



法鼓山

Dharma Drum Mountain

Australia • May 2005 - August 2005 • www.ddm.org.au

SPECIAL EVENTS

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EACH SPECIAL EVENT IS ON PAGE 3 (EXCEPT FOR VISITING THE GREAT STUPA).

VICTORIA EVENTS

Sunday 15 May 2005

Victorian Vesak Celebrations

115 Serpells Road, Templestowe, VIC.
10.00am - 12 noon. Vegetarian lunch will be provided afterwards.

Contact:

Leslie Yang (English/Mandarin): 0425 756 256

Angela Fong (English/Cantonese):

0421 850 290

Thursday 16 June 2005

Visiting the Great Stupa

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion,
43 View Street, Bendigo, VIC.
9.00am - 4.00pm.

The Great Stupa has a very large collection of sacred Buddhist relics, including those of Sakyamuni Buddha and the sixteen Arhats, which have been offered from many Buddhist traditions. Many of these relics can now be viewed at the Center.

Contact:

Leslie Yang (English/Mandarin): 0425 756 256

Angela Fong (English/Cantonese):

0421 850 290

Friday 29 July - Sunday 31 July 2005

2-day Meditation Retreat

With Venerable Guo Jun.

NEW SOUTH WALES EVENTS

Monday 23 May - Friday 27 May 2005

Buddhist Art Exhibition

Parliament House, NSW. All welcome.

Saturday 28 May 2005

Vesak Celebrations

Bankstown, NSW. All welcome.

Friday 15 July - Sunday 17 July 2005

Youth Buddhist Conference

Kogarah NSW. Organised by MITRA.
Website: illuminate.mitra.org.au
Venerable Guo Jun is a guest speaker.

Saturday 16 July 2005

1-day Chan Group Meditation and Dharma Talk

With Venerable Guo Jun.

Monday 18 July - Friday 22 July 2005

5-day Youth Meditation Retreat

Organised by MITRA. With Venerable Guo Jun.

Friday 22 July - Monday 25 July 2005

3-day Meditation Retreat

With Venerable Guo Jun.

SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENTALISM

"Material poverty can make life difficult, but spiritual poverty can create disasters of great destruction."

— Master Sheng Yen, *The Challenge*

In the history of human civilisation never has there been a time charged with such danger and opportunity. Over-consumption, unsustainable methods of production, and the growth of religious intolerance are wreaking havoc in both our natural and social environments. On the one hand, technology has had the major part to play in the current and looming global catastrophe; on the other, it has made the world a smaller place, making acknowledgment of the intimate interconnectedness of all phenomena inescapable.

Turning Back Inside

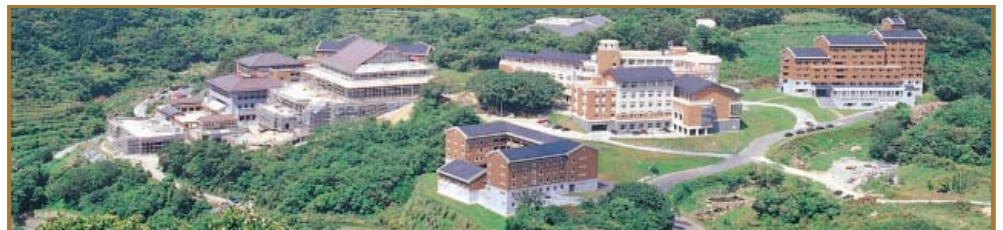
The bias of modern Western thought is towards material reductionism. As a consequence, Western sciences have become powerful enough to transform every corner of the earth. But the sudden acceleration of the development of the sciences was only made

possible by ignoring and even denying the importance of the non-material, inside-face of human existence.

tect and cultivate the interior environment of human beings. As Buddhists, we are encouraged to engage in meditation and other practices such as study, fasting, chanting and prostration, both individually and in groups, in order to stabilise our emotional minds as well as exercise our spiritual ones. The higher spiritual purpose for Buddhists is to deeply realise impermanence, no-self and emptiness. It is on these three pillars of which the world is in such desperate need of - unconditional love, wisdom and compassionate action - that we stand.

Promoting Inter-Religious Dialogue

On a broader level, Spiritual Environmentalism is a non-denominational concept and people of all religions and none, are invited to fulfil their deepest potentials by exploring their inner selves in the way they think best. Indeed, the spiritual environment is best tended to when all religions engage in dialogue to discover commonality while celebrating difference. All perspectives enrich and inform each other. The spiritual journey is best walked in harmony with all people.



