

BODHI Times April 2023

Occasional newsletter of **Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight** (BODHI Australia)

Founding Patron His Holiness XIVth Dalai Lama



---

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

1. [Projects](#)
2. [UN Commision on the Status of Women](#)
3. [Ambedkar International Mission Australia: casteism in Australia](#)
4. [From the Medical Directors Desk](#)
5. [BODHI Australia AGM 2023](#)

---

## [1. PROJECTS](#)

BODHI Australia is very pleased to announce, after a process lasting almost a year, that we have a new partner NGO – called Nishtha – working in West Bengal, south of Kolkata. We were helped in this search by the Karuna Trust, based in London, who have supported this NGO for a number of years. A representative of the

---

Karuna Trust visits Nishtha several times each year; we have direct contact with this person.

Our search for a new partner was made necessary by the loss of FCRA status of TBMSG (Pune, Maharashtra) – see our newsletter from 2022 and statement at <https://www.bodhi-australia.com/bahujan-hitay-pune-india.html>.

Nishtha is a word in Bengali that means "dedication". It is one of several NGOs in India with this name, but is the only NGO by this name based in West Bengal, as far as we know. Their website is at <http://www.nishtha.org.in/>. Nishtha was founded in 1975, by the mother of Ms Mina Das, who is a dynamic person who currently leads this organisation. Nishtha is the largest of any partner NGO with which BODHI has worked in India. BODHI's funds (approximately A\$25,000 per annum) will almost exclusively be used to improve the education of girls in high school, who otherwise risk early marriage and a vulnerable, precarious existence. Subject to satisfactory performance (included a planned visit by at least two BODHI committee members in early 2025) we plan to support this project for five years. More details are at: <https://www.bodhi-australia.com/nishtha.html>

Nishtha is not a dalit-led NGO, nor is it Buddhist. It is, however, as far as we can tell, ethical, legal, diligent, courageous and working hard to reduce poverty and social injustice in India.

### **Aryaloka Computer Education (ACE): Nagpur, India**

BODHI Australia continues its support for this NGO, led by Aryaketu, who is dalit, and who is inspired by Dr Ambedkar. ACE retains its FCRA status.

---

See [here](https://www.bodhi-australia.com/aryaloka-computer-education.html) (<https://www.bodhi-australia.com/aryaloka-computer-education.html>) for more details. In 2022 BODHI Australia provided ACE A\$13,636, to support scholarships for 50 very poor students to attain basic computer skills, greatly enhancing their chance of reasonable employment and the start of a path out of poverty. We plan to fund a similar sized programme in 2023, with ACE. Our level and form of support for ACE has been stable since 2018 (when we started with this partner) apart from 2020 and 2021, during the pandemic – in which years our form of support altered, due to the suspension of normal educative courses, which are face to face in Nagpur and Raipur.

## **Nishtha: A New Project in the Sundarbans (West Bengal, India)**

### **2. UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

Professor **Elise Anne DeVido** Ph.D. was elected to our executive committee in 2021. Very recently Elise spoke at the 67th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Here is her report.

## **The Work of the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation**

I am a professor at Tzu Chi University (TCU) in Taiwan. Our university – in Hualien, a city in eastern Taiwan – is part of the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation <https://www.tzuchi.org.au/en/>. This complex group of organizations, now operating worldwide, was founded in Taiwan by [Shih Cheng Yen](#), a Buddhist nun (born 1937). Tzu Chi is – by far – the largest and the longest continually operating Buddhist humanitarian organization in the world. Tzu Chi has four main foci: (a) charity, (b) medicine, (c) education, and (d) culture. Tzu Chi has 70 offices (in scores of countries) and 110,000 volunteers worldwide. Since its origin in 1966 Tzu Chi has helped many (probably tens of millions) of people worldwide, included those impacted by disasters and, more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Tzu Chi also aids refugees in more than 10 countries, including in Turkey, Serbia, Jordan, France, Poland, England, Canada, USA, Australia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

