

CHORTEN

STUPA EDITION ♦ N^o. 22

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is being built near Atisha Centre in Australia. It will be the same size and design as the Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet. This will make it the largest Stupa in the Western world.

REJOICE! GREAT STUPA EXHIBITION CENTRE OPENING

The Great Stupa Exhibition Centre, located next to the site of Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo Australia, was officially opened by Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha, the representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia on January 15 2005.

Other guests of honour included Geshe Tashi Tsering of Chenrezig Institute, Venerable Phouc Tan of Quang Minh Temple, Vajra Yong Le, Vajra Yong Minh and Vajra Long Sheng of Jin-Gang-Dhyana Institute in Hobart, nuns from Chenrezig Institute and Atisha Centre, Monks from Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo, Cr. Rod Fyffe, Mr George Lekakis Chairperson Victorian Multicultural Commission,



Above: Venerable Thieb Phuoc Tan leads a blessing prayer in Vietnamese. Seated in front row are Geshe Tashi Tsering and Venerable Lobsang Tendar.

Murray Thompson, Shadow Minister for Multicultural and Aboriginal Affairs and Bob Cameron, Minister for Agriculture, representing The Hon John Pandazopoulos, Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs.

After the speeches all present joined in one long line to perform three circumambulations of the sacred relics.

The exhibition includes Holy Relics that have been offered to the Great Stupa and holy objects that are being gathered for the Great Stupa. The Exhibition centre is open weekends and public holidays and entry is free (see directions on back page).

Left: Vajra Master Yong Le and other Sangha circumambulate the holy relics.



THE GREAT STUPA
EXHIBITION CENTRE
HAS A PRICELESS
DISPLAY OF SACRED
RELICS AND HOLY
OBJECTS



This beautiful Buddha, carved from Polar Jade, is the first of those carved for benefactors.

JADE BUDDHA GIFTS FOR BENEFACTORS

Our Jade Buddha project is to create the world's largest Jade Buddha from a flawless boulder of jade. Donors to the Jade Buddha Project will receive a gift of a jade Buddha – made from Polar Jade.

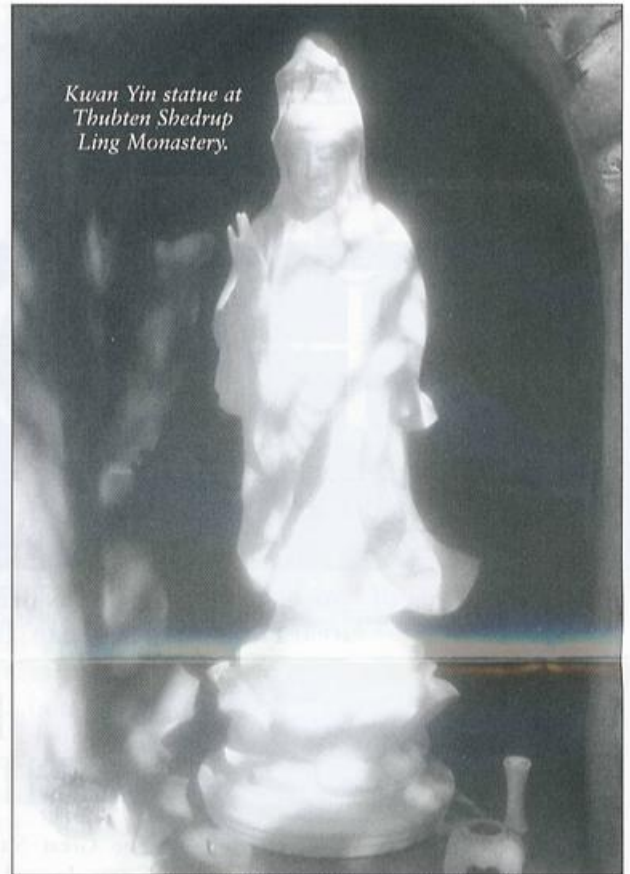
These will vary in accord with the size of the donation: 3 cm high (\$108), 4 cm high (\$180), 5 cm high (\$250), 7.5 cm high (\$500), 10 cm high (\$1,000), 15cm high (\$2,500), 20cm high (\$5,000), 30cm high (\$10,000).

