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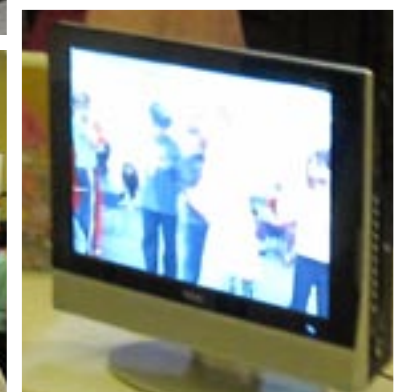
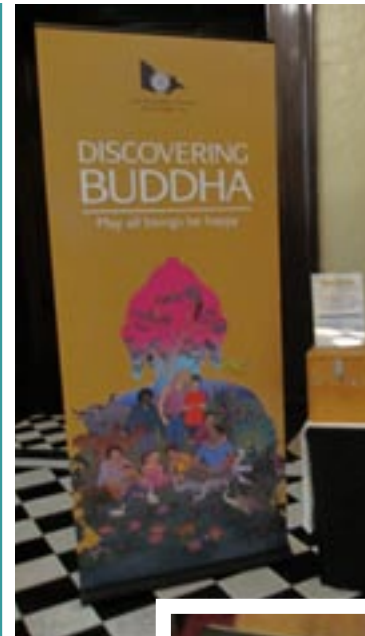
# Discovering Buddha flies its Banner

The Buddhist Education program would like to thank the Victorian Multicultural Commission for providing the program with two beautiful banners. There were three public occasions this year where the banners were displayed and the DVD of the program was played. The three occasions were:

- the Food Fair organised by the friends of the Buddhist Society of Victoria at the All Saints Church in Clayton,
- The *United Nations Vesak Day Celebrations* at Melbourne Town Hall and
- *It's Vegie Time Food Fair* at St. Kilda Town Hall.

The banners and the DVD definitely go a long way in helping to promote the education program.

*Peggy Page*  
Convener, Education Committee, BCV



*Vesak Day Celebrations,  
Melbourne Town Hall  
– Promotional DVD  
being shown on the  
display screen during  
the proceedings*

# Vesak Day Celebrations

At the Vesak Day celebrations at the Melbourne Town Hall, 4 students from Judith Macdonald's Year 3/4 class at Princes Hill P.S., Shirani Warnakulasuriya (teacher), Laila Najjar (teacher) and her son joined me on stage to meditate with the Sangha and perform the 'Loving Kindness Song'. It was a wonderful performance by the students who meditated beautifully. They had a great time!

*Helen Ponder  
Education Officer, BEVS Program*



*Backstage after the performance*



*Singing the Loving Kindness Song at the Melbourne Town Hall – Vesak Day Celebrations*



*Meditating on the stage at the Melbourne Town Hall - Vesak Day Celebrations*

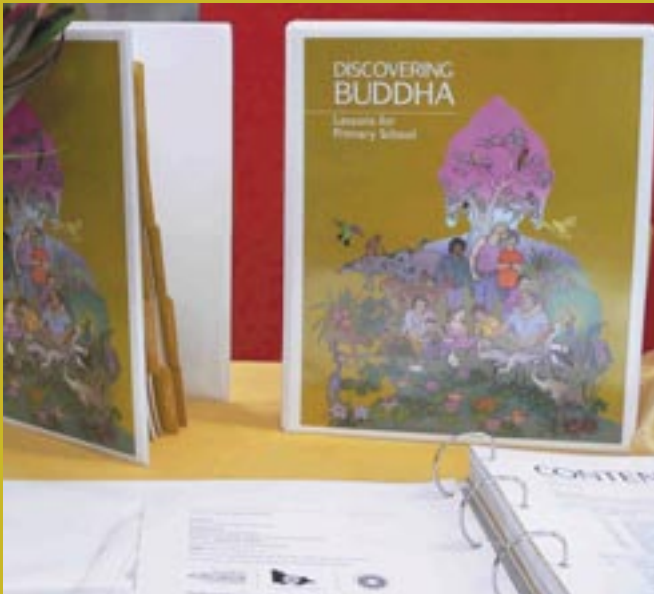
# Discovering Buddha In Schools

We thank Sue Smith, Serena Seah and Judith Macdonald for our wonderful curriculum. Thank you for your hard work and long hours to provide us with a document that has revitalised what we teach. It is not just for the content that we are appreciative, but for the individual approach it allows each teacher to take.

