

## Melbourne Semahane – Premises Specification

The Mevlevi Order of Australia was formed in 1986. Its principal activity is to pass on the spiritual knowledge of Sufism and in particular the branch of Sufism founded by Mevlana Jalaludin Rumi, a thirteenth century mystic who lived in Konya, which is in modern day Turkey.

The Mevlevi Order is often more commonly known as the Whirling Dervishes, because of the 'dance' movement used in its central ceremony of 'Sema'. Over the years, the Mevlevi Order of Australia has performed Sema at a wide variety of venues, including the Melbourne Town Hall, the Victorian National Gallery and St Michael's Church in Collins Street, as well as at a number of events and community festivals in Melbourne and Sydney. It also performs Sema and holds lectures on aspects of Sufism on a regular basis at various hired venues in Melbourne.

A permanent home will act as a tangible focal point for attracting broad interest in the Mevlevi Order in Australia and its spiritual aims. For this purpose, we are seeking premises within approximately 20km of the CBD. Ideally, they would be located within the sector broadly bounded by Swan Street / Riversdale Road / Canterbury Road in the south; Heidelberg Road / Upper Heidelberg Road / Banksia Street / Templestowe Road in the north; and out to Springvale Road in the East. Locations outside but adjacent to this area would be considered depending on ease of access.

Ideal premises would have the following facilities:

1. An open space with a timber floor (approximately 14m x 14m)
2. Ancillary rooms x 2 (approximately 5m x 5m each)
3. Kitchen
4. Male and female changing rooms
5. Public toilet facilities
6. Appropriate on-site or street parking

The ambience and environment of a permanent home are important and would ideally be in a 'garden' setting, though this is not essential. The important thing is that the ambience and environment promote a sense of peace and tranquility.

Should you hear of any premises for long-term lease that might meet these requirements, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email us at [semahane@mevlevi.org.au](mailto:semahane@mevlevi.org.au).

Thank you.



**MEVLEVI**  
Australia  
[www.mevlevi.org.au](http://www.mevlevi.org.au)