



**SAKYADHITA AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday 24 May 2020
4pm – 5.30pm**

**Online: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/262210295>
Meeting ID: 262 210 295**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (President)
2. Guest speaker Ven Thubten Chokyi
3. Apologies (Secretary)
4. Review of actions from previous annual general meeting (President)
5. Acceptance of minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (President)
6. President's Report
7. Secretary's Report
8. Treasurer's Financial Reports
9. Questions to Office-Bearers & Committee
10. Acceptance of Financial Statement
11. Election of Office bearers and Committee members
12. Confirm or vary the amounts of the annual subscription and joining fee:
Currently membership is free for ordained sangha residing in Australia and for laypeople \$30 (\$20 concession) per annum.
13. Other Business
 - a. Sakyadhita Oz Priorities for 2020-2021 – all members
 - b. The Alliance for Buddhist Ethics – Jack Wicks
14. Meeting Close



SAKYADHITA AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th June, 2019,
11:45am – 12:45pm

Minutes

In Attendance: *Rani Hughes, Sharon Thrupp, Suzanne Franzway, Lydia Brown, Venerable Drolkar, Venerable Bodhichitta, Helen Richardson, Sirini KS, Meg Adam, Anna Hallafoff, Jo Murphy, Chikwang Sunim, Lynn Bain, Tara Tarall, Sonja Webb, Charmain Borg, Leona Kieran, Deb Dare, Chris Jones, Kien Dang, Khrystine Dalecki, Tracy Godkin, Jenni Chen, Dava Zangmo, Liz Gibbons, Anisha Dhungana, Jessica Tillon, Lien, Diana Cousens, Ven. Bon Hyon Sunim, Tracey Buxton, Carol Khan, Jack wicks, Maria Cameron, Kerry Wright, Marianne Wiseman, Karunadeepa Malati.*

Apologies: Judith McDonald, Mai Tran, Myly Nguyen, Tara Carnegie, Liv Conquest.

Chair: Suzanne Franzway

Minute-taker: Lydia Brown

1. Welcome and Introductions (President/Chair)

Suzanne welcomed everyone to the third AGM of Sakyadhita Australia.

2. Review of actions from previous annual general meeting (President/Chair)

There was one action item from last year's AGM to follow up on the necessary timing of AGMs. This was followed up by secretary Lydia Brown who inquired with consumer affairs. They confirmed that the AGM and paperwork needs to be submitted to them by June 30th of the following year.

No new issues were raised.

3. Acceptance of minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting (President/Chair)

Nominate: Meg Adam

Seconded: Helen Richardson

Unanimously accepted

4. President's Report

Please see appendix for a copy of the president's report.

5. Secretary's Report

Please see appendix for a copy of the secretary's report.

6. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Financial Reports.

The financial statement for January – December 2018 was presented by the treasurer Sharon Thrupp. We had a revenue of 9,632.35 and expenditure of 2,356.10. Leading to a surplus of 7,276.25. At the end of December 2018, we had \$9,642.38 in the bank. No liabilities.

7. Questions to Office-Bearers & Committee

Nil.

8. Acceptance of financial statement

Moved: Sharon Thrupp. Seconded: Sirini K.S.

Passed unanimously.

9. Election of Office bearers and Committee members.

Anna Hallafoff expressed her gratitude for the work of the current committee. All committee member positions were declared vacant. Suzanne invited members to step back into their resignations – Sharon Thrupp agreed to continue as treasurer.

The following nominated persons were elected unopposed:

Helen Richardson (President)

Moved: Suzanna Franzway

Seconded: Sharon Thrupp

Unanimously accepted

Helen made the point that she learned about Sakyadhita International from her teacher Ayya Khema in the 1980s. She is grateful that this work is continuing and growing.

Jo Murphy (Vice-President)

Moved: Sharon Thrupp

Seconded: Sonja

Unanimously accepted

Sirini (Secretary)

Moved: Sharon Thrupp

Seconded: Helen Richardson

Unanimously accepted

Sharon Thrupp (Treasurer)
Moved: Sharon Thrupp
Seconded: Suzanne Franzway
Unanimously accepted

General Committee Members:
Kien Dang
Moved: Sirina
Seconded: Helen Richardson
Unanimously accepted

Carol Kahn
Moved: Sharon Thrupp
Seconded: Suzanne Franzway
Unanimously accepted

Jack Wicks
Moved: Sirini
Seconded: Suzanne Franzway
Unanimously accepted

Rev Chikwang Sunim
Moved: Sirini
Seconded: Helen Richardson
Unanimously accepted

Anna Hallafoff
Moved: Sirini
Seconded: Sharon Thrupp
Unanimously accepted

10. Other Business.

One scholarship recipient wanted to express her gratitude for sponsorship from Sakyadhita Australia to attend the 16th Sakyadhita International conference.

One person from the floor raised the issues about visas to attend the 16th conference – and they were concerned that some international delegates struggled to secure a visa, and thus some were unable to attend the conference. The committee stated that issue would be put to the Sakyadhita International committee, given that Sakyadhita Australia were not responsible for this issue.

11. Meeting Closed.

Appendix:

President/Chair Report.

Greetings and welcome to AGM 2019.

Since our last AGM in May 2018, Sakyadhita Australia has been growing steadily so that at last count we had **102 members (both lay and monastics) from across the country. During that time, your Management Committee has been working to achieve our aims and objectives:**

- **To Create:** a network of communication and support for Buddhist nuns and lay women in Australia, regardless of cultural and language background.
- **To Function:** as a noticeboard to promote all Buddhist activity, with particular attention to female participation.
- **To Promote:** harmony and dialogue among the Buddhist traditions.
- **To Work:** for gender equity in Buddhist education, training, institutional structures, and ordination.
- **To Foster:** compassionate social action for the benefit of humanity.
- **To Promote:** awareness of the Sakyadhita conferences and to support attendance at the conferences.
- **To Act:** as advocates for the protection of the natural environment and the protection of the planet from global warming.
- **To Build:** relationships with faith traditions in the wider community.

You can find these on our website <https://www.sakyadhita.org/> where you will also find updates, reports and other news (with thanks to Lydia Brown and Ven Drolkar). You can also find about us on our popular Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Sakyadhita-Australia-Association-of-Buddhist-Women->For which I thank Helen Richardson in particular.

In addition we aim to add to our network of members and information in our quarterly Newsletter. I think one of the most interesting sections is the 'brief interview' with a Buddhist. These are based on 5 basic questions and give us all some insight into the wonderfully different paths we take as Buddhists. I draft and or edit material that is sent in, and Meg Adams finalises the formatting before it is sent out to all our members.

I want to encourage everyone to visit these sites, and also to please send/post any news or ideas or short articles which we are very happy to publish.

This last year we find that we have been very involved in contributing to this conference. Some of us have helped with assessing and editing as well as organising the papers and workshop sessions as well as contributing to other aspects of it. We have been pleased to invite Lynn Bain to our Committee meetings this year so that she could discuss updates and information about conference progress.

The Committee has put in a great deal of effort to raise funds to help support nuns and lay women to attend the Conference. We held a film evening in October last year which is becoming something of an annual event. These funds together with valuable donations allowed us to offer scholarships for support to participate in this conference. We did this for the first time for the 2017 conference, and this time following our call for applications, we have been able to grant funds to 5 nuns and 4 lay participants.

We have been keen to promote dialogue and gender equity for Buddhist women. Our main contribution this last year was our first webinar which we held in November 2018 and were especially pleased that Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo was able to be our first speaker. Jetsunma made precious time available to discuss and to answer questions from some of you who were able to connect to the live session (with thanks to Meg Adam). If you missed it or would like to watch again, you can see the recorded session on our website.

www.sakyadhita.org.

We are planning to hold more webinars in 2019 as it seems such a good way for us all to connect and hear (and see) insightful Buddhist speakers.

Our Current Committee:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Suzanne Franzway | (President) |
| Lydia Brown | (Secretary) |
| Sharon Thrupp | (Treasurer) |
| Meg Adam | (Webinars, Acting Secretary) |
| Sirini Kularatne-Samarapathi | (Acting Secretary, AGM support) |
| Ai Kien Dang | (Fund raiser) |
| Rani Hughes | (Web support) |
| Helen Richardson | (Facebook administrator) |
| Ven Drolkar | (Facebook/Web support/Scholarship Administration) |

We meet via Zoom each month. We have gradually clarified the roles and policies necessary for this new organisation. We discuss the formal agenda but in the process, we are also creating our understanding of issues faced by Australian women Buddhists, as well as building the Sakyadhita Australia branch.

We are very committed to making it possible for Australian 'daughters of the Buddha' to connect with other Buddhists across Australia and beyond.

For myself, I have been on the Committee for 3 years since our inception, with 2 years as president so I shall not be renominating for a Committee role as it's time to step aside. It has been a terrifically interesting and stimulating to be part of this Committee, even if Zoom can sometimes be a bit challenging. We do want to be a national organisation, so I am happy that we have had this technology to help us make links across the country. I hope we can continue with this model. I also hope that we can grow to be a virtual and sometimes physical space for engagement and discussion to grow our Sanghas of all our members and advocacy for social justice and the Dharma.

Overall, Sakyadhita Australia is on the path to becoming a flourishing organisation which can support (including material support) and encourage women Buddhists. As we know, we are yet to achieve real equality in all our diverse Buddhist communities. In the coming year/s, I am hoping that we can become a place for growth and discussion of issues and ideas that arise from the challenges facing us. This can include finding ways to engage across the country, perhaps with webinars, or seminars or online discussions, and my warmest wishes to everyone. May you be happy.

Secretary's Report: 2019

Sakyadhita Australia continues to grow. From January 2018 to December 2018, our membership nearly doubled from 55 lay members and 13 monastic members at the beginning of the year, to over 100 members at the end of 2018. Furthermore, our membership numbers continue to rise every month.

In Australia, there is enormous interest in Sakyadhita Australia – which aims to empower women in Buddhism. In addition to our membership base, we have also received support in the form of donations from members and organizations such as the Quang Minh Temple, and extensive in-kind donations of time and effort from our dedicated committee members.

This support has been put to very good use. For example we have been able to sponsor an impressive number of inspirational Buddhist nuns and laywomen to attend this Sakyadhita International conference. I think this will serve to strengthen our community of dynamic women interested in Buddhism here in Australia.

I would like to point out that secretary duties for Sakyadhita Australia were shared between myself and Meg Adam during 2018. Meg acted as secretary from June – December while I was working in The United States. While I was away, Meg not only kept up to date with secretary responsibilities but she also laid the foundations for our Webinar program – whereby we host online talks by leaders in Women in Buddhism to our community.

Our organisation is special in that it has a national presence. 2018 committee members represented three states (Queensland, South Australia, Victoria), and we successfully held committee meetings using Zoom to connect every month. It is my hope that Sakyadhita Australia continues to represent Buddhist women from across Australia, and I do hope that we can continue to welcome both committee and general members from all corners of our continent.

To all members of Sakyadhita Australia, thank-you for your ongoing support. With your help, our organisation will continue to blossom over the years ahead.