To own the document and make it work, teachers 'tweak' it to suit themselves and their students.

*Helen Ponder  
Education Officer, BEVS Program*

“The document has been extremely helpful for planning lessons. It is a lifesaver when I have had a busy week. When I had more time, I went through tips and strategies about telling stories and playing games. These were very helpful. I used lesson plans from the document for most of my lessons. I adjusted the length, content and activities to suit my class. I also used the meditation guides.”  
*Charin Naksook  
(Princes Hill P.S.)*



“As you can see, I LOVE Discovering Buddha! It is an invaluable resource and provides a fantastic framework for busy volunteer teachers to use and build on. I think the lesson plans are good – some need to be tweaked to work with my classes, but having the framework to build on is so helpful.”  
*Kerrin Hosking (Essex Heights P.S.)*



Gifts & donations made to the BCV Religious Instruction fund above \$2 are tax deductible. If you or your organization wish to make a donation, please make cheques/ money orders payable to: *BCV RI Fund* and mail to *BCV Buddhist Education in Primary Schools, PO Box 606, North Carlton Vic 3054*

## MORE INFORMATION



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## Discovering Buddha in NSW Schools



*Helen Ponder & Sue Smith at the Buddhist Council of NSW in Crows Nest, NSW*

The Buddhist Council of NSW invited Sue Smith and Helen Ponder from the Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools program to conduct a workshop on 'Discovering Buddha' for their teachers. Over a weekend in August they introduced 24 Buddhist Religious Instruction (R.I.) teachers in NSW to the teaching program and curriculum the BCV runs in Victoria.

## New volunteer teachers needed

The education program cannot exist without volunteer teachers. The "Gift of the Dharma" that teachers bring to the children cannot be measured. The committee of BCV and the education committee value the time and dedication that the teachers give to the education program.

We are always looking for new volunteer teachers to meet existing needs and ongoing demand. If you would like to volunteer you can email: [rednoph@hotmail.com](mailto:rednoph@hotmail.com) or call 0425 794 023. If you know

of someone who may be interested please pass this information on. The next round of training is in January 2010.

*Peggy Page  
Convener, Education Committee, BCV*

## A note from the Education Officer...

One of the best parts of my job is to visit the classrooms of our Volunteer Buddhist Teachers. I am privileged to see teachers own our new curriculum by preparing meditations and lessons that are appropriate for their students. Thank you to all teachers for having me as a visitor in their classrooms during the year.

New and creative lessons have been noted, and I intend to put them on our website for everyone to share.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteer teachers who have attended school each week to teach Buddhist RI.

We began 2009 with Buddhism being taught in 9 primary state schools in Victoria. There are now 12 schools that are able to offer Buddhism to their students.

Ven. Ashin Pandita began teaching at Clayton Nth P.S., Eileen Sellers and Shamana Kivinen are now teaching at Winters Flat P.S. near Castlemaine, and Claire Campisi began teaching at Gardenvale P.S. in East Brighton.

"It's special teaching Buddhist class." Thank you, Alice, for maintaining the program at Mentone P.S. and to Dee Jayawardene for teaching her students at Willmott Park P.S.

May we be able to help students find the Buddha within.

*Helen Ponder  
Education officer, BEVS*

## SPECIAL THANKS

To Carey Rohrlach of Caro Way for his expertise and assistance with layout, graphic design and printing of this Newsletter. More information: [www.caro.com.au](http://www.caro.com.au)

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