Jhana Grove Meditation Retreat Centre 2025 AGM Report

RETREATS

During 2024, BSWA conducted seven retreats in Jhana Grove.
Ajahn Brahm - Two 9-Day Retreats
Ajahn Brahmali - One Sutta Retreat
Ven Sunyo - One 5-day Retreat
Ayya Seri - One Weekend Retreat
Ajahn Hasapanna - One Weekend Retreat
Group Self Retreat

The 5-day retreat was created for those who had done weekend retreats but were not ready to attend a 9-day Retreat.

Jhana Grove Retreat Team consisted of 15 volunteers. All were working full-time or part-time running or organising retreats and doing preparation work for live streaming.

The cooked meals and most of the food supply used during BSWA retreats were prepared and donated by our strong and dedicated multicultural BSWA community.

Jhana Grove continued live streaming all the talks given during all BSWA retreats, allowing the Teachings to reach those who were not in Jhana Grove. The much more reliable internet connection here now had also allowed other Buddhist groups to zoom their talks and stream audio talks.

Six 9-Day retreats were conducted by other Buddhist organisations.
PIMG - Two retreats
Sri Lankan Buddhist Community - Two retreats
Penang Buddhist Group - One retreat
*Bodhinyana International Foundation/Ehipassiko Indonesia - One retreat.
*Buddhist Fellowship Singapore – One Retreat
* Ajahn Brahm was invited to teach in these retreats.

Regular self-retreatants, two from overseas, had been staying from three nights to one month. There were newcomers with one being from a different Buddhist tradition. They enjoyed the peaceful environment, the sense of ease coming from minimal physical discomfort and the sense of seclusion of having a cottage to themselves suitable for their meditation practices.

RETREAT CENTRE

Tim Bloxsome replaced Scotty Ermer as the Male Caretaker in May 2024.

Annie Keating who had been managing the garden since 2018 resigned last year. The garden had been managed by Tim and Nicholas Hall since then.

We continue to close the centre during February to do the usual 'Spring Cleaning' from washing pillows to changing flexi hoses by a group of volunteers.

Major repairs and maintenance:
a)Severe erosion of a galvanise outflow pipe from the service water tank. We could not find any commercial plumbers who would repair the damage or replaced the pipe. In the end, two monks from Bodhinyana with plumbing skills and a lay guest who is an engineer at the monastery repaired the damage.

b)Severe reduction of bore water flowing into the bore tank. The two monks with plumbing skills had to roll up their sleeves again to resolve the issue. We discovered that the water pipe leading from the bore to the iron sedimentation tanks was occluded with iron.

c)The two butterfly valves on the service tank were removed and cleaned. The valves could not fully close. Both valves were serviced by the engineer lay guest at the monastery.

d)The duct work of the evaporative cooler above the main kitchen was replaced. Debris from the damaged duct was being blown into the kitchen via the vents.

The Jhana Grove Sub Committee would like to say, Thank You, to the volunteers who have been giving their time here.

For those who were involved in retreats, your valuable service and kindness have allowed many to experience the peace of meditation and for them to access the Buddha's Teachings in a peaceful environment.

For the volunteers who have been helping in maintenance, your generosity with looking after the centre regularly will ensure that Jhana Grove will last for a long time. A priceless gift for many in the coming years who need to do retreats here.

I would like to express my appreciation to the tBodhinyana monks who shared their expertise and provided unconditional support with plumbing and electrical issues here.

Reported by: Christina Yew
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