

## Dhamma Medinī

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Dhamma Medinī, meaning 'Ground of Dhamma', is located in a comparatively remote rural district within an hour's drive northwest of Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. The land encompasses a valley including moderately steep ridgelines and gullies cloaked in both mature and regenerating native bush, interspersed with some cleared areas. It is a haven for a wide variety of bird life and affords a secluded environment conducive to meditation.

Established in February 1987, Dhamma Medinī began functioning on 137-acres of land. The first ten-day course was held in camping conditions for students. Six courses were then conducted each year using an existing barn, with a floor laid in it as a meditation hall. Temporary structures were built for showers, toilets and dining facilities. A Teacher's residence and hall extension were constructed just in time for the visit of Goenkaji and Mataji in November 1988. About twenty-five 10-day courses were held using these rudimentary facilities.

In 1992, the Trust decided to expand and improve the centre. The kitchen-dining room building was first built and was used as meditation hall with accommodation on the lower floor. The first course in the new facility was held in May 1995. Subsequently, three accommodation blocks, providing 40 single rooms, a Dhamma hall to seat 120 students, a new teacher's residence and a new female bathroom block have all been completed. Dhamma Medinī currently schedules 19 ten-day courses, a Satipaṭṭhāna course, a children's course, a course for teenagers and several 3-day courses each year. In addition two 20-day courses have been held.

The Centre can accommodate 75 students, with further single room accommodation planned. Long-term server accommodation is to be built in the near future. A meditation cell building and a second teacher's residence is also being planned.