TCU has a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Centre for Teaching and Research. In association with that I am a faculty ambassador with a special focus on Gender Equality. One of our Centre's goals is to build and to increase

---

interactions with sympathetic organizations (in any location). Some non-government organizations (NGOs) hold "consultative" status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC). Tzu Chi USA has had this status since 2010, and is active in UN related activities pertaining to the environment, global health, gender, refugees, and religious dialogue. Because Taiwan is not a recognised UN member neither its government, nor even any Taiwanese NGO can play any formal UN role. Thus Tzu Chi USA is a valuable "back door" for Taiwanese citizens to have some influence at the UN, and also to be informed about it.

## 67th annual meeting of UN CSW

This meeting was held in New York City (March 6–17). Over 7,000 people attended almost 1,000 meetings, both in the UN building (see photo) and in nearby conference venues. Some attended virtually. I was fortunate (and honoured) to take part. Most nations and many NGOs send and have sent representatives to attend this and similar UN meetings. However (remarkably) I became the first academic from Tzu Chi University to attend *any* UN-affiliated meeting. This was also possible as I am a citizen of a UN member state (i.e. one other than Taiwan).

Although much progress with women's rights has occurred since the first CSW meeting, this is insecure. There is an ongoing backlash against women's rights globally, from increased violence against women in the public space (e.g. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19> ), to the gender impacts of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, to the daily horror that women and girls face in emergency and crisis settings including in Afghanistan, Ukraine and Iran (e.g. <https://borgenproject.org/impact-of-the-turkey-syria-earthquakes/>).

This year's CSW theme was "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" (See: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2023/03/press-release-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-reaffirms-the-role-of-technology-and-innovation-and-education-in-the-digital-age-in-accelerating-gender-equality> ). Tzu Chi USA organized a panel called "Digitalization: Opportunities to Accelerate Meaningful Learning for All", and also asked Tzu Chi University SDG Centre if any professor would like to make a presentation.

---

Since 2021 I have taught an online course called “Language Exchange Partners for Refugee Students in Turkey.” This course has TCU students (i.e. in Hualien) studying online with Syrian refugee students (who are Muslim and speak Arabic) at the El Menahil International School in Istanbul; this school (from Kindergarten to Grade 12) was founded by Tzu Chi in 2015. The Turkish Tzu Chi branch helps refugees from Syria and Yemen currently living in Turkey, some of whom suffered in the February earthquake. My course’s students (whether in Turkey or Taiwan) design their own English lessons and plan a group project about the SDGs. Although no student is a native English speaker they have found ways (often working collectively) to overcome communication difficulties via translation software, art, music, patience and mutual respect.

During my presentation to CSW in New York (March 8), I outlined this course; I also reported on the achievements of two other TCU professors: 1) a student-designed mobile app for safe sex education to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (including HIV) among at-risk adolescents in Taiwan; and 2) Youth Online Learning Partners. This second programme began in July 2021 by offering online tutoring in English, Chinese, maths, reading, humanities and "global citizenship" to disadvantaged students (those in rural areas and/or unstable homes) in primary and middle school during the COVID-19 epidemic, in both Taiwan and Thailand. The programme is now hybrid (i.e. part electronic, part face to face) and is in its sixth session. To date, over 2,000 university students in Taiwan have tutored over 4,000 elementary and middle school students in these settings.

These three examples can serve as models for other charitable organizations’ education and outreach initiatives – at least to individuals with on-line access. For everyone – but especially women and girls – online education could not only be convenient, but also safer than physical attendance in distant schools. Teaching standards may also be higher, if learning is imparted electronically. On the other hand, an exclusively digital learning environment will not suit everyone. At Tzu Chi, great effort is also made to ensure courses are culturally sensitive.

