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# CHORTEN

## *Stupa Edition*

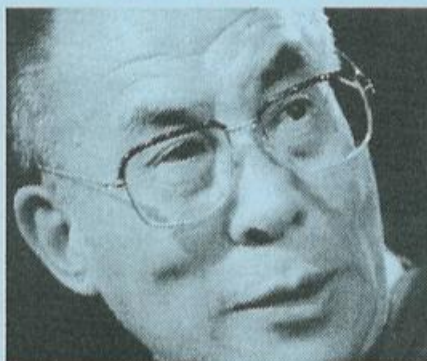
No.12

### New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue: **Kit Williams** (England), **Bea Ribush** (Australia), **Tu-Yang Weng** (USA), **Chen Chen Weng** (USA), **Christina Weng** (USA), **Jen-Fong Shen** (USA), **Young-Ming Shen** (USA), **Sway-Lai Shen** (USA), **Paul Shen** (USA), **Julie Shen** (USA), **James Shen** (USA). 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).

### His Holiness the Dalai Lama invited to the Stupa

We have invited His Holiness to visit Bendigo on April 5 or 6. As April 6 is the last day of the first school term in 2001 the proposed dates would enable us to offer a free teaching to everyone and especially to secondary and tertiary students. We believe our proposed theme of non-violence and the environment would be of immense interest to young people.



The visit to Bendigo would begin with a blessing of the Stupa site. If possible we would also like a short ceremony for benefactors of the Stupa as well as an official welcome by local Civic, Aboriginal and Chinese leaders.

We await an answer from the organising board of His Holiness' visit.

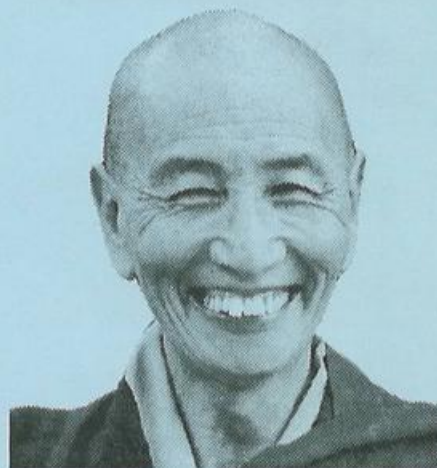
For the teaching, we have a choice of two outdoor venues, both of which cater for around 15,000. They are also centrally located and are within walking distance of three major schools and the TAFE college. There are over 15,000 secondary and tertiary students in the Bendigo region.

### Amazing relics from His Holiness Shenphen Dawa Rinpoche

His Holiness Shenphen Dawa Rinpoche from Orgyen Cho Dzong, the Nyningmapa Tersar study and retreat centre in USA, has offered some amazing relics to our Stupa. These relics include a Sakyamuni bone relic, relic of Buddha Kashapa, blessing rice of His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, a relic of His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, a Mind Pill, a Kyedun Pill, a Body Pill, a Speech Pill, a Pondha Khenpo relic, hair of Guru Rinpoche and relics of Yogi Thangtong Gyalpo.

A big thank you to Jaffa Elias for help with approaching His Holiness and in collecting the relics.

### Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche to visit Stupa site



The most venerable Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche has been requested to give a teaching on Stupas at Atisha Centre on Wednesday November 15. He will be at Atisha Centre and Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery for a period of 2 weeks and is giving an Heruka Initiation and teachings on the six yogas of Naropa.

### Offering from Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche

Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche has offered a statue of Maitreya to the Stupa. The statue is approximately 25cm high and has a light at its heart. Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche will visit the Stupa site later this year. See other item in this newsletter.

# DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR TSE-CHEN CHO-KHOR LING - THE STUPA OF UNIVERSAL COMPASSION

A visit to the Stupa site by FPMT Board member and architect Salim Lee has led to a re-assessment of the design specifications for the Great Stupa. Salim questioned a number of the assumptions of the current design team, led by Peter Weiss. This has led us to re-state the specifications so that the Engineers can begin to prepare their designs. These specifications have been expressed in simple language so that everyone can understand them.

## CONSTRUCTION

We have set ourselves the goal of making the Stupa last for at least one thousand years. We understand that this goal may make the construction prohibitively expensive but we are agreed on the need to aim for longevity.

We are open to any construction technique. However no poisons such as termite sprays, can be used in the construction. And naturally the cost of construction should be a major consideration.

## EXTERNAL APPEARANCE

The overall appearance of the Stupa should be similar to the original Stupa in Gyantse. That is, it should appear very similar but not necessarily identical. The public are to have access to each floor and be able to ascend to the Bum'pa.

## SHRINES

Shrines are to be located on most, if not all, floors. The shrines do not have to be small and numerous as they are in the original. In fact four shrines (and perhaps even two) per level would be adequate. The shrines do not have to be heated / cooled however they should have doors.

The walls of the shrines are not necessarily load-bearing and may be partitions. Shrines need not occupy 100% of each level especially as this may allow more direct light into the Gompa.

The shrines on each floor of the Stupa should include statues of such deities as the 16 Arhants, the Medicine Buddhas and the 21 Taras. In each

case a clear description of statue and its function should be given (in English and Chinese).

## THE BUM'PA

The Bum'pa should be an impressive culmination of the visit to the Stupa. A 3-dimensional mandala may be a feature of the Bum'pa. The Bum'pa should have allowance to be heated / cooled at some stage.

## THE HARMIKA

(ABOVE THE BUM'PA)

This is for the storage of relics. Access for staff only should be provided.

