

# Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools

## Newsletter No. 5

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The Programme makes available Buddhist Religious Instruction  
to children in state primary schools.

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- \* We are multicultural
- \* We are family
- \* We are Victorian
- \* We are inclusive
- \* We are worldwide
- \* We are growing
- \* We are teaching hearts and minds
- \* Website: [www.bcvic.org.au](http://www.bcvic.org.au)

### We are multicultural

Our pool of teachers comprises dedicated people from Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, England, Australia, Hong Kong and China. Of course our classes in schools further the scope of multicultural inclusiveness.

Further to this members of our Program have visited and worked with many member organisations. We have joined Quang Minh Temple's annual New Year Pilgrimage to 12 Buddhist Centres, had a stall at the Tibetan Buddhist Society's Spring Festival, attended a fabulous Buddhist musical at the Athanaeum theatre sponsored by the BLIA, visited other Vietnamese temples, attended Vesak celebrations at the Sri Lankan Vihara in Berwick and conducted teacher training and meetings at Tara Institute and KEBI. Members have also appeared on Plenty Valley FM and Sri Lankan radio programs talking about Dhamma and the Education Program.

Again we thank all member organisations for their support and generosity.

*Please visit our website for details of the "Meritorious Service in the Community" award won by the Buddhist Council of Victoria at the Annual Victorian Multicultural Award Ceremony.*

### We are family

On Thursday December 8 our current teachers had their final meeting for the year at Lee Chan's home. It was a warm and supportive meeting, amid what has become a meeting of both friends and colleagues.

It was an opportunity to thank Lee and farewell her (we will all miss her) before she moves interstate.

The meeting was delighted to welcome Judith MacDonald and Program Convenor Dhammika Fernando. To the delight of the teachers Dhammika presented each with a book in thanks for their work from the Committee.

From all of the teachers: a big and heartfelt thankyou for all their unseen, devoted hours of service to keep the program going!

We are Victorian

Up until this year the Buddhist Education in Victorian Schools Program has been operating in Melbourne. Then, in late September, a week before our second round of teacher training, we received applications from five interested volunteers from Daylesford. When Training concluded at KEBI, Sue and Judith travelled to Daylesford to conclude training for the out-of-towners.

Daylesford Primary School has agreed to begin Buddhist classes in 2006.

PS. The Education Co-ordinator has just received expressions of interest from a further 8 people in Bendigo requesting teacher training.

We are inclusive

We invite you to join us in providing Buddhist education to the children of Victoria.

- You § train as a volunteer teacher
- could § assist at Teacher Training by volunteering to prepare materials
- § join the Committee (contribute to the sustainability of the programme)
- § make a tax deductible donation (see below for details)

We are worldwide

Our website [www.bcvic.org.au](http://www.bcvic.org.au) has been reinvigorated. Newsletters, updates and emails are now operational now that the web master vacancy has been filled. Jataka tales are also on the web. They have been retold by Sue Smith and have been chosen to fit with the values that are currently being taught in government schools.

We are growing

In 2005 we gained another two schools, six in all, and an additional four classes, eleven in all. We now teach over 155 students, and we know of a further 40 students who have not been able to be offered classes in their schools due to timetabling constraints. We also trained 20 new teachers, which puts us in good stead to maintain our current classes, provide teachers for a possible three new schools and have much needed back-up for teachers who are at times unable to attend their classes.

Teachers, you are amazing!

We are teaching hearts and minds

Some recent feedback from students

Buddhist R.I. is useful because:

It teaches you about meditation and enlightenment and it takes you to a whole new peaceful world.

I have a better understanding of life.

It makes you more enlightened and a better, calmer, peaceful, kind person. It also makes life happier for you and the people around you.

It teaches you to strengthen and focus your mind and it helps to become a much wiser person. It can also help achieve enlightenment, or help you find the end to all suffering. It's fun, relaxing and stress-free! J Keep it up!

It has really opened my mind to a better, brighter world.

Deductible Gift Recipient Status

We are pleased to announce that gifts and donations made to the BCV RI fund above \$2 are tax deductible. If you or your organisation wish to donate towards the programme's growth, please make cheques or money orders payable to

BCV RI Fund and mail to:

Buddhist Council of Victoria RI Programme, PO Box 6104, FOOTSCRAY WEST VIC 3012

### Our Website

Please visit our website at [www.bcvic.org.au](http://www.bcvic.org.au) for the following:

- \* Information on the programme
- \* Jataka Tales
- \* Application form for volunteer teachers
- \* Deductible Gift Donation forms

### For More Information:

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