Clearly, digital learning requires investment in technology: "smart" phones, reliable internet, and – in some cases – computers. Reliable (or even intermittent) electricity is missing in many settings in the global South. Only 22% of people living in Africa have internet access. The Commission [on the Status of Women] noted "with grave concern" that about a third of the world’s population, especially women and girls and people in vulnerable situations, as well as two thirds of women in the "least developed countries" (e.g. Afghanistan, many in sub-Saharan Africa: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/least-developed-countries>), lack

---

internet access ([CSW67\\_Agreed Conclusions\\_Advance Unedited Version\\_20 March2023.pdf](#)). I heard these concerns often in various panel sessions.

### What was accomplished?

I was delighted to represent my University at a UN CSW session, not least as this is one of the few times TCU and Tzu Chi University have closely collaborated. We are now working on a proposal to create a course on global citizenship. I also met some people from UNICEF (UN Children's Fund) and other NGOs, for future contact.

### Were there any downsides?

As this was a UN Conference, there was hype, glamour and pretty language. The CSW67 Agreed Conclusions are "affirmations", not enforceable laws.

### Next steps

Monitoring and enforcement were seen as the most important next steps. Here are the main affirmations:

- **Develop digital tools and services to address the needs of all women and girls**, across sectors and geographies, especially for their education, health, economic empowerment and engagement in public life, and ensure women and girls have access to digital literacy and skills throughout their life course.
  - **Mainstream gender in digital policies to remove barriers to equal access** for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, in rural, maritime or remote areas, with disabilities, Indigenous women and girls, migrant women and girls, and older women.
  - **Foster a policy of zero tolerance for gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology** and ensure that public and private sector entities prioritize its prevention and elimination.
  - **Mainstream a gender perspective in the design of emerging technologies** and adopt regulations to ensure they are subject to adequate safeguards to combat new risks, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, data privacy breaches and improve transparency and accountability.
  - **Promote policies and programmes to achieve gender parity in emerging scientific and technological fields** and create supportive workplaces and education settings, including through gender-responsive education,
-

distance learning solutions and interdisciplinary approaches combining the teaching of social sciences and scientific fields.

- **Develop gender-responsive innovation that challenges gender stereotypes and negative social norms**, including through the development of digital content, awareness campaigns and teaching competencies for positive engagement on digital technologies that engage, educate, encourage and empowers youth, including young men and boys, to become agents of change for gender equality. See: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2023/03/press-release-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-reaffirms-the-role-of-technology-and-innovation-and-education-in-the-digital-age-in-accelerating-gender-equality> .

These all are worthy goals to strive for. The ideal is for governments, private sector, civil society and the UN system to work together. This year, the role of young people, often from remote areas, was prominent, both in person and online, thanks to digital technology.

*The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) marked a momentous milestone for youth representatives, who took part in an interactive dialogue around the CSW priority theme on Monday, 13 March. The event, organized by UN Women, saw the inclusion of youth leaders in the official negotiations for the first time, opening space for them to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices relating to the role of innovation and technological change in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. See <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2023/03/young-leaders-take-center-stage-at-csw67-interactive-dialogue>*

---





Elise before the United Nations building, New York City, March 2023

---



## IN THE NEWS

### World Food Programme (WFP) cuts food rations, in Afghanistan and for the Rohingya

We live in a world of limits, and the collective inability to acknowledge that, by almost everyone other than the Club of Rome (e.g. see "Earth for All" at <https://www.clubofrome.org/publication/earth4all-book/> means that many miss out, including Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Their food rations have recently been cut from US\$12 to US\$10 per month, per person. (The WFP may buy in bulk but this amount seems so small).

See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/7/concerns-mount-over-un-food-aid-cut-for-rohingya-in-bangladesh>. Allowances for Afghani refugees – and no doubt recipients – have also been reduced by the WFP.

In addition, Human Rights Watch reports "rampant police abuse" of Rohingya, in Bangladesh (see <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/01/17/bangladesh-rampant-police-abuse-rohingya-refugees>).

### Caste discrimination in Australia

This remains a problem, as highlighted by this 2023 report in the [Guardian](#), by Karishma Luthria, called 'A disease': [Caste discrimination in Australia is on the rise – but some are fighting back](#)". See, also "[Coming out as Dalit: how one Indian author finally embraced her identity](#)" – about a book by Yashica Dutt which traces her realisation that her history is one of oppression, not shame. And, see following report by Dr Ajay Niranjane.