ABOVE: Dharma Drum Mountain

possible by ignoring and even denying the importance of the non-material, inside-face of human existence.

Three Aspects of Interior Experience

The interior space that is mental activity can be roughly divided into three levels: the conceptual, the emotional and the spiritual. The conceptual mind can be equated with the intellect. The emotional mind is self-explanatory. The spiritual mind is that which both celebrates and transcends the conceptual and emotional minds by sublimating them to higher purposes. Modern methods of education have done well in fostering the conceptual mind but have been dismal in developing the latter two.

Spiritual Environmentalism

By advocating Spiritual Environmentalism, Dharma Drum Mountain seeks to pro-

Three Other Kinds of Environmentalism

Flowing naturally out of Spiritual Environmentalism are Natural, Living and Social Environmentalism. While Spiritual Environmentalism looks after the inner experience, the other three forms are about manifesting inner harmony in the world at large.

When we are filled with love, wisdom and compassion, we feel a natural affinity with all life and seek to protect and honour the biosphere (Natural). With deep cultivation, we are no longer attached to fame and fortune and go about living lives of simplicity and frugality (Living). And, of course, our natural feelings of connection with all human beings manifest themselves as respectful, tolerant, earnest and humble conduct that is free from prejudice and full of laughter (Social).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ABOVE: Practicing mindfulness by trying not to spill a container full of water, at the Buddhist New Year Blessings.

BUDDHIST NEW YEAR BLESSINGS 2005

The Buddhist Blessings for the New Year 2005 event, organised by the Buddhist Council, was held at Darling Harbour, NSW, on 15th January 2005 – a few weeks after the tsunami disaster.

The tsunami disaster highlighted the importance of protecting the spiritual environment, and Dharma Drum Mountain (DDM)'s focus that day on Chan meditation methods, mindfulness, understanding the Dharma, and compassion, embodied it.

Walking meditation led by DDM as the first activity of the day's program gave people a taste of inner calm, with another opportunity in the form of the Eight-Form Moving Meditation demonstration later.

Participants in Mindfulness Practice had the challenging experience of walking with a container of water without spilling any.

As well as browsing through books and pamphlets at the DDM stall, learning Dharma was both fun and stimulating as people, drawn by the beautifully hand-made prizes, tried to find the answers to the Buddhism Quiz.

Amidst all these activities, a chance to reflect on others in need and to create karmic effect through expressing compassion for them took the shape of the creation of a chain of triangular origami building blocks with messages of compassion. These messages were later uploaded onto the DDM website in Taiwan.

Blessings indeed – the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers epitomised the caring of the spirit through caring for the community and humanity.

MULTI-FAITH VIGIL FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

On Australia Day, and one month after the tsunami tragedy, leaders from seven faiths came together to pray for tsunami victims at the "Multi-faith Vigil for Tsunami Victims", presented by the Faith Communities of Manningham City Council, Victoria. Dharma Drum Mountain was one of the representatives for the Buddhist community who participated in this meaningful ceremony.

Cr. Bill Larkin OAM, Mayor of Manningham, welcomed the congregation with a heartfelt message, after which Reverend Mark Dun, the master of ceremony, led the participants in singing "I am Australian." Each faith leader then presented a prayer and message. The ceremony concluded with two meaningful gestures - the pouring of water, which is a symbolic gesture of unity; and the lighting of candles, which is a symbolic gesture of commitment to wisdom. All who participated were deeply touched, and pledged their commitment to the principles of universal values of love, oneness, sharing, respect and selfless service to others.

SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENTALISM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Changing the World

Spiritual Environmentalism is grounded in pragmatism. The most effective path to global change consists of individuals everywhere taking up the personal responsibility for their own spiritual transformation for the benefit of all sentient beings. Dharma Drum Mountain seeks to uplift the character of mankind and create a Pure Land on earth. We invite people of all walks of life to share our vision.

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

If you are a Dharma Drum Mountain (DDM) member or have expressed interest in the activities of DDM, then it is likely that you have recently received a letter from the Buddy Coordinator. The role of the Buddy Coordinator is part of a DDM Sydney initiative aimed at making our organisation more friendly and welcoming to new members and guests who wish to participate in DDM activities including classes or events.

