



ENLIGHTENED  
TIMES

AUTUMN 2005

## New Adventure Beckons by Paul McDonnell

SCOTT ANDREWS' DAYS in paradise may be drawing to an end. Then again, they could be just beginning. The popular Caretaker at Dhammaloka Buddhist Centre has decided to pack his swag, head bush and ponder his long-term future. Just like Tapio - Scott's jocular predecessor who so often greeted his Dhamma friends with the catchcry: "Just another day in paradise, Maaate!"

Scott has now come face-to-face with the nature of Anicca (Impermanence). And what better place to contemplate his 'fork in the road' than the very place that instilled the first touch of Dhamma - the Bibbulmun Track.

It was during a three-month trek along the historic walking path from Perth to Albany that Scott started paying more attention to the Laws of Nature.

"It was the cumulative effect of being in nature for three months," he says. "That was when I started searching a bit more earnestly. I'd done a bunch of the track in parts - kind of hodge-podge, then I did the whole thing plus some other trails, and the Cape-to-Cape track. This was the first time I'd been in the bush for three months straight, and it was the cumulative effect of getting away from the city for the first time like that. I had the chance to look at all that 'doing' and 'I' stuff more objectively, and started feeling more one with things."

Scott had moved to Perth from Canberra at 10 years of age and had experienced the highs and lows of suburban life. The light at the end of the Bibbulmun Track was beckoning him to a commitment to human services. He accepted an Australian Volunteers International placement and soon found himself in Bangladesh assisting at an alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre in Dhaka.

As a musician, Scott became absorbed in the mystical tones of classical eastern music - in particular, a fascination for the Indian drum, the Tabla. One of his friends knew of a local Tabla master and Scott was eager to learn his artistry.

What he hadn't bargained on was the fact that his musical mentor was also a very devoted and experienced practitioner of meditation...and hence the practice was gently drummed into him.

"I asked him to take me on and then found out that he was really keen on meditation," says Scott. "It was pretty intensive, training most nights, and one night I asked him what this meditation was all about."

He started to teach me about the Buddhist framework, and I really needed more skill in terms of how to relax. Then he got me into the Five Precepts. From then on each night we'd train on the drum for

an hour, then meditate for an hour."

Returning to Perth at the end of his tenure, Scott soon found his way to the Friday night Dhamma talks at Dhammaloka.

He continued his commitment to human services, accepting a Coordinator's position with Community Vision in Joondalup, helping people living with disabilities. Even when he was approached by Tapio and BSWA President Sol Hanna to take on the Caretaker role at Dhammaloka, he was determined to maintain his community work and juggle the two demands.

Officially, he assumed the Caretaker role on December 1, 2003, but he'd actually been getting used to his new day job and crashing in the library at night on the weekends, for two weeks before that commencement date.

Maintaining his busy schedule with Community Vision made life at Dhammaloka even more gratifying.

"I think one of the big things about living here is the psyche is different - just knowing you're coming home to the Temple, even when life is busy. In terms of recollecting the Dhamma, it really brings it up for me. And in terms of meditation I've had some nice experiences having a place like this to meditate in. Any time I could just go into the temple and sit."

Scott was given the honour of representing the Buddhist Society of Western Australia in visiting the Bangladesh Buddhist Orphanage last year. The experience of living with the monks and the children is near the top of the list of Scott's memories. Of course, there's no substitute for wisdom in life's experience.

And Scott considers himself very fortunate to have worked so closely with Ajahn Brahm, Ajahn Cattamalo and the rest of the Sangha. "That was the No. 1 benefit - being with such wise people, and having great role models in Ajahn Brahm and Ajahn Cattamalo. To get to hang with the monks has been fantastic. We had a lot of informal time where we'd just chat and chew the fat and I'd get to ask questions and also get to check the teacher out."

So now all roads lead to a single track for Scott. And with it, another fork in the road that inevitably will bring him back to The Dhamma. "I'm going bush for a couple of months and then I'm planning to spend the Rains at Bodhinyana," he reveals.

So will this next journey end in robes? "I've been checking it out, he replies. Ajahn Brahm has asked me. I'll see what happens. I've never lived in a monastery before. I'd like to think that, if I did, I'd stay."