### Press freedom declines further in India

The ABC radio programme "[Take Me to Your Leader](#)" recently discussed India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, mentioning that a recent BBC documentary (unavailable in Australia) about Modi has been [banned](#) in India. A [three minute excerpt](#) on YouTube is terrifying. Reporters Without Borders states that press freedom in India has fallen to 150 out of 180. Many critical journalists and media outlets have been harassed online and some face criminal charges. The Guardian reports that nine journalists are still being held in Indian prisons, although [one has been released](#) after two years without trial. He was arrested on his way to report on a case of a Dalit girl, from Uttar Pradesh who had been raped and later died.

---

## Testimony of two Uighur women to US congress

Two Uyghur women who claim that they recently escaped Chinese “re-education” camp testified to the US Congress. One, Gulbahar Haitiwaji, said that she spent nearly three years in internment camps and police stations in China, during which she was subjected to 11 hours of daily “brainwashing education”. This included the singing of patriotic songs and giving praise to the Chinese government before and after meals. See, for example: <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/chinas-rights-abuses-in-xinjiang-us-congress-listens-to-uyghur-womens-harrowing-ordeals-articleshow.html>. Meanwhile, UN whistleblower, Emma Reilly (who helped Colin with his own struggle (see <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11687597/There-suppression-truth-secrecy-cover-ups-origin-Covid-19-China.html>) with the UN Environment Programme) continues to accuse the UN of handing over the names of Uighur and other dissidents to the Chinese authorities.

Australian judge Rowan Downing, QC was removed from Emma's case; in response he accused the UN of an “attack upon the independence of the judiciary” and a “coup d’etat”. See: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/australian-judge-accuses-un-of-coup-d-etat-after-dismissal-from-case-involving-chinese-dissidents-20220318-p5a5zd.html>.

---

## 3. AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL MISSION AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR CASTEISM TO BE RECOGNISED AS AN “INTERSECTIONAL SYSTEM OF DISCRIMINATION”

Dr **Ajay Niranjane** Ph.D. was elected to our executive committee in 2019. Ajay, who is also affiliated with Ambedkar International Mission (AIM) (<https://www.ambedkarmission.net/>) reports:

In late 2022 the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) released its scoping report for the National Anti-Racism Framework <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination/publications/national-anti-racism-framework-scoping-report>. This landmark report is the first in Australia to recognise “caste” discrimination as a form of racial discrimination. This is a key step in unmasking this pernicious, degrading practice, defined in the report as a “codified, socio-religious hierarchical system made up of classes and sub-classes that are ranked

---

based on underlying ideas of purity and pollution". It has no place in Australia, though remains an enduring stain in the South Asian sub-continent.

The AHRC scoping report responded to growing community calls for national action, heightened by new forms of anti-Asian racism, particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal contains guiding principles, outcomes, and strategies to begin a national conversation about how to tackle racism.

To produce this report, the Commission consulted with the Australian public, peak and community organisations, experts, service providers, human rights agencies, and government at all levels. More than 100 consultations were undertaken, involving over 300 organisations. Submissions from individuals made up more than a third of the 164 public submissions received.

The report is a vindication of work by several groups representing caste-oppressed peoples in Australia. Allies of AIM Australia which also contributed to this success included The Humanism Project and academics such as Dr. Nisha Thapiyal (<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/profile/nisha-thapliyal>). AIM Australia was instrumental in strategizing the submission content, policy suggestions, and uniting voices from the caste oppressed community in Australia.

AIM Australia also acknowledges the contribution and support of the Periyar Ambedkar Thought Circle Australia and Sri Guru Ravidasji Sabha in this process. We look forward to the next stage of the framework development.

