

Sakyadhita Newsletter Issue Number 4

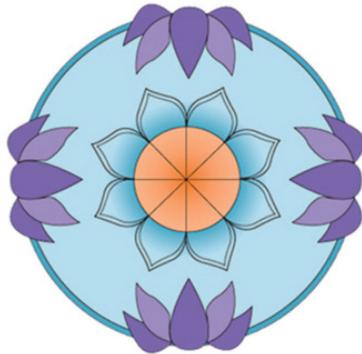
[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



Sakyadhita
AUSTRALIA

Sakyadhita Australia

Newsletter June 2018

Issue Number 4

A national organisation representing Buddhist women in Australia across all traditions

Editorial

[Greetings to all members and to all who are interested in connecting with other women Buddhists, especially in Australia.](#)

Greetings all. I am including my report to our AGM here as it sums up what Sakyadhita Australia has been doing since August 2017.

Unfortunately I was unable to participate in the AGM held in May as I was travelling in northern Australia (so I wasn't suffering!). I know it was a great success and we are including a report on it as well as some photos for those who also had to miss it.

Greetings and welcome to the 2018 AGM.

And my heartfelt apologies for my absence from this important day.

It is less than 12 months since our last AGM but nevertheless we can say that Sakyadhita Australia is making fine progress.

First, the new Executive met straight after the last event with other members who were interested in the next International conference. We had an excellent discussion based on our various experiences at previous conferences, including Hong Kong 2017, and with feedback from some who had worked on that conference



- Editorial
- Report on the AGM 2018
- 16th Sakyadhita International Conference 2019
- Pilgrimage to Japan
- Sanghas around Australia
- A Brief Interview with an Australian Nun
- How to Join



from some who had worked on that conference. We agreed that small groups would investigate possible venues and report back, which was done, both in Victoria and in Queensland.

The International Conference Committee asked for our suggestions on this as well as on possible conference themes and sub-themes. By November, we were able to send the Committee our recommendations for both venue and themes. We also wrote a formal invitation to Sakyadhita International to hold the conference in Australia.

As you will have already seen, the Conference will be held in June 2019, in the Blue Mountains. The format has been changed a little with fewer academic papers to allow space for more workshops and poster sessions over a shorter time frame. There will be opportunity to talk about the Conference today. If you would like to give a paper or poster, or lead a workshop, the submission deadline is September 1, 2018.

At the same time, the Executive redrafted our brochure, and printed 500 copies to be distributed to members and Buddhist centres around the country. We were also able to send out many via email. My thanks to everyone involved in the production of this great brochure. Please take more with you- and feel free to share as many as you can to potential members of Sakyadhita.

We were likewise able to finalize Issue Number 3 of the Newsletter. It is mainly distributed via email. We aim to have at least 3, if not 4 newsletters a year, so I do encourage you to send any news, reports of events, reviews of books or films, or even short articles to us and we will be happy to publish!

The Facebook page is another more immediate source of news and events which the Executive is supporting so have a look, and a like or 2 if you are not already a follower!

The Executive is almost national (and sometimes international) with members from 4 states now. We meet once a month via Skype and in the homes of the Melbourne members. It is a bit of a trick being a virtual Chair but this is a wonderful group of women who practise wise motivation and wise effort very skilfully. Lydia Brown deserves special thanks for her great work as Secretary.

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



AGM 2018

This year's AGM was held at the Quang Minh Temple in Melbourne. The day began with a bang – the sound of Vietnamese drums and bells, as a procession of nuns arrived for the Opening Ceremony. This was presided over by the Ven. Phuoc Tan who told an inspiring mother's day story about his own mother and her time organising underground ordinations during the Vietnamese War.

Next was Meditation led by Ven Lozang Drolkar offering loving thoughts to those near and far. Then lunch: the Quang Minh temple had prepared a wonderful vegetarian buffet for us.

After lunch came the AGM. Reports were read and the 2018/2019 Committee was voted in: – Suzanne Franzway (Chair), Meg Adam (Vice Chair), Sharon Thrupp (Treasurer), Lydia Brown (Secretary); Sirini Kularatne-Samarapathi, Rani Hughes, Helen Richardson, Ven Lozang Drolkar, and Kien Dang (see above photo). Participants also engaged in a lively discussion about the next International conference.

"We try to find happiness by means that take our happiness away" - the words of our first guest speaker the Sri Lankan nun Ven. Bodhicitta, who spoke about managing emotions in our daily life. Before her ordination she had been a medical scientist – now she combines western science with the Buddha's teachings. Our second speaker, Dr Anna Halafoff from Deakin University gave a fascinating talk about the history of women in Buddhism in Australia. We heard about the early pioneers such Sr Dhammadina, Natasha Jackson and Marie Byles as well as more recent women leaders.

We would like to thank all those at the Quang Minh Temple for their generosity hosting this event and all their assistance beforehand and during the day with special thanks to MP Nguyen.



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. All suggestions for topics and means are welcome.

My thanks to Rani for acting as Chair today, and my warmest wishes to everyone.
May you be happy.

Suzanne Franzway
President

PS Don't forget to update your membership, which runs for the calendar year. We include a form at the end of this newsletter.
Plus you can also join Sakyadhita International at <http://www.sakyadhita.org/>

The 16th Sakyadhita International Conference, 2019 *New Horizons in Buddhism: Women Rising to the Challenges*

23-28 June Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia.

Conference organisers are calling for proposals for papers, posters and workshops, for more information email paper@sakyadhita2019.org.au, workshop@sakyadhita2019.org.au and poster@sakyadhita2019.org.au respectively.

Further information regarding registration will be available once the Conference website is finalised, however for general inquiries email info@sakyadhita2019.org.au

[Click here for more details](#)



AGM Guest Speaker Dr Anna Halafoff.



The Meditation session lead by Venerable Drolkar at the AGM.



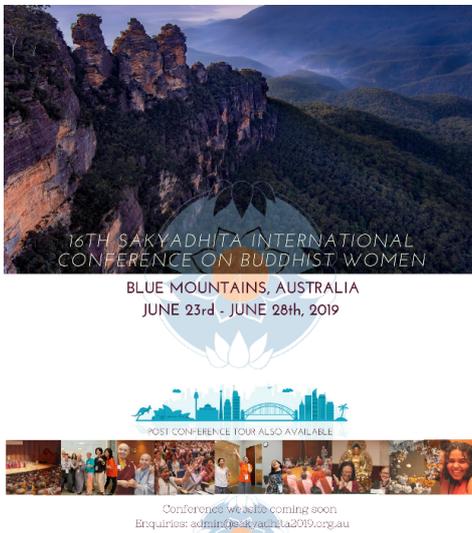
AGM Guest Speaker Venerable Bodhicitta.

Pilgrimage to Japan

12-22 October 2018

For a true Pilgrimage experience, join Sakyadhita Committee member and Ekno Travels founder Sharon Thrupp and Buddhist monk Venerable Kartson (from Chenrezig Institute, Queensland) on this once in a life time tour which will include walking the ancient trail of Kumano Kodo, a temple stay at Mt Koya and visits to the culturally significant cities of Nara and Kyoto.

The group will depart from Brisbane for Osaka before heading to Nara (the first permanent capital of Japan), full of historic treasures including some of Japan's oldest and largest temples. Next is Mt Koya which is home to an active monastic centre founded twelve centuries ago as well as being the headquarters of the Shingon Buddhist sect. There is also a women's pilgrimage circuit which you may wish to



Other News

SANGHA AROUND AUSTRALIA

Australia has many Sanghas, both large and small, some are well-established with long histories and their own permanent buildings, while others meet in someone's home or a community space. While some are accessible though the net, others depend on informal networks.

One of the aims of Sakyadhita Australia is to support communication and communities of women Buddhists, so we will use this newsletter to share information about the wonderful range of Sanghas.

This issue: South Australia.

The list below includes a short selection of centres and groups practising in South Australia, mostly in Adelaide. Some are based in ethnic Asian communities while others have been established with local or Asian teachers.

In addition, meditation groups meet through short courses, such as those supported by Sophia, an ecumenical feminist spirituality centre, <http://www.sophia.org.au/>, through community organisations or by individual therapists.

Adelaide Shambhala Meditation Group

<https://adelaide.shambhala.info/>

Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara

<http://asbvihara.org.au/>

Adelaide Zen Group

<https://www.azg.org.au/index.php>

pilgrimage circuit which you may wish to complete during your stay.

Next we travel to Kyoto, with its fine shrines and temples, followed by walking the ancient pilgrimage trail of Kumano Kodo at the most stunning time of year with the autumn leaves in full colour.

Our walk is very flexible with several shortcut options. Without the short-cuts we will walk 54km over four days. There will be two guides supporting the group so you will not be alone, whichever option you choose. The walk can be strenuous at times, but you will have the luxury of only carrying a day-pack each day.

<http://eknotravels.com/tours/pilgrimage-to-japan/>

Contact Sharon: tour@eknotravels.com.au or call 0437967819



A Brief Interview with an Australian Nun

We plan to present occasional interviews with Australian women Buddhists as part of our effort to support and grow our communities.

Here is the first interview:-

Originally from the United States, Bhikshuni Venerable Yönten came to Australia in 2002 and became a nun in 2003 (when she was 21), and received gelongma/bhikshuni ordination in 2011. Ven. Yönten is a registered teacher with FPMT, is connected to the Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre, Katoomba, and leads courses and retreats in Australia and overseas.

1. What experiences brought you to Buddhism?

As a child, hearing that the His Holiness the Dalai Lama lost his whole country but didn't give in to anger, as well as hearing that he never killed, even mosquitoes- I was inspired to be like him. As a teenager seeing first-hand the slow and angry "progress" of politics I was interested in led me to engage more deeply with the dharma to try and understand where dualistic

Buddha House

<http://buddhahouse.org/>

Coast and City sangha

<http://coastandcitysangha.weebly.com/>

De Tong Ling retreat centre

<http://detongling.org/>

Lifeflow meditation centre

<http://lifeflow.com.au/>

Mindful Path Sangha

<https://mindfulpathsangha.weebly.com/>

Pháp Hoa Temple

<https://buddhistsocietysa.org.au/locations/phap-hoa-temple/>

The Buddhist Society of South Australia

<https://buddhistsocietysa.org.au/>

The Tibetan Buddhist Institute

<http://tibetanbuddhistinstitute.org/>



News of Members - Venerable Drolkar Overseas

Recently Sakyadhita Committee member Venerable Drolkar made two overseas trips, one to the USA and one to Indonesia. In the USA Venerable Drolkar attended monastic training at Sravasti Abbey in Spokane, Washington. The snow filled landscape made for a beautiful environment for the intensive three-week course, where 49 nuns from around the world worked together under the guidance of Taiwanese Master Bhikshuni Wu-Yin. Only two nuns from Australia were able to attend the training.

Not long after returning home Venerable Drolkar left to participate in a one-month teaching/speaking tour in Indonesia. The focus of her talks was applying mindfulness in everyday life. What impressed Venerable Drolkar most was the concept of 'Buddhayana', practised at many Indonesian Buddhist temples which involves practices and teachings from all three Buddhist traditions occurring at the one temple!



thinking came from and how to end it in myself and facilitate that in others as well.

2. What do you think are the most fundamental aspects of Buddhism? (or: In your own words, what lies at the heart of Buddhism?)

Compassion: Seeing the suffering of myself and others and being moved to find out why and end it. Wisdom: Looking into the lack of inherent existence of everything in order to unlock the self-created chains of samsara.

3. Do you have a favourite teaching or story of the Buddha?

Two! The Buddhas previous life offering his body to the starving tigress, and Kisa Gotomi and the mustard seed.

4. What is your favourite Buddhist book or movie?

Kundun [based on the life of the Dalai Lama].

5. What do you think is the biggest (or most exciting) issue facing contemporary Australian Buddhist nuns?

Education. Access to it, support for engaging with it, responsibility for steeping ourselves in it and integrating it.



News of Members - The Jade Buddha

A giant Buddha carved from a single piece of jade has taken pride of place inside the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in central Victoria. The Jade Buddha, which took five years to make then spent many years travelling around the world. The Buddha recently arrived in Bendigo after visiting 135 cities across 21 countries drawing an estimated audience of 11 million people on a fundraising and awareness tour.

The Jade Buddha was consecrated at The Great Stupa at Atisha Centre Bendigo on Friday May 18th 2018. Venerable Lozang Drolkar and Meg Adam attended both the consecration ceremony and the festivities of the Illumin8 Festival over the following weekend.



The Australian Sangha Association AGM Report - by Venerable Drolkar

The 2018 ASA AGM held near Perth, Western Australia was a great success with thirty-five monastics and a number of lay people from around Australia attending.

Ven. BomHyon Sunim (pictured) spoke about chaplaincy in the Australian Defence Forces. The AGM highlighted the new statement on "Eliminating Violence and Discrimination: With a Special Emphasis on Women and Children". To view the Statement go to www.australiansangha.org/policy-papers

The ASA Constitution requires gender representation on its committees. This year five nuns were elected to the Committee, and two are on the Executive Committee.

The day after the AGM Venerable Pasada (pictured right) from Dhammasara Nuns Monastery facilitated a nuns' Vinaya training day which was well attended by twenty nuns (from all three traditions) and five monks. There was a great deal of lively discussion about various aspects of the Vinaya.

Our Website and Facebook Page

We have both a website and a FaceBook page and we encourage everyone to keep an eye on them so that we can build our connections with women Buddhists. And do let us know if you want to add or post your news and ideas.

<https://www.sakyadhita.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Sakyadhita-Australia-Association-of-Buddhist-Women-1473063829641443/>



Photo: 2018-2019 ASA Committee members
Front row from the left – Ven. Thich Quang Ba (Vice Chair); Ven. Ajahn Brahm (Treasurer); Ven. Hasapanna (Chair); Ven. Drolkar (Secretary).
Back row from the left – Ven. Ven Wattedgama Dhammasa; Ven. BomHyon Sunim; Ven. Bodhidhaja; Ven. Sujato; Ven. Dongnyi; Ven. Chokyi. Ven. Hōjun Futen is absent.



We invite you to become a member of Sakyadhita Australia. Either complete the

membership form online at our website <https://www.sakyadhita.org/>

or fill out the form as below.

Annual membership costs - \$30; \$20 concession; free for ordained Sangha.

Name

Name

Email

Phone

Address

Send to Sakyadhita Australia, PO Box 1003, Daylesford. 3460

Bank Details: Sakyadhita Australia

BSB 633 000

Account number: 157734898

Contact Details: sakyadhitaoz@gmail.com

Facebook page: facebook.com/Sakyadhita-Australia-Association-of-Buddhist-Women

sakyadhitaoz.org



Copyright © 2018 Sakyadhita Australia, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

sakyadhitaoz@gmail.com - PO Box 1003, Daylesford, Victoria, 3460

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Sakyadhita Australia · PO Box 1003 · Daylesford, VIC 3460 · Australia

MailChimp

