree St. Hamersley.

Sun. Nov. 18th  9am to 5pm at the Buddhist Centre, 4 Magnolia St North Perth. 7.30-9.30pm Tamil House, 189 Brisbane St, Perth.

Mon. Nov. 19th  12 noon interview 6UVS, 1pm a talk at Churchlands College, 20 Lucca Rd, Churchlands. 7pm a talk at Kalamunda Agricultural Hall, Cnr Canning Rd and Recreation Rd, Kalamunda.

Tues. Nov. 20th  12.30pm a talk at Wesley Auditorium, Wesley Centre, Hay St, 2nd floor. 7.30pm a talk at Mt Hawthorn Community Centre, Scarborough Beach Rd, Mt Hawthorn.

Wed. Nov. 21st  9am dana and interviews at the Buddhist Centre, and 7.30pm talk at the Buddhist Centre.

Thurs. Nov. 22nd  1pm talk at Claremont Teachers College, 7 Princess Rd, Claremont. 7.30pm talk at Mt Hawthorn Community Centre, Scarborough Beach Rd, Mt Hawthorn.

Fri. Nov. 23rd  start of the 9 day meditation retreat. The retreat begins at 7pm and will be held at "Advent Park", 345 Kalamunda Rd, Maida Vale. The cost of the retreat is $120 which covers the cost of Sister's air fare to Perth, the hire of the retreat centre and the purchase of food. Meals will be vegetarian. Please bring a sleeping bag or bedding, a sitting cushion, a torch and insect repellent if you use it. If you would like to join the retreat please contact John Peters on 291 8974 or ring the Buddhist Centre on 444 7013. The retreat is open to all interested persons and is suitable for both beginners and those who have meditated before.

Mon. Dec. 3rd  9am farewell dana at the Buddhist Centre, and all day interviews. 7.30pm farewell talk at same venue.

Sister Khema will be staying at Flat 25, 100 Subiaco Rd. Subiaco while in Perth. Sister eats one meal a day and if you would like to offer dana please bring it between 9.30 and 10.00 a.m. Also if you can offer transport during Sister's visit please contact John Peters. Thank you for your support.
An Introduction To Buddhist Meditation

A SERIES OF MEDITATION WORKSHOPS
BEGINNING SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 1984

The Buddhist Society will be conducting a series of four workshops to learn the fundamental Teachings of the Buddha and to make a start on the basics of Buddhist meditation. These workshops are structured for beginners and emphasis is upon correct posture, right attitude and motivation and will teach the actual techniques of meditation to calm the mind and to develop insight. Actual sitting times will be short.

Workshops will be on Sundays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd December, starting at 4.00 p.m. and ending around 5.30. The workshops will be held on the first floor of the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre, 66 Angove St, North Perth.

Wear loose comfortable clothing and bring along a firm cushion to sit on.

This series of workshops are FREE and open to all interested persons.
A weekend meditation
Retreat 5th, 6th January

The Buddhist Society will be conducting a meditation retreat beginning at 6.00 p.m. Friday 4th January and ending at approx. 5.00 p.m. Sunday 6th January. The retreat will be held at the Mt Helena Theosophical Centre, Bunning Rd, Mt Helena. Accommodation is very comfortable and the retreat centre is set in a quiet semi-rural area.

Please bring a sleeping bag, torch and a firm sitting cushion for meditation. Meals will be vegetarian and the Eight Buddhist Precepts will be observed during the duration of the weekend. The cost of the retreat is $30 and covers the hire of the retreat centre and the cost of food.

The retreat will be lead by Ven. Ajahn Jagaro and is suitable for both beginners and those who have meditated before.

If you would like to join the retreat please ring the Buddhist Centre on 444 7013 for more information and registration.

VIPASSANA MEDITATION COURSE - A meditation course under the direction of Mr Greg Solomon and in the tradition of Sayagyi U Ba Khin will be held at the Meditation Centre, 78 Jacoby St, Mahogany Creek between 4th and 14th January, 1985. The cost of the course is $70. For more information please ring 299 6972 or write 77 Darlington Rd, Darlington, 6070, W.A.

RELIGIOUS CELEBRATIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR, 1985 (2528) - On New Years Eve (Monday 31st December) we will all meet at the Vihara at 7.30pm for meditation practice and Dhamma talks, followed at midnight by auspicious chanting to bring in the New Year. On Tuesday, 1st January those who would like to offer dana to the bhikkhus may gather at the Vihara at 9.00am. What better way to bring in the New Year!

THE INDIAN OCEAN FESTIVAL - NOV. 28TH TO DEC.9TH, 1984 - The Indian Ocean Festival will be held in Perth between the above dates. The Buddhist Soc. has been asked to participate by arranging a display entitled "Buddhism, A Way Of Life" in an exhibition in the foyer of the Perth Concert Hall. Maureen Roberts has kindly offered to be the co-ordinator for this exhibition and she will need help to man the stall especially during peak times. If you can help please ring her on 386 6666. Also there will be many
artists coming from the Buddhist countries of Burma, Sri Lanka and Thailand and the organisers of the Festival have asked that members of the Buddhist Soc. help by offering hospitality to the visiting artists in the form of taking them out to see Kings Park, the Serpentine Monastery etc. If you can help please contact Mrs Joyce Westrip on 322 5739. Thank you.

