

BSWA 2023 AGM - Spiritual Director's Address

The past year has seen the Sangha grow fast in Bodhinyana. Five of our novice monks took full ordination in 2022, and four of our anagarikas took the novice ordination. Even though we completed the walking paths on the 6 hermits' hill kutis and installed the ablution block for the use of those in the new kutis, the monastic residences filled up fast. It is an ongoing problem for us to find suitable accommodation for all the Sangha under our care. Kusala Vihara in Kelmscott is adding accommodation and that is such hard work for the monks. I hope that the Albany Hermitage will also find a way to add more accommodation.

In March (2022) we purchased the adjoining 92 acre plot of land, 142 Kingsbury Drive for \$966,000. The Sangha had been looking to buy this land for many years because it butts in to Bodhinyana Monastery. If someone else developed this land, it could destroy the peace and ambience of our monastery.

The Sangha at Bodhinyana continue to give teachings at Dhammaloka most weekends, in Karnet prison farm on Fridays, to the Armadale Group over Zoom, and to International Groups also over Zoom. Now that the Covid restrictions were eased, senior monks have taught in Europe, USA, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

We have also managed to give a weekly Dhamma talk at Bodhinyana, taught the Vinaya and Pali to young Sangha members, taught 9 day and weekend retreats in Jhana Grove, and held traditional Buddhist ceremonies for weddings and funerals as well as big ceremonies for New Year, South-East Asian New Year, Vesak, Entry to the Rains and the Royal Kathina ceremony. The 2022 Kathina ceremony was the biggest ever, raising over \$160,000 for Bodhinyana Monastery.

The hermitages in Kusala and Albany continue to thrive due to the hard work of the Sangha members who live there.

With Mega Metta, Ajahn Brahm April 2023