

Nalanda Institute Australia

NEWSLETTER

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Pictures Above: Tet Preparations with Thay and students.

“Give the ones you
love wings to fly,
roots to come back
and reasons to
stay.” –Dalai Lama

TET 2019

Every year, we celebrate the biggest festival in Vietnam, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (Tet). A week before the actual event, we started making traditional banh tet (lunar rice cake), cleaning and rearranging the institute, preparing the lucky tree and red pocket money (li xi) with wishing cards enclosed in a red envelope with a gold coin. On Lunar New years eve, we had traditional Bingo calling which raised money for charity for India 2020. We welcomed many people over the 3 days of Tet with delicious vegetarian food and li xi.



Pictures Above: New Zealand Trip with Thay and students.



NEW ZEALAND TRIP

It was a joyful trip to the South Islands of New Zealand. We had a group of 8 people and as you will see in the photos above, we had heaps of fun. Our holiday was mainly for sightseeing and we were able to observe Kea birds (like parrot), nature, lakes (one of the biggest lakes in the world) Wanaka lake, Great Lake Road. We even visited Queenstown's most famous burger and tried vegetarian, deer and lamb burgers. There were many deers, flora and fauna in southern islands – it was truly magnificent sight to view. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see any kiwis however, next time we revisit, they will be on our list of things to see.



SANGHA MEMBER INTERVIEW

Our first interviewee: Dieu Phap

Q1: Why did you choose to study Buddhism in Collingwood?

A1: I had a chance to listen to Thay(Teacher) Linh Tan's talks in Richmond Temple and found it very insightful. Thay explained the meanings of the names of the Buddha as a charioteer, meaning the controller of the chariot, which refers to the one who is able and capable of controlling their senses. This is one of the fascinating things that motivated me to further investigate the topic and the more I studied, the more I enjoyed it as I was able to lessen my defilements.

Q2: How long have you been studying Buddhism at Collingwood?

A2: I have studied with Thay since March 2013

Q3: How has your knowledge increased since your studies?

A3: I found that Thay stresses lots of important teachings and fundamentals which helps me dig into the depths of the teachings and other teachers that I listen to compliment the teachings.

Q4: Have you introduced your friends to join the classes?

A4: Yes, they often attend however they prefer to listen to their favourite teachers as well.

Q5: Are you going to continue to study under Thay?

A5: Defintely, I would love to see the Dharma flourish and the teachings to spread across the globe.

Q6: What are the differences between Thay's teachings that you won't find in other teachers?

A6: There is more depth and detail to the roots of the explanations. I can also learn more English, Pali, Sanskrit which is very beneficial.

“If you want to know
yourself, you lose yourself
in the service of others”
Mahatma Gandhi



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Vesak Day in May
- Ullambana Day in August



END NOTE

Thank you for reading our very first newsletter for 2019. We apologise for any mistakes found in the newsletter and thank you for your understanding. Also, I would like to say a big thank you to Thay Thich Linh Tan for his major contributions to the writing of this newsletter and his work in helping to make this possible. If you would like to give some feedback, please visit www.nalandaaustralia.org and have your say in the contact us page.



Above: Thay and students on New Year Occasion.