## AJAHN BRAHM'S FIVE FAST TIPS FOR REGAINING PEACE AND LOVING KINDNESS

- Stop and feel the wind in your face.
  - Think of the person who has loved you the most in life.
  - Think of the time that you've loved the most.
  - Recall the most peaceful time in your life and then go and give that to the person closest to you.
  - Look at yourself in the mirror and smile.
- If you can't do that, come down to the monastery!

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# TENLIGHTENED TIMES



## Billy Connolly to front Global Conference in Perth?

SCOTTISH COMEDIAN Billy Connolly and well-known Buddhists Jack Kornfield and Robert Thurman may be invited to speak at the Global Conference on Buddhism in Perth on June 10-11, 2006. As Enlightened Times went to press, Ajahn Brahm said he was considering inviting the prominent lay Buddhists to the conference, to be held at the new Perth Convention Centre.

Apparently, Billy Connolly attends a Buddhist temple in Scotland. Robert Thurman is the Buddhist father of actress Uma Thurman, and Jack Kornfield has written and featured in many books on Buddhism.

Suggested topics to be discussed at the conference have included women in Buddhism, and the relationship emerging between quantum physics and Buddhist philosophy. Watch this space and put the dates in your diary now! *Tanyia Maxted*



## CONFESSIONS OF A TRAVELLING MONK

AJAHN BRAHM recently remarked that upon waking in the morning, it was difficult to remember which country he was in.

Earlier this year his travels left some people experiencing jetlag just by listening to his jetsetting itinerary as he traversed Asia for worthwhile causes. It included a the recent pilgrimage to India, talks in Malaysia & Singapore,

and travels to tsunami-ravaged Sri Lanka.

After a short period without his passport in hand, May and June will again be busy for the Society's Spiritual Director - as will November.

Ajahn Brahm visits Sydney early in the month for talks and to oversee ordination of a monk at Ajahn Sujato's monastery.

He will participate in the Buddha Light International's Vesak at the Supreme Court Gardens in Perth on May 15, and lead the Vesak celebrations at Dhammaloka on Sunday May 22.

Then he's off to the joint Vesak in Sydney on Saturday, May 28, and then Vesak in Melbourne, before visiting Canberra in early June.

From June 8-9, both Ajahn Brahm and Ajahn Vayama will attend the inaugural National Australian Sangha Association meeting in Sydney - the first gathering of over 100 monks and nuns from all Buddhist traditions in Australia. The gathering will see Sangha work to officially create a national Buddhist organisation which Ajahn Brahm affectionately calls NASA, and discuss issues relevant to all.

Then without respite, it's off to Colombo, Sri Lanka for both Ajahn's to visit the town of Payagala where over \$58,000 BSWA-raised funds are being used to build 500 homes by the Singapore Buddhist Fellowship. There will also be a prestigious meeting with the Prime Minister and President of Sri Lanka.

Ajahn Vayama stays in Sri Lanka until June 30 visiting refugee camps and parts of the country where she used to live. She then travels to Singapore where she will be giving talks at the Buddhist Fellowship.

Ajahn Brahm will be leading a retreat in Malaysia from June 18-25, and will be in Singapore on June 26 for the BSWA Meditation Retreat Centre Launch.

Ajahn Brahm then returns to Perth for the Rains Retreat and hopes to give some talks at Dhammaloka in October.

From November 1-3 he will lead a delegation of six Australians to Bangkok where he will give a presentation at the 4th World Buddhist Summit. This major event will be attended by 26 countries and several royalty.

Then from November 5, Ajahn Brahm takes on the States and the likes of Oprah - move over Dr Phil - with a North American tour to promote the US version of his book: Who Ordered This Truckload of Dung?

*Tanyia Maxted*





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## SANITY *from* the SANGHA

The connection between right speech and a peaceful mind from the talk 'Living a Whole Life' by Ajahn Vayama

BE OPEN TO the teachings (of the Buddha) – allow them to challenge us and don't just pick and choose those parts that appeal to us, or that coincide with what we already believe.

We might find, for example, that we're challenged in our speech. We might have been quite flippant in our speech, always ready to have a go at someone or make a wisecrack at someone's expense, or maybe stretch the truth a bit when it was convenient.

When we take up the five precepts we're encouraged to speak only what is necessary, only what is kind, only what is truthful. And we might think: well, what bearing does this have on meditation?

But when we sit down to meditate – and the longer we practice – the more we're troubled by what we've said during the day, what we've done during the day. The more those thoughts about the speech come up and invade the

mind, the more difficult it becomes for the mind to settle down. And so we start to see the connection between right speech and a peaceful mind.

Listening to the teaching is often going to challenge us – to look at things differently.

And it's right that we should investigate the teaching and not take it as the truth just because we heard it from the teachers and heard that the Buddha said it.

The teachings of karma for example – getting back what we give out – might be something we don't like because we seem to not be getting what we're giving out. But when we stop and have a look, and see how mindlessly we've been using speech, we can understand why – out of the blue – we seem to get someone telling us off or a nasty comment, or just being exposed to unpleasant speech, even if it's not directed to us.

And we might start to recognise how we are somehow creating this environment through the kind of speech that we're using.

And if we don't want that kind of environment, then we need to change our own behaviour. And so we experiment to see how we can do that, how we can practice that kind of restraint.

What kind of new speech do I have to learn in order not to say what I used to say, and what effect does it have on my own peace of mind and also on the people around me? And what do I get back from it?

This is the way we investigate the teachings, and this is what the Buddha encouraged all of us to do, to listen to the teachings.

To question it, to remember it, to investigate it, and when you see that it works, when you see that it's the truth – even if it's difficult – to put it into practice.

THERE ARE currently several work projects in progress at the monastery. A contractor is repairing the road into the monastery and enlarging the parking space for visitors at the Nuns' Cottage. He will also cut a road through the bush to a site where several kutis will be built sometime in the future.

The monastery has purchased a used caravan in good condition which will be used by one of the anagarikas on the future kuti site. An additional rainwater tank to collect and store water at the Nuns' Cottage will also be installed.

The shed that is currently in the backyard of No 12 Nanson Way, the nuns' area, is being disassembled by volunteers and erected at Dhammasara. The pergola in the visitors area at the first dam will be completed by volunteers.

## DHAMMASARA MONASTERY NEWS

by Ajahn Vayama

In preparation for a cool burn in conjunction with the local volunteer fire brigade, the stack of timber left from the building of the Nuns' Cottage will be moved to the gravel pit for burning.

There are changes to the monastery routine in June. I will be away from the monastery for most of the month and will not be giving a teaching at Dhammaloka in June, although I will teach the weekend retreat at Safety Bay from June 3-5.

The monastery will close to visitors from June 1 and will reopen on June 15, and remain open throughout the rest of the month, except for Tuesdays.

**NEW FILM BRIDGES SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY** What the Bleep Do we Know?! is a new film jumping into the point where science and spirituality meet, exploring the possibilities offered by quantum physics. US Buddhist and former research physicist, William Arntz uses scientists and spiritual experts to inspire thinking about how we create our realities. Featured is spectacular photography of crystallised frozen water which has been subjected to positive or negative thoughts in the form of written messages placed on a bottle containing the water – or blessed by a Buddhist monk. The photos, from Dr Masaru Emoto's work and his book on Hidden Messages from Water, are startling (and there's more on the film's website). They dramatically show the negative impact of negative thought, and positive impact of positive thought. As humans are composed of mostly water, one of the film's characters muses, "If thoughts can do that to water, what can they do to us?" While experienced Buddhists may not find many of the concepts new – with Buddhism teaching that we create our thoughts and our thoughts create our world – newcomers to Buddhism will be inspired to start a greater line of enquiry in their lives. The large screen is a powerful medium for presenting ideas. What the Bleep Do we Know?! is only on at the Luna Cinemas in Leederville and Fremantle. Check out the website about the DVD, book, study guides, links: [www.whatthebleep.com](http://www.whatthebleep.com)

## Assumptions: how many have you made today?

by Tanyia Maxted

WE MAKE too many assumptions which get us into trouble and create turmoil in our lives. That's according to Ajahn Brahm, who says we always try to fit the world into our assumptions, rather than changing our assumptions to fit the world.

"The assumptions we make about others can make all sorts of problems in our relationships," says Ajahn Brahm.

"How many times have you looked at your partner and thought that because of what they're doing, because they were late home, they might be having an affair.

"There's so much suspicion in people's lives, when in fact others may be completely innocent – but we assume the worst rather than giving the benefit of the doubt."

Ajahn Brahm says it's what Buddhists call the fault-finding mind.

"When this fault-finding mind sees something, it always tends to see the worst possible outcome or interpretation.

"We never have the sense of charity, generosity, gratitude, or goodwill to allow the other person the benefit of the doubt."

He says the reason why we make assumptions is because our experience is bent – we're bending the world to suit ourselves. For example, if we're in a bad mood we assume that everything's against us, and misinterpret the actions of others accordingly.

Often, we don't have enough information – so we assume things without finding out what's actually going on. And making assumptions is about judging.

"We don't look at people fairly," he says. "If they're an enemy, we're always reinforcing what we already believed about them."

He says we shouldn't make assumptions if we're acting out of desire, ill will, fear or delusion. Ask yourself, he says, what is this assumption based on?

People also make assumptions about what happiness is, he adds, and this will be a different assumption for different people.

Ajahn Brahm says that single people often assume they'd be happier if they were married, but they'd just have married person suffering instead of single person suffering. Married people can often assume they'd be happier if they were divorced...but then they'd have divorced person suffering instead of married person suffering...and so on.

We assume that happiness is off in the future somewhere and that if you do something different and change things, then you'll be happier. But Ajahn Brahm says you can end up running around looking for happiness – but never find it – because your assumptions are wrong. What are some of your assumptions?

## Armadale Meditation Group 18th birthday bash

by Rachel Green

WE'VE COME of age. In the first week of April we celebrated our 18th birthday with a party. Ajahn Nyannadhammo gave us the wonderful honour of coming along and teaching us.

It was a far cry from the days, some years earlier, when he visited the group to find only seven of us sitting in a big room wondering whether to continue.

The advice he gave us to support each other must have paid off, because when he entered the room this time, about 70 people stood up to greet him.

The room is so packed we don't have any space to bow down without banging our heads on the chairs and bodies in front of us, so this is our way of showing respect to the Sangha.

Venerable Moshe was also our welcome guest. We celebrated in true Armadale style. Michael Ginever, our social organiser, arrived with a birthday cake and candles. Jill Phillips and I, who had attended the group 18 years

ago, blew them out. There was a queue at Ajahn Nyannadhammo's feet, although many were so much in awe to be able to go and speak to him.

Such calmness, serenity and wisdom is so rare in our society that people don't always know what to do when they meet it.

So where next for the group? The need for a larger room is obvious but not easy to arrange because, apart from the size, the hospital set up is perfect.

The next step is to establish a mentoring system. More experienced Buddhists will mentor newcomers and be available during the week to answer their questions and be with them as they learn to swim against the stream.

Christiena Bluett is gradually taking over the running of the group and we look forward to the new ideas she and her team will bring to it. The future may be uncertain but it looks better than ever for the group. Long may it continue to inspire people in the Dhamma!







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# Becoming a Buddhist: inspiring stories from the BSWA lay community

IT WAS NOVEMBER 1998. I handed Ajahn Brahm one of the most important pieces of paper of my life. I wanted to become a full member of the Buddhist Society.

Why was this so important to me? Because it represented an enormous shift in my commitment to the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

I was saying publicly, and to myself, that for the first time I was no longer searching – that I was willing to commit to this path and to go deeper. I had reached a place where I wanted to be for the rest of my life.

It's so easy to keep searching, never making a commitment, always finding the imperfections of a path. Never willing to discipline ourselves – always wanting to keep our options open. And so it had been for me for many years.

I'd been brought up as a Christian in England. Indeed, for my entire childhood I'd been a devoted churchgoer. My father ran the church.

My sister and I had been in the choir singing the hymns at every service for years. And I'd become a Sunday school teacher in my teens.

