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## **International Foundation Project**

### **Glentui New Zealand**

Activity report 2019

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### **1. Project Description**

The Glentui retreat land project is important as a place for meditation and for fostering national and international cooperation. The project aims to use the Glentui land as a common retreat place for New Zealand and Australian Diamond Way Buddhist sangha as well as for international friends.

The Glentui retreat land is 4.25 hectares of rural/residential zoned land made up of 13 lots. It is located 63km northwest of Christchurch in the foothills of the Southern Alps in the South Island of New Zealand.

The lots must be held together in 7 separate parcels and after recent changes are now owned as follows:

- Lot 1: Diamond Way Buddhist Trust NZ
- Lots 2,3: Diamond Way Buddhist Trust NZ
- Lot 4: International Diamond Way Foundation
- Lots 5,6: International Diamond Way Foundation and Diamond Way Buddhist Trust NZ
- Lots 7,8,9: International Diamond Way Foundation
- Lots 10,11: International Diamond Way Foundation and Diamond Way Buddhist Trust NZ
- Lots 12,13: International Diamond Way Foundation

Glentui retreat land is accessed via Glentui Bush Road, a gravel road that connects to sealed roads. It has drinking quality water from the water scheme in the Glentui Valley and is connected to electricity and phone lines. There is one meditation hut which was completed in 2014, a large 140m<sup>2</sup> meditation hall that is complete, a newly built toilet and shower block and a storage container.

The land is overseen by the New Zealand Diamond Way Buddhist Trust and maintained and developed by the Christchurch Diamond Way Buddhist Centre and the Glentui Working Group which is made up of sangha from Christchurch, around New Zealand, Australia and the world.

Websites:

<https://www.buddhism.org.nz/glentui/>

[www.facebook.com/dwbglentui/](http://www.facebook.com/dwbglentui/)

## 2. Activities 2018

- Mahamudra Course with Lama Ole Nydahl in February
- Toilet and shower block installed
- 8th Karmapa Course with Rob Sok
- Ngondro Course with Sarah Primus
- Day visits to Glentui with Travel Teachers giving lectures in the Gompa
- Building retaining walls around the gompa site with gabions
- Fenced and started planting trees in the drip field
- The Glentui Water Scheme (a community scheme of ~200 valley members) is being upgraded to a treated system to comply with new Council standards. We have been active in supporting and helping get this scheme underway.
- Friends from all over NZ regularly using the retreat hut
- Paid off the last remaining \$11666 debt to the Australian Diamond Way organisation

## 3. Activities 2019

- 8th Karmapa Course
- Ngondro Course with Michael Koenen
- Day visits to Glentui with Travel Teachers giving lectures in the Gompa
- Creating a polished floor finish in the gompa from the concrete base
- Continuing with the gabion retaining walls around the gompa site
- Building gabion retaining walls around temporary cafe/kitchen area
- Planting trees in the drip field
- Landscaping tent sites into the terrain for future courses
- Obtaining site certification sign off from the Council for the gompa and the toilet block
- Beginning work on the foyer entrance
- Beginning to plan and fundraise specifically for a Sangha house
- Selling honey, bags, Tshirts, and paua shells for mandala offerings for further sangha House fundraising
- As part of the Glentui Water Scheme upgrade, we have given legal right of way for a power connection off our line, all costs incurred are covered by the scheme and it's members and it is to the advantage of all members.
- In conjunction with the International Foundation, establishing full Diamond Way ownership of all the land plots
- Friends from all over NZ regularly using the retreat hut
- Preparation for Lama Ole's course in 2020
- National Working Weekend where friends from NZ came for the weekend, to help prepare for the Lama course
- Paying membership base of approx 15 people

#### 4. Plans for 2020

- Hold an international course as planned in March (though now Lama Ole will not attend due to the coronavirus situation)
- More National Working Weekends where friends from NZ come for the weekend, to help prepare for the Lama course or other Glentui projects
- Annual Anzac weekend 8th Karmapa course with Cate Walker
- Annual October Labour Ngondro weekend with Travel Teacher
- Finish enclosing the foyer area of the gompa
- Continue planning and fundraising for Sangha house
- Plant more trees
- Road maintenance on our property.
- Glentui Water Scheme to be fully operational



Mahamudra Course at Glentui, February 2018



National Ngondro weekend course with Sarah Primus from Perth



Installation of a toilet and shower block, 2018



Building gabion retaining walls around gompa and toilet block



Early morning view from the retreat hut