



The practice of generosity

Generosity is core to Buddhist practice and it is considered the foremost and most difficult perfection to be attained in one's life time.

The practice of generosity is understood by Buddhists to bring benefit to the receiver and to the giver who, by such acts, not only diminishes thoughts of selfishness and greed and but also enjoys the happiness and good consequences that always follow acts of service.

A recent example of extraordinary generosity at the Wat has been the commissioning of a new Buddha image for the Sim by the family and friends of Mr and Mrs Liu of Edensor Park.

Presently being built in Thailand, the sculpture is an impressive three metres high and 2 metres wide.

Buddha images, while respected in practice, are not venerated as holy or supernatural. Rather their function is decorative and symbolic; they remind the practitioners of what an exceptional human the Buddha was in terms of perfected morality, penetrating wisdom and compassion.

Teach this triple truth to all; a generous heart, kind speech and a life of service and compassion, these things renew humanity.

The Buddha

Helping neighbours



Venerable Santitthito (second from left) and Pra Khampheang (left) presented a donation cheque on behalf of the lay Wat supporters to Mr Allan, Captain of Rural Fire Brigade of Wedderburn.

The community of monks

Six monks are presently in residence at Wat Buddhavarn and they are fed, clothed and housed by donations that come from mostly from Lao and Thai families of south west Sydney.

The Abbott is the Venerable Thong Soun Phanthoudom and the other monks are the German born Venerable Santitthito, the Venerable Khamphet Vandyvong, Pra Khampheang Saenpraseut, Pra Khaopone and Pra Bonsou.

The younger monks Khaophon and Bonsou are attending courses at Campbelltown TAFE to improve their English. You may see them on the bus!

As an ordained Buddhist monk one must observe some 227 rules of conduct that were laid down at the time of the Buddha. The newly ordained monk is placed under



Venerable Thong Soun: casting concrete ornamentation for the Wat.

supervision of a senior monk for at least 5 years before he or she can travel to other places or live in other monasteries.

Apart from carrying out daily rituals of chanting and prayer, the monks support the lay people by providing blessings, leading funeral ceremonies, and giving spiritual counselling to sick, the elderly and those in need.

Meditation teaching

Two and half thousands years ago the Buddha, a human being living amongst the suffering of the world, by his own efforts and without invoking any super natural power, discovered the cause of suffering and the way to its cessation.

For 50 years from the time of his Enlightenment at the age of 30 to his very death bed at the age of 80 years, he taught

this philosophy, which is called the Dharma, to princes and paupers, anyone and every one who would hear.

The fundamental service of the Wat is to continue this teaching in order to bring peace and ease to troubled minds in these times.

If you want to learn more about the Dharma and the practices of meditation taught

by the Buddha, please come and introduce yourself to the monks.

The Wat is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Phone 02 4634 1169 to make a time with the Venerable Santitthito.

The Wat has a rudimentary library and free publications to give. Occasionally residential meditation retreats take place in the forest at the back of the



Wat grounds. Let us know if you are interested and we will notify you when the next one is happening.

The Wat hosts the celebration of a number of Buddhist ceremonies and festivals through out the year.

The biggest and most colourful is Lao New Year which takes place in April. It's a happy time for the Lao, a happiness that they are eager to share.

It is an open day at the Wat for Buddhist and non Buddhists, locals and non locals. All welcome.

Water is central to celebration; it signifies the washing away of the bad karma of the past year and purifying the mind for the new year.

The hands of the monks are ceremonially washed in appreciation, water is sprinkled as blessings and water is thrown about by the young men and boys. Watch out! It's a lot of fun.



Appeal for Help and Watchfulness



We regret to inform our neighbours that the Wat was recently a target for some calculated vandalism.

At about 6 am on Saturday 28 October 2007 the power box for the Wat was destroyed by a fire bomb and subsequently the monks were without electricity for two weeks.

Campbelltown police are investigating the incident which is understandably a major concern for the monks and the lay people who support them.

Their concern arises from two factors. First there is compassion for the perpetrators,

who compounding wrong views with malicious deeds, will certainly bring evil consequences and much suffering upon themselves in the future.

The second factor is concern for the safety of neighbours of the Wat for such an attack could too easily lead to a bush fire.

The bottom line: it is a Neighbourhood Watch matter and we all benefit by being heedful and caring for our neighbours.

If you have any information in regard to the vandalism or see any suspicious behaviour in the vicinity of the Wat, please contact us.