



**Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Multicultural Procession
A Multicultural Celebration in Victoria of the
Lord Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Passing**

Saturday 7 May 2015.

PROCESSION DETAILS

1.00pm-1.30pm

The annual United Nations Day of Vesak Procession starts at 1.30pm from the Parliament Gardens Reserve on the corner of Spring and Albert Streets, East Melbourne.

The peaceful and colourful procession, announced by the sound of the gong, followed by flag bearers, before a large Buddha image, and as in previous years, followed by a number floats, then the Venerable Buddhist Monks and Nuns, lantern bearers, children in costumes, traditional dancers, drummers and musicians and more.

The procession will bring together around 500-800 members of the Buddhist community, families and friends representing our Victorian Buddhist Temples and communities, and friends walking mindfully and peacefully together.

Under the direction of the Victoria Police our procession will proceed South from the gardens along Spring Street, to turn right onto Collins Street and proceed down to Swanston Street. The procession's 1.30pm arrival at the front steps of Melbourne Town Hall, announces the start of the Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Celebrations main event inside the Town Hall.

It will be the 9th consecutive year when Victoria's diverse multicultural Buddhist community comes together in the heart of Melbourne to observe the United Nations Day of Vesak, presented with a balance of Commemoration and Celebration.

Around this time each year Buddhist practitioners and communities around the world come together to celebrate Vesak: the birth, enlightenment and passing of the Lord Buddha.

This will be our sixth procession walking together as a multicultural Buddhist community through the streets of Melbourne as part of our annual United Nations Day of Vesak Celebratory program.

Our vibrant Buddhist community is a diverse and harmonious community of cultures, traditions and forms of practice including members of the Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian, Mongolian, Thai, Tibetan, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese and Vietnamese Buddhist communities.

UN Vesak Procession is a free event and we warmly welcome those of other faiths and wider community to join us.

We are honoured once again to enjoy the support of the City of Melbourne, and the wider Victorian Buddhist community.

ROUTE

Participants will gather at the Parliament Gardens Reserve – where the procession will commence, walking South along Spring Street past the Parliament of Victoria, turning right into Collins Street, west across Exhibition and Russell Streets to Swanston Street, to conclude at the front entrance to the Melbourne Town at 1.30pm (estimated). Route marked in **...GREEN...**
(source: http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/CityMaps/Documents/Melbourne_city_map.pdf)



Around 500-800 persons are expected to participate in this year's event, walking peacefully and orderly rows, with many carrying small Buddhist flags; and others with small banners representing their Temples and organisations.

A number of small colourfully decorated hand wheel floats will be lead the procession, the largest with a large image of the Buddha. Float dimensions: W1.4m x L2.4 m x H2.4m.

Our team of around thirty Volunteer Marshalls will coordinate the safe and peaceful progress of the walk at all stages.

EVENT IMAGES

Further details for the UN Day of Vesak for 2016 and photos of previous years can be found at **www.unvesak.org**

ORGANISATION CONTACT

Myly Nguyen

President, Victorian United Nations Day of Vesak Inc.

Registered Office: 33 Brooking Street Upwey, VIC 3158

ABN 99 819 684 112

Website: www.unvesak.org Email: unvesak@gmail.com

Telephone (03) 9754 3334 Fax (03) 9754 3334 Mobile: 0432 225950

PROCESSION TEAM CONTACTS

Julian Bamford

Steve Lowe

M 0400 267 330

M 0422 357693

E julianb.mcsc@gmail.com E saigon69@tpg.com.au