

BLIAQ Newsletter

Buddha's Light International Association of Queensland, Australia

Upcoming Events

21st April -1:30pm

Briefing to Buddha's Birthday Festival volunteers

30th April – 3rd May

Buddha's Birthday Festival Bump-in (Southbank)

4th – 6th May

Buddha Birthday Festival (Southbank)

20th May – 25th June

English Buddhism and Meditation Class

22nd May 11am

Buddha Birthday Day Diamond Sutra recital

Paul's Tea Ceremonies- Each Sunday 10am – 4pm

Over a number of years, I have had the privilege of volunteering @ the Chung Tian Temple tea room. This lunar new year celebrations have been a very fulfilling event. Not only a time of community service but also a social event. Tea meditation enables one to not only purify the body but also purify the mind.

On my tea journey I have been greatly enriched not only in service but social friendship. Helping in making me a better person.

Fortunately, in volunteering @ the temple I have also been able to immerse in Chinese culture. In music, poetry, flower arranging & singing.

These are thoughts from my heart.

If you feel u need a time from the pressures of life. Please come to the tea room and I will be happy to make you a tea to help wash those worries away.



yours in service
Paul Banks

*Paul serves tea on a Sunday from 10am-4pm.



^ Paul is on the right serving tea



Many of the tea servers and guests



Book Stall at Cultural Day – Sunday 25th February

Thank you to the following people without whose help the stall would not have been as successful.

Maureen, Gary, Lauren, Kym, David and Karen. We decided to try something new, unknown, no expectations, and we were gifted so many books and magazines it was great. We decided to keep prices down to encourage more interest and I think it worked. The comments from the customers were pleasing and the heat aside, we enjoyed it. The volume of books sold was pleasing as they went to people who really love books, one customer who home schools her daughter bought 2 large bags of children's books. As I said it was a new idea and we were pleased in the end with the money made from the sales. It would definitely be worth having another stall next year. The left-over magazines I gave to the RSPCA, I have kept the books on Buddhism and Philosophy, and children's books for next time.

Lynette

Multi-Faith Ceremony – Monday 12th March

St John's Cathedral Brisbane
2018 Commonwealth Day Multi-Faith Service

The Abbess Chueh Shan and members of the BLIA joined with other faiths in celebrating Commonwealth Day. My first visit the St John's cathedral and I must admit I was truly impressed. Not only with the grandeur of the building but also of the welcome that was afforded everyone upon their entry into the cathedral.

The service started shortly after the arrival of Queensland's governor with a Hymn sung by the congregation. We were then welcomed by the Dean of Brisbane Dr Peter Catt who explained that the children of Pullenvale state school would be singing the first verse of the national anthem and we were to join them for the second verse. This was where I first heard the truly amazing acoustics of this very large cathedral.

The Children were a pure delight and I would have gladly stayed quiet if they could have sung the second verse on their own but a more wonderful experience was in the wings.

After the children had finished their wonderful rendition of our national anthem, there was a pause filled with quiet, and it seemed to me to go on for some time. Then from behind where I was sitting came the unmistakable sound of a didgeridoo. This is where the acoustics of this great church came into their own, a truly memorable event for me. Two young men, one on the didgeridoo and one playing a drum and a young lady singing walked down the centre aisle all the way to the altar singing and playing their instruments and then it just got better.

Joining them at the altar was a choir and dancers from the Aboriginal centre for Performing Arts. This performance was then completed after they had sung, My Island Home. All in attendance gave these very talented young Australian's a generous round of applause.

Venerable Shan gave a reflection on Buddhism that also shares the value of the commonwealth which are peace, democracy, and equality, and to share the commonwealth's rich diversity especially the young people.

There was also a performance by the Nadananjali School of dance which consisted of many young ladies dressed in saris and performing a pleasant Indian dance routine.

We also had the Blessing by Dr Phillip Aspinall the Archbishop of Brisbane and a student from Pine Rivers State High school reflected on her Aboriginality and growing up in today's society.

The service concluded and we all went to find Venerable Shan and had our photos taken with the Dean before heading for home. I feel very fortunate to have been able to attend such a wonderful service here in Brisbane.

Wu-wo Tea Ceremony – Sunday 18th March

Just a shared meditation and a Chinese cup of tea?

Chung Tian Temple's inaugural 'Wu-wo Tea Ceremony' was joyously experienced by numerous practitioners' on Sunday, 18th March, 2018. Venerable Miao Xin skilfully shared and demonstrated the principals of this ancient Taiwanese, tea ceremony. Peacefully and eagerly we listened to the historical significance of the Wu-wo ceremony and how participants will adopt and demonstrate, an awareness of sharing, compassion and equanimity between themselves and on-lookers.