Donations should be addressed to:
The Great Stupa
43 View Street Bendigo
VIC 3550 Australia.
E-mail info@stupa.org.au

TWO METRE HIGH KWAN YIN STATUE TO GREET VISITORS

Venerable Thich Phouc Tan has agreed to arrange for a larger than life-size Kwan Yin (the Buddha of Compassion) to be made in Vietnam. This statue which will be around 2 metres high and include a fountain feature, will be placed at the entrance to the Great Stupa Exhibition Centre.

The total cost of the statue and shipping will be around \$3,500. Offerings are welcome and can be sent to the Great Stupa office 43 View Street Bendigo or via info@stupa.org.au



REJOICE! BUDDHA- BASE BROTHERS & SISTERS FOUND

Mary and Peter Beh (Singapore) and Lien Quach (Australia) are the first Buddha-base Brothers and Sisters. The largest foundation of the Great Stupa is the massive footing for the 8 metre high Buddha statue inside the Gompa of the Great Stupa.

We sought four only Buddha-base Brothers and Sisters to contribute \$10,800 to the Great Stupa. So now there are only two positions available.

The name of each Brother or Sister will be inscribed in perpetuity on one of the four sides of the great base on which the Buddha will be positioned. Please note that a group of people may join together to be joint Buddha-base benefactors.

REJOICE! "GRANTSEEKER" FOUND

In the last Chorten we sought someone to seek grants for the Great Stupa. Jon Breukel, Fundraising Director of the Great Stupa, has been contacted by Brian Hart, an old friend of the Great Stupa who has offered to take on this role.

FOOTINGS IN PLACE - STEEL FRAMEWORK IS OUR NEXT GOAL

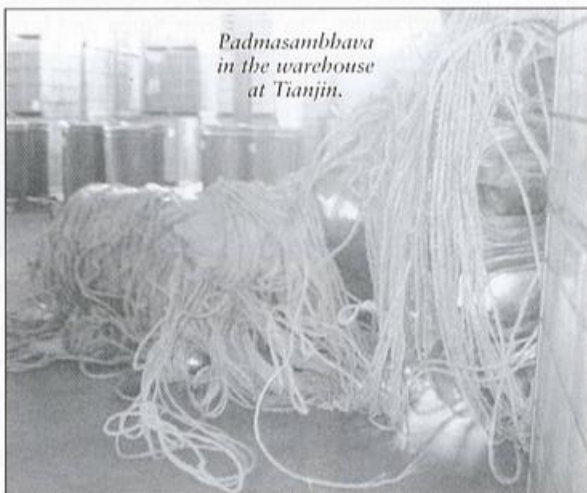
Now that the foundation footings are in place the next phase will be to erect the steel framework of the Great Stupa.

We will endeavour to find some of this cost in the form of discounts that can be offered by a major steel supplier.

If everyone who receives this newsletter gave \$100 we could put up the first level of the steel framework of the Great Stupa.

If you think you can help with this fund please contact Ian Green, the Director, 43 View Street Bendigo VIC 3550 Australia.

Phone (+613) 5442 3200. Fax (+613) 5444 2422. Email info@stupa.org.au



REJOICE! PADMASAMBHAVA STATUE AND SHIPPING FULLY FUNDED

-NOW FOR THE CONSECRATION

Shipping is confirmed and our statue is estimated to arrive in Melbourne on June 3.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has looked at the photos of our Guru Rinpoche statue and said "Amazing . . . it is something so fantastic to have coming to the centre." Rinpoche was extremely pleased with the art and said in the future (no rush) it would be best to be gold gilded, or if not gilded then gold leafed - by a very expert gold-leafer. If you wish to make an offering for the consecration re gilding or gold leafing please contact us at 43 View Street Bendigo or info@stupa.org.au

