



New Zealand Buddhist Council

We would like to update you about what we've been doing:

- Religious Leaders meeting with Jacinda Ardern in June 2019
- AGM Preparation and AGM in July 2019
- The new NZBC Executive Committee



In June the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Minister of Ethnic Communities Jenny Salesa hosted a meeting of religious leaders. We were represented by Ven. Amala Wrightson and Robert Hunt.

image courtesy of Jocelyn Armstrong

After the Mosque attacks in Christchurch there is more awareness of religious diversity in government, and a will to engage with and learn more about different faith communities and their concerns and needs. We expect there will be more meetings, and we have communicated our concerns on issues such as immigration barriers and access to hospitals for our Buddhist chaplains.

This year our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was kindly hosted by Phen Day Dhargyey Ling, 34 Dudley Street, Richmond, Christchurch on the 20th of July 2019.

We are grateful for the work of their community in hosting and supporting us for the AGM. Minutes of 2019/2020 AGM available upon request to secretary@buddhistcouncil.org.nz



The AGM was followed by a workshop on the Global Climate Crisis and how we respond to this peril. Christchurch-based Dharma teachers Julie Downard and Diana Robertson led this. Julie gave a talk about the strong scientific evidence for a climate emergency, and Di led us through examining our inner responses to that. They then facilitated a discussion among all those present about compassionate action we could take individually and as a community, and how our practice and ethical commitments bring us to that.

Thanks go out to the 22 people who attended the AGM in person and via video-conference, and the others who joined in for the workshop.

NZBC is a not-for-profit membership organisation, and is governed by its national Executive Committee, who are appointed for a one-year term. For 2019/2020 the Executive Committee are:

- Robert Hunt (Chair) chair@buddhistcouncil.org.nz
- Ecie Hursthouse (Vice Chair) vicechair@buddhistcouncil.org.nz
- Derek LeDayn (Secretary) secretary@buddhistcouncil.org.nz
- Simon Harrison (Treasurer) treasurer@buddhistcouncil.org.nz

- Jun Kim (Membership Secretary) membership@buddhistcouncil.org.nz
- Sally McAra (Newsletter Editor) update@buddhistcouncil.org.nz
- Gamini Settinayake (Wellington)
- Peter Small (Dunedin)
- Pimmy Takdhada (Webmaster, Christchurch)
- Rukman Wagachchi (Auckland)

Any of the officers of the Executive can be emailed at the above email addresses.

After our next Executive meeting in mid-September we will be updating you on activities and projects for the coming months.