ANNUAL REPORT BY HON PRESIDENT TO BSWA AGM 10 MAY 2025

BSWA Committee, Staff and Volunteers

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the wisdom and pleasure I have received from the Buddhist Society over the years, both as an ordinary member and by serving on the committee. My role as president over the past two years has been wonderful. It has given me the chance to work with exceptional people, including our Spiritual Director Ajahn Brahm, Assistant Spiritual Director Ajahn Hasapanna and Second Assistant Spiritual Director Ajahn Brahmali. I am incredibly grateful for their guidance, wisdom and dedication to the Dhamma. I also acknowledge the great support from our committee, staff, volunteers and members of the Society.

2024 was a year of stability at the Society, and I'm pleased to report this because it meant the Committee and staff were not unnecessarily overworked. I hope 2025 continues the same.

Events

In November 2024, the BSWA organised a series of events to honour our teacher, Ajahn Brahm, in celebration of his 50th anniversary as a Bhikkhu. These sessions featured Dhamma offerings from across Australia and around the world, with Bhikkhunis, Bhikkhus, and lay teachers sharing their gratitude and inspiration through Dhamma talks. To commemorate the occasion, a free eBook was compiled, and printed copies were distributed at the final celebration with Ajahn Brahm on December 1st. I would like to extend my gratitude to the monastics and lay teachers who contributed to these events globally, as well as to the BSWA volunteers and lay community for their invaluable support in making them a success.

In August 2024, a special event was held to celebrate Ajahn Brahm's 73rd birthday, to raise funds for the Bodhinyana Great Southern driveway project. The event was a success, thanks to the dedication of our lay supporters who organised, donated funds, and contributed through the online silent auction. I would like to express my gratitude to all those involved and extend a special thanks to Ajahn Brahm for taking time out during the Rains Retreat to attend this worthy event.

Property Purchase

BSWA successfully purchased a 50-acre property with existing buildings, Lot 4 Delila Follow, Serpentine, on 11 November 2024. The new property will provide residence for a growing number of monastics at Bodhinyana Monastery.

Grant Applications

Lay Har, our Operations Manager, has been diligently applying for eligible grants all year. Grant applications are usually a highly competitive process, and submitting one requires a lot of effort, as the grant requirements and supporting documents can be very demanding.

Though we had a few unsuccessful attempts, we were very pleased to be successful with securing the Faith-Based Places Grant ($195k) from Attorney-General's Department. The Agreement was executed in February 2024.

We also submitted the expression of interest in a Volunteer Grant as part of 2024-2025 funding round in Cowan. If BSWA is successful, we may receive 2-3 laptops and fees to pay Volunteer Insurance Premiums.

BSWA Mental Health First Aid training

In 2024, our BSWA staff, volunteers and Monastics attended a refresher course for previously qualified Mental Health First Aid training. It is important for BSWA to ensure we remain up to date with this important training.

Popularity of Ajahn Brahm's talks translated into Russian and Ukrainian languages

Ajahn Brahm's talks and guided meditations translated into Russian and Ukrainian languages have gained popularity and received thousands of views on YouTube. We are delighted to have great supporters overseas who made these translations possible and keep working on this project, especially during this difficult situation both countries are currently in.

Our Focus in 2025

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities to further expand the Dhamma teachings, our meditation and retreat programs. Our monastics continue to teach in Perth, Albany, Melbourne, Sydney, England, Norway, Finland, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. We remain committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, fostering spiritual development, spreading Dhamma and contributing to the well-being of our community and beyond.

In conclusion, I am very optimistic about the future of our Buddhist Society. I would like to let the Society know that this will be my third and last year as President, and I will be retiring from the committee after this term, meaning I had a total of six years on the Committee.

Kseniya Lytvyn

BSWA President

March 2025