But as I grew older, I couldn't reconcile my heart with what I heard. Sin, guilt, a future in heaven, a creator God who was responsible for me, and other core items of the Christian doctrine made no sense to me. My doubts grew and I drifted.

I finally left England in my early 20's and moved to Australia. It was there in about 1985 that a friend gave me a set of three tapes and said: "Listen to these, they're of this 'bloke' I've just heard speak and I think you'll like them."

It was only years later that I discovered who he was. He talked about simple Buddhist philosophies. He struck me as being so sensible. I was interested. I did nothing about it, but a seed had been

## CROSSING *the* RUBICON

by Rachel Green

sown. I stayed drifting. About two years later I was suffering and tense when I saw an advertisement in the local paper for a Buddhist meditation group that was opening up near me. The Buddhist bit didn't attract me then but I had heard that meditation was good for relaxation. And I needed that.

My first night there I sat arguing (in my head) with a man with brown robes and a bald head, and I went home far from relaxed. But I returned a couple of weeks later.

But this business of watching the breath eluded me and I was still arguing in my head with the monk. I left more restless than when I had arrived! Then I made myself go for a third time. This time it was different. I had a glimpse of calm.

I kept attending this group on and off. I didn't practice meditation much outside the group, but I did listen to Dhamma talks. I started hanging out for Tuesdays. I was always a nicer person on a Wednesday morning and by Monday nights it was obvious I needed to be recharged!

I still didn't commit. I was interested.

I was happier. But commitment seemed scary. And what would my family say?

Then I started getting panic attacks. Overwhelming episodes of fear. They could occur anywhere. In the middle of the supermarket. At 3am. When I was eating lunch. They terrified me.

I went back to the group every week. I read more – Ajahn Chan. Ajahn Sumedho (so that's who the 'bloke' was). I stopped fighting. This is where I needed to be.

I started practising my meditation during the week. After 18 months my panic attacks left me. I'd learnt to watch them rise and fade away without adding on anything else.

And finally I asked myself the question: "Is this my path?" The answer was clear. I was struck by the authenticity of Ajahn Brahm and Ajahn Nyannadhammo. They talked of happiness. They demonstrated happiness. They talked of calm and serenity. They demonstrated calm and serenity.

Elsewhere people had talked of love and salvation but been stressed and hassled.

Here were the wisest and most serene people I'd ever met. I felt blessed to be in their company and to learn from them.

Now 11 years from the time when I first attended the group, I was handing Ajahn Brahm my piece of paper. I was saying out loud that the religion of my family was not mine. That I was a Buddhist. My heart smiled. This was home. My spiritual home.

I was crossing the Rubicon and would never look back. Joy comes from commitment. I've never been happier.

Have you committed? Or are you still dabbling?

Rachel Green is outgoing Coordinator of the Armadale Meditation Group. She puts the following beautiful sentence on the bottom of her emails: "May you find peace in your heart and freedom in your mind." *Crossing the Rubicon* is an expression from Roman times and it means 'You've burnt your bridges - there's no going back.'

EVERY DAY, consideration of fortunate circumstance and the Dhamma that surrounds us keeps me in focus.

Taking refuge in the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha gives me all the necessary things that my life here requires.

Trying all sorts of things and having material wealth has never made me happy.

I've wondered what it was all about and have searched everywhere for answers, not finding any.

My Catholic schooling and harsh treatment by nuns, brothers and priests put me off Christianity, although Jesus always seemed to be a loving and compassionate being.

After many years, I started to get very depressed and even suicidal – despair seemed to have taken over my life. One day

I had this really bad outburst of rage and anger, upsetting my family, knowing in my heart that this had to stop. I cried out for help. All of a sudden a thought came over me, the thought was: Buddha.

I remembered a little Buddha figurine someone had given me as a desk ornament some years earlier, to bring me luck.

Digging it out of a box of bits and pieces, I placed it on the bedside table and just looked at it for sometime. Seeing how peaceful the Buddha was gave me some sort of hope.

I didn't know what to do. Then I remembered seeing a film about the Dalai Lama and how the Buddhist monks bowed

## WHY BE *a* BUDDHIST

by Andrew McDaid

down to the Buddha. Kneeling in front of the little figurine, I bowed three times and asked Buddha to help me be as peaceful as he was.

At that moment a thought crossed my mind about a Buddhist monastery I'd seen being built some 20 years ago while cutting wood in the forest at Serpentine. I had to find it, and I did.

When I arrived at the monastery I wasn't sure what to do, so I asked a man, what happens here? He told me to come, sit down and have something to eat with them – he made me feel very welcome, and I was already starting to feel better.

After explaining to me about giving alms

to the monks, he suggested I go up and speak to the monk, so I did. The monk made me feel at ease almost immediately, so gentle in his demeanor and the way he spoke.

The monk gave me some little booklets that explained about the basics of Buddhism and the Theravada tradition. After that week I went to the Dhammaloka Centre to hear Ajahn Brahm give a talk, going away feeling happier than I had in years.

I started Buddhist practice straight away. Through meditation practice and listening to the Friday night talks over the course of the last 18 months, my life has turned around.

I live simply, sleep on the floor, meditate regularly and keep the precepts. I have never been happier in my entire life.

Thank you to Ajahn Brahm and the Sangha of the Theravada tradition in the Serpentine Forest Buddhist Monastery for all their wisdom, compassion and patience.

I am still practicing diligently. As a famous monk once said: "May All Beings Be Happy."

*I met Andrew at Dhammaloka one Friday night. After hearing that he'd sold most of his possessions and was sleeping on the floor so he could live simply and follow the Buddhist path, I asked him to write the contribution printed here. He is so committed, that he travels in from the country by public transport to attend events at the temple here in the city - Tanyia*

## Renew your membership today - new members welcome

PLEASE CHECK that you've renewed your membership for 2005. Assistant Secretary, Joel Parker will be manning a membership table on Friday nights at Dhammaloka, or you can email him at: [asec@bswa.org](mailto:asec@bswa.org)

New members to the Buddhist Society are also welcome. Forms are available on the reception desk at Dhammaloka for both Associate or Full Membership. Why not give friends and family guest memberships

for birthdays, special occasions and Christmas? For individuals, memberships are \$33 (\$22 for unwaged), and for families memberships are \$44 (\$33 for unwaged).

If you're new to Buddhism, ask a committee member or another experienced Buddhist how to set up an altar at home, and how you can establish a meditation practice. There are many excellent meditation guides available for hire or sale through the library.





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THE DEVASTATION wrought by the Tsunami Boxing Day disaster focused everyone's minds upon the latent forces of nature.

Ajahns Brahm and Cattamalo were both busy providing solace and wisdom at memorial services and media engagements (Ajahn Cattamalo appeared on the front page of the Sunday Times, and was quoted on what he called the 'second tsunami of compassion'), and at fundraisers at Nollamara and Fremantle.

We've all been deeply moved not only by the scale of suffering, but also by the scale of people's generosity and compassion in their response to this event. Following an initiative of the Buddhist Fellowship in Singapore, Ajahn Brahm was sent on a mercy dash (accompanied by Ven. Abhaya)

are now being restored.

From January 29 to February 2 Ajahn Brahm was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, teaching and promoting the forthcoming construction of the Retreat Centre at Serpentine.

In late February and early March, a pilgrimage to Buddhism's main holy sites in India and Nepal was made by 61 people led by Ajahn Brahm and Venerables Nissarano, Mudita and Ekaggata.

All who went were very inspired and grateful for the opportunity to see and experience these ancient 'power places' of Buddhism.

Ajahn Brahm put in much effort to make the journey a memorable and meaningful one by giving expert spiritual and historical guidance, especially through his nightly

We wish them all our heartfelt best wishes in their progress in the Dhamma. Sadhu!

#### OTHER MONASTERY NEWS

There she blows! Abundant quality water was found to supply the new Meditation Retreat Centre at Serpentine via a drilling bore on the new property. Feedback from the local Shire Office has been very favourable in regard to the establishment of the future Retreat Centre.

Building and maintenance: some renovations and adjustments have taken place on the retreat hut on the new property. One old 'pre-fab' kuti (monk's hut) has been demolished and a brick replacement is being built.

Extensive refashioning of an existing kuti has also been substantially completed. A new covered walking path will be in situ before the Rains Retreat. Selected older kutis have had serviceable cork tiles introduced as substitutes, or replacement for worn out carpets.

The sewing room was completely refashioned and upgraded recently, with cork tile flooring and new benches and shelving added.

Apart from the bricklaying, most of the craftsmanship and labour for these projects was carried out by our Sangha, under the steady and skilful guidance of Ajahn Brahmali, our formidable and indefatigable workmaster.

Thus our costs are kept low, and we're guaranteed quality finished products, customised to the needs of the Sangha. Lay supporters can be immensely satisfied that their hard earned donations to the monastery are so capably invested for the future.

#### VALE - BILL SAUNDERS

The Sangha were in attendance in the final stages of Bill Saunders' life, late husband of Peg. Bill had supported the monks and the monastery for some time, ever since an 'accident' brought them into contact with Bodhinyana. Their kindness and generosity both in their home (regularly inviting the monks for dana), and in their regular support of the Sangha, encouraged many of the younger novices and bhikkhus. Their goodness continues in the respect we all share in human kindness.

## BODHINYANA MONASTERY UPDATE

by Venerable Mudita &  
Venerable Anuruddha

to the Island of Serendip in February.

Providing extensive teaching and moral support, Ajahn Brahm worked tirelessly around the clock for six days, enjoying police escorts to his various teaching engagements.

Ven. Abhaya, who is of Sri Lankan descent, used his organisational skills to support the effectiveness of Ajahn Brahm's contribution.

It was a moment of respectful silence within the Sangha when Ajahn Brahm told us of two crowds of 10,000 people who came to hear this British-Australian monk's discourse on the Dhamma - for two hours at a time. Here was the Dhamma in action.

#### OTHER OVERSEAS VENTURES

In January, Ajahn Brahm attended the First National Seminar on Buddha Dharma in Jakarta, Indonesia. Conference organisers arranged for Ajahn Brahm to visit the ancient ruins of Borobudur in Java, which

Dhamma talks and meditation instructions. Ven. Mudita had such a wonderful time that he was ready to jump on the next plane back to India, but alas, someone has to stay and look after the office, and write these newsletters.

From March 19 to April 1, Ajahn Cattamalo conducted a nine day retreat in Singapore, and also gave a few public talks, which were well received by the local devotees.

#### ORDINATIONS

There have been three new bhikkhus produced at Ajahn Brahm's 'Monk Factory' - Venerables Bodhicitta, Anenja and Santutthi. Two new novices were admitted to the Sangha in April: Ho Wei Loong and Simon Blanchard, whose faces will be familiar to regular visitors to the monastery.

Two new 'factory fodder' recruits have joined the happy anagarika crew at the monastery: Anagarikas Thomas and Paul.

## News in Brief

#### RECORD NUMBERS for WEBSITE

THE BSWA website [www.bswa.org](http://www.bswa.org) has been receiving up to 1000 hits per day. Moves are now underway by Webmaster Clive Hutcheson and President Sol Hanna to replace the existing web server and purchase new software and hardware to enable live broadcast video streaming and improved video downloads of Friday night talks. The online forum is the most popular part of the site, which is currently being redesigned and updated by a volunteer webdesigner in conjunction with Sol and Clive. "This will enable us to introduce online donations and purchases of items produced by the BSWA," says Sol. "It will also make adding content significantly easier and will open the door to participation by more BSWA volunteers."

#### REBUILDING after the TSUNAMI

OVER \$58,000 raised by the Buddhist Society for the Tsunami victims is directly benefiting a community hardest hit by the disaster. When the Australian Red Cross announced it was winding down its appeal, BSWA funds were redirected to the Singaporean Buddhist Fellowship in order to support a Buddhist project to rebuild 500 Sri Lankan homes lost in the catastrophe. Ajahn Brahm and Ajahn Vayama are visiting the site in Payagala in June.