It can sometimes be a little difficult if you have just joined a DDM activity to approach others in the group, particularly if they have established friendships, or to find out who in the organisation is responsible for DDM's other services (e.g. the DDM book store) and how to contact them.

Under the new Buddy System, newcomers will have one or more buddies who are also attending the DDM activity they have joined. The buddy will make sure the new participant feels welcomed, is informed and that the difficulties that come generally with being new would not be a barrier to a fruitful and enjoyable social experience at DDM.

SYDNEY CHAN MEDITATION RETREAT, DECEMBER 2004

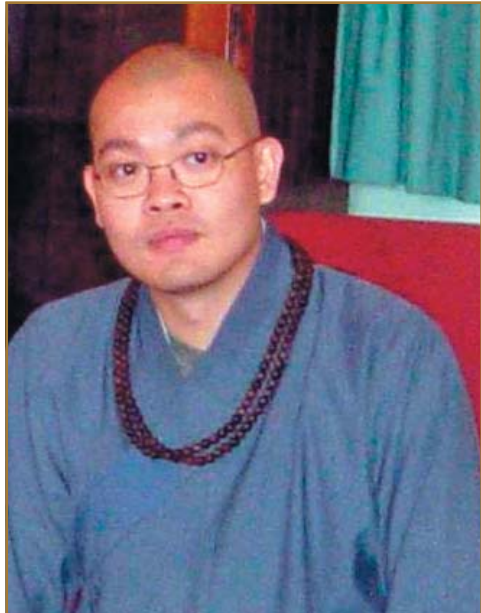
To "live in this moment" through the practice of Chan meditation was a challenge for participants in the two-day retreat.

The notion of "gaining inner peace, knowing your true self and coping with the stresses of life" through Chan practice crystallised into personal experiences of self-discovery during the retreat. This might have been the realisation that self-created expectations resulted in vexations. It might be awareness that the discriminating mind in apparently simple activities such as having a meal or communal living arose from not letting go. A glimpse of inner stillness might have affirmed the value of Chan practice for some. The self-discoveries were boundless.

The participants were deeply moved by the compassion and wisdom of Venerable Guo Jun, who guided the participants and shared the Buddhadharma with great patience. It was with a deep appreciation of, and gratitude to Venerable Guo Jun, that the participants returned to their routine life – inspired and resolute – to continue with Chan practice in their daily life with greater diligence.

VENERABLE GUO JUN VISITS AUSTRALIA IN JULY 2005

Venerable Guo Jun, disciple and assistant teacher to Venerable Master Sheng Yen in intensive Chan meditation retreats, has a degree in Buddhist Philosophy from the renowned Fuyan Buddhist Institute in Taiwan and a degree in psychology and sociology from Monash University in Australia. The



ABOVE: Venerable Guo Jun visits Victoria and NSW.

Venerable has also studied meditation practices with masters of Tibetan, Burmese, Thai, Korean and Chinese Pure Land traditions. Since 2001, Venerable Guo Jun has been receiving personal guidance from Venerable Master Sheng Yen.

In addition to his own practice, Venerable Guo Jun has been entrusted by Venerable Master Sheng Yen to teach in Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia, among other places. To date, he has travelled extensively to give lectures on Buddhism, conduct workshops, camps and retreats on Chan meditation to the general public and students in universities.

Venerable Guo Jun is visiting Australia in July 2005 and his program is as follows:

VIC VENERABLE GUO JUN EVENT

Friday 29 July – Sunday 31 July 2005

2-Day Chan Meditation Retreat with Ven. Guo Jun

Further details will be advised closer to the event, on the DDM website: <http://www.ddm.org.au> or email: info_ddm@yahoo.com.au or contact:

Angela Fong mobile: 0421 850 290

NSW VENERABLE GUO JUN EVENTS

Saturday 16 July 2005

1-Day Chan Group Meditation with Ven. Guo Jun

9.00am – 3.00pm

Location: 413-425 Beamish Street, Campsie [Near the Canterbury Road intersection]

For further information, contact:
Diana Sim email: dhyana1@bigpond.com.au

Saturday 16 July 2005

Dharma Talk by Ven. Guo Jun

3.30pm – 5.00pm

Location: 413-425 Beamish Street, Campsie [Near the Canterbury Road intersection]

For further information, contact:
Diana Sim email: dhyana1@bigpond.com.au

Friday 15 July – Sunday 17 July 2005

Second Australian Buddhist Youth Conference, organised by MITRA

Kogarah, NSW. Registration required, limited places.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Illuminating the Path**" whereby a number of speakers have been invited to speak on the principles of Buddha's teachings and applying them to various aspects of life, leading to greater awareness and understanding of oneself and the world.