Briefly, I will briefly outline the history, principals, procedure and etiquette of Wu-wo, so you can participate in Chun Tian's next tea ceremony.

Wu-wo's main teachings are understood by realisation that Wu-wo in Sanskrit means 'annatto', 'no self' a spiritual concept that participants are continually reminded of through the procedure and etiquette adopted by all participants and on-lookers. Firstly, participants starting the ceremony are encouraged to forget their knowledge, wealth and appearance to establish a group equality without any prejudice. Secondly, there is no special seating for V.I. P's, in Wu-wo all participants select a random number that allocates them to a position or seat. Thirdly, the seating is in a circular array and spiritually this has been constructed to reflect the colourful, concentric circles of a rainbow. Through meditative practices during the ceremony, participants are asked to reflect on the seven colours of the rainbow blending towards its centre and transcending into a pure, white light of 'No Self'.

Amazingly there is no leader in the traditional Wu-wo tea ceremony, public announcements are used to direct the tea ceremony so that participants develop harmony and flow in their group. Then the procedure of sharing the tea in one direction to other brewers sitting beside them in the circle, and in the second and third brewing's to on-lookers, helps participants be mindful of how this etiquette develops group harmony and annatto.

During the sharing of the tea, the participants of Chung Tian Temple, Wu-wo tea ceremony were instructed on how to position, hold the tea pot, cups and water thermos. Through this knowledge we practiced sharing our tea as a synchronised group. This small cup of tea seemed to me to be filled with universal love and gratitude not tea. I sipped in this compassionate love as I listened silently to the wise words of our Venerable. Compassionately she discussed the relevance of this ceremony to our everyday lives and how we could share this cup of love to others. As I transcended towards the white light at the centre of the rainbow, I realised the importance of developing an essence of No – self to enhance the harmony and peace of my life.

Many concepts of the Buddha's teachings were lovingly gifted to all participants of this first Wu-wo tea ceremony at Chung Tian Temple, through the loving guidance of our Venerable and the conditions provided by our Grand Master Ven. Hsing Yun's gift of developing an understanding of the Dharma through humanistic means. NOT, just a cup of Chinese tea!

With gratefulness, Cheryl .



^Full class



^Getting ready



^Venerable Miao Xin pouring tea

YAD Camp Gold Coast – 30th March – 1st April

This year, I have participated in the Young Adult Division's annual camp held in Gold Coast. The theme of this year's camp is based upon Openness and Consensus, which is about having like-mindedness along with acceptance of new people and ideas. Within the duration of the camp, three days and two nights, we have all built many unforgettable moments and understood many ideas about Buddhism.

The difference with the camp with the previous camp, is that this year is focussed more upon the education of Humanistic Buddhism. This highlight Venerable Miao Xin's in-depth analysis and explanation of the renowned Heart Sutra. I believe this is beneficial as we now have a better understanding of what we are chanting and reciting every morning. Moreover, Venerable Miao Xin provided this year's camp with an extremely rare opportunity of practicing some of the traditional Dharma instruments.

Kally, one of the teachers within the camp, taught us the idea of personality traits through group activities which involves categorizing us according to the different preferences. We learnt that every individual could have significant differences in our behaviors and the way we react to different situations. Additionally, we also had an educational lesson about effective communication skills which is also taught by Kally. Claudia, a well experienced educator talked us through the awareness to ourselves and the others. She has been my spiritual mentor that guide me through series of problems I had faced in life, and I'm sure many find her speech related.

Diana, the camp president, organized an educational session on cultural acceptance. We extended our knowledge to accept people with different barriers that exists. As part of the activity, we were to create an enjoyable parody of an example of cultural acceptance to further enhance our knowledge in an entertaining way. Our group play is called the Carrot Boy who features Jason, who is the carrot boy, and Jen, the egg shell girl. This play faces the ongoing problem of bullying individuals with poverty by people with economic advantages and how both can come together and ignore the differences of hierarchy and that everyone is equal in society.

Calligraphy with Linda, one of the camp coordinators, provides another chance of taking further development on the Heart Sutra. It was unbelievable how much patience and dedication everyone put into writing the sutra, despite the fact many participants do not understand Chinese. Meditation is also one of the most enjoyable activities as we all enjoy the peacefulness and calmness it delivers. The second and last night has been the most memorable. We reflected on what we are grateful for, and the first idea that crossed mind is our parents who gave birth to us and brought us up to what we are now. Ven. Master Hsing Yun, the founding master of Fo Guang Shan, created this place where we can meet and practice Humanistic Buddhism together. We truly thank him and everyone who participated in the growth of the many temples and centers worldwide, they are some of the

most important people in my life. Two nights and three days passes with a blink of an eye, we had received lots of joy from making new friends and most importantly learning new ideas of Buddhism.

