



Drol Kar Buddhist Centre

Newsletter December 2025

DECEMBER-JANUARY DATES

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| December 7 | First Sunday of the month teaching 10.30am - 12 noon |
| | Break-up lunch 12.00 after teaching [bring a plate] |
| December 8 | Drol Kar closes for Summer Break |
| January 9,16,23,30 | Summer Meditation class (Fridays) 11.00am - 12 noon |
| January 24 | Karma Yoga Working bee (lunch provided) 10.30am - 12 noon |

Drol Kar Committee Changes

As announced by Karen Mayer in the November newsletter, she and David Mayer will end their 26-year run of service in official capacities with the Drol Kar Buddhist Centre at the end of this year. We cannot thank them enough for everything they have done for this Centre. Without such service, institutions like DKBC cannot function. Luckily, they assure us that they are not going anywhere and will still be part of the DKBC community.

So, Drol Kar will head into 2026 with some new faces on committee, and some old faces taking on new roles. We are very happy to welcome three new people to the Committee of Management.

Drol Kar Buddhist Centre committee for 2026

Geshe Sonam Thargye – Spiritual Director

Helen McKenzie - Associate Director

Jampa Drolma - Spiritual Program Co Ordinator

Kate Kirkhope - Treasurer

Margot Brulotte - Secretary

General committee members: Sue Baensch, Wendy Walker and Trevor Deutrom

Thank you to our new committee members for offering their time and skills to help ensure the Centre continues to flourish.

Programs and events ~ December 2025 / January 2026



Drol Kar Buddhist Centre

First Sunday of the Month
10.30am – 12.00 noon

December 7
Geshe Sonam Thargye
teaching
Buddhist Philosophy
and Meditation

Teaching commences at 10.30am sharp

General Public \$10/ \$7 conc
Drol Kar members – no charge

Please note: if you are unable to pay the full amount indicated for this teaching, please just pay what you can afford

Drol Kar Buddhist Centre Summer Meditation Classes

January 2026
Fridays ~ 9, 16, 23, 30
11am -12 noon

625 Nortons Road, Paraparaom

Drol Kar Centre open
from 10.30am
Class entry by donation

ALL WELCOME



DKBC Members & Friends

Christmas Break-up

Gathering/Luncheon

December 7, 2025

From 12ish after Geshe Sonam Teaching

Bring a plate of lunch food to share

Tea and Coffee provided

Rest in natural great peace, this exhausted mind, beaten helpless by Karma and neurotic thought

FIRE SAFETY at PARAPARAP

With the Summer fire season fast approaching, it is timely to remind members, patrons and visitors of the Drol Kar fire safety policy. As Drol Kar Buddhist Centre is located in a fire prone area, everyone visiting the Centre is advised that the following fire safety policy operates during the summer months.

Please note:

Drol Kar Buddhist Centre will be closed to all visitors on days of **TOTAL FIRE BAN** in the **Central District of Victoria**, which includes the Surf Coast region. The decision to close will be determined by notifications from the Victorian CFA via public broadcasts and the Vic Emergency app. Visitors will be notified of the closure on the DKBC website and signage on all entry points.

SNAP SHOTS of 2025 at Drol Kar



2025 - Some Thoughts on the Year Past

Impermanence: Things Change - basic concept of Buddhist philosophy - and 2025 has certainly brought change to Drol Kar Buddhist Centre and its home base, the property at Paraparap.

The most recent and significant of these changes - to committee - have been noted already with the decision by foundation members Karen and David Mayer to step down from committee, but there have been some significant changes on the teaching front and in the grounds as well.

While the core Drol Kar programs have remained basically the same, in October we welcomed the first teaching by Venerable Lharampa Geshe Tsoda Gonpo. Another first was a teaching day organised and run by Darren Fahroedin. This lightened the teaching load for Venerable Jampa. We anticipate hearing more from Geshe Tsoda in 2026.

Many changes to the grounds in 2025. Early in the year the Vietnamese marble, White Tara statue was installed near the gompa.

Winter and Spring rains led to an abundance of growth in the gardens. It's always a wonder to see how bare ground

disappears within a few weeks, to be covered over by jonquils, daffodils, lilies, violets, and irises and greenery. The addition of access to ground water, aided financially by many members and supporters, has led to the replenishment of the dams after a two-year dry period.

Geshes Phuntsok and Tsoda always spend part of their day working outdoors tidying, watering, building or reorganising things. Geshe Sonam has long wished to improve the point of entry for the Centre especially near the sheds. The changes are intended to create a more spacious and appealing view as people walk into the Centre, along with additional onsite car parking.

Geshe Phuntsok has shown considerable resourcefulness in bringing about the requested developments, managing the construction, demolition, and relocation of various structures with Geshe Tsoda as builder's mate.

The greening of the newly open spaces will take a little more time, but come February, everyone will hopefully notice a big improvement.

Helen McKenzie

Karma Yoga at Drol Kar

Saturday 24 January 10am -12 noon

Lunch provided from 12pm

Karma Yoga is the practice of selfless action performed for the benefit of others. The purpose of the action for the performer is to purify the mind.

Every year at Drol Kar, towards the end of January, members and friends of DKBC gather to prepare the gompa and its surrounds for the Centre opening in February.

Tasks usually include **cleaning windows, carpets, woodwork, pathways, bricks, bathrooms** and the notice board, making any **minor repairs** and tidying the gompa gardens.

It's always a happy, communal occasion; a chance to catch up with people you haven't seen for 7 weeks or so as you work together or share a cuppa or lunch.

Cleaning materials and implements provided, but you can bring anything you think may be useful.

Watch for the **reminder notice in January** by email and on socials.