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Dear members and friends,

The ceremony of the 'End of the Rains Retreat' was a most joyous occasion for us all with well over 200 people attending. On this day $3,000 was collected and we would like to thank all supporters who gave so generously to the monastery. It seems appropriate to extend a special thank you to our Cambodian community who came out in force and were by far the largest and most organized group.

This visit to the monastery gave many an opportunity to see for themselves the tremendous progress that has been made in less than a year since your Society purchased this fine property. The development at Serpentine has been accomplished by many hands. With the coming of the dry season may I remind you all of the ever present fire danger in the monastery. The chance of fire can be less by each of us doing just two things. (1) Removing all burnable materials. There is a huge amount of wood on the property and we invite all to stock up on wood now for the cold season. (2) PLEASE DO NOT SMOKE CIGARETTES AT THE MONASTERY. Remember as Buddhists we should have an understanding of the laws of cause and effect.

Your Society just does not happen, somebody makes it happen. There is a committee of people who get together once a month to decide what goes on. This committee of people is made up of people without any special qualifications - just interested to see the Society running smoothly. The decisions made effect us all and your voice is welcomed at these meetings. At times we feel our ideas a bit stale and would welcome your fresh outlook. The meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month (the next one is Sunday 4th Nov.) at 4.00pm at the Vihara. Next year our most able Treasurer, Rosemary Roche will be having a break as she has worked very hard during the last 3 years so her position will become vacant in the new year. We also need more people to help on the social committee and in the new year on the executive committee.

Thank you all for your energy and support during 1984 and may you all abide in joy, contentment and peace.

... David Miller (President).
REGULAR ACTIVITIES
AT THE BUDDHIST CENTRE (VIHARA)
4 MAGNOLIA STREET
NORTH PERTH
Tel: 444 7013

FRIDAYS:  7.30 to 8.00pm  Guided sitting meditation
          8.00 to 9.00  A talk on some aspect of Buddhism
                        given to Ven. Ajahn Jagaro.

SATURDAYS: 12.30 to 2.00  Tai Chi for beginners (at Highgate
                     Primary School)
               3.00 to 3.45  Meditation for beginners, instruction
                            by Ven. Ajahn Jagaro with time for
                            questions and answers.
               4.00 to 5.30  Tai Chi for beginners (venue as above)
               7.30 to 8.30  Sitting meditation.

SUNDAYS:  7.30 to 8.30  Sitting meditation.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Sunday 25th November
We will be holding a family picnic on this day, meeting at the
children's playground at Hyde Park at 12.30 p.m. Delicious
home cooked Thai food will be served and cool drinks will be
available. Please bring all your friends and family - have a
fun time and help support the Buddhist Vihara. Please phone
Mrs Suparb Delaney on 367 7452 if you would like to attend.

Sunday 23rd December
We would like to invite all members, their families and friends
to come to our 'End of the Year' gathering on Sunday 23rd
December at the North Perth Migrant Centre, 66 Angove Street,
North Perth from 6.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Please bring along
your favourite national dish to share with others. Enter-
ment for all the family. All welcome, come along and meet
other members and friends. If you would like to attend and/or can
contribute a musical, dancing, cultural etc item please phone
David Miller on 459 3606 or Mrs Khanti de Tissera on 384 6896.
Thank you - see you there!
ABOUT THE BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Buddhist Society is administrated by a committee of ten Ordinary members elected annually in February. Committee meetings are held monthly, usually on the first Sunday of each month.

Membership: Associate membership is open to all interested persons, membership fees are due on the 1st January of each year.

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Membership application forms can be found in the hallway of the Buddhist Centre.

Newsletter: A newsletter is produced every two months and is posted to all members.

Activities: Dhamma talks, meditation courses, meditation retreats, pujas, Dhamma school for children, Tai Chi and Hatha Yoga classes.

Monthly social and fund-raising lunches or suppers. All members are encouraged to come along and meet the committee and other members and friends.

Finance: The Society runs three separate accounts.

1. **General Account**: Members subscriptions and donations in this account are used to meet the cost of the newsletter and other printing, electricity and telephone and other running expenses of the Society.
2. **Perth Meditation Building Fund**: Used to pay the mortgage and maintenance expenses of the Vihara at 4 Magnolia St. We have to meet monthly mortgage repayments of $330. Donations to this account are tax deductible. Members are encouraged to make a monthly pledge so that mortgage repayments can be met. All proceeds from the monthly social go into this a/c.
3. **Forest Monastery Building Fund**: Used solely for building and maintenance expenses at Serpentine Forest Monastery. Donations to this account are also tax deductible.

MAY YOU ALL BE HAPPY AND WELL.

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