



Buddhist Council of NSW
Connecting the Buddhist Community



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Buddhist Council of NSW
www.buddhistcouncil.org



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Chair's Report



Chair's Report 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

It is my privilege to present the Chair's Report for 2025, reflecting on a year of significant, meaningful engagement, and strengthened community impact for the Buddhist Council of NSW (BCNSW).

Throughout the year, the BCNSW has remained committed to its core purpose of supporting member organisations, promoting Buddhist teachings, and advancing multicultural and interfaith harmony across New South Wales. This commitment is also reflected in our core Chaplaincy and Special Religious Education (SRE) programs, which continue to serve the community effectively through the dedication of our volunteers. The breadth of our activities in 2025 stands as a clear reflection of our growing role in advocacy, community building, and social cohesion.

Community Engagement and Cultural Celebration

A major highlight of the year was the inaugural Family Fun Day, held in February 2025 at Roselea Community Centre. This full-day public event brought together our member organisations to showcase the rich cultural diversity within the Buddhist community. Featuring food and information stalls, a children's activity corner, and representation from Sri Lankan, Korean, Lao, Vietnamese, and Chinese traditions, the event demonstrated the vibrancy and inclusiveness of Buddhism in NSW.

The success of the event was evident in the strong attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants, member organisations, and the broader public. We are also grateful for the recognition and support of Parramatta Council, which has subsequently awarded funding for the continuation of this initiative in 2026.

Vesak at NSW Parliament

In May 2025, we marked the second annual Vesak celebration at NSW Parliament, kindly hosted by Mr Steve Kamper MP together with Mr Mark Coure MP. This important occasion continues to provide a platform for recognising the significance of Buddhist traditions within the broader community.

This year's program highlighted the diversity of Buddhist practices, with the Buddha bathing in the Theravada tradition, Buddhist songs from the Korean Jongbopsa Choir and chanting by all three Buddhist traditions. The event's continued success reflects its growing importance as both a cultural and advocacy platform.

Interfaith Engagement

A key milestone in 2025 was the successful delivery of our first Iftar dinner during Ramadan, held in partnership with the Affinity Intercultural Foundation and Nan Tien Temple in Parramatta. This initiative represented the realisation of our aspiration to deepen interfaith collaboration and mutual understanding.

The event brought together a wide range of faith and community leaders and included a tour of the Nan Tien Temple in Parramatta. It was a meaningful occasion that fostered dialogue, respect, and shared values between communities, reinforcing the BCNSW's commitment to interfaith harmony.

Strategic Partnerships and Community Fundraising

During the year, the BCNSW established a new partnership with UNICEF Australia, further strengthening our community engagement initiatives. In November, we were pleased to accept an invitation from the Lao Buddhist Society of NSW Inc. to visit their temple in Edensor Park together with UNICEF Australia's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tony Stuart, and Senior Partnership Manager, Ms Zulnika Whitnall. This collaboration reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting both local communities and broader humanitarian efforts, while reinforcing the important role of our member organisations.

In the same month, the BCNSW also organised a community BBQ fundraising event, which successfully raised funds while fostering strong community participation. This initiative provided an opportunity for members and volunteers to come together in a hands-on way—rolling up their sleeves to contribute, connect, and support the BCNSW's activities. It was both a practical and meaningful demonstration of community spirit and engagement.

Chair's Report 2025

National Collaboration – FABC

The BCNSW also continued its active involvement with the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils (FABC). Over the past two years, I have worked closely with fellow directors to rebuild and strengthen national membership.

I am pleased to report that all key milestones established in 2024 have been achieved, particularly in growing membership presence in South Australia and Queensland. In 2025, we are now seeing the outcomes of this work come to fruition, with increased engagement and a more cohesive national Buddhist network.

Advocacy and Core Programs

The BCNSW's activities throughout the year represent a strong and consistent effort in advocacy – promoting Buddhist values, multicultural inclusion, and interfaith dialogue within broader Australian society.

This commitment is further reflected in our core activities, particularly the Chaplaincy and Special Religious Education (SRE) programs, which remain central to our service to the community. These programs continue to operate effectively and are sustained through the dedication and generosity of our volunteers, whose ongoing commitment ensures their continued success and impact.

Volunteer Recognition

In recognition of this invaluable contribution, the BCNSW hosted its first Volunteer Appreciation Lunch in December 2025. Held in Newtown, this gathering provided an opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank our volunteers for their service, with a shared vegan meal reflecting our values of compassion and community.

Looking Ahead

The achievements of 2025 provide a strong foundation for the future. As we move into 2026, the BCNSW will continue to expand its programs, strengthen partnerships, and build on its role as a leading voice for Buddhist communities in New South Wales and beyond.

Acknowledgements

I extend my sincere appreciation to all member organisations, volunteers, partners, and supporters for their ongoing commitment and collaboration. I also thank my fellow Board members for their leadership and dedication throughout the year.

With Metta,
Erica Hendrawan
Chair
Buddhist Council of NSW



About Us



About Us

The Buddhist Council of NSW is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation set up to help Buddhist temples and societies in New South Wales and to present a Buddhist voice to mainstream society.

WHO WE ARE

We are a peak body for Buddhist organisations in NSW and to the ACT, and a member of the national peak body, the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils.

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES ARE

01.

Supporting Buddhist organisations

02.

Making Buddhism available to the wider community

03.

Offering chaplaincy in Prisons and Hospitals, Buddhist education in schools.

04.

Working with government and interfaith groups

05.

Providing a Buddhist voice on important issues.



OUR VISION

We seek to achieve our vision through supporting a flourishing Buddhist community that:

- Has strong and sustainable Buddhist organisations.
- Has productive relationships between Buddhist organisations, with other faiths, with government and other social organisations.
- Contributes to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and society through putting the Dharma into practice.

Our vision is of a world where the Dharma the teachings and practices of the Buddha -are part of everyday life and contribute to the wellbeing of all.

We work with and for the Buddhist community and others who share our vision to achieve this.



Member Highlights

Member Highlights

Members of the Buddhist Council include places of worship, retreat centres, educational institutions, and professional organisations. We have three levels of membership according to the size of the organisation.

We welcomed two new members in 2025

Tergar Australia - Main objective is to advance the religion of Buddhism and to advance education in meditation, practice of Buddhism, and the meditation community.

Western Sydney Campbelltown Tibetan Community Group – Teach Buddhism and Tibetan Language to Tibetan Children. We share the life of Buddha and teachings of Buddha with children.



