

## Well Wishes for Inauguration of Kirikiriroa Bhikkhuni Residence

### Ayya Medhanandi Theri

Dear Ayyā Adhimutti,

I hope you are faring well and happy in these weeks of preparing for the opening of your monastery. We are entering our cold season and you are coming into Spring and Summer. What a beautiful time of year for such an auspicious occasion. I am

filled with muditā for you.

Contemplating my own journey, twenty years ago I was hoping to take those very same steps in Aotearoa but it was not meant to be. The kamma of this auspicious event awaited a daughter of the land itself and my kamma was to return to my native roots - it took me another 6 years to realize that.

I am aware that your time of opening is drawing near and have been unsure what I could say that would be of uplift and encouragement. Many thoughts percolate and a few thus far have stood out. One is Ajahn Chah's solemn vow that he determined after the death of his father which spurred him to re-enter the holy life.

"I dedicate my body and mind, my whole life, to the practice of the Lord Buddha's teachings in their entirety.

I will realize the truth in this lifetime ... I will let go of everything and follow the teachings. No matter how much suffering and difficulty I have to endure, I will persevere - otherwise there will be no end to my doubts.

I will make this life as even and continuous as a single day and night.

I will abandon attachments to mind and body and follow the Buddha's teachings until I know their truth for myself."

Another quote is from Sister Uppala:

She was an elderly anagārikā at Amaravati decades ago. She had been a pianist and once sold her grand piano to raise money when the Sangha was in need. She was also quite a character. Ajahn Sumedho plucked her out of a nursing home where she was not being properly cared for and brought her to the monastery for the nuns to look after her.

We loved her dearly and learned so much from her and from caring for her until she passed away. Six weeks before her death of cancer, she was ordained as a siladhara - that was

her dying wish. We discovered that Uppalā wrote beautiful poetry. She was a close friend of the renowned poet T.S.Elliot.

When she passed away, I copied these lines from her notebook and they have served as a supportive contemplation for my own practice.

"So to use all the circumstances of my life today  
that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness.

Let me use disappointment as material for patience.

Let me use suspense as material for perseverance.

Let me use danger as material for courage.

Let me use pains as material for endurance." Sister Uppalā (probably circa 1975)

And summing it all up, the voice of Venerable Ramana Maharishi -

"Realisation is not acquisition of anything new nor is it a new faculty. It is only removal of all camouflage." AND "When there is no 'I' there is no karma."

Ayyā Anuruddhā joins me in sending you our boundless muditā and mettā as you brave the seas of samasara at the helm of a new monastery. May many exceptional bhikkhuni beings join with you and be mutually supportive for the crossing. And those of us far away will be cheering you on and sharing the merits of our practice . . . May we all realize the Deathless.

Palms together on my heart, at the feet of the Blessed One,

### **Congratulatory Message on the Opening of the Hamilton Bhikkhuni Monastery**

11th Dec.2021

I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Venerable Adhimutti, Sangha, supporters and all those involved in creating the Hamilton Bhikkhuni Monastery, on this, their auspicious 'Opening Day'

May it serve all who come, nuns, lay Buddhist and friends, who wish to cultivate the path and their parami. May your hard work and achievement be a shining example for others to follow, especially those who may wish to enter monastic life and train to becoming Bhikkhuni.

'May the sweet fragrance of your virtue, your meditation,  
your liberation and knowledge of the path to Liberation,  
bring wisdom and compassion to all who come and take refuge and may, with the  
support of the Triple Gem, the  
Theravada Bhikkhuni order in New Zealand  
thrive and flourish!'

Buddha Blessings to you all, may you further accomplish what you have set out to  
achieve.

with Kindness and Compassion Chi Kwang Sunim

The Abbess of the Kinglake Seon Centre



### **Santipada Buddhist Monastery**

Dear Ven. Adhimutti and Sangha members

It's wonderful to hear that you have created a new place where Buddha's teachings can  
be shared and practiced.

We are now experiencing the dukkha nature of human conditions everywhere due to the  
pandemic and ecological crisis. And the necessity of Dhamma is increasing now more  
than any other time.

May your place be the sanctuary for people who seek a safe place for their hearts.

May your place be the well of Dhamma to quench people's thirst for truth, to be free,  
happy and in peace.