---

#### 4. FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S DESK

##### **Illusions on the path to "net-zero"**

This is the close of BODHI's 34<sup>th</sup> year. Since I am now 68 I have been writing editorials such as this almost half of my life (the first one was released two years after BODHI was started, i.e. in 1991). When Susan and I co-founded BODHI we had the hope that the presentation of facts reported in scientific journals, such as about climate change, would help motivate "engaged Buddhists" – the original main target group of BODHI – to accelerate the energy transition, and thus slow the rate of climate change.

The newsletter in December 1992 (BODHI Times 3) (archived at <https://www.bodhi-australia.com/bodhi-times-newsletter-archive.html>) focussed on climate change, while my accompanying editorial discussed what I

---

had then recently coined as the "technology trap" – i.e. that populations in too many low-income settings (including China) would lock in polluting technologies, such as coal-fired electricity, which in turn would help snare the whole world in a harmful net. In February 2023 the Global Energy Monitor released a [report](#) stating that coal fired power stations in China (under construction or recently approved) are six times as large as similarly new projects in the rest of the world combined. A major driver for this frenzy is the big increase in the use of air conditioners in response to intense heat waves in China. The technology trap continues to hold us in its vice.

Further reflections on this topic can be read at <https://globalchangemusings.blogspot.com/2023/03/illusions-on-path-to-net-zero.html>. More will also be in the forthcoming second edition of the book "Climate Change and Global Health" (for which I am senior editor); hopefully to be published in 2024. I have been working intensively on this project since late 2020; see <https://climateandhealth.wixsite.com/website/chapters>.

### **Illusions on the path towards greater social justice**

In the early 1990s, when I was new to BODHI – and also to the state of the world – I also hoped that the presentation of data about social injustice and other forms of inequality would help to attract and to motivate our readers towards greater social activism, and also to glean some support for our many projects – always intended to be with partners in what were then called “developing” countries, but which today is increasingly referred to as the ‘global South’. (See my [essay](#) on how the “Third World” became the “Global South”, adapted from my entry by this name in the International Encyclopaedia of the Social Science, published in 2007).

My interest in social injustice led to my PhD, supervised by (now) [Emeritus Prof Bob Douglas AO](#), at the Australian National University, and to a largely part time academic career (which continues) – always, however, grounded in the reality informed by my various visits to India (especially) and to my relationships with a series of activists, mainly, but not exclusively in India. Growing up, as I did, during the Cold War, at a time in Australia when governments seemed less dishonest, and when the Australian public service was more ethical than now I had the hope that good progress could be made, at a global level towards a fairer world. (See, for example, the book by Mary Ann Glendon, published in 2001, called "A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/60804/a-world-made-new-by-mary-ann-glendon/>). Now I am far less confident that much progress is going to be made before civilisation follows a path similar to that of many

---

predecessors (e.g. the Roman empire). Human beings may survive what is coming, but it could take us centuries to then recover. A widespread nuclear war could create a dark age lasting for millennia, or worse.

I think a suitable analogy may be that social activism keeps a flame going in the darkness, and this light gives hope to others.

## **Illusions about the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic**

In early 2020 I was commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to write a report on the pandemic, regarding its origin and implications. This was published in October 2022 and can be read at <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/40871>. Despite ongoing claims that the cause of the pandemic has been solved I remain unconvinced, as does Professor Delia Randolph, lead author for the other UNEP report on the pandemic. We co-authored an essay in the Daily Mail on this topic, published in January 2023, called "There has been a suppression of the truth, secrecy and cover-ups on an Orwellian scale. See: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11687597/There-suppression-truth-secrecy-cover-ups-origin-Covid-19-China.html>.

The main point of our essay is not that the pandemic may have arisen from risky "gain of function" experiments undertaken at the Wuhan Institute of Virology (though it may – see the testimony by former director of the US Centers for Disease Control, the virologist Dr Robert Redfield: watch and listen, starting at the 39 mins mark, for 5 minutes at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?526520-1/house-subcommittee-examines-origins-covid-19>), but that medical scientific leaders in both the US and the UK hid their own doubts from the public. As a result of my work on this topic I was recently asked to join a group called "Biosafety Now!" See <https://biosafetynow.org/>. This seeks to better regulate dangerous virological experiments. See also my essay with Dr Yanna Lambrinidou called "COVID-19 and the existential threat of scientific hubris" at <https://biosafetynow.org/covid-19-and-the-existential-threat-of-scientific-hubris/>.