Metta Centre Celebrates 10 Years of Community Building



Wisdom & Empowerment 2025 – Buddhist Dharma Talk and Blessing Ceremony



Vesak in Parliament 2025

Member Highlights

Metta Centre Celebrates 10 Years of Community Building

Metta Centre marked its 10th anniversary with a remarkable series of events that brought together monastics and lay practitioners from across Australia and around the world in Nov 2025.



A key highlight was the two-day Metta Convention, featuring international and local speakers representing all major Buddhist traditions. The celebrations also included a Pindapata through the streets of Harris Park, participation in Bhante Sujato's talk in Crows Nest, and support for around 20 visiting monastics through Dana offerings and teaching opportunities coordinated with Buddhist groups across Sydney.

The anniversary culminated in the Metta Festival at Burwood Park, where monastics from diverse traditions joined in a shared pindapata procession and multilingual chanting ceremony. The event brought together the wider community for cultural performances, meditation, fellowship, and sharing.

Representing the Buddhist Council of NSW, Sourina Simmalavong delivered a speech and performance at the festival. Together with Sherene Tan, she also volunteered in support of the anniversary celebrations.

The Buddhist Council of NSW congratulates Metta Centre on this significant milestone and acknowledges its outstanding contribution to fostering harmony, friendship, and collaboration among Australia's diverse Buddhist communities. We encourage readers to explore the anniversary videos and Boundless, the commemorative publication celebrating the Centre's first decade of service. Here is the link: <https://www.mettacentre.com/10-year-anniversary>

Member Highlights

Wisdom & Empowerment 2025 – Buddhist Dharma Talk and Blessing Ceremony

On 24 August 2025, Sydney Town Hall hosted Wisdom & Empowerment 2025, a special gathering that brought together Buddhist teachers and practitioners from diverse traditions in a shared celebration of wisdom, compassion and peace.



The event featured teachings and blessings from respected Buddhist leaders representing the Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna traditions, highlighting the unity and diversity of the Buddhist community. Participants were invited to reflect on the universal values of loving-kindness, compassion, empathetic joy and equanimity, while joining in prayers for peace and harmony in the world.

The ceremony formed part of the 12th Australia Kagyu Monlam and provided a valuable opportunity for Buddhists and the wider community to come together in friendship, dialogue and spiritual practice. The Buddhist Council of NSW was pleased to support and promote this significant inter-tradition event, which exemplified cooperation and mutual respect among Buddhist communities across New South Wales.

Wonderful collaboration by member organisations Kadri Bodhi Monastery with Metta Centre and contributions from SuttaCentral, Prajna Monastery Australia, Shaolin Temple Australia brings together wisdom holders from the Vajrayāna, Theravāda, and Mahāyāna traditions and welcomes people of all backgrounds to receive Buddhist teachings and blessings.



Member Highlights

Vesak in Parliament 2025

In May 2025, we held our second annual Vesak in Parliament celebration at the New South Wales Parliament, bringing together over 100 participants including parliamentarians, members of the Buddhist community, and representatives of diverse faith traditions.



The event was jointly co-hosted by the Minister for Multiculturalism, Steve Kamper, and the Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism, Mark Coure, and the BCNSW. It was attended by the Leader of the Opposition and a range of Members of Parliament, reflecting strong bipartisan support for the Buddhist community in New South Wales.

Vesak, the most significant day in the Buddhist calendar, commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. The celebration featured a traditional bathing of the baby Buddha ceremony, accompanied by chanting from Theravāda, Mahāyāna and Vajrayāna traditions, symbolising unity within diversity. The program also included addresses from dignitaries and a devotional musical performance.

The event provided an important opportunity for reflection on the contribution of the Buddhist community to social cohesion and multicultural harmony in NSW, and continues to grow as a significant annual observance within Parliament.





Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy

In 2025, the Buddhist Council provided subsidies for one full-time and 1.6 sessional chaplains in hospitals, and one full-time and 1.5 sessional chaplains in correctional centres.

Through these services, we supported 13 chaplains in hospitals and 7 chaplains in correctional centres. The shortfall in the correctional chaplains was mainly due to the turnover of chaplains, and we are currently in the process of recruiting new chaplains.

Prison chaplains

Name	Centre
Anna Carmody	Long Bay
Ada Lee	Long Bay, Dillwynia
Daniel Troyak (FT)	Long Bay, Mid North Coast
Sofan Chan	Cessnock CC, Shortland
Mary-Anne O'Sullivan	South Coast CC
Brenton Hamblin	Geoffrey Pearce CC
Peir Woon	June CC

A new recruit, Peir Woon, completed her training at June Correctional Centre at the end of 2025 and is now fully integrated into the chaplaincy team and the broader correctional centre operations.



In addition to providing individual support to inmates within these centres, chaplains are also able to offer distance support to inmates at other correctional centres through AVL (Internal CSNSW Audio Visual Link), a secure communication system established during the COVID period.

This has been particularly helpful in maintaining continuity of care and support when inmates are transferred between locations, ensuring ongoing pastoral and spiritual support across the correctional network.

Chaplaincy services continue to evolve in innovative ways to support the wellbeing of inmates. At Long Bay Correctional Centre, our chaplains Anna and Dan have introduced a new program called Mind Unwind.

This four-week program has been specially designed for elderly inmates and those requiring additional support. The program provides a calm and supportive environment that encourages relaxation, emotional wellbeing, and positive engagement among participants.

Chaplaincy

Hospital chaplains

Name	Location
Barbara Burke	Royal North Shore
Vivienne McLaren Fettell	Milton
Nicola Le Couteur	Macquarie, Cumberland
Dane Milanta	Royal Prince Alfred, Professor Marie Bashir Centre
Anthony Mills	Goulburn
Trish Nguyen	Royal Prince Alfred
Minh Phan	Bankstown, Liverpool
Glenn Sloan	Hornsby
Rev. Heather Topp	Canterbury
Rev. Shigenobu Watanabe (FT)	Royal North Shore, Westmead
Debbie Whitney	Prince of Wales
Lisa Fung	Westmead
Carol Booth	Wauchope



Chaplaincy

Daniel Troyak, in addition to serving as a full-time chaplain, has also been the Chaplaincy Program Manager since June 2024. In this role, he has been responsible for overseeing and developing the chaplaincy program, updating operations manuals, ensuring chaplains are well supported in their work and in providing care to inmates, staff, and the broader community.