May your sangha be always protected and prosper by the power of the triple Gem.

with heartfelt appreciation

Bhante Yasala

(Abbess of Santipada Buddhist Monastery) and Santipada Sangha from the far north

**Dhammasara Nun’s Monastery**

Anumodana on the occasion of the opening of your new bhikkhuni residence. It is wonderful to see the birth of another place for women to lead the monastic life, still so few in number in the West -- and in the Southern hemisphere! May it provide precious opportunities and supportive conditions for bhikkhunis and other women to cultivate the Path and share the Dhamma for the benefit of all beings.

With well-wishes and mudita,  
The Dhammasara Sangha  
From Bhikkhunis at Newbury Buddhist Monastery

**Newbury Monastery**

1. From Ranjani de Silva :

Dear Ven Bhikkhuni

Congratulations on the opening of a Bhikkhuni Monastery in New Zealand

Ranjani .....

2. From Samaneri Suññatā Dear Ayya Adhi,

Congratulations and thank you for setting up a Bhikkhuni monastery in Hamilton. It would be wonderful for the women of New Zealand who are interested in renunciation, to actually have the opportunity to do so.

May you find much happiness and fulfilment in your spiritual journey with this noble undertaking. May the monastery grow and flourish just as the Bhikkhuni lineage is thriving these days!

W i t h            m u c h            m e t t a ,            S a m a n e r i            S u ñ ñ a t ā  
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### 3. From Bhikkhuni Upekkhā

Dear Venerable Adhi: May the Hamilton Bhikkhuni Monastery grow from strength to strength to preserve the purity and longevity of the dhamma and the Bhikkhuni Sangha. May your leadership and commitment in NZ's Theravada bhikkhuni lineage gain the support of the 4-fold community, as you and team work for the benefit of sentient beings

for peace, harmony and well-being. A bhikkhuni on the noble 8-fold path not only benefits oneself but will be a sagacious friend to one and all:

Dhammapada, Verse 328:

If one finds a sagacious friend, who is a virtuous and steadfast companion, one should live with him (her)

joyfully and mindfully, overcoming all dangers.

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4. The rest of the NBM nuns quietly rejoice in the opening of the NZ Theravada Bhikkhuni Monastery with gratefulness and respect:



## **Rick Hanson**

"As you know, the Three Jewels in our tradition are the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha. And as James Baraz once pointedly said, 'There are three jewels, not two.'

No jewel is more vital than any other, and the jewel of Sangha - both in the original emphasis on the monastic order of bhikkhus and bhikkhunis and in the modern broadening to include the community of sincere practitioners as a whole - has carried the torch for 2500 years. Without that Sangha, the other two jewels would have been lost.

So it is always an honor and a delight to support our dear monastics. And a particular honor and delight to support bhikkhunis, in part to redress the injustices and mistreatment that girls and women have faced and are facing in the world and still within Buddhism itself simply because they feel that precious yearning in their heart to pursue the heartwood of practice and find that highest happiness which is peace. And really really really, it is an honor and delight to know that our good wise Adhimutti Bhikkhuni has now established a hermitage in New Zealand that will be a shelter for her own practice and that of other bhikkhunis who will join her, and a refuge and beacon for people around the world.

With all my heart, I bless this undertaking, and bless the wonderful trustees and other people who have brought it into being.

Sadhu!

Rick Hanson"

## **Rejoicing and Gratitude - Ven Adhimutti.**

Well, we did it! We have established a bhikkhuni sancturay here in Kirikiriroa! This is a crucial step in establishing the four-fold community here in the Waikato. It is wonderful to be here together for this historically important and auspicious occasion.

I would mention Bhante Ratanasara briefly, on this occasion, my preceptors preceptor, who organised the first ordinations for Theravada bhikkhunis in modern times, at the Hsi Lai Temple, Los Angeles, in 1988. This is where Ayya Khema and other pioneering monastic women received their upasampada (<http://present.bhikkhuni.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Honoring-those-Worthy-of-Honor.pdf>)

So it is a great joy and honor today that we can all play a role together to carry forward his legacy in Aotearoa. And also to bring to life the original vision of the Buddha to establish the four-fold community comprising bhikkhus, bhikkhunis, lay men and lay women.

I would also like to offer my respects and gratitude to my monastic mentor and preceptor Ayya Tathaaloka Maha Theri for her tremendous devotion and work in reviving the bhikkhuni sangha, and for clearing the way, along with other pioneering bhikkhunis for my own upasampada.

Also to Ajahn Suphan my first preceptor and to Bhante Sujato who gave me a place to stay early in my monastic life, and was a huge part in opening the path to full ordination for me.

Much appreciation to Ayya Medhanandi whose stay in New Zealand all those years ago and whose inspiring example laid the foundations for this project.

