

Chorten is the magazine of the Atisha Centre.
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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.2

Fund raising begins

The working budget for the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa, it's gardens and support buildings is US\$8.5 million. With small donations from over 500 people and with a limited mailing which went out before Christmas the fundraising for the Stupa has begun.

Only through the generosity of benefactors will the incredible value of the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa be actualised. While all contributions are welcome and of great value, special provision has been made for benefactors to contribute according to their capacity and wishes.

There are four levels of benefactors of the Stupa:

- "Life-long friend of the Stupa" (\$1,000US).
- "Multi-million benefits for Karma" (\$10,000US).
- "Multi-million benefits for Freedom and Happiness" (\$25,000US).
- "Multi-million benefits for Enlightenment" (\$50,000US).

All benefactors will receive recognition within the Stupa and from Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Signed photographs of the Stupa will be supplied to all Friends. Various

benefits including small models of our Stupa will be provided as recognition to the Multi-Million benefactors.



For a Benefactor Application kit please contact Ian Green at Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa office.

New Benefactors

We welcome the following benefactors: Huang Chih Yin, Cecilia Tsong, Carmel Travers, Sonam Lama and David Bilcock. Many thanks to you all for your pioneering support for Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa.

Planning for Visitor Reception Centre & Museum underway

The Visitor Reception Centre will be the first building you will encounter when visiting the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. It is therefore very important that this building help create the correct ambience for the visit to the holy stupa. Currently two architectural firms, Salim Lee and Associates (Perth) and Riddle Radcliff (Melbourne), are voluntarily preparing alternative designs for this building.

Funds for the construction of a Visitor Reception Centre and Museum will be sought from Government sources.

Strong government support expressed

Both local and State governments recognise the tourist appeal of the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. The Chief Executive Officer of the City of Greater Bendigo has written: *"Councillors discussed with a great deal of interest the proposed developments at Atisha Centre. The plans for the Stupa are very exciting and will be of great interest to residents and visitors to Bendigo. The Stupa will be an attraction of international significance for Buddhism and also of wider interest. Council recognises the close links we have with Asia and the construction of this temple will undoubtedly provide the opportunity for Bendigo to strengthen links with Asian neighbours. Council wish to provide every encouragement to you and other benefactors for this project."*

Promotional tours planned

Plans are being made to conduct promotional tours for Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. Invitations are being sought for Taiwan, Singapore, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. Any other suggestions or invitations would be welcome.

Relics being sought

Following advice from Lama Zopa Rinpoche we have sought relics from the high Lamas from all Tibetan Buddhist sects who are resident outside Tibet. We will also approach Lamas within Tibet for relics. Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said that in order to make the Stupa powerful and beneficial it is very important that many holy objects of Shakyamuni Buddha, Saints, Gurus, Bodhisattvas, and Yogis be

gathered. These priceless objects have a result of developing the mind on the path and it makes the Stupa rich and powerful. If anyone has any relics or valuable items they wish to offer to the Stupa could they please contact Ian Green at Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa office.

Celebrity benefactor co-ordinator appointed



Imogen Langham has been appointed to a voluntary position in which she will contact and encourage as many celebrities as possible to support the Stupa. Support from the celebs may take many forms - from a simple letter of support to benefactor donations or providing sponsorship of a performance, movie or concert. Imogen is currently compiling a list of Australian and World celebs who may have a leaning toward Tibet or Buddhism. If you have any ideas or contacts please write to Imogen Langham, PO Box 172 Daylesford, VIC 3460 AUSTRALIA.

Thubten Shedrup Ling open soon

By the time you receive this newsletter Thubten Gyatso and perhaps one or two others will have moved into the first stage of the monastery which is being built near the site of Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. Facilities are being completed to enable 8 monks to live there.

For information on TSL Monastery contact Ven. Thubten Gyatso RMB 1530 Eaglehawk Bendigo 3550 Australia. Telephone: (03) 5446 3691

If you would like a friend to go on this mailing list or for further information please contact Ian Green, Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa, 15 Mc Kenzie St. Bendigo VIC 3550 AUSTRALIA. Phone (03) 5442 2866, 015 007 410. FAX (03) 5442 5301.

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 in 1995 is now available. This video has been produced to broadcast standard and features professional editing, narration and music composition (all of which was donated). The video provides a fascinating insight into modern Tibet as well as a complete background on the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. Please note that a version with Mandarin narration will be produced in the near future.

Tse-Chen Chor-Khor Video offer
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)

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cheque

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