



Chogye Padma Choe Dzong Padma Buddhist Centre Hervey Bay

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NEWSLETTER - Spring 2011 - Term 4

Greetings to all Padma Members and those interested in Buddhism on the Fraser Coast.

On Saturday 21st August the annual general meeting was held which included election of officers. Our long - standing President Peter Leney stood down and I was elected in his place. (Peter's final report as President is included at the end of this Newsletter). Peter is now the treasurer with Gayle Allen continuing as Secretary. Yvonne Bulmer, a long standing member and shop co-ordinator is Vice President. After a long term as Vice President Linda McCullough has moved to committee member along with one of our greatest supporters, Helen Bouchier.

I would like to thank Peter for his great effort over many years and his continued involvement. Peter has made his home available for the Shrine Room and kindly housed visitors and run an "open house" He does truly "give and share" with others - something we read often but do not practice!

THURSDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

The last Thursday night meeting will be on September 15th before a two week break for the school holidays. Term 4 commences on Thursday October 6th.

The Thursday evening program now has a calm abiding meditation (including Manjushri speech blessing) every week followed by a selected practice and / or a discussion of a Dharma topic. This allows those who are mainly interested in the meditation to be guaranteed of the practice and may leave early or stay for the extended practice. This extended practice includes meditation, prayers, mantras, study and discussion on a particular topic. For Buddhist teachings to really assist one and to have an impact on the mind one must study, meditate and contemplate. This is the aim of the Thursday evening meetings.

A weekly newsletter will be emailed out with details of extended practice and events at other centres. If you would like to receive this please email your address to info@padma.org.au

Dates for Term 4 are as follows:

October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th; November 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th; December 1st, 8th, and 15th being the last night for 2011

MEMBERS DINNER

The Saturday following the last Thursday evening practice (Saturday December 17th) will be an informal dinner at the Dharma House - 6 Holiday Parade, Scarness. It is suggested that everyone bring a plate to share and what you'd like to drink. Tea, coffee etc and other nibbles will be provided. Start time about 6pm - details later. The date may change depending on a few factors - call if you are interested or check the website closer to the date.

I would like to have the new Gompa (Shrine Room) finished by then but there will be at least

something to look at if not.

NEW PRESIDENT

I originally came from Western Australia and have been in Queensland for 5 years - 3 of them here in Hervey Bay. I originally followed Zen Buddhism but now Mahayana has what I felt was "right". I have only been a member of Padma since moving to Hervey Bay. To the left is a picture of me and others taking refuge with Lama Cheodak Rinpoche (I am the old fellow with a grey beard!). I am currently 62yo and work for myself as an Electronics Engineer. I created and maintain the website and have been involved with running Padma for the last couple of years.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership fees are now due and remains unchanged at \$35 for full membership or \$10 for associate membership. A membership card will be sent on receipt of payment. Membership allows use of our library and in addition, full membership allows discount on teachings and shop items as well. Associate membership is for those unable to attend regular practices but would like to receive newsletters and support the centre.

MEMBERS' MEANDERINGS

Recent Dharma trips undertaken by our members has included Peter travelling to NZ

From Saturday June 4 to Monday June 6, where he attended a Calm Abiding Meditation Retreat lead by Lama Choedak Rinpoche. This was held at the Phuntsok Choeling Buddhist Centre in Napier, New Zealand.

Gayle Allen went for teachings from Loppon Tsering Samdup in Brisbane in early August. In June many members went to see HH The Dalai Lama at Chenrezig Institute for the opening of the new Gompa and public talk and then to Brisbane for the public talk there.

Holiday Parade Dharma House



The library is now at the Dharma House at 6 Holiday Parade, Scarness along with the notice board and shop items. Pamphlets for events at other centers are also available there. Eventually the Shrine Room (Gompa) will be set up there. Anyone is welcome to drop in anytime.

A list of library books and shop items will be available on the website when completed.

Details of progress, material and help needed will be on the web site. If you have any books on Buddhism or related subjects it would be greatly appreciated if you could donate them for the library or sale. Books may be left in the box at the front if I'm not home. Other items that may be of use to Padma or for a fund raising "Garage Sale" may also be left in the box and would be greatly appreciated!

INTERNET

The website is being updated and should reflect the new vitality in the near future. If you are into FACEBOOK then you will find Padma Buddhist Centre there and I am there also - Harry

James Threlfall under email address intronics@iinet.net.au

UP COMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Next Saturday and Sunday - 17th and 18th September 2011 Venerable Tsultim from the Rongton Centre in Brisbane will be presenting a Workshop/ Teachings entitled "Going Where?".

