

Buddha Sāsana

Newsletter of Blue Mountains Insight Meditation Centre

SATIPAṬṬHĀNA DHARMA GATHERING, 2014

For the third year in succession, BMIMC has held a *Satipaṭṭhāna Dhamma Gathering*, led by Patrick Kearney and held from 17th to 22nd October 2014.

This gathering is becoming a significant event in the schedule of the centre, one that engages BMIMC lay teachers and senior students in examining the Centre's teaching of *satipaṭṭhāna vipassanā*.

The gathering provides an opportunity for invited participants to deeply engage with aspects of Dhamma, in a process that combines sutta study with in-depth discussion, opening possibilities for new understandings of our practice, its teaching and the role and directions of the Centre.

This SDG 2014 was a more relaxed and open process, though if anything a more intense experience, as the format continues to evolve, creating a sense of deepening encounter with each other as teachers and practitioners.

On three mornings there were again formal sutta study sessions led by Patrick. These explored the Buddha's key teaching on conditionality and dependent arising (*paticca samuppāda*), the system of insight knowledges (*ñānas*) and a third session on the present relevance of the 'life after life' doctrine.

The afternoons were discussions facilitated in turn by Danny (on teachers' approaches to the *ñānas*) and Graham (Managing ourselves and others, an exploration of BMIMC as community). The process continued in two night sessions after supper, led by Jill.

A fourth Satipaṭṭhāna Dhamma Gathering is planned for late 2015.

Read more in the feature article, 'Community: Managing ourselves and others' reporting on one afternoon session of the Gathering.

Patrick Kearney's writings on dependent arising can be found at dharmaalon.net/Writings.



The Buddha depicted as making the gesture of turning the Wheel of Dhamma, known as the Dhamma-chakra-pravata-nana. The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

Around the 'halo' surrounding the figure's head is a traditional inscription that refers directly to the Buddha's teaching of conditionality, or dependent arising.

Of all the messages that the ancients could have chosen to communicate in this way, it was this one (translation):

'The Buddha has explained the cause of all things that arise from a cause.

'He, the great monk, has also explained their cessation.'