YAD 2 – Sophie Xiong

2018 Term 2 - Meditation, Buddhist & Tai Chi Classes held at Chung Tian Temple

Basic Buddhist & Meditation Class

Level: Level 1
Day: Every Sunday
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Time: 9:00am - 10:00am (Meditation)
10:10am - 11:00am (Buddhist talk)
Cost: \$20 per term - Booking is required

Advanced Buddhist Study & Meditation Class

Level: Level 4 (Free for BLIAQ members)
Day: Every Sunday
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am (Meditation)
11:10am - 12:00pm (Buddhist talk)
Cost: \$20 per term – booking is required

Tai Chi Class

Day: Every Wednesday
Time: 9.30am – 11.00am
Where: Chung Tian Temple
Cost: Free donation

Tai Chi Class

Day: Every Saturday
Time: 9.00am – 10.30am
Where: Chung Tian Temple
Cost: Free donation

Tai Chi Class

Day: Every Sunday
Time: 8.30am – 10.00am
Where: Chung Tian Temple
Cost: Free donation

Intermediate Buddhist & Meditation Class

Level: Level 2
Day: Every Sunday
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am (Buddhist talk)
11:10am - 12:00pm (Meditation)
Cost: \$20 per term - Booking is required

Bodhi Class For Children

Ages: 3 - 12 years
Sunday: 10.00am - 11.00am
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Cost: \$20 per term
Every 2nd & 4th child from the same family will be free.
✘ Children are taught Buddhist morals and ethics in a nurturing environment. Lessons are backed by fun activities which include: simple meditation, children's tai chi, Buddhist stories and virtues, craft activities and team-building games.

Teenager's Buddhist Class

Ages: 13 - 19 years
Sunday: 10.00am - 11.00am
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Cost: \$20 per term
Every 2nd & 4th child from the same family will be free.

✘ The intermediate Dharma class builds on and expands the basic foundations of Buddhist learning, aiming for a practical approach and solutions to challenges issues faced by young people today.

Buddhist Book Study & Meditation Class

Level: Level 3
Day: Every Sunday
Date: 20 May to 24 June 2018
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am (Meditation)
11:10am - 12:00pm (Buddhist talk)
Cost: \$20 per term - Booking is required

✘ To book for the Buddhist classes, an application form must be completed and returned to the Chung Tian Temple's reception together with full payment at least a **week prior to** the course commence date.

✘ For all enquiry please contact **3841 3511** on Tuesday to Sunday, or email: ibag@chungtian.org.au or see www.chungtian.org.au

Thank you

FGS Chung Tian Temple/BLIAQ 2018 Activities

DATE	DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
4 April 2018	Wed	11:00am	Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva Dharma Service
7 April 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm	Monthly meeting of Branch Presidents + Buddha Birth Day Festival Preparatory Meeting
8 April 2018	Sun	9:00am	English Dharma Service
		9:00am-3:30pm	One Day Meditation Retreat
14 April 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
15 April 2018	Sun	9:00am	English Dharma Service
		10:00am-12pm	Volunteer Briefing
21 April 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm	Briefing to Buddha Birth Day Festival Volunteers
22 April 2018	Sun	9:00am	English Dharma Service
28 April 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
29 April 2018	Sun	9:00am	English Dharma Service
30 April-3 May 2018	Mon-Thur		Buddha Birth Day Festival Bump-in (Southbank)
4 – 6 May 2018	Fri-Sun	9:00am-9:00pm	Buddha Birth Day Festival (Southbank Parklands)
5 May 2018	Sat	11:00am	Baby Shower & Blessing Ceremony
12 May 2018	Sat	10:30am	Mother's Day Celebration
		12:00noon	BBDF Volunteers Fellowship gathering
19 May 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm	Monthly Meeting of Branch Presidents
26 May 2018	Sat	1:30pm-3:30pm	Chinese & Cantonese Buddhist Class Term 2 (6 weeks)
20 May – 24 June 2018	Sun	9:00am-12:00pm	English Buddhist Class Term 2 (6 weeks)
		10:00-11:00am	Children & Youth Buddhism Classes
22 May 2018	Tues	11:00am	Buddha Birth Day (Diamond Sutra)
26 May 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)