

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - AGM**

### **Santi Forest Monastery, Bundanoon – 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

Warm greetings to the Sangha, the committee, and other members attending the AGM.

This year has been a very productive year (and a very fast year!) at Santi; also, a very successful year in many ways.

Here's a brief overview of events and developments from both the sangha and committee perspective:

#### **Sangha:**

On March 1<sup>st</sup> both Jitindriya and Margaret Smith took Samaneri ordination at Santi with Ayya Nirodha, (and also attended by visiting Bhikkhuni, Ayya Thataaloka), increasing the resident sangha to three nuns.

Soon after, Ayya Jitindriya and Ayya Jayasara (previously Margaret), spent 3.5 weeks at Jhana grove for an ASA conference, a Nuns' vinaya training day and an Ajahn Brahm retreat, also allowing time to make connections with the sangha in WA.

This year Santi has hosted various visits from monastic Sangha:

- In both January and March, Ven. Akaliko Bhikkhu for several weeks
- In March, Ayya Thataaloka for a few days
- In March, Ayya Samma-Samadhi for a week
- In April, Ayya Sucitta for a month
- In November, Ayya Sukhi for about 2 months
- In Nov/Dec both Akaliko and Sujato Bhikkhus who are here for an extended stay of 6-8 weeks, as well as another visiting Bhikkhu from Bodhinyana for a 5 day stay.
- Plus various other brief visits throughout the year of male and female Sangha, both local and overseas, incl: Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, the USA, etc.

Much has been achieved on the maintenance side of things through the year, including:

- New /extra roof insulation in the Sangha room and yurts;
- Painting of yurts and decks around the house
- Clearing of overgrowth in several areas, esp. at the lookout to reopen the view
- Dead trees on the property felled and split for firewood supplies
- Walking meditation paths created at yurts 2 & 3
- The start of a new compost toilet at Hillview kuti
- Ongoing road and path maintenance around the property
- Cleaning up of the large shed and area around
- And lots of other jobs around the place accomplished
- Also, continued upgrading and maintenance of website and admin processes

We coordinated and hosted a small Vesak celebration in May (with approx. 60-80 people attending) and a large Kathina celebration in November (with approx. 300 people attending), both very lovely and successful events. Much gratitude to the Sri Lankan community in Dubbo who offered and organised the Kathina, and to Gia Hieu who also helped to organise things and gather support amongst the Vietnamese community in Sydney.

The sangha had a much appreciated and peaceful retreat during the traditional vassa period which was a precious and rejuvenating time for all present. The retreat period was ably supported by Nathan Waters and Tara Lees over the full three months, and two other lay people, Julia and Julian, also helped out for shorter periods in the third month.

The sangha warmly welcomes our new long term resident, Nathan Waters, who has stayed and helped out a lot at the monastery through 2018. We have invited him to stay on for 2019 in a role of 'monastery steward' and he has gladly accepted. We very much appreciate his beneficent presence and tremendous good will in helping in many ways around the monastery.

During Bhante Sujato's visit in December, we've arranged for him to offer an afternoon of meditation and Dhamma Reflection at Santi on Sat. 15<sup>th</sup>, designed to attract a number of supporters from Sydney for the day.

And Ajahn Jitindriya will offer monthly meditation workshops at Santi on the last Sunday of the month, from January through to May 2019, and we've recently advertised that on the website. So, 2019 is already shaping up well!

### **Committee:**

We've had a wonderful and stable committee this year helping out:

- we continue to slowly review the Santi constitution for any necessary changes there
- and to address/implement any necessary WHS issues arising
- Our financial position this year (from the Annual financial report) is very good, with increased donations offered and some savings accomplished in certain areas as well.
- And Ajahn Brahm has responded positively to an invitation for another visit to Sydney and Santi in 2019, and to offer a public talk in Sydney as a fundraiser for Santi.

We've received some good feedback from people here and there with regard to things shaping up well at Santi, so this is very encouraging. With much thanks and gratitude to all of you who continue to contribute to the life and development of Santi, whether as committee members, association members, or supporters and practitioners who visit the monastery.

May the blessings of the Triple Gem continue to support us all, as we endeavour to uphold the Dhamma and practice the Path of Liberation.

With gratitude and metta,  
Ayya Jitindriya  
*Santi FM President (2018)*