

## **BSWA AGM –SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

In the 6 months since the previous AGM, 2 full monks have been ordained as well as one novice monk. One junior monk disrobed because of illness.

Work has begun on the 6 fire-proof kutis on “Hermits Hill”, part of Bodhinyana Monastery, having finally, successfully negotiated the Building License over seven frustrating years! The brick walls of the six huts are complete and we hope to have the huts ready to live in before the start of this year’s Rains Retreat. The newly constructed office building in Bodhinyana had one of its rooms transformed into a studio from where we can live stream talks internationally as well as nationally, or participate in committee meetings with the many organisations which our monks support.

Although we have not travelled internationally over the past six months, we have still given many talks and led many retreats in UK, Europe, USA, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong – over services such as Zoom. This has kept us in touch with our large international group of followers.

Our monk in Albany, Ven Mudu, has continued to develop a large support base in the Great Southern region of WA and has now been joined by a second monk, Ven Nivato. They have worked hard on the water supply and the fire breaks of their beautiful residence.

Ajahn Santutthi and Ajahn “JR” also worked hard rebuilding what was once a rundown stable for horses into a beautiful four bedroomed ‘vihara’ (monastic dwelling). The work was completed in mid-March and they have now taken up residence therein. The name of the dwelling is “Kusala Vihara” and it is located at 48 Stocker Road in Roleystone.

In spite of the restrictions generated by the Covid pandemic, we were still able to hold many events at Bodhinyana, including the 2020 Royal Kathina ceremony and also held many retreats at Jhana Grove, but for Western Australians only. Unfortunately, Ajahn Appicchato’s father died early in 2021 and the hard working senior monk had to fly to northern NSW to help arrange the funeral and many other matters. When all is settled, he will return to Bodhinyana.

Even though there has been no international travel, all the monks have worked hard serving the various duties of a monastic, many of which our lay community do not see. Our Sangha is growing, the monastic residences are growing and our outreach with talks and books and traditional Buddhist services is also growing. All is well.

With Mega Metta, Ajahn Brahm March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021