

# 澳洲金岸法界聖寺來鴻

## News from Gold Coast Dharma Realm, Australia

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Professor Ron Epstein and Ocean Epstein recently visited the Gold Coast Dharma Realm in Australia. After their visit, I accompanied them to Sydney where I gave a workshop to volunteer teachers of Buddhist Studies in the New South Wales school system. The workshop was sponsored by the NSW Buddhist Council, to whom Professor Epstein also gave a talk on “The Growth of Buddhism in the West.” He also spoke to the Buddhist youth group MITRA, which means “friends” in Pali. Brian White, president of the council, and his wife showed us a black and white photo of the Venerable Master Hua in Sydney, which they had scanned and sent to us. The photo was found in the archives at the council. Upon inquiring about the people in the photo, the Whites discovered that the people closest to Master Hua’s right shoulder are Charles Knight and Natasha Jackson who jointly ran the Buddhist Society of NSW which was founded in 1953. Graeme Lyall, former president of NSW Buddhist Council, could not identify the others apart from an Austrian Norbert Moshner at far left of picture.

During the visit to GCDR, Ron accepted an invitation to speak at a symposium called “Women, Faith and a Culture of Peace” at the Multi-Faith Centre at Griffith University in Brisbane. The topic was “Just, compassionate and sustainable Earth communities.” He also led a workshop on “Resolving interfaith conflicts in interfaith gatherings – Some Buddhist ideas.”

It was summer in Australia, in which misty drizzle turns the bush along the Arhat trail into an emerald city and raindrops cling like diamonds to the center of huge spider webs, stretching across the trail—a walk that



the Epsteins enjoyed in the early mornings. During the heavy rains this year, the wallabies (cousins of the kangaroo) forage on the lush foliage in the interior, but two came out to greet Ron and Ocean—the least they could do.

Before leaving, Ron gave a talk at GCDR on “Buddhist Insights about our Environmental Crises,” followed by a discussion with the local Aussies, who are passionate about protecting the land and wildlife of Australia.

Volunteer Buddhist Teachers in Australia: With the growing number of religions in Australia, the schools take a tolerant view and offer a class called Special Religion Education. Each term, stu-

dents sign up to study the religion of their choice, which meets weekly. The teachers for these classes are volunteers, but they have to be trained and certified by their respective religious councils. The NSW Buddhist Council has asked GCDR to participate in training their volunteer teachers. For this reason, I have been giving a series of workshops in Storytelling and Developing Curriculum on Compassion for Animals; Reverence for Earth, in which we are collecting Buddhist stories and creating activities to explain the principles—and to make it fun. Sixty schools have requested Buddhist teachers; so far the Buddhist council has filled thirty of these positions



易象乾教授、劉瑤仙夫婦最近參訪了澳洲金岸法界聖寺。參訪過後，我隨同他們前往雪梨，並為新南威爾斯各學校佛學研究課的義務教師作了一個研討會，由新南威爾士州佛教理事會所贊助。易象乾教授為佛教理事會發表了一項有關佛教在西方的成長之專題演講。他亦為 Mitra（在巴利文即「朋友」意思）佛教青年團體作了一次交流。

理事會主席布賴恩·懷特與其妻子為我們展示了一張宣公上人在雪梨的相片。該相片在該理事會的檔案庫中被發現，懷特亦將該相片掃描並發送給我們。當被詢及相片中人物時，懷特夫婦發現在上人右邊的是查爾斯·奈特與娜塔莎·傑克遜，他/她們是合力經營於1953年成立的新南威爾斯佛教會之幕後功臣。前佛

教會主席格萊姆·萊亞只認得相片中最左邊的奧地利人諾伯特·馬斯爾，其餘的都不能確認。

在參訪金岸法界聖寺期間，布裏斯班市的格裏菲斯大學在其多元宗教中心召開了一個座談會「婦女、信仰與和平文化」，並邀請易象乾教授於此座談會上演講，講題「公正，慈悲與可延續的地球村」。易教授還帶領一項研討會——「解決多元宗教會議上的宗教衝突之佛教理念」。

此時澳大利亞正逢夏季，濛濛細雨將沿著羅漢步道而生長的矮樹叢化成翠綠之都；雨滴如鑽石般懸掛在巨大的蜘蛛網中央，橫跨小徑而延伸。清晨時，易象乾教授夫婦在這裏經行，享受大自然。每逢傾盆大雨，沙袋鼠（與袋鼠相似）躲在矮樹叢裏大快朵頤，但其中兩隻突然竄出來迎接易象乾教授夫婦。在離開之前，易象乾教授在本寺演講「針對環境危機

的佛教見解」，隨後與熱衷於保護大地和野生動物的當地信眾進行討論。

### 澳大利亞佛教義務教師

在澳大利亞，各宗教不斷增長，學校亦採取寬容與開明的態度，並開授「特別宗教教育」課程。每個學期，學生自由選修某一宗教，並每週上一堂課。特別宗教教育課的教師都是以義務性質服務，唯他們都必須經過有關宗教團體的培訓和認證；新南威爾士州佛教協會已要求金岸法界聖寺參與培訓義務老師的工作。為此，我召開了一系列研討會，內容包括講故事技巧、啟發孩子們對動物的慈悲心，以及尊重愛護地球，並蒐集佛典故事和設計一些讓孩子們瞭解佛教道理的活動課程，使學習過程增添樂趣。逾六十所學校已邀請佛學教師執教，到目前為止，佛教理事會已填補了三十個教師空缺。

## Venerable Master's Dharma Words

### ●●●●● 上 人 語 錄 ●●●●●

◎ 蔬菜是天然植物，本身有一種解毒的力量，所以無論妖魔鬼怪灑什麼毒，等會兒就會自然解毒；所以吃蔬菜，是健康長壽最好的保證！

◎ 若想這世界真正消毒，就要大家吃素不吃肉，因為眾生肉都有毒，這種毒質是很微細微細的，當你吃的時候不會覺察，但慢慢地就中了這種毒質。

◎ 世界上所有人不食眾生肉；都吃齋、戒殺、放生，這樣世界災難就會消滅於無形，就能挽回劫運。

Since vegetables are natural foods, they contain natural antidotes which can neutralize toxins. No matter what kind of poison the demons and monsters spray, it is soon neutralized in their system. Therefore, being vegetarian is the best way to ensure health and long life.

If we really want to neutralize the poisons in the world, every person must become a vegetarian, because the flesh of all creatures is poisoned. Although you cannot detect the poisoned when you ingest it, you gradually become poisoned. Moreover, the poison is extremely lethal.

If all people would free the creatures instead of eating them—if all would practice vegetarianism—stop killing and liberate lives, then all the world's disasters would disappear and a crisis would be averted.