DELEGATION MEETS TAIWAN DIRECTOR GENERAL



*Jon Breukel, Ian Green, Brian Ashen, Jack Yu-Tai Cheng and Leslie Yang
discuss funding for the Jade Buddha.*

On March 30, 2005 a delegation representing the Jade Buddha project met with Jack Yu-Tai Cheng, Director General Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Melbourne. Members of the delegation were Ian Green CEO of the Great Stupa, Jon Breukel Fundraising Director of the Great Stupa, Laura Chan and Leslie Yang of Dharma Drum Mountain Melbourne and Brian Ashen Chair of the Buddhist Council of Victoria.

The objective of the delegation was to gain the support of the Director General for an approach that is being made to Madame Lu Hsiu-Lien the Vice President, Republic of Taiwan to seek funding for the Jade Buddha.

THE GREAT STUPA HOLY RELIC TOUR OF QUEENSLAND

It has been confirmed that Jamtse Meditation Buddhist Centre in Brisbane will hold the tour in late August and Australian Tibetan Buddhist Centre in Gold Coast will host the Great Stupa Holy Relic tour during November 2005.

Details will be posted on the website www.stupa.org.au If you would like to have the blessing of the Holy Relics in your city please contact us.

FIRST GATEWAY STUPA REPORT

Thanks largely to the generosity of Florence Chew we have raised over \$5,000 toward a Gateway Stupa. Peter Weiss and Dennis Kenny are planning the Gateway Stupa at the South entrance to the Great Stupa (on the path from Atisha Centre to the Great Stupa). The Melbourne Sakya group has volunteered their labour for this Gateway Stupa.

Enquiries and donations should be addressed to Ian Green, the Director.

BUDDHIST FEDERATION MEMBERS VIEW EXHIBITION CENTRE



Members of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils at the Exhibition Centre.

On March 19 and 20, 2005 an historic meeting of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils (FABC) was held at Atisha Centre.

This was the inaugural meeting of the Federation at which office bearers were elected and future policy and direction was discussed.

Great Stupa board member Brian Ashen, who is current Chair of the Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV) was elected Vice-President of the FABC. The delegates enjoyed their stay at Atisha Centre and were treated to tours of the Great Stupa site, exhibition centre and monastery. The meeting was jointly sponsored by BCV, Atisha Centre and the Great Stupa.

Attendees at the meeting were Mohini Gunsekera NSW (President), Brian Ashen Vic (Vice President), John Waite WA (Treasurer), Jo Murphy SA (Secretary), Terry O'Connor Qld, Rahu Sarath-Chandra Qld, Sol Hanna WA, Ven. Chi Kwang Sunim Vic, Graeme Lyall NSW, David Revell SA, Eng-Kong Tan NSW, Diana Houston SA, Swee Haa Tan NSW.

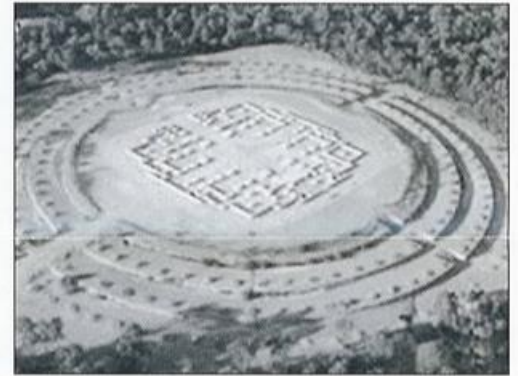
VISITING THE GREAT STUPA SITE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

You are welcome to visit us, just remember that the Exhibition Centre is open weekends and public holidays only.

- From Melbourne take Tullamarine Freeway and then Calder Highway. Follow signs to Bendigo.
- In Bendigo, drive to the fountain at the centre of the city and turn left (West) and follow the

signs to "Eaglehawk" / "Loddon Valley Highway" / "Kerang".

