

BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND INC. (IA29696)



*An Umbrella Organization Representing Buddhists and
Buddhist Groups And Institutions In Queensland* ABN 69 825 774 318

-- Affiliated Member of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils Inc. --
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MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2008

TIME: 9:30am

VENUE: Karuna Hospice Services – 27 Cartwright St, Windsor

ATTENDANCE: Kim and Maeve Hollow, Chee Weng, David Wee, Jenny Le Neveu, Rachel Hannam & Jim Ferguson.

QUORUM: Yes **APOLOGIES:** Donna Imeri

CHAIRPERSON: Jim Ferguson

SECRETARY: Rachel Hannam

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the March 29, 2008 meeting were confirmed

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

Jim distributed the draft of a document he is preparing on the history of Buddhist Councils for comment – and invites suggestions before mounting on our website.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

IN-

- a. Kim attended the 2020 local forum preceding the Canberra Summit that he said seemed to deliberately avoid any consideration of religion, so he contributed nothing;
- b. Griffith University Multi-faith Centre's mailing of seminars etc and a survey;
- c. Qld Health's Mental Health seeking input on a survey;
- d. UN – Vesak Observance Day – May 19 – Kim mentioned that the Buddhist Federation of Australia (with former BCVic's Rachel Waas) was the only Buddhist Group mentioned in the document;
- e. Audited Accounts from Noel Box & confirmation of willingness to do 2007/08;
- f. Nomination form for Qld. Seniors;
- g. Optus telephone a/c;
- h. A list of those delegates attending the Cambodian Multi-Faith meeting – 3 Muslim, 1 Buddhist and the remaining delegates of the Christian Faith Groups – a clear imbalance in representation
- i. A request from Griffith University's MFC seeking a speaker to discuss Buddhist during August.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

OUT-

none

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Rachel has agreed to deliver the talk to GU-MFC in August.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

3. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current bank balance of the bank a/c is \$633.18 after payments of \$18.00 to Optus and deposits of \$60.00 in memberships. Cash is \$50 petty cash plus recent membership renewals totalling \$45.00 received now together with a \$10 donation. Payments outstanding are the PO Box renewal for \$75.00 and the AGM mail-out of \$42.50 to Kim which had been pre-approved. Box renewal was approved for payment.

Moved by Kim Hollow

Seconded by David Wee

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Audited Accounts were received and the net result was better this year than last, though balances are still very restricting. Balances still need lifting.

Moved y Kim Hollow

Seconded by Jenny Le Neveu

Accepted

4. BUSINESS ON NOTICE:

a. F.A.B.C. ACTIVITIES – INCLUDING THE A.G.M. AND JAPAN TRIP

Jim tabled his "Personal Statement" he passed to the FABC that expressed his concerns about the present processes either applied, or not being applied, to FABC business. He said this was a gradual accumulation of concern spanning more than the past year rising to the point where he now held a personal conscience issue with the prevailing situation. This referred to how decisions were being made without proper discussion and inclusion of all state members before decisions were taken rather than after.

The catalyst behind this statement was the selection process for the last seat for the Japan trip in November, where the successful candidate was determined before any other process took place. Jim has chosen to resign his representation to the FABC.

Kim reported on the FABC AGM and the BCNSW Vesak event. He stated that the AGM was both ill-conceived and executed, without any time to objectively discuss the matters applicable to an AGM. Brian Ashen was the only nomination for President and was re-elected; Kim was the only nomination for Vice-President and re-elected unopposed. No other nominations for other positions were received and these positions are currently unfilled. Laura may become Treasurer. Kim also supported Jim's criticisms and endorsed his sentiments. He added that he had earlier been approached by Brian to fill the available seat for Japan but had declined. He added there are no present financial members of the FABC and no audited books of account were tabled, suggesting that the AGM was not successful and should be dismissed as not having satisfied the statutory requirements..

Kim concluded that he feels the FABC under the present structure is not effective and could well fail. Kim added that Jim was thanked for his production of the newsletter and that some members had expressed their preference that he not resign from the FABC. It was also noted that the present email-system used by the FABC was not entirely successful. He also

expressed his concerns about the future succession of FABC membership as it presently stands.

The matter was put to open discussion with Jim stressing that the BCQ committee is deemed to represent some 46,000 Buddhists in this state and he would prefer to respond as a representative rather than as an individual.

It was suggested that the consolidation of the FABC registration and the majority of executive positions all being concentrated in Victoria is not necessarily desirable unless there is a clear and positive benefit for Vic. registration of the FABC. It was also supported that inter-state rivalry, if such exists, should be eliminated in favour of fair and proportional representation for all Australian states and their Buddhist-followers.

Further discussion reminded us all that we exist here solely to represent our state's activities and we could still function simply within Qld., the only loss from not being a part of the FABC might be some national / international presence and some (indeterminate) funding. The meeting considered resigning from the FABC, or passing a vote of no-confidence in the FABC, or seeking an Extraordinary General Meeting of the FABC to spill the present executive, however if this option was pursued, it would be implicit that a new team was available to takeover should such action lead to a change in representation etc..

After a thorough examination of the options available, it was resolved that the BCQ acknowledges the present disturbing issues affecting the FABC but shall continue as members of the FABC to monitor, and work to overcome, those issues before the next AGM of the FABC is held, whenever that may be, with Jim and Kim continuing as the BCQ representatives of the FABC.

Moved by Maeve Hollow

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted

Jim also introduced the letter sent by the FABC to the Prime Minister Mr Rudd as part of the Multi-Faith stand against cluster-bombs and other humanitarian matters.

b. FUND-RAISING STRATEGIES

Jim mentioned he had spoken with the office of Kate Jones, his local Member for Ashgrove in the State Parliament and he was expecting a response to his earlier letter soon.

Jenny also said she has written to her local member, and Kim also.

Jim mentioned that he had not had time to complete the submission for the Q150's April grant deadline, but is now aiming for the June round and will circulate the submission prior.

It was generally discussed that everybody is collating items for the garage sale on the 31st and Rachel needs people to deliver the items Friday and to price beforehand, plus lots of tables, hanging and airing racks, and some hands-on Friday afternoon to set up. Kim will be bringing a trailer and should arrive around 6pm. A float will also be needed. Rachel will place the ad for the day.

c. BCQ REPRESENTATIONS TO QLD. GOVERNMENT

Jim confirmed sending the BCQ response to the RI Handbook review which has been delivered. He mentioned that he has also accepted a place on the REAC-governed accreditation panel for school chaplain training/employment agencies.

Jim has also just been appointed to the Qld Multi-Faith Health Care Council for the Health Minister, replacing Ven. Yeshe Khadro as the Buddhist representative and the other Buddhist representative on that Council is Kay Powell for Karuna Hospice Services.

d. BLUE CARD RENEWALS

Jim received the application renewals for Kim and Chee

e. A.G.M. AND NOTICES

Jim asked if anyone standing again for the BCQ executive is a financial member – either through a centre or individually and this was confirmed. It was noted that Donna Imeri has advised that she will not be available for any positions due to travel commitments this year and Rachel does not wish to continue as Secretary.

Moved by Jim Ferguson

Seconded by Chee Weng

Accepted.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Maeve & Kim attended Chung Tian and saw their new temple
- Kim & Maeve also went to the Dhammagiri Forest Hermitage at Kholo and met the resident monk – they are receptive to also offer their site for a future BCQ meeting;
- Jim also extended an expression of appreciation for the efforts of the outgoing committee for their efforts during the past year.

MEETING CLOSED: At 10:50 am

NEXT MEETING:

Rachel Hannam's home during the garage sale on May 31.

Signed by President: _____ Secretary: _____ Date: __/__/08