

BSWA 2022 AGM – SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS ADDRESS

The past year was a busy year for Bodhinyana Monastery. Five new *samanera* (novices) and two monks were ordained here. No monks disrobed. We continued to finish off the building of the 6 new kutis on Hermits Hill. Walking meditation paths for these kutis are now being built by the monks, together with a new ablution block. It seems that as soon as a new kuti is constructed, it is occupied. We expect 30 Sangha members in residence over the coming Rains Retreat.

In spite of the Covid pandemic, the Sangha in WA remain in good health. No resident in our monasteries have yet caught Covid.

As we were unable to physically travel overseas, our many voices did the travelling over Zoom. We gave Dhamma talks, retreats and committee meetings, for many organizations worldwide. This kept the donations coming in to support our many monasteries.

We held a very successful 70th birthday celebration for Ajahn Brahm. The Royal Kathina ceremony for the Bodhinyana Sangha was conducted in Jhana Grove and was very well attended.

The hermitage in Albany continues to do well, usually with two monks, who share the meditation and Dhamma teachings to the local 'Albanians', especially the Thai and Sri Lankan community. The Kusala Hermitage in Roleystone is also thriving due to the hard work of Ajahns Santutthi and JR. They completed work on the conversion of the stables into a delightful monastic residence. They are now building a "Granny Flat" to provide extra accommodation.

Most importantly, the Sangha of the BSWA, both monks and nuns, support each other well. Their harmony allows them to develop their personal practice and then share the kindness and wisdom of their insights with the larger Buddhist community who support them. Even though international travel has yet to begin for us, the monks and nuns have all worked hard fulfilling the various duties of a monastic, blessing weddings and funerals, giving advice on meditation and life, and being a good example to all.

The senior monks have also helped our hard working committee and its staff, contributing to the smooth running of such a big and successful organisation.

With Mega Metta, Ajahn Brahm April 2022