

BLIAQ Newsletter

Buddha's Birthday Festival Edition

Buddha's Light International Association of Queensland, Australia

Upcoming Events

2nd – 9th June 2018

Liang Huang
 Repentance Dharma
 Service for Chung Tian
 2nd Stage Construction

16th June - 1:30pm

Monthly Meeting of
 Branch Presidents

30th June – 3 July

Australia New Zealand
 Buddhist Youth
 Conference (ANZBYC
 2018 – Perth)

1st – 22nd July

Buddhism &
 Meditation Intensive
 Course

21st July 9:30am-12pm

Nan Tien Institute
 Great Compassion
 Repentance Service

27th – 29th July

Nan Tien Bridge
 Inauguration & 2018
 BLIA Oceania
 Fellowship Meeting



Page 1 – Lynette's report of first time volunteering

Page 2 - Ruth Gonzalez at the tea ceremony tent (also a first time volunteer)

Page 2 – Karen Murphy at the information booth and Lumbini Garden (2nd year volunteer)

Page 3 – Janey Saunders and the Lantern Offering

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Page 6-10 – Pictures of the BBDF taken by Pernilla

Lynette's Report

As a relatively new member of the Chung Tian Temple, on a beautiful day Sat. 5th May, I volunteered at the Buddha's Birthday Festival Southbank.

I found Buddhism very well accepted and interesting to the public. By the questions asked they are keen to learn more about the teachings. Also, the interest in Meditation and Lessons conducted by members of the BLIA brought a lot of people to Southbank.

Parents encouraged their children to do story time with Donna and her helpers, some even participating themselves. Most parents thanked Donna and remarked how beautiful the philosophy of the story was.

I think a lot of parents today are looking for a fresh new pathway for their children and see Buddhism as being able to provide that pathway.

The miles of food stalls, unbelievable!! What an atmosphere, everyone selling the food were so friendly. The stunning display of dancing and the skilful display of martial arts (what athleticism) got my attention.

I became emotional when the Venerable's did The Triple Gem Ceremony.

Although I am familiar with It, the atmosphere, the amount of people and size of the Piazza added to the emotion.

People remarked to me on their way home, what a lovely, happy day we had!

King Regards,

Lynette



Nuns performing a ceremony

Ruth Gonzalez at the Tea Ceremony Tent

The 2018 Buddha Birthday Festival created such a buzz of excitement for the attendees at South Bank recently. It was with great enjoyment that as a volunteer I was able to participate in creating a mindful and fulfilling experience during the Tea Ceremonies as a Tea Master over the three day festival.

Whether the participants chose to experience a Tea Ceremony or also learn how to conduct their own Tea ceremony themselves, each got to experience a relaxing moment during their visit.

By practicing a meditation prior to the ceremony, the participants were able to become more present and mindful in the duration of the Tea Ceremony.

Oolong Tea was the favourite of the day by all.

As a recent regular attendee at the Chung Tian Temple, it was a privilege to be asked by Venerable Miao Xin to take part in the 2018 Buddha Birthday Festival as a volunteer. The training and preparation for such an event was conducted with great detail.

This was my first year being behind the scenes, and watching the community come together to organise such an event, then seeing it unfold over the three days was a wonderful experience. I'll be looking forward to participating as a volunteer again in 2019.

Ruth Gonzalez.

Karen Murphy at the information booth and Lumbini Garden

Information Booth

It didn't take long for me to feel relaxed about working in the Information Booth this year. My first question was "Where is the Convention Centre?" and the second one was directions to a coffee shop.

I needn't have worried about answering difficult questions, because there was a great team of people to provide support, guidance and laughter.

I think the best part of the experience was not only meeting people from all walks of life, even a young girl from Wales, but developing relationships and finding out more about people I knew a little from the temple and others I only knew by sight.

Lumbini Garden

I then went to the Lumbini Garden where I never cease to be amazed by the warmth and kindness there, as parents and families interact. These are families who want their children to not only grow strong physically and emotionally, but they also seem to want their children to grow up with moral values, care and concern for others and mindfulness practice. I hope Buddhism provides a light on this path.

If you are uncertain about volunteering at events like this, or others at the temple, just take a leap of faith and know there are some very experienced, supportive and kind people to show you how things are done and to tactfully provide guidance. You will also have a lot of laughs, as well as deepening your understanding of the Dharma and of the community.

Karen Murphy

Janey Saunders and the Lantern Offering

Buddha Birth Day Festival: Lantern Offering.

It was the third and final day of the vibrant Buddha Birth Day Festival and Brisbane had delivered sunny brilliance for every minute of this important celebration of Buddhism. The Cultural Harmony Parade was about to commence and we had gathered in our groups along with hundreds of others. Every type of national costume was included in this dynamic ceremony, which represented harmonious unison of diverse cultures and beliefs.

As we waited for the parade to commence, the conversation turned to everyone's experiences at the Festival so far. Many of us had spent the weekend volunteering, enjoying the ceremonies, cultural activities, and of course, the amazing vegetarian food at this 22nd Buddha Birthday Festival at Southbank.

The Famous Lion Dance drums rang out and signalled the start of the Parade. Each group was preparing to make a different offering and our BLIAQ team was making the Lantern Offering. A symbol of benevolence and enlightenment, the offering of light extinguishes darkness just as wisdom dispels ignorance. In Buddha's time, lamps were lit as an offering to the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, as well as for people's convenience.

Joined by our collective dedication to respect, tolerance, and harmonious co-existence amongst sentient beings, we moved together along the Path of Wisdom towards the Southbank Piazza, where we made our offerings and committed to this ceremonious practice of expressing gratitude and respect to the Triple Gem.

Smiling faces greeted us all the way and bobbing overhead was the ever present 2000 Red Lanterns- synonymous with the Buddha Birthday Festival and symbolic of hope for the world.

Omitufo
Janey Saunders

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: ibaq@chungtian.org.au or see www.chungtian.org.au

Thank you

FGS Chung Tian Temple/BLIAQ 2018 Activities

DATE	DAY	TIME	DESCRIPTION
26 May 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
2 – 9 June 2018	Sat ~ Sat	9:00 am -4:00 pm	Liang Huang Repentance Dharma Service for Chung Tian 2 nd Stage Construction
14 June 2018	Thurs	11:00am – 12:00noon	Bright Light Dharma Service
16 June 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm	Monthly Meeting of Branch Presidents
23 June 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
30 June 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm-5:00pm	Meditation Retreat (in Mandarin)
30 June – 3 July	Sat – Tues		Australia New Zealand Buddhist Youth Conference (ANZBYC 2018 – Perth)
1 – 22 July 2018	Sun	10:00am-12:00n	Intensive Buddhism & Meditation Classes (4 Weeks)
7 July 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
14 July 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
		1:30pm	Monthly Meeting of Branch Presidents
21 July 2018	Sat	9:30am-12:00nn	Nan Tien Institute Great Compassion Repentance Service
27 - 29 June 2018	Sat - Sun		Nan Tien Bridge Inauguration & 2018 BLIA Oceania Fellowship Meeting
28 July 2018	Sat	10:30am	Buddhist Service (in Mandarin)
31 July 2018	Tues	11:00am	Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva Dharma Service