#### SUNDAY DHAMMA SCHOOL

A DHAMMA class for children is held every second and fourth Sunday of the month at Dhammaloka. Children aged from three to 14 are welcome. To register, please email BSWA Community Coordinator John Treasure at [coco@bswa.org](mailto:coco@bswa.org) or phone Manel on 9310 3654, Jee Too on 9457 8721, or Angelina on 9310 3654.

#### VOLUNTEER for GOOD KARMA

VOLUNTEERS ARE urgently needed to gather and write stories for the Society's

**THE BEGINNERS' CHAT FORUM** has resumed on Fridays at Dhammaloka in Nollamara from 5-6 pm. If you've been reading Dhamma books and listening to Dhamma talks and want to find out more, this forum is for you. New Buddhists are encouraged to ask questions and discuss the Dhamma with a peer group. Come along and explore Dhamma topics in detail with the help of an experienced Buddhist. To find out more, call **Albert Mah** on **9450 5751** or **0417 957 369** - or come along on a Friday evening.

quarterly newsletter Enlightened Times, for Dhammaloka's monthly Bulletin, and for the Society's website. These communications are all being revamped and quality news, views and Dhamma content is needed to improve them. If you have writing, PR or photographic skills - quality digital - or simply just want to contribute, please contact Tanyia Maxted on 9203 6304. If there's anything you'd like to see us include in Enlightened Times, email Tanyia on [comms@bswa.org](mailto:comms@bswa.org)

#### OUR MONKS on TV

SBS TELEVISION visited Bodhinyana Monastery in April to film the biannual visit of the New Norcia Benedictine monks. The SBS documentary will be shown in October. Featured will be the visiting nine Benedictine monks, and nine Bodhinyana Buddhist monks - Ajahn Brahm said the score was nine all.

#### NEW COUNCIL

BUDDHIST SOCIETY President Sol Hanna recently attended the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils' Biennial General Meeting at the Atisha Centre near Bendigo in Victoria as a representative of the Buddhist Council of WA. There were representatives from the Buddhist Councils of NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. This meeting marks the establishment of a organisational and communication framework for Buddhist organisations in Australia.

#### SUPPORT the BUDDHIST SOCIETY

PURCHASING BOOKS and CDs from our library supports the work of BSWA. Chanting the Dhamma is the title of a new chanting CD led by Ajahn Vayama and a chanting book now available at Dhammaloka. The book costs just \$5, while the CD costs \$6. Also available are the 2004 Compilation of Talks on MP3 for \$20, and Ajahn Brahm's bestselling book *Opening the Door of Your Heart*, for \$25.

#### VESAK DAY at DHAMMALOKA

VESAK DAY will be celebrated on Sunday, May 22 at Dhammaloka Centre in Nollamara. The event will be attended by WA Multicultural Affairs Minister, Bob Kuchera. For further information, watch for updates on the BSWA website at [www.bswa.org](http://www.bswa.org), or contact the Events Coordinator, Madhavi Karunaratna at: [events@bswa.org](mailto:events@bswa.org)

#### VESAK DAY in ARMADALE

FOLLOWING last year's success, we're holding another one at my property this year on Monday, May 23 at 7pm.

Extra car parking at the art gallery has been secured this year. If you can share transport, this will enable even more people to attend. Chanting will also be part of the program.

Anyone from the Armadale group is welcome to join. Bookings are required. Please register your interest with **Rachel Green** on **9390 1188**, or book in at the group on any Tuesday evening.

## COMING EVENTS

THE EIGHT PRECEPT DAY will be held at Dhammaloka on Monday, May 23 - the day after Vesak - and will be led by Sister Vayama. The Dhammasara sangha will attend. Flower Puja days will be held at Dhammaloka on the following Saturdays over the next few months: June 18, July 16, and August 20.

MEDITATION RETREATS will be held at St Joseph's Retreat House, Safety Bay from June 3-5, and November 11-13. The next nine-day meditation retreat will be held November 18-27 at the Redemptorist Retreat House in North Perth. For further information contact Bianca and Ron on 9472 7634 before 8.30pm evenings.

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE on Buddhism will be held in Perth at the new Conference Centre on June 10 and 11. A program of speakers is currently being developed.