

The Gathering Place – FAQ's

WHAT IS THE LAYOUT OF THE GATHERING PLACE?

On the ground level the Gathering Place has two large meeting rooms, the largest was formerly a chapel and has a lovely meditative feel. The smaller room looks out into the garden. There are 2 smaller rooms near the front door, used for private practitioners,(for counselling and consulting ,) a kitchen and an adjacent dining space with 3 tables and chairs. The dining area seats up to 18 people around tables.

There are 12 single bedrooms located upstairs along with shared unisex showers and toilets.

The garden area is filled with trees, some seating and a labyrinth.

WHAT ARE THE ROOM DIMENSIONS AND CAPACITY?

Dimensions of the two larger rooms are as follows:

GARDEN ROOM: 8M X 5 M = 40m²

6 tables with chairs fit in garden room

Approximately 25 people seated

CHAPEL/LARGE ROOM:

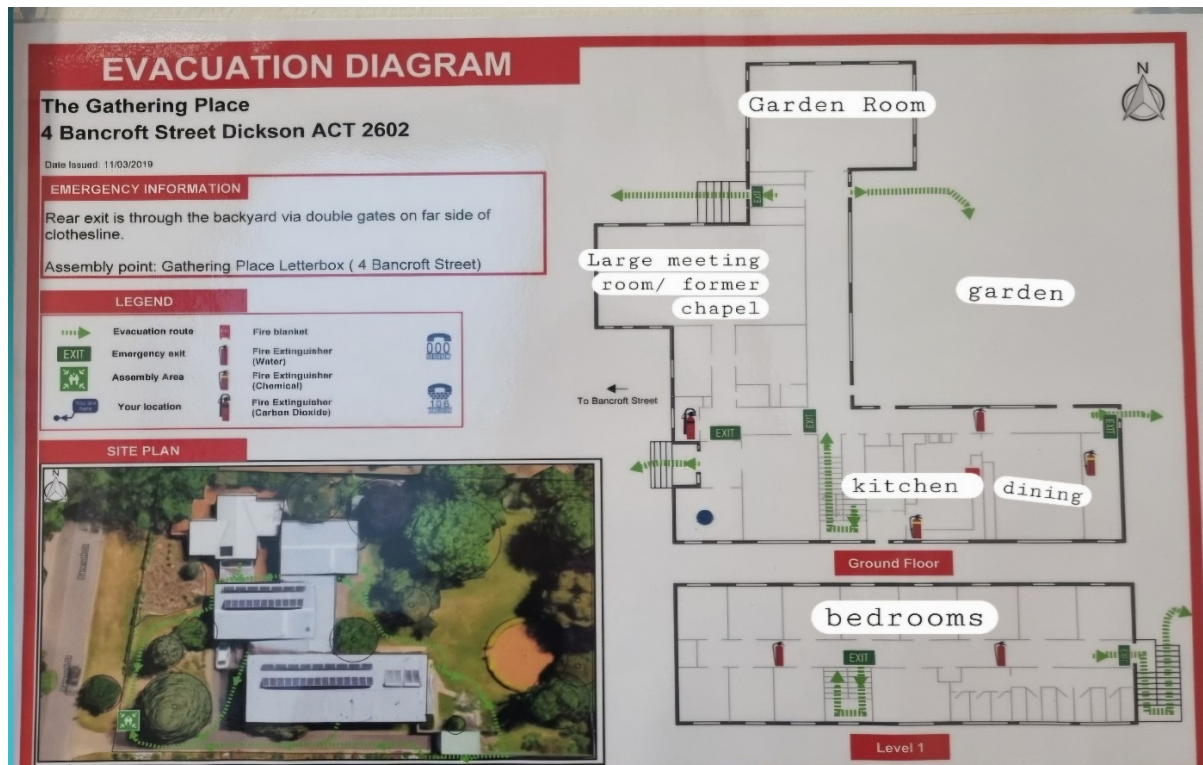
Up to stage 8.5 X 6M = 51m²

8 tables and chairs and 50 people seated on chairs

Whole room including stage 12 X 6M

COUNSELLING/CONSULTING ROOM 2.8m x 3 m = 8.4M²

Large Garden Area



CAN I ORGANISE TO VIEW THE GATHERING PLACE

Yes, depending on availability. Please contact gatheringplace@simplymindful.com.au

HIRE ARRANGEMENTS

The Gathering Place can be hired on a room-by-room basis, or the whole space can be hired both day and evening, or overnight, 7 days a week.

If your event includes sound (for example sound baths, louder music, choir or performative type activities) it is necessary to hire the whole space, as other groups won't be able to hire at the same time.

DO I NEED INSURANCE?

Yes .Hirers must hold current public liability insurance. If you don't have insurance, we require a signed insurance waiver form.

ARE THERE MINIMUM NUMBERS?

Yes, a minimum of 2 people staying for a 2-night period.

The Gathering Place is not available for single people to attend and hold a private retreat due to insurance and safety requirements.

KITCHEN

ARE THERE FACILITIES TO SELF CATER?

The Gathering Place has a kitchen area with 2 refrigerators, oven, stove top and microwave along with basic cooking equipment

The kitchen is equipped with the basics you would expect to find in a normal kitchen, kettles, urn, cutlery, plates, bowls, some cooking utensils and saucepans. If you need any special equipment please bring it.