Daniel's chaplaincy work is based at the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, where he continues to contribute to the growth and support of chaplaincy services. He is also working collaboratively with local area health services to support the development and strengthening of Buddhist chaplaincy across the Mid North Coast, helping to improve access to spiritual and pastoral care within healthcare settings.

Supervision

Nic Aunger and Rachael Haggett have served as the professional supervisors for our hospital and prison chaplains. They conduct both individual and group supervision sessions, providing guidance, care, and professional support to chaplains as needed in their important work.

Education and training

Dr Carol Booth has been conducting virtual peer group meetings for chaplains. These meetings are held quarterly and have been running successfully, providing an important space for reflection, sharing, and mutual support among chaplains.

Looking ahead, there are plans to hold another full-day Chaplaincy Conference in 2027, similar to the one conducted in 2024. This will continue to strengthen professional development and connection across the chaplaincy network.

In addition, a three-day Prison Chaplaincy Conference organised by NSW Corrective Services was held in September 2025. The majority of our prison chaplains, along with several prospective chaplains, attended this important conference, which was well received and contributed significantly to learning and collaboration within the sector.

Chaplaincy

Resources

We continued to publish Mind Brakes, a quarterly newsletter for prison inmates, which provides reflection, guidance, and encouragement. In addition, we have made a wide range of Buddhist materials available, including online resources for those in correctional facilities, to support ongoing learning and spiritual practice.

The Buddhist Library has also kindly extended free membership and access to its resources for all chaplains, enabling them to further enrich their work and better support those in their care.

Civil Chaplaincy Advisory Committee

Gawaine Powell Davies continued to serve as the Buddhist Council representative on the Civil Chaplaincy Advisory Committee, which oversees government-funded hospital and correctional services chaplaincy. He has indicated his intention to resign in 2026.

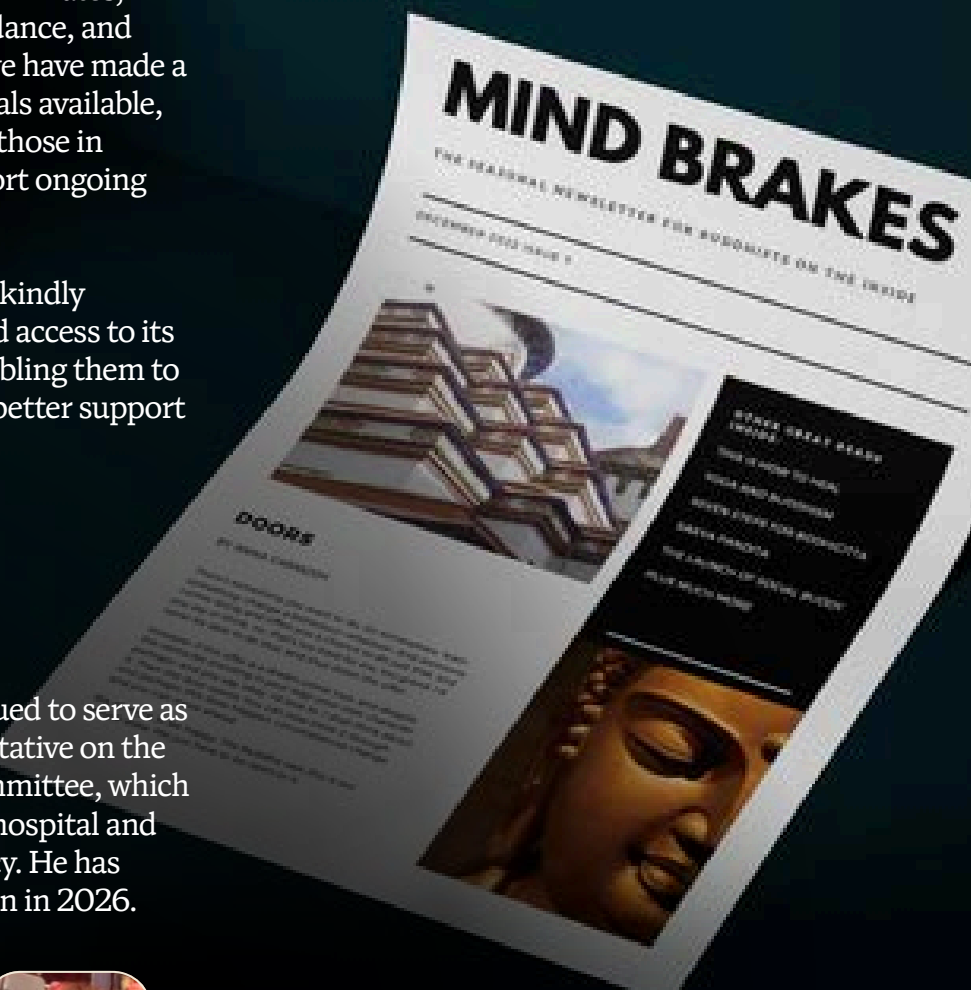


Gawaine Powell Davies



Rev. Heather Topp

In preparation for this transition, the Board has appointed Board Member Rev. Heather Topp as the new Buddhist Council representative.



Chaplaincy

Recognising Debbie Whitney's Contribution

The Buddhist Council of NSW is proud to recognise and honour Debbie Whitney for her outstanding service, dedication, and compassionate contribution to Buddhist chaplaincy.