- In Eaglehawk veer left at Town Hall (stay on major road) and travel approx 3 kms to Allies Hotel, turn left and travel approx 3 kms to Sandhurst Town Road and follow signs to Atisha Centre and The Great Stupa Exhibition Centre.
- Train or bus to Bendigo from Spencer Street Station or airport bus from Melbourne Airport. From Bendigo (or Eaglehawk) catch taxi to Great Stupa site. Approx fare, \$25-30.



An overhead of the foundations of the Great Stupa taken from a hot air balloon in November 2004.

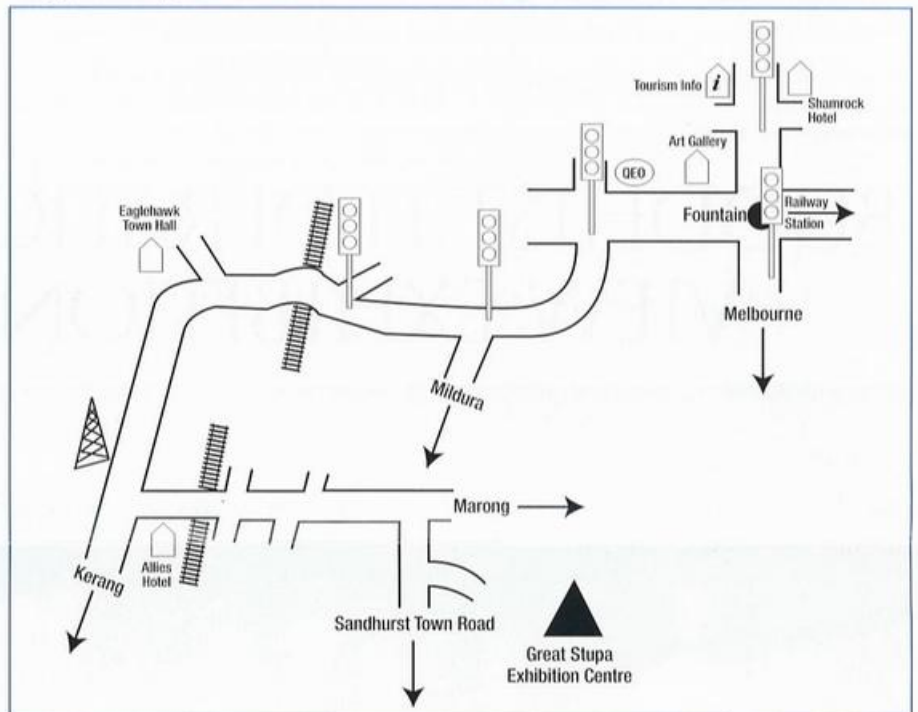
MEMORIALS AT THE GREAT STUPA OF UNIVERSAL COMPASSION

At the Great Stupa we are making it possible for the bereaved to provide various memorials for family and friends. Our aim is to provide options that will suit the wishes and budgets of most people.

As part of this process we undertake to organise the blessing of the ashes of the deceased and the provision of bronze plaques.

We are conscious that like the Great Stupa, the memorials are to last a very long time. An allowance is included for the long-term maintenance of the memorials.

Please contact the Great Stupa office for more details.



THE GREAT STUPA OF UNIVERSAL COMPASSION

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is being built at Atisha Centre near Bendigo. It will be the same size and design as the Great Stupa of Gyantse that was built in Tibet in the 15th century.

Being 50 metres square at its' base and rising to a height of nearly 50 metres it will be the largest stupa in the western world.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion will be a symbol of peace in the world. It will also be place of pilgrimage for Buddhists of all traditions.

Located next to the Stupa are a meditation centre and a monastery.

Enquiries and donations should be addressed to:
The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, 43 View Street Bendigo
VIC 3550 Australia. Phone (+613) 5442 3200. Fax (+613) 5444 2422. E-mail info@stupa.org.au

The Great Stupa is a member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition.