

# CHORTEN

STUPA EDITION ♦ N°23

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.

## BRISBANE HOLY RELIC TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS

The extraordinary Great Stupa Holy Relics Tour was held at the Phat Da Temple in Inala, Brisbane from August 21 to 28. Thousands of people visited the exhibition that was held under the general theme of "peace and respect".

The tour was opened with prayers and dedications from the multicultural Buddhist community in Brisbane, including representatives from Vietnamese, Chinese, Taiwanese, Sri Lankan, Japanese, Tibetan, Laotian, Thai and Korean temples. Minister for Mines and Energy, Henry Palaszczek also attended the opening ceremony. Mr Palaszczek commented on the inspiring harmony and cooperation that was so evident in the tour.

The tour was made possible by the wonderful efforts of Venerable Thich Thien Huu the Abbot of Phat Da temple, Amitabha Buddhist Association, Sri Lankan Temple Ellen Grove, Venerable Tu Ngoc (Metta), Mr Trung, Catherine Dinh the coordinator of the tour along with Kwee Choo, Miffi and other committee

members, Mr Bang and the amazing workers of the Phat Da temple.

We also wish to thank the media for their interest: ABCTV Stateline, Brisbane Courier Mail, SBS radio, Queensland Asian Weekly.

The tour of Gympie / Sunshine Coast planned for February 2006 has been cancelled due to other commitments. It is expected that the Great Stupa Holy Relic tour will return to Brisbane in 2007.



Above: Some of the crowd at the Brisbane Holy Relic tour; and right: Vietnamese Sangha at Brisbane Holy Relic tour.



Ven Thien Huu leading procession of Sangha at Brisbane Holy Relic tour.



Catherine Dinh with Ian and Judy Green.

## SYDNEY HOLY RELIC TOUR 2006

We are currently planning The Great Stupa Holy Relic Tour of Sydney for the 3 weeks from Saturday 14 July 2006 to Sunday 5 August 2006. These dates have been chosen so that the tour will fall on the second half of the Ullambana Piety Festival of the 7th Lunar Calendar month.

Chinese and Vietnamese believe that the gates of hell can be opened during that month and the souls of ancestors who are in hell and hungry ghost realms can be encouraged to attend the relics tour also. These beings can pray along and merits can be dedicated to them so they can get out of hell.

Following her great success in Brisbane Catherine Dinh has kindly accepted our request for her to be the coordinator of the Sydney tour.

Full details will be posted on our website as soon as they are finalised.

# EXHIBITION CENTRE DRAWS PILGRIMS



*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](mailto:info@stupa.org.au)

## SEWING MACHINE WANTED

Venerable Lozang Tenzin has asked if anyone can donate an electric sewing machine to the Great Stupa Exhibition Centre?

She will use the machine to prepare decorations for the Exhibition Centre and the Great Stupa.



*Group from Dharma Drum Mountain (Melbourne) visited the Great Stupa Exhibition centre on Sunday, June 19.*

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).

Geshe Konchok Tsering, in his address to disciples from Dharma Drum Mountain stressed the importance of the Great Stupa. He said that "In Australia we have many places to go on holidays but we have very few places you can go and earn merit. The Great Stupa and this Exhibition centre are essential projects to support."

## REJOICE! TWO METRE HIGH KWAN YIN FUNDED

The Shrine of Compassion at the Great Stupa Exhibition Centre will feature a 2 metre high Kwan Yin statue which is being made in Vietnam and being organised by Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan of Quang Minh temple. Thanks to our dear friend Lily Foo this statue is now fully funded.

