

Dhamma Bhūmi

PO Box 103, Blackheath, NSW 2785, Australia

Tel: +612 4787 7436, Fax: +612 4787 7221

Email: info@bhumi.dhamma.org; website: www.bhumi.dhamma.org



Entrance to Dhamma Bhūmi

Dhamma Bhūmi, meaning ‘Terrain of Dhamma’, is located just outside the town of Blackheath, Australia, about two hours or 140 km from Sydney with excellent rail and road connections, and a twenty minute walk from the railway station. The land includes over 40 acres of flowering heath and eucalyptus forest, on the edge of an escarpment in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales. It has great natural beauty, commanding views of the surrounding mountains and the valley below. Regular visitors include wallabies and a variety of colourful native birds.

The original centre land was donated in 1981. During his 1982 visit to Australia, Goenkaji inspected, accepted, and approved it as a suitable place for a meditation centre. There were no buildings on the land, and Dhamma Bhumi had to be created from the ground up. This was done almost entirely by a small group of meditators during the winter of 1983. When Goenkaji gave the first two courses there in November 1983, it became the second operating centre in the West.

Over two decades, many new buildings and facilities have been added. The Centre can accommodate about 110 students. Facilities include 36 pagoda cells, a large dining and bedroom complex, and about 24 rooms with private bathrooms. A further two acres of adjoining land have also been acquired, including a house which has been converted to an office and Dhamma workers’ quarters.

More recently, a large new hall was completed, almost entirely by meditators themselves. The method of construction was using straw bale walls around a steel framework, coated with a special mud to allow the walls to breathe. It has excellent thermal and acoustic insulation qualities that ensure a silence delightful for meditation. A solar underfloor heating system gives an even temperature all year round.

Carefully tended gardens have various trees, shrubs, flowers, lawns and pathways. Several ponds with goldfish and water lilies provide a tranquil environment. About 20 ten-day courses are held annually, as well as at least one Satipaṭṭhāna course, a thirty-day course and a twenty-day course. In addition, three-day courses for old students, teenagers and children’s courses are also held. Approximately 1500 students attend various courses each year.