Much Gratitude to:

Bhante Metteyya who asked me to start a place for bhikkhunis in Hamilton a decade ago. And for being such a steady, supportive and kind presence and an inspiring elder monastic.

Ayya Tathaaloka who served as my novice and bhikkhuni preceptor whose visits to New Zealand catalysed the establishment of the trust.

To Willa and Eliza who have been steadily supporting this project for many years, and have contributed much from their wisdom, experience and warm hearted support.

To all the Trustees of the New Zealand Bhikkhuni Sangha Trust who have worked so hard for so many years. And over the last year have worked incredibly hard to find a suitable house, then in raising the necessary fund, organising the many details that need to be overseen in purchasing and setting up a residence.

Also, gratitude to our earlier Trustees, Alison Hoffman who held the vision for so long at the very beginning, Janice and Karen who stepped forward in the very beginning to get the project started, and also Jamie.

Huge gratitude to my parents whose steady support of me over so many years has gone far beyond the call of duty. And also who were a hugely supportive in many ways during both of Ayya Tathaaloka's visits. Also, to my Mum for her steady, quiet and loving support over the last year.

Gratitude to Rick Hanson for his warm hearted friendship and mentorship over the last year, and also his generous behind the scenes help for our appeal.

To acknowledge and dedicate the merits from this joyful and auspicious occasion to the late Mrs Damdhara Punchihewa in whose memory the first substantially generous donation to the New Zealand Bhikkhuni Sangha Trust was made. May she rejoice in this meritorious deed and rejoice also in the development of the bhikkhuni sangha here in New Zealand.

To share the happiness of this occasion with any devas who have been watching over and supporting our project.

To acknowledge all our many many friends and supporters from all round the world who have contributed so generously to making the establishment of this residence possible to day. May everyone who has contributed to this project in any way receive all the blessings of their good hearts and good intentions, may they have much joy in learning of the establishment of this sanctuary now and in the development of the Dhamma and the community here over time. May the happiness arising from their generosity and good hearts be a contributing factor for their final liberation.

I would also like to extend heartfelt appreciation to the community here in Hamilton for their kind and generous hearts, devotion to the Dhamma and for their steady support of this project and of myself.

When I think of all my teachers, family, good friends and the good hearted people who have supported my Dhamma development over so many years, and all the good hearted people who have come together to make this project possible, as I can say is what an amazing journey this has been. I feel so full of joy and gratitude.

And so much gratitude for the incredible gift of the Dhamma and the opportunity that we all have to work together to help develop the Dhamma in New Zealand. I think that this is a very beautiful and meaningful use of ones life. Those of us who have the opportunity to do what is meaningful in this life and that contributes to the welfare of others are truly and deeply blessed.

I think that all of us are lucky to be coming together today and to inaugurate this auspicious project together. We are truly blessed to be able to take concrete steps to create the conditions for the bhikkhuni sangha to take root here in Kirikiriroa, and thus help to complete the four fold community here in Aotearoa.



May this Dhamma sanctuary provide the conditions for profound and liberating insight,  
for the ultimate peace and happiness and for the liberation of Nibbana!

May this Dhamma sanctuary be for the welfare and benefit of all beings!!

Theruvan Saranai !

Drop-box link for Anumodana Videos from Monastics Worldwide

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8qsq71qntq21xih/AABE60nUsPwGagAcBBwlq5xKa?dl=0>

Video and Audio Blessings from (in order of ordination):

Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo (Dongyal Gyatsu Monastery)  
Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi (Chuang Yen Monastery)  
Venerable Karma Lekshe Tsomo (Jamyang Foundation)  
Sayadaw U Jagara  
Ajahn Brahmali (Bodhinyana)  
Bhante Anandajoti  
Ayya Tathaaloka (Dhammadharini)  
Ajahn Nissarano (Newbury Buddhist Monastery)  
Ven Bhikshuni Jianping and Ven Bhikshuni Jianshu (chant Heart Sutra)  
Bhante Analayo (BCBS)  
Ayya Sobhana and Dhammadharini Community  
Ven Phalanyani (Anenja Vihara)  
Tan Nisabho (Clear Mountain Monastery)  
Ven Karunika and Santi monastics  
Ven Canda (Anukampa Project)  
Ven Vimala (Tilorien Monastery)

Shaila Catherine  
Rick Hanson

Written Blessings from: Ayya Medhanandi (Sati Saraniya), Ven Chi Kwang Sunim  
(Kinglake Seon Centre), Dhammasara, Santipada, Newbury, Ven Suddhaso and  
Ven Soma (Empty Cloud Monastery)