Ven. Guo Jun will be a guest speaker at the conference on Sunday 17 July on the topic '**A Smile before Death**'.

For further information: <http://illuminate.mitra.org.au> or contact:

Zhao Zhang email: ddmyouthsydney@yahoo.com.au

Monday 18 July – Friday 22 July 2005

Youth Meditation Retreat with Ven. Guo Jun, organised by MITRA

To help MITRA, please register your interest as soon as you can.

Further details will be advised closer to the event at <http://illuminate.mitra.org.au/retreat.shtml> or <http://www.ddm.org.au>

or contact: Seok Kwan Tan (English - some Mandarin & Cantonese) email: mailseokkwan@yahoo.com.au or phone her on: 0417 063 151 or 0410 214 999

Friday 22 July – Monday 25 July 2005

3-Day Chan Meditation Retreat with Ven. Guo Jun

Further details will be advised closer to the event, on the DDM website: <http://www.ddm.org.au> or contact: Teresa (English/Cantonese/Mandarin) email: teresaw@itm.com.au or call 0405492671

VESAK CELEBRATIONS

Vesak is the day for the commemoration of the birth, enlightenment and passing of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. The word Vesak corresponds to the month in which the Buddha was born in the ancient Indian calendar, in the year 623 B.C.E.

According to the legends, immediately after the Buddha's birth, nine dragons sprinkled the baby Buddha with water. The baby Buddha began to walk seven steps forward, and with the right hand pointing towards Heaven and the left hand pointing towards Earth, he said, "I am the chief in the world, there is no equal to me, I am supreme. This is my last birth, no rebirth for me" ("The Life of the Buddha" by Venerable Siridhamma). Today the ritual of bathing the Buddha is to commemorate his birth, a symbolisation of purification of the mind and being reborn as a purified person. All sentient beings have inherent Buddha nature. But it is buried and covered by the impurities of ignorance. Through bathing the Buddha, we remind ourselves of the Buddha nature within everyone of us: we cleanse our mind, restoring it to its original, authentic luminous nature and bringing forth wisdom and compassion. Vesak is a time to reaffirm our commitment to refocusing our personal efforts to live life in accordance with the Dharma.

We welcome you to join us in this celebration and furtherance of goodwill among sentient beings!

VIC VESAK EVENT

Sunday 15 May 2005

Vesak Celebrations (followed by vegetarian lunch)

10.00am – 12.00pm

115 Serpells Road, Templestowe VIC 3106

Contact:

Leslie Yang (English/Mandarin): 0425 756 256

Angela Fong (English/Cantonese): 0421 850 290

NSW VESAK EVENTS

Monday 23 May – Friday 27 May 2005

Buddhist Art Exhibition

9.00am – 5.00pm, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Contact: Agnes Chow (English/Mandarin/Cantonese) email: ddmsydney@yahoo.com.au or phone her on: 0413 185 603

Saturday 28 May 2005

Vesak Celebrations

12.00 noon – 8.00pm

Bankstown Town Hall, Chapel Street, Bankstown NSW 2200

Website: <http://www.buddhistcouncil.org>

Contact: Shirley Wong email: pui.wong-1@uts.edu.au

UPDATE ON REGULAR ACTIVITIES

please rsvp to ensure the activity on that date is continuing as planned

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

PLEASE REFER TO THE **RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THIS PAGE** FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ACTIVITIES BELOW.

