## Dhamma Āloka

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Dhamma Āloka

Dhamma Āloka (meaning 'Glow of Dhamma'), situated in the Yarra Valley, a one-hour drive east of Melbourne, is easily accessible by road and public transport. Comprising 17 acres of land on a secluded hill adjoining a nature reserve on the Yarra River, the Centre overlooks the rural township of Woori Yallock across the valley, with views of the Dandenong Ranges to the west and the Warburton Ranges to the northeast.

The land for the Centre was purchased in December 1995 and the first course was conducted in January 1996. Dhamma Aloka can accommodate 38 students - in three single rooms, two two-bed rooms and five small dormitories. The Dhamma hall can seat 60 students.

Currently, the Centre annually hosts 18 10-day courses, one Satipatthana course, six to eight 3day courses, three children's and three courses for teenagers. Open days (for visitors) are scheduled in autumn and spring.

As well as the building program, extensive gardens and about 3000 trees have been planted since the Centre was established. Work has just begun on a new kitchen and dining building which will allow the current kitchen and dining rooms to be converted to more comfortable student accommodation. Future plans include a large hall and meditation cells, and more comfortable accommodation including more single rooms.