

BSWA 2023 AGM

Assistant Spiritual Director's Address

Overview

2022 to 2023 was another historic year for Dhammasara and the BSWA and its committee & members. After the completion of the Sala Complex, the carpark & Dhammasara Access Road, the 4 additional New Kutis and 1 Retreat Kuti were completed before Vassa 2022. We are hopeful to start the construction of the 2nd Retreat Kuti soon.

The nuns that have been posted to Santi are doing a great job. The nuns have made connections and good relations with many lay supporters, as well as other monastics from both NSW and ACT and have been actively engaged in teaching activities.

- Ayya Upekkha and Ayya Karunika went to the Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara in Canberra to conduct a youth programme.
- Ayya Upekkha and Ayya Karunika offered dhamma talks via zoom for the Anukampa community in UK (we were invited by Ayya Canda who is leading the Anukampa Bhikkhuni project in UK). They also taught Ayya Adhimutti's Dhamma group in New Zealand.
- Ayya Karunika conducted the following zoom teaching sessions: a guided meditation session and a brief dhamma talk via zoom for the Price Street Mindfulness session in Orange, NSW; a Q&A session for 'Sacred Space' organised by the Lankarama youth group.

Dhammasara will remain as the main training nuns' monastery and the senior nuns are doing a great job in helping with the teaching and training the junior nuns and Anagarikas.

Dhammasara Community

Now, we have a community of 10 Bhikkhunis, 4 Samaneris and 2 Anagarikas in total, a community of 16 at Dhammasara. There will be 2 candidates joining Dhammasara to take up the Anagarika's training before Vassa 2023.

Activities

- Ajahn Hasapanna attended Kenwick Temple's Vesak celebration on Saturday, 14th of May 2022.
- Ajahn Hasapanna with 2 Dhammasara nuns attended the BSWA Vesak Celebration at Dhammaloka on the 15th May, 2022.
- Dhammasara Kathina Ceremony was held on Sunday, 23rd October 2022.
- Ajahn Hasapanna and 2 Bhikkhunis attended the Santi Forest Monastery Kathina Ceremony on the 30th of October 2022.
- Ajahn Hasapanna conducted a weekend retreat 16th-18th December at Jhana Grove.
- Ajahn Hasapanna gave the Friday night talk and conducted the meditation class for the weekend 23rd -25th December at Dhammaloka.

St John Safe Workplace assessment

Recently, Dhammasara had undergone St John Safe Workplace assessment as part of our duty to maintain and develop our emergency plan, first aid kit restocking and maintenance, as well as workplace first aid procedures. Based on the recommendation, we have revised the monastery's first aid procedures, installed an AED Ready Pack for our Defibrillator and stocked up on additional Snake Bite Kits.

Building & Maintenance

- Due to our badly damaged Northern Border fences, we have to replace/repair them to prevent trespassers from entering our property.
- We found our Solar pump and controller not working due to high voltage likely caused by a power surge, consistent with storm damage. We have replaced with a new solar pump, controller and a connection box and float for pump.
- The firebreaks and Emergency Exit Road have been repaired and maintained also profiling some parts of the Emergency Exit Road.

Last and not least, I would like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the committee members and all the supporters/volunteers for your support and kindness.

Ajahn Hasapanna
Assistant Spiritual Director
4 April 2023