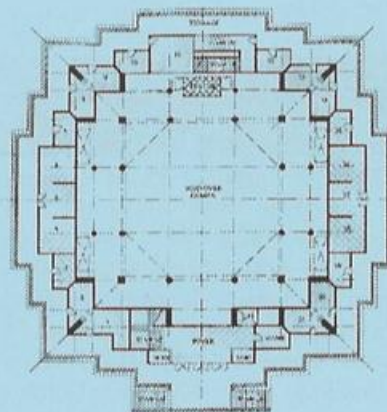
## THE FIFTH FLOOR

(UNDER THE BUM'PA)

This floor should be useable and perhaps accessible by the public. In current plans the ceiling is below minimum height requirements. Increasing the height of this floor could be an acceptable example of modifying the original dimensions to meet our needs.

One suggestion that is with Rinpoche is that this level be a library for precious books.

Alternatively this floor could be incorporated into the Gompa void with the possibility of small shrines on the perimeter only.



## THE GOMPA

This should be an impressive space that should be capable of holding 500 people.

Clear line of sight should be maintained within the seating / throne area. Columns may be used as appropriate beyond this area. And the

Gompa should have natural light sources.

The Gompa should have a large multi-story Buddha on the North side as a feature.

A large altar should also be provided on the North side. Shrines could be provided on the East and West sides of the Gompa.

Preparation space should be provided behind the Buddha and altar with storage space in an appropriate location. There should be a rear door access from outside into the preparation space.

Allowance should be made for male and female toilets on the ground floor / Gompa level, for a heating / air-conditioning plant to be located within and external to the building and for shoe storage outside main entry door to Gompa.

The inside walls of the should have many tsa tsas and fresco paintings of the Buddha's life story. 100,000 small Buddha statues to probably be on the walls of the Gompa for people to do light offerings. Also 50,000 Lama Yeshe statues are to be located in the Gompa or perhaps on the 5th level.

## DISABLED ACCESS

Wheelchair access should be provided to the Gompa. Allowance needs to be made for lift access to higher levels and if possible to the Bum'pa.

## WATER COLLECTION

Allowance needs to be made for drinking water and garden water to be collected from the Stupa, main dais and terraces.

## FIRE SAFETY

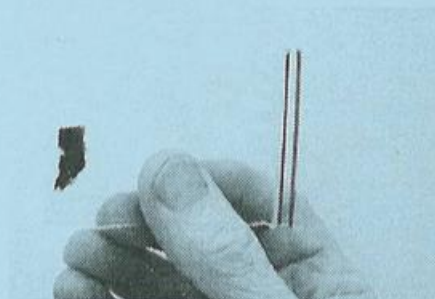
The Stupa and Gompa are to comply with fire safety requirements.

## 100,000 STUPAS AND PRAYER WHEELS

100,000 small stupas are to surround the large Stupa. Prayer wheels and bells will also will be a major part of the Stupa.

## Relic of the Great Fifth Dalai Lama offered to Stupa

Tenzin Namdak of Sera Monastery in India has offered a relic of the Fifth Dalai Lama. He writes: "When I was collecting some things for the Stupa in Chandrakirti Centre in New Zealand I also got something for you. Geshe Chamdo, here in Sera, had some precious things he recently bought from Tibet. One of these was a piece of the robe of the Great Fifth Dalai Lama (as scene below). I thought to send you also a little piece for the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa for the benefit of many sentient beings. Wishing you all the best with this project, greetings and prayers. Tenzin Namdak."



## Andy Weber offers support to the Stupa

Andy Weber, the famous Western Thangka painter writes:

"I have been deeply involved with Tibetan Buddhist art since 1974 and have experienced directly the growth and spread of Dharma over various continents. The visual Dharma, be it in the form of sacred thankas, statues or stupas has played an important part in this development. It supplied a visual support for the growing faith among the many thousands of new followers and created peace and harmony among its local population. We live in exciting times and such huge projects like the Stupa of Universal Compassion (Tse-Chen Cho-Khor) prove to me that the Dharma has finally taken root in the Western Hemisphere. It deserves all our deepest support not only for ourselves but for generations to come. I wholeheartedly want to express my support and well-wishes for this enormous project.

Yours in the Dharma...Andy Weber"

Andy donated a personally signed copy of the Chinese edition of his book "Images of Enlightenment" to the Stupa.

## Relics from Chinese master offered to the Stupa

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.

Shih Wei Yuan writes:

"I am glad that the relic I sent to you is of good use. The spelling of the name you have quote is correct "Shih

Siew Chin." The late venerable is my guru of the Chinese tradition. He is a great practitioner of four immeasurable thoughts (Bodhicitta) and a great Zen meditator. Actually my root guru is Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Anyway, I hope this little information is of great use to you. Until then, may all your dharma wishes come true. Much prayer always.

## Final blessing for the sentient beings on Stupa hill

It is hard to remember that Stupa hill actually looked like this. In this photo taken on Stupa hill early on the morning of Monday February 28 2000 Venerables Tony Beaumont, David Marks and Greg Sneddon led a small gathering in a puja to pray for

the sentient beings living on the hill. The following day the earth-moving machines moved onto Stupa hill and the formation of the amazing earthworks began. Photo is care of Ronda Rodwell.



## 100,000 Stupas around the Great Stupa

One hundred thousand sounds easy to say, it sort of rolls off the tongue. But sit down and try to plan out how you can fit that many Stupas in a given area and the magnitude of the number hits you.

Surrounding the Stupa of Universal Compassion are 3 circumambulation paths and around these paths the 100,000 Stupas are to be placed. So as you circumambulate the Great Stupa you actually circumambulate 100,001

Stupas. Think of the merit!

It turns out that the total distance of the three paths is just over 1 kilometre. So mathematically that means 100 Stupas every metre. The solution we came up with was to terrace the Stupas with 10 rows of 12 centimetre high Stupas and a top row of 30 cm high Stupas. The top row will have a total of 5,000 Stupas for storing of ashes of benefactors.