VICTORIA ACTIVITIES

Saturday 28 May 2005

Harmonise the Body & Mind through Eight-Form Moving Meditation

Sunday 29 May 2005

Greening Australia

Saturday 4 June 2005

Harmonise the Body & Mind through Eight-Form Moving Meditation

Saturday 11 June 2005

Harmonise the Body & Mind through Eight-Form Moving Meditation

Sunday 26 June 2005

Greening Australia

Sunday 31 July 2005

Greening Australia

Sunday 28 August 2005

Greening Australia

NEW SOUTH WALES ACTIVITIES

Saturday 14 May 2005

Da Bei Chan

Saturday 21 May 2005

Chan (Chinese Zen) Group Meditation

Sunday 5 June 2005

Chan Wisdom Discussion Group

Saturday 11 June 2005

Da Bei Chan

Saturday 18 June 2005

Chan (Chinese Zen) Group Meditation

Sunday 26 June 2005

Chan Wisdom Discussion Group

Saturday 9 July 2005

Da Bei Chan

Sunday 31 July 2005

Chan Wisdom Discussion Group

Saturday 13 August 2005

Da Bei Chan

Saturday 20 August 2005

Chan (Chinese Zen) Group Meditation

Sunday 28 August 2005

Chan Wisdom Discussion Group

CHAN WISDOM DISCUSSION

GROUP NEW SOUTH WALES

The Chan Wisdom Discussion Group sessions provide a forum for discussion about daily life experiences using the framework of Buddhism. In the forthcoming months, the focus will be on how we can extend the application of Buddhism principles into our daily life, as exemplified by the practice of 'Working Meditation', which is the topic in June.

Location: The Buddhist Library, 90 Church Street Camperdown NSW 2050. Refer to location map at <http://www.buddhistlibrary.org.au/>

Held on: Last Sunday of each month
11:00am - 1:00pm

Contact: ddmyouthsydney@yahoo.com.au

CHAN (CHINESE ZEN) GROUP MEDITATION NEW SOUTH WALES

The Chan Group Meditation sessions provide Chan practitioners with the opportunity to meditate collectively, thus supporting each other in their practice. The group meets once a month for a one-day Chan Meditation retreat.

Location: Level 2 Lucy Gardens 413-425 Beamish Street Campsie NSW 2194.

Held on: Third Saturday of each month (except July 2005), 9:30am - 5:00pm

Contact: Diana Sim on dhyana1@bigpond.com.au

DA BEI CHAN

NEW SOUTH WALES

Location: Level 2 Lucy Gardens 413-425 Beamish Street Campsie NSW 2194.

Held on: Second Saturday of each month
10:00am - 12:30pm

Contact: Melody Lin on melody.lin@taira.org.au

GREENING AUSTRALIA VICTORIA

This activity gives us the opportunity to protect the natural environment, and improve our well-being through recognising and cherishing one's blessings, and feeling gratitude to the Earth.

A BBQ will be provided by the organiser. Location to be confirmed - please contact Leslie for more details.

Held on: Fourth Sunday from May to October 2005
10:00am - 1:00pm.

Contact:

Leslie Yang (English/Mandarin): 0425 756 256
Angela Fong (English/Cantonese): 0421 850 290

EIGHT-FORM MOVING MEDITATION NEW SOUTH WALES

The Eight-Form Moving Meditation team in Sydney has an interest in sharing what they have learned with others. The team gave a demonstration at the Buddhist Blessings for the New Year event in January 2005. Classes were held in March and April 2005.

Location: Level 2 Lucy Gardens 413-425 Beamish Street Campsie NSW 2194.

Held on: Was held on the first Saturday of each month for 2 consecutive sessions from March to April. The possibility of having classes conducted in community organisations is being explored.

Contact: Diana Sim on dhyana1@bigpond.com.au

HARMONISE THE BODY AND MIND THROUGH DHARMA DRUM MOUNTAIN EIGHT-FORM MOVING MEDITATION VICTORIA

DDM Melbourne Branch will be spreading the joy and benefits of Eight-Form Moving Meditation to the residents of Manningham in Victoria. There will be three sessions over three Saturdays from the end of May to early June. This project is proudly funded by the **Manningham Council Community Development Grant Program**.

Location: Bullen and Templestowe Community Center, 284 Thompsons Road, Lower Templestowe VIC 3107 Melway 32K7

Held on: 28 May, 4 June, 11 June, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Contact: Leslie (English/Mandarin): 0425 756 256
Angela Fong (English/Cantonese): 0421 850 290

DHARMA DRUM MOUNTAIN AUSTRALIA

WEBSITES

www.ddm.org.au (Australia)
www.ddm.org.tw (International)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Lucy Gardens, 413-425 Beamish Street,
Campsie NSW 2194, Australia
[Near the Canterbury Road intersection]

Phone: 0413 185 603 Fax: (02) 9283 3168
Email: ddmsydney@yahoo.com.au

VICTORIA

59 Devon Street, Heidelberg VIC 3084,
Australia [Melways 31 K6]

Phone: 0421 850 290 Fax: (03) 9846 1575
Email: info_ddm@yahoo.com.au