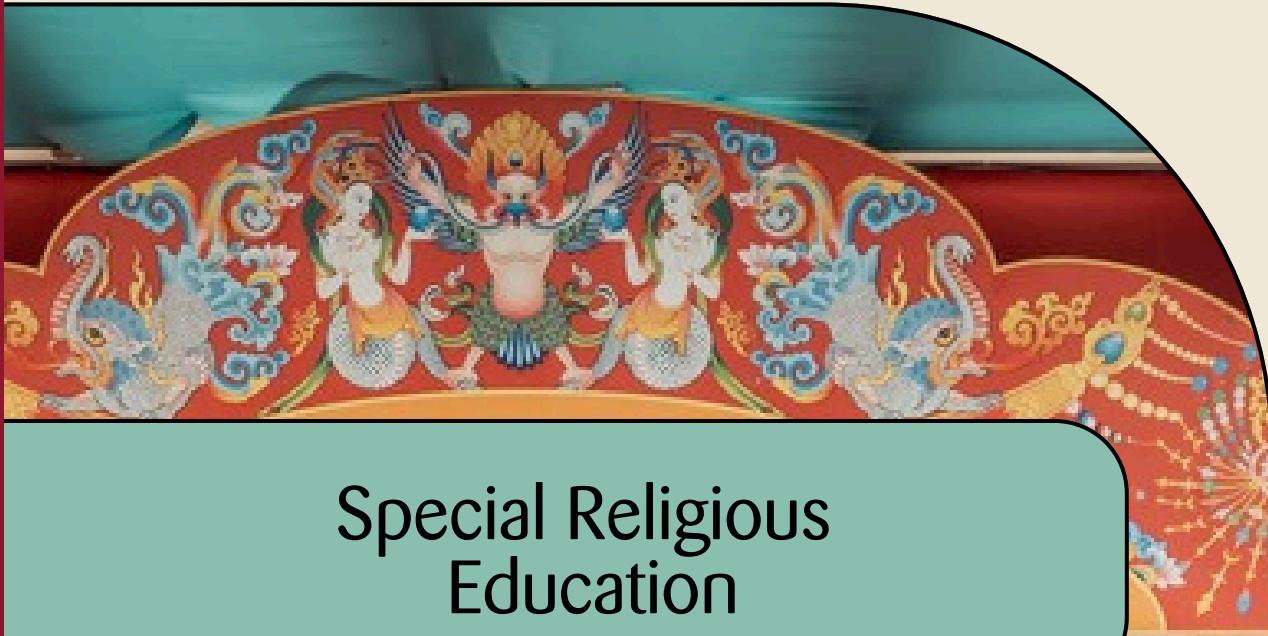


Debbie's Buddhist journey began in 2004 and has evolved into a lifelong commitment to the Dharma through study, retreats, meditation practice, and community service. Since joining the Buddhist Council's Chaplaincy Program in 2018, she has served as a Hospital Chaplain at the Prince of Wales Hospital campus in Randwick, providing spiritual care and support to patients, families, and staff. More recently, she has focused her chaplaincy work within the Cardiology Unit, accompanying people through illness, uncertainty, grief, and loss with kindness and compassion.

Drawing upon Buddhist principles of compassion, impermanence, and non-attachment, Debbie has brought comfort and reassurance to countless individuals while respectfully supporting people of all faiths and backgrounds. Beyond her chaplaincy role, she has contributed to Buddhist education, meditation instruction, retreats, and staff wellbeing programs.

Throughout her years of service, Debbie has generously volunteered her time and consistently donated her chaplaincy subsidy back to the Buddhist Council of NSW, reflecting her selfless commitment to the welfare of others and the advancement of Buddhist chaplaincy.

Debbie's service exemplifies the very best of Buddhist values in action. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for her remarkable contribution and honour her continuing service as an inspiration to us all.



Special Religious Education



Special religious education

The Buddhist Council's SRE program continued to grow and strengthen in 2025 through teacher training, support, and engagement with schools and member organisations.

Teacher Training and Development

Teacher training commenced in January with an online introductory session attended by eight new and prospective teachers. In February, a full-day training workshop was held at Manjushri Buddhist Centre and online, attracting 15 participants. The training covered three key modules and was led by Lead Teacher John Barclay, supported by Ann MacArthur. Six new or prospective teachers attended, with four subsequently appointed to schools



The Buddhist Council extends its appreciation to Manjushri Buddhist Centre for generously hosting the training and providing refreshments and lunch, and to John Barclay for donating his time and travel costs.

Additional professional development was provided throughout the year, including a workshop at Barom Kagyu Temple focused on teaching Buddhism to children. Participants explored the foundations of the Buddhist Council's Values and Life Skills syllabus and shared practical teaching strategies, classroom resources, and lesson ideas.



Teacher Authorisation and School Support

The annual teacher authorisation and recommitment process was successfully completed, ensuring the continuation of SRE classes across NSW schools. Significant effort was devoted to supporting teachers and schools as they adapted to updated Department of Education procedures and revised school timetables. The Council also worked to address teacher vacancies and maintain SRE delivery where possible



Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement

The Council continued to meet Department of Education requirements through its annual teacher self-reflection survey. Feedback from teachers informed targeted professional development initiatives, including workshops on classroom management, curriculum delivery, and planning for high school SRE. Teachers consistently highlighted the value of networking and sharing ideas with colleagues, which remains a priority for future training programs.

Supporting Member Organisations

The Buddhist Council continued to support member temples and organisations. Assistance was provided to Vien Giac Temple's fundraising efforts for the printing of bilingual Vietnamese-English teaching resources. Vidarshana Buddhist Vihara was granted access to the Council's online SRE Resource Portal, which contains teaching materials organised by syllabus strand and stage. This valuable resource supports both SRE teachers and Buddhist community educators.

At the end of 2025, the Council farewelled Ann MacArthur after seven years of dedicated service as SRE Program Manager. We thank Ann for her significant contribution to Buddhist education in NSW and wish her well for the future. We are pleased to welcome Nhan Phan, who joined the Council as SRE Program Manager in February 2026.

The Council remains committed to providing high-quality Buddhist education in schools and supporting teachers and member organisations in sharing Buddhist values and teachings with young people across New South Wales.



Working with government, interfaith and other groups



Working with government, interfaith and other groups

Our motto is 'connecting the Buddhist community' : internally, across different Buddhist groups and externally, with government, community and other faith groups.

Internally, Board members and Buddhist Council ambassadors attend as many member events as we can. This includes New Year and Vesak celebrations, and also specific occasions such as the anniversary of the Dalai Lama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and visits by important teachers. The events that we organised - particularly the Family Fun Day, the iftar dinner and celebration of Vesak in Parliament - were also opportunities to bring the community together. Where possible we include people from other faith groups, government and community.

Our inaugural iftar dinner, organised with the Nan Tien Temple Parramatta and Affinity Intercultural Foundation, brought 100 people from together at the Parramatta Nan Tien temple.



Vesak in Parliament was a good opportunity to introduce Members of Parliament to Buddhism. We also attended celebrations within other faith groups: Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Christian and Baha'i.

At government level we have two members of the NSW Faith Affairs Council: Gawaine Powell Davies and Rev. Heather Topp. This year, the Council has been particular focused on issues of social cohesion, while also responding to issues relating to education, health care, religious discrimination, hate speech and other issues of concern to the community and commenting on proposals for law reform. We are also active on the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee, which manages government funded chaplaincy in hospitals and prisons.

We were part of an interfaith group that worked with the Commonwealth government to revise the MORLA rules about visas for monastics and religious leaders. The new rules take much better account of the needs of Buddhist communities, which had previously faced significant difficulties in bringing leaders in from overseas. We continue to support the NSW government's work on reducing child abuse through religious organisations, and contributed to a Federal government education program for faith and community leaders on their role in responding to domestic and family violence.

Working with government, interfaith and other groups



We also engage with community organisations and networks that share our values, such as the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, Democracy in Colour, Religions for Peace and the International which advocates for the charitable and ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons).

We were very pleased to form a **relationship with UNICEF**, and introduce them to a Buddhist community through the Lao Bodhi Tree celebrations.



We look forward to strengthening these connections in future years, and increasing the contribution that Buddhism makes to all Australians.



Other events



Other events

Family Fun Day

On 9 February 2025, the Buddhist Council of NSW hosted a successful Family Fun Day at Roselea Community Centre, Beecroft, bringing together Buddhist families and community members from diverse cultural backgrounds for a day of fun, friendship and connection.



The event featured multicultural food stalls, cultural performances, games, craft activities, workshops and family-friendly entertainment, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for people of all ages. Member organisations and volunteers contributed enthusiastically to the day, helping to showcase the richness and diversity of the Buddhist community in New South Wales.

The Family Fun Day provided an opportunity for families to connect, strengthen community bonds and celebrate shared values of kindness, generosity and harmony.

The Buddhist Council of NSW gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the City of Parramatta Council and commitment to assist in future events of this nature.



Other events

Community Sausage Sizzle – Bunnings Bonnyrigg 2025

In November 2025, the Buddhist Council of NSW partnered with Bunnings Bonnyrigg to host its first community sausage sizzle fundraising event. Bunnings generously provided the venue and facilities, while the Council and volunteers supplied ingredients and managed all preparation and service.

700 sausages
 *300 drinks*

The event was a great success, with approximately 700 sausage sandwiches and 300 drinks sold. It provided a wonderful opportunity for teamwork and community engagement, with volunteers contributing across all areas including planning, cooking, serving, sales, and clean-up.



We sincerely thank all volunteers and supporters who made the event possible. Special appreciation is extended to member organisations Wat Phrayortkeo (Lao Buddhist Society) and Wat Buddha Mounkhoune (Lao Community Advancement) for their strong on-the-ground and financial support.

We warmly acknowledge everyone involved for their enthusiasm and commitment in making this inaugural BBQ fundraiser a successful community initiative.

Other events

Year-End Volunteer Appreciation Lunch 2025

In December 2025, we hosted a Year-End Appreciation Lunch to acknowledge and thank its volunteers, staff, SRE teachers, and Directors for their dedicated service throughout the year.



The gathering was warmly attended, with a strong turnout reflecting the commitment and engagement of those who contribute to the Council's work across education, community programs, and interfaith initiatives. The event provided an opportunity for the organisation to come together in a spirit of gratitude, reflection, and shared connection.



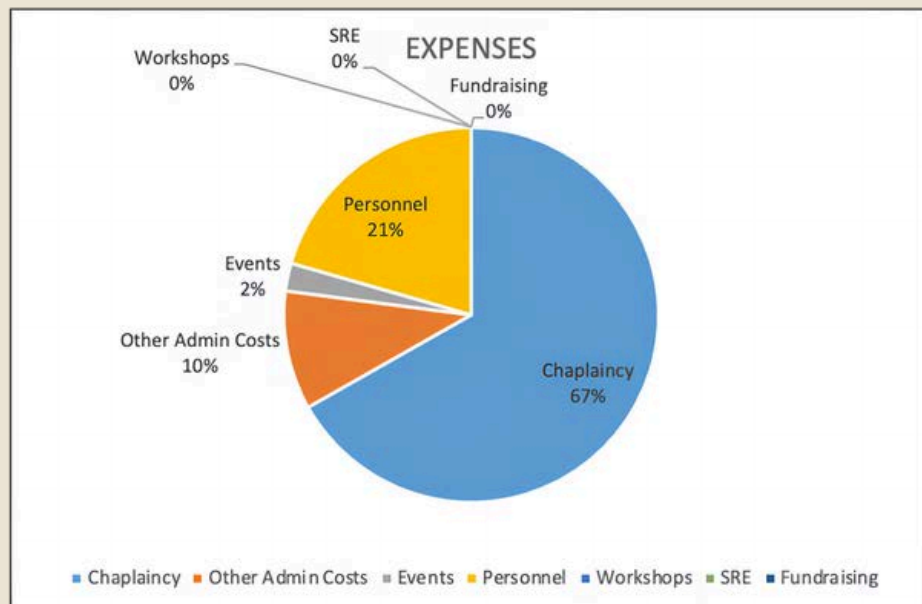
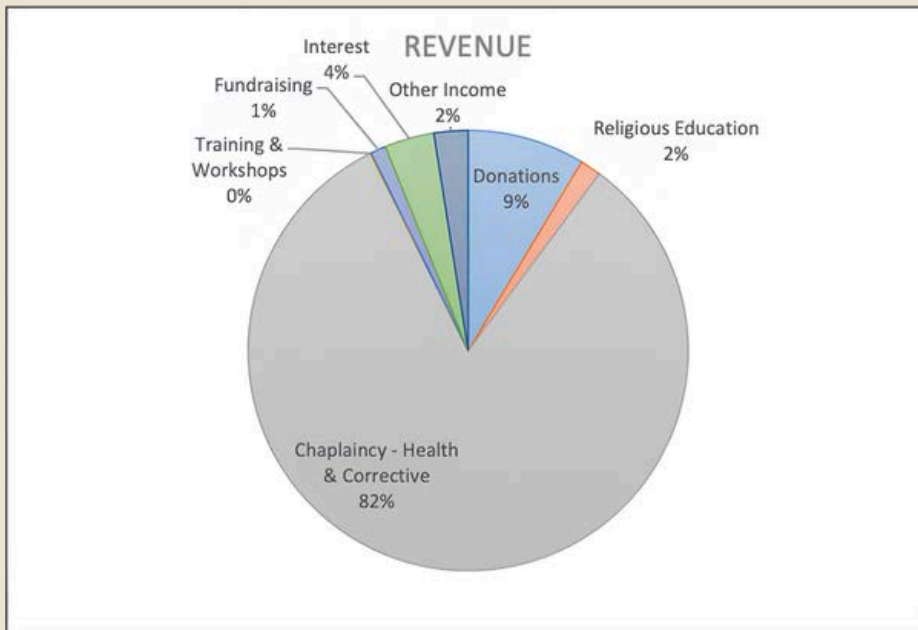
We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have supported its activities throughout 2025. The Council recognises that its work would not be possible without the generosity, time, and compassion of its wider community of volunteers and partners.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Summary

