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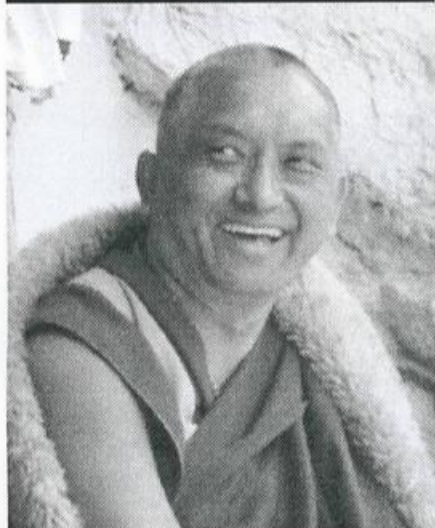
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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.10

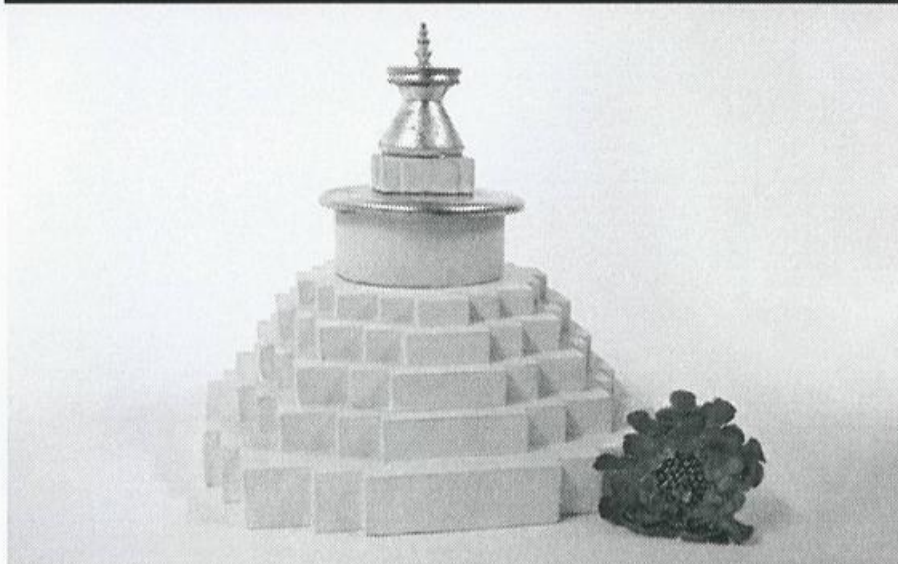
Lama Zopa Rinpoche to talk on Stupas at Atisha Centre



Lama Zopa has advised that he will give a talk on the benefits of building Stupas when he visits Atisha Centre, Bendigo in March 2000.

Lama Zopa has previously commented that *the main purpose of the Stupa is to make the lives of all beings - the young and the old - meaningful. For those beings who see the Stupa it will help purify their mind, help collect merit which is the cause of all happiness and all success, and help heal their body and mind through purification specifically due to the power of the Stupa, meditating on and seeing the holy object. The Stupa will also help to preserve Tibetan Mahayana culture.*

Consecrated model stupas for benefactors



Thanks to the kindness of a generous benefactor 200 model stupas are to be produced by the Enlightenment Project. These small stupas will contain holy mantras and be consecrated. They will also be gold gilded on the top.

These Stupas are to be presented to benefactors of the Stupa of Universal Compassion (Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling) by Lama Zopa Rinpoche at a ceremony at Atisha Centre in March 2000. Those benefactors unable to attend will receive their model stupas at a later stage.

New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue:
Kim Nance (Australia), Lai Hing WONG (Australia /Malaysia), Andrew Hayhow (Australia), Pamela Hansen (Australia), Peter Wiseman (Australia), Ian Gillard (Australia), Tan Hup Cheng (Singapore). Many thanks on behalf of us all to these generous benefactors for their support for the Stupa of Universal Compassion (Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling).

