

Directors' meeting summary – 19 March 2022

Easter retreat

Planning for the 2022 Easter Retreat from 15-18 April by the Retreat team involved a wide range of considerations. This was the first time a retreat had been held on site since the commencement of covid restrictions in March 2020. Student comfort and the safety of students and residents was a primary focus. Transparency in the establishment of the retreat guidance was also a priority bearing in mind individual risk tolerance.

The retreat team recommended to directors that the retreat be offered live in, day attendance and online. Live in would be limited by the number of rooms for singles or couples with first come, first serve to a maximum of 18. Day attendance would require a daily RAT test.

Covid policies assumed that the COVID environment at the time of the retreat (mid-April) was not significantly more serious than in early March. An analysis was conducted of expected Reff, hospitalisation and case numbers and the likelihood of sub-variants.

The approved plan was designed to reasonably mitigate the likelihood of COVID infection during the retreat. It was designed to manage rather than eliminate that risk. But people who might find the risk unacceptable could eliminate that risk by attending online. It was accepted that a COVID infection during the retreat was a possibility and that if this were to occur that would be a known risk to be managed appropriately in line with a predetermined strategy and not something out of the ordinary e.g. not in the nature of a crisis event.

If you would like a comprehensive list of the covid requirements determined for this retreat, please email events@tushita.org

CovidSafe Plan update

The Covid team and one or two other directors agreed to work on the review of the CovidSafe Plan. As a religious organisation, according to Government definition, the Tibetan Buddhist Society is required to develop a CovidSafe Plan and review it periodically. The updated to the Plan will then be submitted to directors for approval and then summarised and shared with volunteers and the community.

Fund raising for disasters

The centre has traditionally held fundraising for major disasters in Australia and overseas and there was discussion about whether a similar exercise should be conducted for Ukraine and the north eastern floods.

Another proposed model was proposed – TBS donation, offering links to the TBS community of some reputable charities, light offerings, and prayers.

Directors decided to adopt this method in this case and maintain current model as an option, because Geshe-la liked the aggregation of donation effort. The issue will be raised at the May community engagement meeting.

It was decided to donate \$500 to each of the Ukraine and floods charities via the Red Cross. These donations would be highlighted in TBS communications soon.

Temple dining room acoustics

The full amount \$5200 required for the dining room ceiling acoustics project has been raised. Details of implementation will be established in consultation with the centre's maintenance team.

Vajrayana classes

A suggestion was made that Vajrayana classes should be led from the temple when we can, while continuing online for those who need it. It seemed the appropriate place.

It was decided that the Events and Classes team, and Vajrayana students be invited to reconsider issues, perhaps a survey – format of class and times, and make recommendations to directors

It was agreed in the meantime that Vajrayana teachers continue to survey students and if someone is coming into the temple, then the teacher comes in too.

Temple maintenance

The maintenance team has recently toured the temple and other parts of the centre and developed a full list of maintenance needs. The temple builders, Stosius Construction, visited to inspect the temple and can undertake the maintenance and water proofing. Asoka, the temple architect, has been asked about waterproofing the upper balconies, which have experienced continuous issues.