## DO YOU HAVE A KWAN YIN OR CHENREZIG YOU CAN OFFER FOR OUR SHRINE OF COMPASSION?

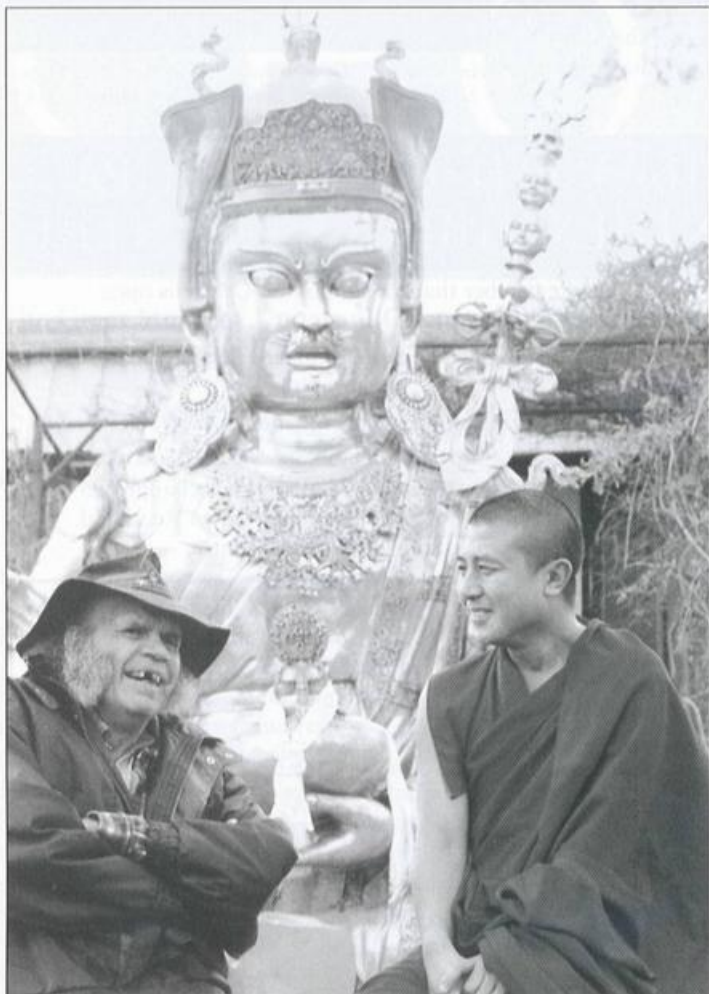
We are planning to have many Kwan Yin statues and Chenrezig images in the Great Stupa Shrine of Compassion. Other symbols of compassion including St Francis of Assisi will also be represented.

If you can donate a statue, painting or thang'ka please contact Judy at the Great Stupa office.



*Some of the Kwan Yin statues offered from Singapore and Brisbane.*

# GURU RINPOCHE MAKES GREAT IMPACT



*Guru Rinpoche statue with Uncle Wayne Marks (Elder of the Wotjobaluk Aboriginal people) and Geshe Konchok Tsering (Photo by The Advertiser).*

Our 3.9 metre (12 foot) high statue of Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) is making a great impact on visitors to the Great Stupa Exhibition Centre. Both sightseers and Buddhist are very impressed.

The statue was welcomed with blessing prayers by Geshe Konchok Tsering and Buddhist monks and nuns of the Bendigo region.

Local firm C&M offered beautiful building blocks for a pedestal for the statue. Dennis Kenny has put a lot of time into building the pedestal and with Peter Weiss is currently working on plans for a cover for the statue.

Venerable Roger Kunsang advises: "Rinpoche is really very, very happy with the statue. He feels it is very powerful and auspicious...and Rinpoche is very happy with the art work. Love Roger."



*Guru Rinpoche statue with (L to R) Venerable Tenzin Palyon, Venerable Paldron, Geshe Konchok Tsering, Venerable Tony Beaumont, Venerable Lobsang Drakden, Venerable Thubten Chopel.*

## SUPPORT FROM MASTER WANG AT JIN-GANG DHYANA INSTITUTE



*Master WANG with Ian and Judy Green.*

Ian and Judy accepted an invitation from Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Master WANG, Patriarch Master of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism to attend the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival in Hobart September 18 2005.