I received some criticism for writing this piece in The Daily Mail (we were helped by the award winning British journalist Ian Birrell – see <http://www.ianbirrell.com/about-me/>), but more "centrist" and "left wing" media have shown a distressing close-mindedness about this topic. So too have many scientific and medical journals, including *Science* and *The Lancet*. However, not all do. I anticipate, from May 2023, starting a new (and senior) role with the

---



journal *Frontiers in Public*

*Health* (see <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health>), in their Planetary Health section. I have long complained that this emerging sub discipline (i.e. planetary health) has some major blind spots (e.g. see my essay: "Limits to Growth, the Rohingya, and Planetary Health" at <https://globalchangemusings.blogspot.com.au/2018/02/limits-to-growth-rohingya-and-planetary.html>)

BODHI will soon start its 35th year. I deeply appreciate your support.

All best wishes, [Colin Butler](#), Dorje Ling West, March 23, 2023

---

## **BODHI AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting Melinda Mayne was elected as a executive committee member, taking the place of Maxine Ross, for whose support and contributions since 2017 we are grateful. Other positions are unchanged (Lucia Arman, president, Dr Devin Bowles (vice president), Colin Butler (secretary and treasurer, [Dr Ajay Niranjane](#), Dr Gilles Rohan and [Prof Elise de Vido](#) (executive committee members).

Minutes and reports (related to the [2021](#) calendar year) of our [2022](#) AGM are available [here](#).

## **5. BODHI Australia Annual General Meeting 2023**

Our 2023 AGM will be held by Zoom starting 11 a.m, Eastern Australian time, Saturday 20 May 2023. Please [email](#) us for the link.

Agenda:

1. Present
  2. Apologies
  3. Ordinary business
-

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes (link to 2022 minutes) of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting.
- 3.2 To receive from the committee, auditor and servants of the Organisation reports\* on the operations and transactions of the Organisation during the last preceding financial year of the Organisation; (i.e. reports from the President, Treasurer, Communications for calendar year 2022);
- 3.3 To elect the officers of the Organisation and the ordinary committee members;
- 3.4 To appoint the auditor and determine his or her remuneration;
- 3.5 To appoint a Public Officer;
- 3.6 To determine the remuneration of servants of the Organisation.

4. Business Arising (if any)

5. Special Business.

5.1 Signatories to ANZ accounts

6. Date and place of 2024 A.G.M.

7. Meeting close.

---

## THANKING OUR DONORS; CONTINUING OUR WORK

We are deeply appreciative for our donors, partners, advertisers ([Biodistributors](#), previously (as well) Fortress Learning) and other supporters, past and present.

If you are reading this but have never made a donation, you may think that \$20 is not a lot .. but we assure you that it is. (It is also personally encouraging for us). If you are already a donor (THANK YOU!), please consider forwarding this newsletter to someone you know.

At its peak (1960s) the Australian government spent almost 60 cents in every \$100 of gross domestic product on foreign aid; this is now only about 20 cents. Some countries, including Britain, give approximately five times as much as a proportion. Private donations can help fill this gap.

**How to support our work**

---

To help us continue (and expand) our work, please consider making a donation which you can do safely by clicking [here](#). We can no longer accept credit card donations, but bank transfers, Paypal and cheques are fine. (Bank transfers are best, but please let us know about them so we can issue a receipt). Donations are tax deductible if you pay income tax in Australia.

## What is BODHI?

Since 1989 BODHI (Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health and Insight) has supported more than 50 development projects mainly in India, Bangladesh, Thailand and the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. BODHI is (we think) the world's fourth oldest Buddhist influenced development (aid) organisation based outside of Asia. More on our history is [here](#). Our website is <https://www.bodhi-australia.com/>.

---