"Much of life is taken up with wishing, planning and chasing after things of this life, yet often we find ourselves less than impressed with the results, and wondering what the big deal was, only to find ourselves again chasing our next tail. In this workshop we will cover aspects of what are known as the Four Common Foundations, as seen from Lamdre view of the Sakya School of Tibetan Buddhism." This is suitable for beginners and experienced practitioners alike.

To be held at Padma Buddhist Centre Shrine Room, 7 Berna Court, Point Vernon on Saturday and Sunday Sept 17th and 18th 8.30am to 5pm. The cost is \$65 for both day (\$50 for members). Call Harry on 4124 4282 or mob 0417940121 for details.

{Ven. Lekshe Tsultim (Peter Lester) has been a committed Buddhist practitioner for over 18 years, starting in 1992 at Loden Buddhist Centre in East Brisbane under the guidance of Ven. Loden Sherab. In 1996 he attended Lama Choedak Rinpoche's first Calm Abiding retreat in Brisbane, then went on to attend annual C.A.M. retreats every year since 2001. Tsultim was ordained in 2006 when H.E.Chogye Trichen Rinpoche came to Australia. "My deepest gratitude goes to my teachers and in particular Lama Choedak Rinpoche for his great kindness and compassion. May all their wishes be fulfilled."}

CALM ABIDING MEDITATION

I will be attending a 10 day retreat next month followed by a 3 day "Course Leader" at SIBA Retreat Centre in Victoria. Following this I will run a course if there is sufficient interest.

I have attended many teachings, courses and short retreats on Meditation but the long retreat is something else! There will be a couple of courses next year as we have a few facilitators now - Linda, Gayle and Peter so one should be available whenever sufficient interest is shown.

Following this I will run a course if there is sufficient interest.

Sakya Losal Choe Dzong - Tibetan Buddhist Society of Canberra

This is Lama Choedak Rinpoche's organisation of which we are a member organisation - the retreat centre SIBA is also run by them. The events of the centres are available on their website www.sakya.com.au and notices are shown on the Holiday Parade notice board. Their newsletter "Clear Mind" is now available on line also.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - 27 AUGUST 2011

Since I was elected President on 18 September 2005, the Padma Buddhist Centre has undergone many changes.

Our Founder and inspiring leader Elizabeth Knight travelled to India and Nepal in 2007 and we moved the Shrine Room from Urangan to Point Vernon after 12 frantic weeks of work before the consecration on 24 November 2007.

Padma Membership over the last 6 years has been changeable and I can recall the names of 20 members who have moved on.

The visits of Lama Choedak have always been successful and are a good source of revenue despite rumours about his relationships which have cost Padma at least 5 members. The Calm Abiding Meditation Retreat held over the weekend of 5 November to 7 November 2010 was well attended. Meals were supplied by an outside caterer.

The Public Talk and Varjasattva Teachings by Rinpoche over the weekend of 25 March to 27 March 2011 were also well attended with up to 25 in the Shrine Room. The great efforts of Yvonne saw shop sales exceed \$300. Lama Choedak was also able to visit the site of the new Padma Shrine Room at 6 Holiday Parade in Scarness. Harry is now working hard on conversion activity.

I was also able to catch up with Rinpoche at a 3 day Calm Abiding Meditation Retreat which was held at the Phuntsok Choeling Buddhist Centre in Napier, New Zealand over the long weekend of 3 June to 6 June 2011.

Over the same weekend Jane Barnes had organised the visit of Khandro-la for a Public Talk and Workshop using the Padma Shrine Room. Later in June several members of Padma attended the inspiring Teachings and Talks by his Holiness the Dalai Lama at Chenrezig and at the Brisbane Riverstage.

Gayle has recently visited the Rongton Buddhist Centre in Brisbane and has arranged a Lamdre Teaching visit to Padma by Tsultim over the weekend of 17 and 18 September 2011. Further teachings by Loppon Tsering are also being arranged by Gayle.

Over the years I have been able to attend many teachings and retreats at Virupa, SIBA, Rongton, Cairns, Nanango, Gold Coast and in Tasmania. I have also attended 3 Teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Melbourne and Sydney. All of these activities have expanded my knowledge of Buddhism and I have learned to lead the Padma Thursday Practice.

I will be 80 next year and am stepping down as President. I will continue to act as Treasurer which is a position I have also filled for the past 2 years.

I particularly want to thank Linda, Gayle, Yvonne, Jo and Harry for their great support over the years. Together we can ensure that Padma will continue to prosper and grow.

Yours in the Dharma,
Peter Leney, President

Padma Buddhist Centre Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Email _____ @ _____

Phone _____

I would like to be a _____ Member of Padma Buddhist Centre.
(\$35 full, \$10 Associate Member)

Signature _____ Please add me to mail [] email [] list.
(Payment by cheque or money order if mailing)