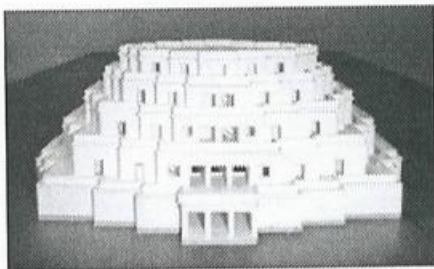
Found: Mechanical Engineer

Readers of the Chorten newsletter will know that we have been looking for a Mechanical Engineer for the Stupa for several months now. We are pleased to report the search has proved successful.

A Mechanical Engineer has offered his services to look after the electrical, mechanical and hydraulic engineering on the Stupa on a voluntary basis. His name is Wayne Thompson of the engineering firm Bibby Rusden and Thompson who are based in Melbourne.

Architectural model of stupa gains approval

Architect, Peter Weiss spent several weeks preparing a detailed cardboard model of the main body of the Stupa of Universal Compassion. This model was forwarded to Lama Zopa Rinpoche who has advised that he is pleased with the design



Engineering proceeds but final bill could top \$250,000

Now that the design of the Stupa has been approved we now move into the engineering phase. To date two voluntary Engineers (Bob Styles and Gerrin Hingee) have done initial work but we now move into a major new phase of work.

Our aim is to proceed with engineering for the spire, the site works, the geotechnical survey, the main column footings and Gompa foundations so that we can put down the foundations or at least the four main columns by mid 2000.

After that we still have the bulk of the engineering to complete. The

engineering of this unusual building is very complicated. Initial estimates are that over \$250,000 in fees may be required to complete the engineering.

Does "Ancient concrete have secrets to make our Stupa last 1000 years

Observers have been fascinated by the strength and longevity of ancient concrete that can last well over 2,500 years old. Often this original concrete has outlasted more recent concrete repairs done to the ancient structures.

It seems that the ancient concrete was made in a different way to the modern variety that uses Portland Cement as a binder. The ancient concrete is more accurately described as "Geopolymeric".

French Scientist, Dr Joseph Davidovitz is associated with the discovery of geopolymers. His book, "The Pyramids: An Enigma Solved" caused a storm with its publication in the 1980's. In this book he contends that the Pyramids are made of concrete not stone.

In recent years Melbourne University has shown interest in developing commercial applications for geopolymers.

We are indebted to Damien Busby for supplying detailed information on this topic, which we have passed information on to our engineer, Gerin Hingee.

Planning permit proceeds

The City of Greater Bendigo has recently passed a planning permit for the Stupa and the "Stupa Precinct". Commenting on the permit the Mayor of Greater Bendigo Cr Daryl McClure said "The Stupa would be a very unique development and major drawcard for Bendigo and Australia alike attracting Buddhists and other groups and people interested in exploring Buddhist religion and culture. The development of the Stupa could hold great benefits for the local economy, tourism and business in general."

The process of applying for the planning permit involved mailing

letters to 192 local residents, posting application posters in nearby meeting places and placing a series of advertisements in the Bendigo newspaper.

Staff involved with Bendigo Council Planning were surprised that despite the considerable publicity they received only two complaints about the Stupa. Both complaints were based on the size of the Stupa and it's appropriateness to the environment.

Several positive comments were also received including the following letter from Joan and Bill Tebb:

Dear Mr Green and others,

With reference to your letter of May 31st I would just like to say that we have no objections to your plans to build a stupa.

We visited your centre on your open day last year and were very impressed with your progress to date.

Our best wishes go out to you all for your endeavours in the future. Your dedication is inspirational. We look forward to visiting you again on open days, from time to time, with interest.

Pay us a visit

Look us up at our Website
The Stupa is on the World Wide Web at the following address:
www.stupa.org.au Please pay us a visit.

Ian Green announces retirement from business



Ian Green, the Stupa Director has announced his retirement from his position as Creative Director of Cook Green and Moore advertising. The retirement, which takes effect at the end of year 2000, will enable Ian to work full time on the building of the Stupa of Universal Compassion (Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling)

The search for relics continues

The search for relics continues. Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said that holy relics are necessary to make the Stupa beneficial. These relics along with other offerings will be kept within the Great Stupa itself. To this end, we are seeking relics from Buddhist leaders around the world.

Recent responses have included **H.H. Shenphen Dawa Rinpoche** (Nyingmapa) who writes: *"I was interested to become aware of your project and to receive the booklet on it's progress. I will be happy to honour your request to provide relics of the Dudjom Tersar lineage as an offering for the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling Stupa."* We understand these relics are of Dudjom Rinpoche, who was head of the Nyingma sect until he died some years ago.