Five Year Financial Summary of the Buddhist Council

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Income	484,604	458,956	527,642	424,757	354,260
Expenses	464,836	448,472	483,938	338,018	315,913
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	19,768	10,484	43,704	86,739	38,347
Increase/(Decrease) in Members' Funds	19,768	10,484	43,704	86,739	38,347
Total Members' Funds	317,492	297,724	287,240	243,535	156,796



Donations



Donations (Individuals)

Ada Lee
Anna Carmody
Brenton Hamblin
Sofan Chan
Anthony Mills
Carol Booth
Debbie Whitney
Heather Topp
Lisa Fung
Melanie Lewis
Minh Phan
Nicola Le Courtier

Trish Ngyuen
Andrew Fraser & Amy Wang
Anh Phuong Nguyen Le
Anna Crossley
Ben Lu
Chris Mifsud
Christine Thanh Tran
Ven Vimokkha
Erica Hendrawan
Gregor Bertalanic
Hao Thong
Hassib Bou Said
Haw Chi Low

Iлона Pochwyt
Jonathan Page
Jose Carlos Garza Montemayor
Justin Luu
Kasun Kalhara
Kien Cao-Xuan
KienEng Chan
Kin Chan
Lachlan James Balley
Matthew Rayner
Michelle Phommachanh
Rithipolmoly Khun

Sam Naidu
Sherene Tan
Simran Prasad
Sisomar Srey & Family
Suek Fong Ng
Sunil Amaratunga
Thi Anh Huynh
Van Le Tran
Venerable Inbovalivanh Soumpholphakdy
Wei-Loi Chong
Yim Lee
Yun Liao
Zdenek Himr

INDIVIDUALS



THANK YOU!

Your donation helps build a strong Buddhist community!



Donations (Organisations)

Amrta Monastery
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated
Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association (NSW)
Lao Buddhist Society of NSW
PayPal Australia
Wat Buddha Mounkoun Inc
Won Buddhism Of Gosford Assoc Inc
Won Buddhism of Australia
Western Sydney Campbelltown Tibetan Community

ORGANISATIONS



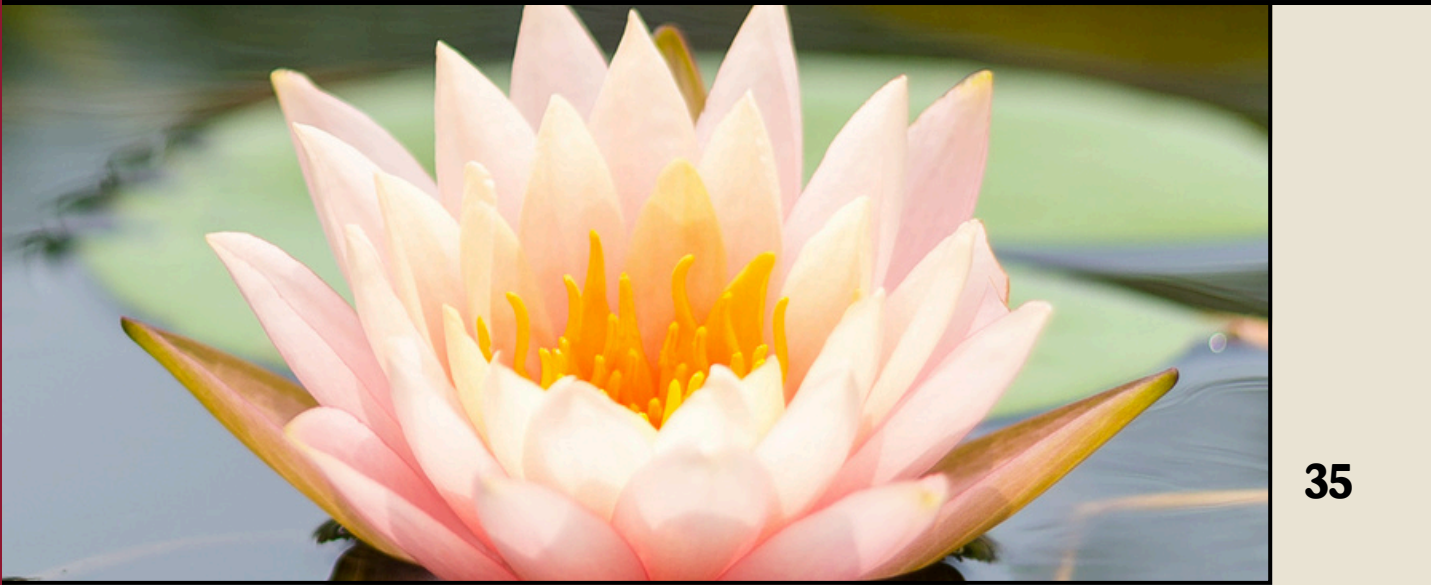
THANK YOU!



Your donation helps build a strong Buddhist community!



Meet Our Team



Board of Directors

Erica Hendrawan was born into the rich heritage of Taoism and Mahayana Buddhism. Her qualification as a CPA has led her to work in an operational and management capacity in professional services. She has applied her skill and dedication, extending her commitment to various social and non-profit organisations. Erica is closely aligned with Rainbodhi and Theravada sanghas. She seeks to harmoniously blend business acumen with a compassionate ethos inspired by Buddhist Theravada teachings.



Erica Hendrawan
Chair and Public Officer

Gawaine Powell Davies became interested in Buddhism at the age of thirteen, after picking up Christmas Humphrey's book Buddhism at an airport book stall. After years of delving into Eastern philosophy he became a practicing Buddhist in the early 1990s and now attends Kookaburra Sangha, and Insight/secular Buddhist sangha in the Inner West. Working with the Buddhist Council has opened his eyes to the strength and variety of the Buddhist community in NSW. Gawaine's professional background is in health promotion and primary health care research.



Gawaine Powell Davies

Sherene Tan, nurtured in a Buddhist family, integrates both Theravada and Mahayana influences. From childhood visits to the Thai Buddhist temple with her paternal grandmother to active involvement at Brickfields Sri Lankan Temple, Sherene's religious journey spans generations. Professionally, she combines financial acumen as a Fellow of CPA Australia and former hotel general manager, contributing her financial and management skills.



Sherene Tan

Treasurer

Sourina Simmalavong, founder of Lao Dhamma School and is especially interested in instilling Buddhist values in children. She has leveraged her legal background to actively contribute to Lao community development in NSW. As a long-serving volunteer director for the Lao Community Advancement (NSW) Co-Operative Ltd and a member of the Lao Buddhist Society of NSW Inc., she champions community development, advocacy, youth, women, and cross-cultural issues.



Sourina Simmalavong

Secretary

Tonto Kaewsatuan, a digital marketing professional, focuses on acquisition and performance at Torrens University. With experience developing digital strategies and planning expertise to drive student enrolments, he supports the Council's IT and social media needs. Tonto was formerly associated with the Macquarie University Buddhist Society – MacBuddhi.



Tonto Kaewsatuan
Board Member

Shienny Liauw was brought up in a family who follow the distinct Chinese Indonesian Buddhist tradition which amalgamates Taoist, Mahayana and Theravada teachings. She has practised Buddhism much of her life. As a Buddhist Council Board member she has the opportunity to give back to the very organisation that facilitated the formation of Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW, her first connection to the Indonesian community in Australia. She is particularly drawn to one of the Council's aims which is to promote the interests and ideals of Buddhism amongst the community at large. Shienny's professional background is IT service delivery and office operation in not-for-profit and banking sectors. Due to work commitments, Shienny stepped down from the Board in October 2025. The Buddhist Council of NSW thanks her for her valued contribution



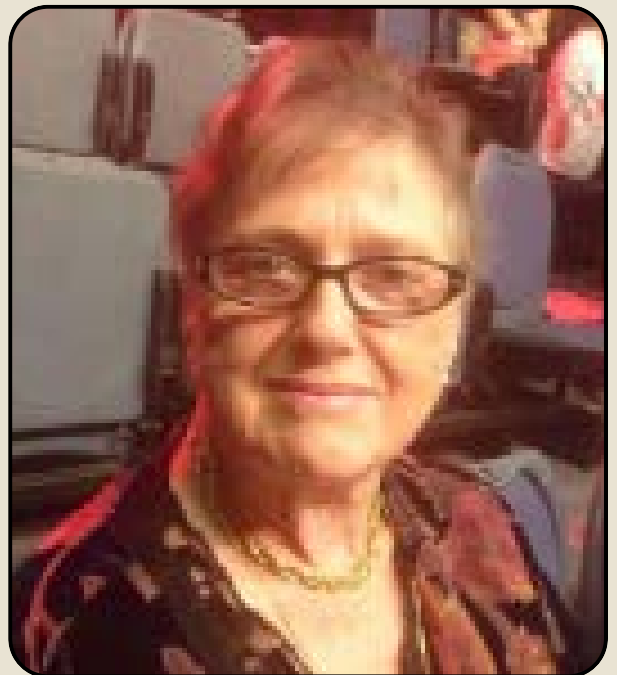
Shienny Liauw
Board Member

Glenn Sloan has been a devoted Buddhist for over 30 years. He aligns with the teachings of the Tibetan Kagyu lineage which he actively promotes as secretary of Amitabha Foundation Australia. He served as general manager of the Buddhist Council in 2016-2017 and has voluntarily resumed the role, contributing to the Council's strategic vision and ongoing management. He trained as a Special Religious Education teacher and also serves as a volunteer hospital chaplain. Glenn ran his own consultancy firm specialising in organisation management, design, process automation and custom software.



Glenn Sloan
Board Member

Heather is an ordained interfaith interspiritual minister. She was ordained in New York in 2009, and took refuge in Buddhism in 2007. She is also a Buddhist chaplain and coordinating chaplain at Canterbury Hospital. Her inspiration is interfaith dialogue to promote peace and harmony. She has been a leader in presenting the annual International Interfaith Prayers for Peace for Canterbury/Bankstown Council. She has served on the Multicultural NSW faith affairs committee, representing the Buddhist Council for some years. Heather completed the Foundational Unit of CPE (400-hours) and is an accredited disaster recovery chaplain. She works as a spiritual counsellor mainly around palliative care, death and dying.



Reverend Heather Topp
Board Member

Ian McLeod joined as a Board member in November 2025. He was first exposed to Buddhism while a student at the University of Technology Sydney where he helped organise conferences for Mitra Youth Buddhist Network. He studied in Hong Kong in 2006 as part of an international exchange program and completed his Bachelor of Engineering, Civil and Environmental. From 2011 to 2018 he was stationed in SE Asia working on many projects in the region. Ian is more aligned with the Theravada Sangha teachings.



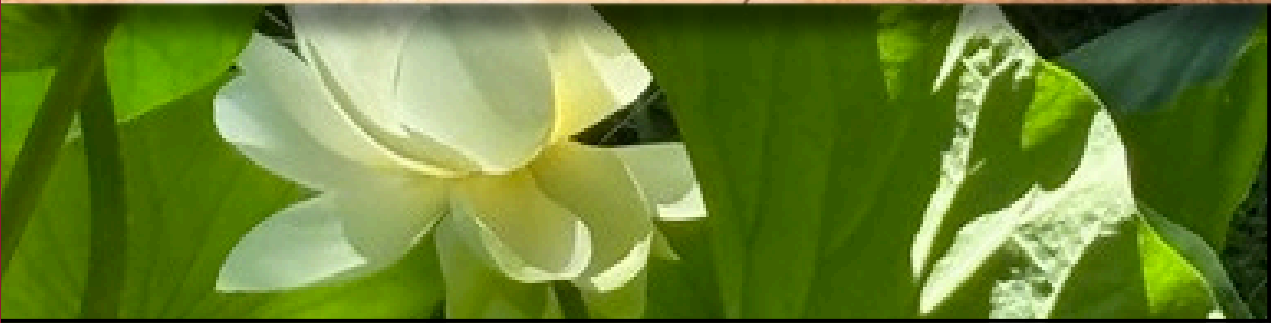
Ian McLeod

Board Member

Our Staff and Volunteers in 2025

Team members	Role
Glenn Sloan Sunil Amaratunga Ann MacArthur Bonnie Yiu Ingrid Meliana	Operations
Sherene Tan Lay Lim	Finance
Sourina Simmalavong Sunil Amaratunga	Member Services
Ann MacArthur Sourina Simmalavong John Barclay Lillian Ng	Special Religious Education
Daniel Troyak	Chaplaincy
Tonto Kaewsatuan Deepika Dogra Annie Ng Patrick Vincente	IT
Gawaine Powel Davies Rev Heather Topp	Government, Interfaith & Advocacy
Ann MacArthur Aden Bui Ingrid Meliana	Social Media

Member Organisations



Member Organisations: Financial



Member
Amawatura Buddhist Centre Inc
Amitabha Buddhist Association of NSW Inc (AMTB NSW)
Amitabha Foundation Incorporated
Amrta Monastery
Association of Engaged Buddhist
Australian Buddhist Mission & Aloka Meditation Centre
Australian Institute Of Tibetan Healing Practices (AITHP)
Australian Institute of Buddhist Learning and Practice (AIBLP)
Bangladesh Australia Buddhist Society
Barom Kagyu Chodrak Drupju Chuling
Black Mountain Zen Group
Blue Mountains Insight Meditation Centre
Bluegum Sangha
Bori Korean Buddhist Society of NSW Inc
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation
Buddhist Library
Chinese Buddhist Association of NSW Incorporated
Coogee Buddhist Community
Dhammaduta Foundation Incorporated

Member Organisations: Financial



Member
Dharma Drum Mountain Sydney
Drogmi Buddhist Institute
Gebchak Rigpa Har-Sey Inc
Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia
Insight Meditation Institute
International Dzogchen Community of Namgyalgar Incorporated
Kadri Bodhi Monastery Inc
Karma Dro Phan Ling Institute
Karma Yiwong Samten Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre Inc
Khachodling Ltd
Kuan Yin Buddhist Temple Inc
Kuan Yin Temple Foundation
Kuan Yin Meditation Centre
Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre Inc
Kwong Im Temple
Kyegu Buddhist Institute
Lao Buddhist Society of NSW
Mahamevnawa Buddhist Monastery of Sydney

Member Organisations: Financial



Member
Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc
Metta Centre Incorporated
Ministry of Nirvana
Mitra Youth Buddhist Network Inc
Mountain Spring Monastery
Nan Tien Institute
No Problems Publishing Inc
Prajna Monastery Australia Inc
Rigpa Fellowship Inc
Santi Forest Monastery
Siddhartha's Intent Australia
Silky Oak Zen
Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Association (Lankarama)
Sunnataram Forest Monastery
Sydney Insight Meditators
Tallowood Sangha Inc
Tergar Australia Ltd
Tharpa Choeling Inc



Member Organisations: Financial



Member
The Kuan Yin Temple Foundation
Theravada Buddhist Association of Australia Incorporated
Tibetan Buddhist Society (Sydney)
Triratna Buddhist Community (Sydney) Inc
Vidarshana Buddhist Vihara & Meditation Centre
Wat Buddha Dhamma Foundation Ltd
Wat Buddhalavarn Inc
Western Sydney Campbelltown Tibetan Community
Won Buddhism Australia
Won Buddhism Of Gosford Assoc Inc
Yeshikhorlo Tibetan Buddhism Association Australia



Member Organisations: Other



Member
AABCAP (Australian Association of Buddhist Counsellors and Psychotherapists Inc.)
Australian Chinese Buddhist Society
Bhante Sujato in Sydney Group
Bodhi Books & Gifts
Bodhi Events
Bodhicitta Foundation (India) Australia
Bodhikusuma Buddhist & Meditation Centre
Buddhist Counselling
Cambodian Buddhist Society Inc of NSW (Wat Khemarangsaram)
Chan Miao Zen Centre
Chan Tam True Mind
Dalai Lama In Australia Ltd
Dhammaduta Buddhist Association (Coffs Harbour)
Dhammaduta Buddhist Association of Australia
Dhammakaya International Society of Aust
Golden Wheel Buddhist Association
Huayen Buddhist Community of Australia Inc



Member Organisations: Other



Member
Indonesian Buddhist Society of NSW Incorporated
Kampuchea Krom Cultural Centre Inc.
Kuenphen Dharma Centre Australia
Liberation Prison Project Australia Ltd
Lin Yim Buddhist Institute
Little Dust Buddhist Community
Lotus Library Inc.
Macquarie University Buddhist Association
Mahamakut Wat Buddharangsee Stanmore Inc.
Man Su Vihara
Metta Vipassana Monastery - Australia Buddhist Foundation
Mudita House Limited
Mukyoho
Open Way Zen Centre
Pal Buddhist School
Panditarama Sydney Meditation Centre Inc.

Member Organisations: Other



Member
Phuoc Hau Temple
Pointing Out Australia
Quan Am Thien Tinh Buddhist Charitable Association Inc (The)
Rainbodhi LGBTQIA+ Buddhist Community
Recollective Awareness (Aust)
Recovery Dharma
Sakya Tharpa Ling
Sasana Daja Burmese Temple
Shantideva Buddhist Foundation Limited
Shaolin Kungfu Meditation Temple of Australia Incorporated
Siangthum Phrapotiyon Incorporated
Sydney Burmese Buddhist Vihara Inc.
Sydney Zen Centre
Tashi Choling Buddhist Institute
Tenzin Palmo Initiatives
The Korean Buddhism Jongbopsa Society Incorporated
Tinh Xa Minh Dang Quang

Member Organisations: Other



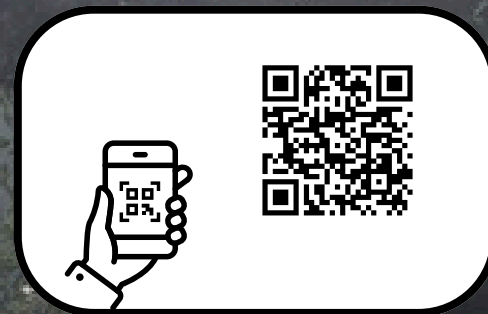
Member
Twining Vines Zen Centre
Unibodhi - University of Sydney Buddhist Society
UNIBUDS
Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of A-NZ
University Buddhist Education Foundation
UTS Buddhist Meditation Society
Vajrayana Institute Inc.
Vien Giac Temple
Vinh Nghiem Pagoda Buddhist and Charitable Soc. (The)
Wat Buddha Mounghoun
Wat Buddharangsee
Wat Buddhavongsa-Yaram
Wat Lao Buddhometta
Wat Pa Buddharangsee
Well-Aware-Ness Psychology
Zen Open Circle Inc

CONTACT



Buddhist Council of NSW

Connecting the Buddhist Community




BUDDHIST COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED

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