Hirers can bring their own crockpot or rice cookers with pre prepared food for warming.

Dishwashers and cleaning equipment, cloths, tea towels.

DOES THE GATHERING PLACE OFFER CATERING SERVICES?

No, we do not.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND CATERING SERVICES?

Here are some local places providing catering. We have no affiliation with these places

Trevs @ Dickson

Hudson's Dickson

Rainbow Dreams Café Dickson (vegetarian)

Soul Origin Catering (Canberra City)

Sitting Ducks Catering

There are also a range of takeaway options close by in Dickson (43min drive, 5-10 minute walk)

WHAT PARKING IS AVAILABLE?

There is no onsite parking – street parking is available on Bancroft Street and other surrounding streets. Please check parking signs as there are limits at certain times.

Please don't upark in the Gathering Place driveway or the church carpark next door.

CAN PARTICIPANTS BRING ANIMALS?

No unfortunately the Gathering Place or Garden is not suitable for animals unless they are an assistance dog.

DO YOU OFFER DISCOUNTS FOR NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS?

A discount rate is available for Non Profit Organisations and Sole Traders.

We may require evidence of your NFP Status

WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANOTHER GROUP HIRING A SPACE AT THE SAME TIME AS MY GROUP?

There are likely to be times when two groups are hiring two different rooms available at the Gathering Place. We do our best to ensure hires are compatible with each other. In this instance times for using the kitchen and garden may need to be negotiated, although the garden is very large. It is also important to note that all groups are required to clean up after themselves and leave the venue in the same condition they found it.

In the event of two separate groups hiring the space, we will inform both parties prior so they are aware.

Others may be in the Gathering Place too: When you hire a room in the Gathering Place, you accept that others may be using rooms you haven't booked. This means others may be using the kitchen and toilets and shared spaces (garden, hallways). We attempt to arrange bookings to minimise disturbance, but to guarantee exclusive use of the Gathering Place you need to book the entire space.

No hire includes use of the counselling/consulting rooms unless specifically negotiated. Counselling/consulting spaces are booked by permanent hirers. They are likely to be using the space and in the building Monday-Friday office hours.

HOW FAR AHEAD DO I NEED TO BOOK THE GATHERING PLACE?

To increase the chances of availability of the space you require, it is important to book the space as early as possible. Our peak periods vary throughout the year, however they are often in Spring and Autumn.

Confirmation of bookings is required by payment, no less than one month prior to a booking.

IS THERE ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Yes, wheelchair users can access the building via a ramp to the back of the building. The downstairs toilet has a grab rail, however it should be noted that the bathroom door is narrow

If you require detailed information on disability access, please ask for our Wheelchair access document.

IS THERE FURNITURE AVAILABLE?

Yes, the Gathering Place has many chairs and trestle tables.

If you require trestle tables, please advise so we can let you know where they are located.

IS THERE A PROJECTOR, SCREEN AND WHITEBOARD AVAILABLE?

Yes there is a projector, however it only works with a PC. It will not work with a Mac.

Yes there is a screen available

Hire of the projector and screen costs \$40 inclusive of GST

Yes there is a whiteboard available. Hirers are required to bring their own markers.

ARE YOGA MATS AND BOLSTERS AVAILABLE?

Yoga mats, ,meditation cushions, bolsters and blankets are available to hire for \$40 inclusive of GST per booking

HOW DO I PAY FOR THE HIRE SPACE?

Once your booking is confirmed and we have received paperwork we will invoice you.

Payment must be received at least a week in advance of shorter bookings (eg up to half a day) and one month in advance for longer bookings.

Once payment is received hirers are sent access information.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES IS THE GATHERING PLACE SUITABLE FOR?

Activities must be compatible with the values and vision of the Gathering Place and Simply Mindful. In the booking form we ask for information about the nature of your activity so that we ensure that the Gathering Place remains a place of peace, contemplative practice and healing. It is not suitable for parties

What are the bedrooms like?

ACCOMMODATION SPACES – Minimum 2 people 2 Night Stay

There are 12 bedrooms with shared unisex bathrooms. Each room has a single bed, wardrobe, desk and chair, a lamp, sink and heater and a single lounge chair. Each

bed has an electric blanket, warm quilt, 2 spare blankets, 2 pillows. Hirers can bring their own linen (2 sheets, pillow slip, towel and face washer). Bringing own linen means using both top and bottom sheets, to protect doona covers. 10% discount available for large groups staying more than 2 nights.

IS THERE A CLEANING FEE?

Standard cleaning is included in hire fees except for the accommodation areas. Fees are charged depending on the amount of people and length of stay. If our cleaner charges extra or takes longer than usual after your hire, we will invoice you for the extra cleaning fees.

****Additional information about cleaning, gardening and costs**

Some groups, particularly meditation groups, include cleaning and gardening as part of their stay at the Gathering Place. Cleaning includes vacuuming all the rooms used, wiping down showers and cleaning bathrooms and toilets and kitchen including all washing up, surface cleaning and floor cleaning.

Gardening may include weeding, sweeping, watering or other assigned light gardening activities such as mulching. If your group is able to clean and/or garden as part of your stay please discuss this with us so a discount can be arranged.