How does motorcycling across Tibet appear?

The idea of a motorcycle pilgrimage from Kathmandu to Lhasa via Gyantse came about two years ago when Glenn Mullin and Ian Green were chatting over a long dinner. The idea is that Glenn would lead the tour and a documentary would be made of the trip. The plan is slowly taking shape for a trip in 2002. If you have any interest in the idea please contact us.

Timetable of events

What follows is our proposed timetable of events for the very first stage of building the Stupa.

- November 1999: Detailed survey of site completed.
- December / January 2000: Site planning completed / Structural Engineering proceeds.
- February 2000: Site cleared and groundworks commenced
- March 2000: Visit by Lama Zopa Rinpoche
- May / June 2000: Foundations laid for Stupa.

Time to commence planning for the artwork for the Stupa

The main purpose of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's visit to the site in March 2000 is to advise on his vision for the artwork within the Stupa. Rinpoche has been giving the artwork a great amount of thought and we look forward to receiving his advice.

Altogether there is the 450 seat Gompa and around 60 shrine rooms to decorate with statues and paintings.

Lama Zopa has previously talked about the shrines on each floor of the Stupa including many statues, for example of the 16 Arhants, the Medicine Buddhas and the 21 Taras.

He has also advised that the sixth floor should feature 3 dimensional deity mandalas.

On the walls inside the Gompa and shrine rooms he sees that we can have many tsa tsas and fresco paintings of the Buddha's life story, Lama Tsong Khapa's life story and so.

Prayer wheels will be a major part of the Stupa as Rinpoche advises "The prayer wheels should be on the outside wall of the stupa, 100 000 prayer wheels, small ones lining the walls and large ones in the doorways so that people can turn while circumambulating."

A role for local artists

The artwork in the Stupa will involve many different types of art...from a 3 story high Buddha statue to miniature tsa tsas, from thanka paintings on fabric to frescoes on big walls.

The skills involved in much of this work is unknown in Australia. Indeed there are only a handful of Westerners who have learnt these skills.

It is envisaged that experienced artisans, perhaps from Nepal and Tibet, would be invited to live in Bendigo for several years. Once here they would teach local artists their skills and oversee the production of the statues and artwork. Hopefully the skills and talents of local artists

would prove to be beneficial to the overseas artists as well.

We are currently initiating talks with Federal Government authorities about the possibility of local artists receiving financial support while involved on the Stupa. The skills the local artists would learn would no doubt be of value to their careers.

Encouragement for Benefactors

If you have already given or have been considering becoming a benefactor of the Stupa of Universal Compassion (Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling) these words from Lama Zopa Rinpoche may be of encouragement.

Dear Benefactors and Friends of Tse-Chen Cho-Khor stupa, I see the creation of this stupa as being of incalculable benefit for countless sentient beings, especially for their mindstream. If the mind is transformed or developed all the problems and suffering are transformed or ceased because mind is the creator of all your happiness and suffering.

Your support for this stupa is therefore of immense benefit, not only to others, but also to yourself in helping to make your life more meaningful.

On behalf of all mother sentient beings I thank you for your support for Tse-Chen Cho-Khor stupa.

I pray that the Great Stupa will soon be completed. I also pray for the good health and temporal and ultimate happiness of all who work to make the stupa a reality.

The Great Stupa video available

A 50 minute video on the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa and the trip to Tibet to study the Gyantse Stupa is available. The video provides a fascinating insight into modern Tibet as well as a complete background on the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. To order please send \$50 to the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa project office (price includes postage).



15 McKenzie Street Bendigo VIC 3550 Australia.

Please supply..... copies of The Great Stupa video priced at:

- \$50 Australian each (including postage) within Australia & NZ
- \$50 US each (including postage) International

Total \$.....Aust. or \$.....US

I require PAL format or NTSC format (Unless specified PAL will be supplied)

First Name..... Second name.....

Address..... P/code..... Country.....

Please find enclosed cash cheque Please debit my Bankcard Visa M/card Amex

Card No Expiry Date...../..... Signature.....

If you would like a friend to go on this mailing list or for further information please contact Ian Green,
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A Member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition