

Buddhist Education Services for Schools Inc. (BESS)
**Promoting universal values for living together in peace and
harmony for the happiness, health, and prosperity of all**



President's Message



Well, 2022 is almost done and for many of us it has been a challenging year, both personally in our family life, as well as in the context of the world situation. BESS had a relatively smooth year, both within schools, and with the recruitment of teachers.

In that regard, we can welcome Sue Sim and Liam Howells to our team. They will both teach at Ironside State School next year within the mentorship scheme. BESS has not been at that school for two years and it is truly wonderful to be able to return there in 2023.

Tracey Chin, one of our pioneer teachers, will take a year's sabbatical leave to work on her book and travel around Australia when her partner retires. One of our recruits, Jeff Brunne, has quickly become a valued team member, while Jenn Wallace, who joined around the same time, will continue her mentorship with me.

One huge advantage of my own move to a retirement village is the wonderful meeting room here that we can freely use for all our meetings and socials. It is the ideal space and parking is so much easier! I have noticed that our meetings are more convivial, and when a group of us met to compile bookmarks for our students to mark the end of year, we had endless cups of tea and great camaraderie, and ended up 300 bookmarks.

This year we introduced end of year certificates to recognise the participation of each student in Buddhist classes. This went down really well and looks set to become a new BESS annual tradition.

2023 promises exciting things for all of us who share the wisdom of the Buddha with the children -- more teachers, new schools opening up, our shared respect for the Dharma, and the growing friendships and sense of community within BESS.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful, relaxing, and safe holiday season; I look forward to seeing everyone revitalised in 2023.

With Metta
Venerable Tseten
President

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TEACHERS' NEWS

New Teachers

We have several exciting developments to report on this front. Firstly, let us extend a warm welcome to new teachers, Sue Sim and Liam Howells. They will join the mentorship program next year at Ironside State School.

Jeff Brunne has been through the program and looks set to start teaching at West End State School next year. Jenn Wallace is earmarked to teach at Durack State School and Indooroopilly State School once she is ready.

Our recruitment drive is bearing fruit finally – in the past half-year or so, several new teachers have signed on, a few are actively considering, and will likely come on board when their personal circumstances permit.

The positive momentum generated by word-of-mouth, and the passionate enthusiasm of ambassadors within our ranks, have boosted interest in our activities. We hope the momentum generated by this will increase our numbers in the coming year so we may offer Buddhism in more schools.

Teachers' Meetings

In the past year, we have experienced a remarkable strengthening of our teaching group. Our regular Teachers' Meetings are well supported, especially now that we now have our own meeting premises in the "Garden Room" at Venerable Tseten's new home.



The venue features convenient car parking facilities, a well set-up kitchen, and as added bonuses – beautiful gardens and A/V facilities. It is centrally located in Upper Mount Gravatt, and easily accessible to all our teachers. It is indeed a perfect location.

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So far, we have held two teachers' meetings and a working bee very successfully there. The *esprit de corp* generated by this is evident in the improved morale and positivity of our teachers. We anticipate the venue will be the site of more events to come.

Committee Meetings

In the past 2-3 years the General Management Committee has put in the hard yards establishing systems and procedures, and we commend them for their efforts. With most of these in place now, we are seeing the organisation running smoothly and uneventfully. This is a very cohesive and supportive group who meet every five weeks to decide on matters involving the management of BESS.

The Fund Committee consists of three members – Petra Depalo, Cheryl Grampe and Venerable Tseten, who meet in periodically in Helensvale on matters involving funding and expenditure.

Lesson Planning Committee

The above committee started informally about four years ago to design standardised lesson plans for submission to the Queensland Education Department. The members – Venerable Tseten, Lyna Chen and Tracey Chin – have done tremendous work in designing the lesson plans to support the curriculum approved by the QED. This committee now reports to the General Management Committee.

Social Events

The BBQ that was to be held at Tygum Park was cancelled due to rainy weather. Instead, we held a pre-holiday get-together at the Garden Room.

Most of our teachers, including many of the new ones attended. There was plenty of food, and presents were handed out in appreciation of the successful completion of another teaching year.

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On that note, we conclude another rewarding teaching year. We hope our teachers have found joy sharing the Buddha's wisdom with our young students. On behalf of BESS, we thank everyone for their support and service on this wonderful journey.

We look forward to another year of Dharma discovery with our students.

May you and your family enjoy the festivities to close 2022 on a happy, safe and healthy note...!

With Metta
Tracey Chin
Editor