During the visit Master Wang said:

"The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion has infinite energy to bring peace to the world.

The Buddhist relics of the Great Stupa will be exhibited in Tasmania. We wish that the great relics of Shakyamuni Buddha will bring peace and prosperity to Tasmania. This is why we want to make a small offering to the Great Stupa.

I see that Jin-Gang Dhyana Incorporated (Holy Tantra Esoteric Buddhism) and The Great Stupa will have a close relationship for a very long time."

It is expected that the Great Stupa Holy Relic Tour will visit Tasmania within the next two years.

## STEEL FRAMEWORK - \$200,000 REQUIRED

Thank you to the friends who sent in \$100 donations toward the steel of the Great Stupa. However we are still seeking \$200,000 before we can erect the steel framework of the Great Stupa.

Wayne Thomson and Jon Breukel are speaking to steel companies about their support. If you think you can help with this fund please contact Ian Green, the Director, 43 View Street Bendigo VIC 3550 Australia, Phone (+613) 5444 2440. Fax (+613) 5444 2422. Email [info@stupa.org.au](mailto:info@stupa.org.au)

# BUDDHA-BASE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WANTED

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 are now seeking two only Buddha-base Brothers and Sisters to contribute \$10,800 to the Great Stupa.

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.



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.

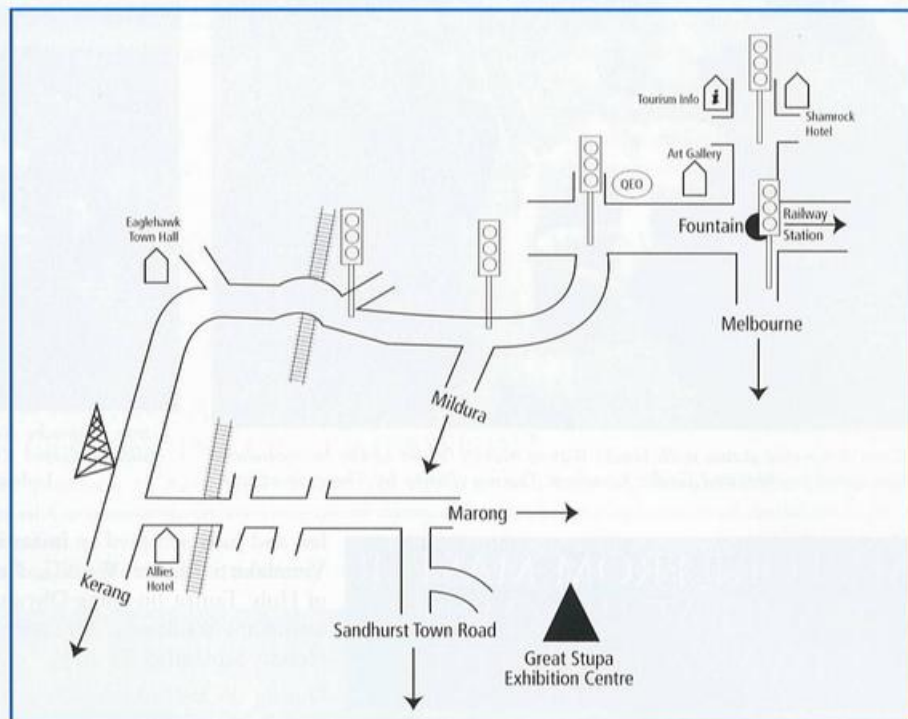
## JADE MALAS NOW AVAILABLE

Magnificent polar jade malas can be obtained from the Great Stupa office. 108 bead malas are available for a donation of \$250 and 21 bead wrist malas are available for \$80.

## 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.



# 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.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion  
43 View Street Bendigo VIC 3550 Australia

Phone (+613) 5444 2440

Fax (+613) 5444 2422.

E-mail [info@stupa.org.au](mailto:info@stupa.org.au)

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