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43 View Street, Bendigo VIC 3550
Australia

CHORTEN

STUPA EDITION ♦ N^o.25

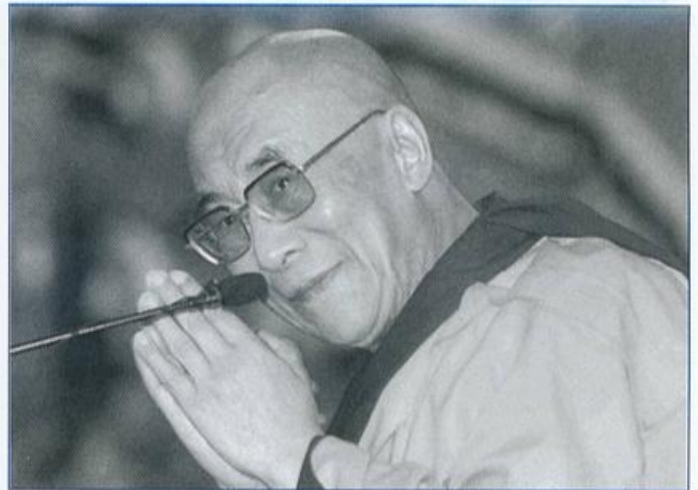
The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is being built near Atisha Centre in Australia. It will be the same size and design as the Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet. This will make it the largest Stupa in the Western world.

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA TO BLESS THE GREAT STUPA

The visit by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the site of the Great Stupa has been confirmed for June 7 2007.

His Holiness will bless the Great Stupa site and consecrate the Guru Rinpoche statue as his first official duty in Victoria. His Holiness is expected to arrive mid afternoon and to stay for around 2 hours.

Tiered seating will be set up on the site of the Great Stupa for this intimate event for approximately 1,000 people.



NEXT CONSTRUCTION PHASE BEGINS

Construction of the first stage steel framework and concrete shear walls of the Great Stupa has begun.



Sangha and lay community viewing progress of stage 1 steel works on International Sangha Day

YOU CAN BE AT THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT

Friends of the Great Stupa will have first opportunity of gaining a seat at this event. A of \$50 charge will be made to cover the costs of bringing His Holiness to the Great Stupa.

To secure your seat, please send \$50 to The Great Stupa office, 43 View Street Bendigo, VIC 3550. Make cheques payable to The Great Stupa Ltd and supply a covering letter specifying the amount is for tickets to the event with His Holiness. Bookings can also be made on line at www.stupa.org.au

CAN WE BUILD STAGE 2 BEFORE HIS HOLINESS COMES?

How wonderful it would be to have the steel soaring up to four levels above the ground by the time his Holiness arrives. To fund the erection of stage two steel we will need a further \$280,000. If you would like to contribute to this cost please contact Ian Green, the Director at the Great Stupa office.

JADE BUDDHAS AND JADE MALAS NOW AVAILABLE

Magnificent polar jade malas can be obtained from the Great Stupa office.

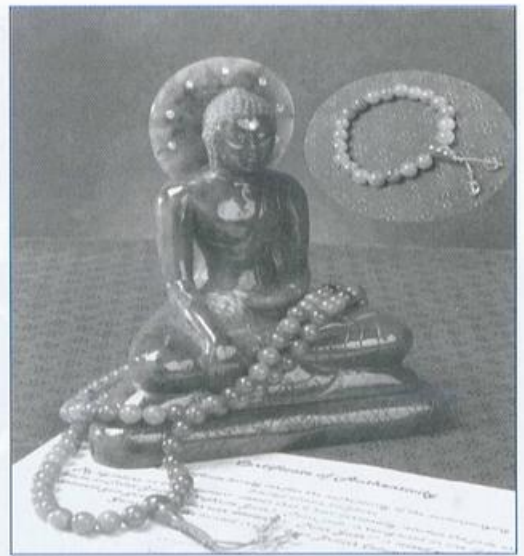
108 bead malas are available for a donation of AUS\$250 and wrist malas are available for AUS\$80. The malas are produced from AAA Gem-quality Polar Jade.

We have a few 108 bead and wrist malas blessed by Lama Zopa. Slightly less ornate than the seven malas which went to donors of \$1,000 at the benefactors lunch with Rinpoche. they are available for a donation of \$750 for the long mala, and \$188 for the wrist size. We also have Lama Zopa "Z" pendants on a jade and semi precious stone necklace.

Enquiries should be addressed to

Judy Green - The Great Stupa, 43 View Street, Bendigo VIC 3550 Australia.

E-mail: judy@stupa.org.au



Beautiful Jade Buddhas and Jade Malas now available



ANDY WEBER WORKSHOP

"Mandala of Avalokitesvara"
Traditional Mandala Painting



Date: Oct 10-13 2006

Time: 9am - 6pm

Place: Great Stupa Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$95 (for materials and lunch over 4 days)

contact stupa office for bookings on
03 5442 3200 or info@stupa.org.au

full details on www.stupa.org.au

SYDNEY HOLY RELIC TOUR AUGUST 5 - 20

The Great Stupa Holy Relic Tour of Sydney will be held from Saturday August 5 2006 to Sunday August 20 at Van An Meditation Centre, 215 Redmayne Road Horsley Park.

The Relic Tour will be on show daily with spectacular multi-tradition ceremonies to be held at 10.30am on the opening and closing days.

Full details are available on our website or contact relicssydney@yahoo.com.au

PILGRIMAGE TO SUNNATARAM FOREST MONASTERY

Saturday July 1 Geshe Konchok Tsering led a pilgrimage with Ven David Marks, Ven Lhundrup, Ven Lozang Tenzin, Noel Maddock, Judy and Ian to Sunnataram in Bundanoon NSW. During the visit the Great Stupa was presented with relics of Shakyamuni Buddha by Abbot Phra Mana and Venerable Kruba.



Phra Mana in work clothes with Great Stupa crew



The relics offered to the Great Stupa



Venerable Sangha at Sunnataram



Ven Phuoc Tan and fellow monk at Shrine of Compassion

SHRINE OF COMPASSION OFFICIALLY OPENED

Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan of Quang Minh temple led prayers to officially open the Shrine of Compassion on June 4 2006. The shrine, which was benefacted by Quang Minh Temple and an anonymous benefactor is located in the Great Stupa Exhibition Centre. It features a 2 metre high Avaloketishvara (Kwan Yin) statue that has been carved out of solid marble in Vietnam. Many Kwan Yin statues and Chenrezig images have been offered to the Great Stupa Shrine of Compassion from friends in Singapore and Australia.

If you wish to donate a statue, painting or thang'ka please contact the Great Stupa office.

TWO PROTECTOR ROOM PARTNERS FOUND

John Waite and Michael & Carol Amos have become our first Protector Room Partners. The Protector Room will house special deities who will exert a positive, protecting energy over the Great Stupa.

Ten Protector Room Partners are being sought. Each partner will contribute a donation of \$10,800. Their name will be displayed in perpetuity on the walls of the Protector Room.

LIBRARY PILLARS OF WISDOM FUND LAUNCHED

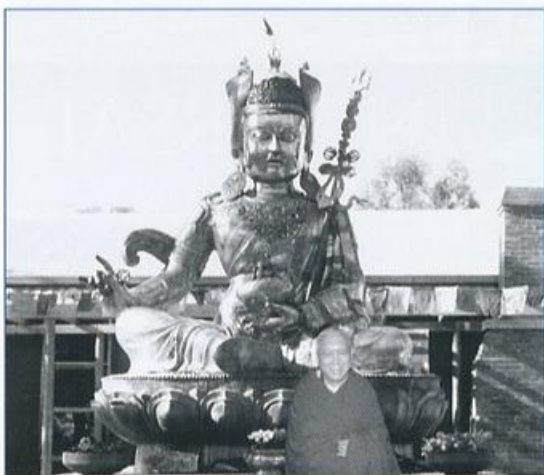
The Library is part of Lama Yeshe's vision for the Great Stupa. It will house Buddhist texts and will be available for students and scholars. Writings from other spiritual traditions, including Bon will also be kept in the library.

Ten Library Pillars of Wisdom are being sought. Each "Pillar" will contribute a donation of \$10,800. Their name will be displayed in perpetuity on the walls of the Library. As major benefactors they will also be recognised at the major puja which is held at the Great Stupa for as long as it exists.

GURU RINPOCHE STATUE TO BE FILLED AND GILDED FOR HIS HOLINESS

The 4 metre high Guru Rinpoche statue is being prepared for consecration by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The gilding of the statue which will cost around \$6,000 has been fully benefacted (Rejoice!). We do require benefactors for the filling of the statue with the life-force tree, mantras, sandalwood and precious objects. This is a massive job and costs are expected to be around \$20,000. Donations should be directed to the office at 43 View Street Bendigo or can be made on line at www.stupa.org.au



Lama Zopa with the Guru Rinpoche statue

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS

Rinpoche's visit to the Great Stupa site on June 4 and 5 was an amazing experience for all who were lucky enough to attend.

Highlights included a lunch with benefactors and leaders of major temples, a blessing of the Great Stupa site, unveiling of bronze plaque to commemorate Rinpoche's visit, blessing of the Guru Rinpoche statue (with an amazing feat of kata throwing by Rinpoche), blessing of the Kwan Yin and Shrine of Compassion, and the light offering on the Great Stupa site on the Monday night.

Rinpoche also presented an inspiring teaching and 21 Tara initiation at the Atisha Centre gomba.

Rinpoche was delighted by the progress at the Great Stupa, Atisha Centre and Monastery. He rang Judy and Ian from the airport to say: "Everything looks great. It feels like an aeroplane taking off. I will send a donation to the Great Stupa. After His Holiness comes the place will be incredibly blessed and it will be very widely known by many people wanting to help." He added "I love the Jade Buddha very much and I will send a donation."



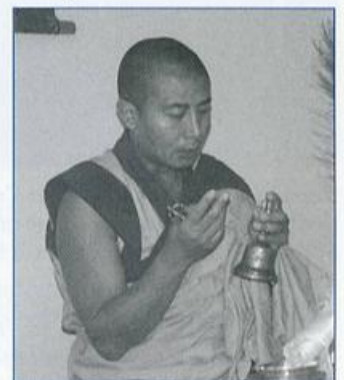
Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Geshe Konchok Tsering and Ian Green on the Great Stupa site

BLESSING OF THE ASHES CEREMONY

A very moving ceremony, known as a Jung Wa puja or blessing of the ashes ceremony, was conducted by Geshe Konchok Tsering on June 4 2006.

The ceremony lasted for nearly 2 hours and was witnessed by a large group. Several friends and family of the deceased were in attendance.

The Great Stupa will arrange for the Jung Wa ceremony to be performed annually by Geshe Konchok Tsering for those who are having memorials at the Great Stupa. More details can be obtained from the Great Stupa office.



Geshe Konchok Tsering leads Jung Wa ceremony

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.



memorial stupa

LIGHT OFFERING FESTIVAL AT THE GREAT STUPA

The night of June 5 2006 saw a wonderful impromptu light festival at the Great Stupa which was organised by Brian Ashen. Following the light offering, Lama Zopa Rinpoche said that it would be great to make a Light offering Festival an annual event at the Great Stupa.

It is our intention to make the light festival a major annual event at the Great Stupa to be held in June each year. The light festival will be held in conjunction with the annual puja for Great Stupa benefactors and the Jung Wa ceremony for the consecration of the deceased ashes. **Due to this change the Benefactors puja previously advised to be on August 26 2006 will now be postponed until June 2007.**

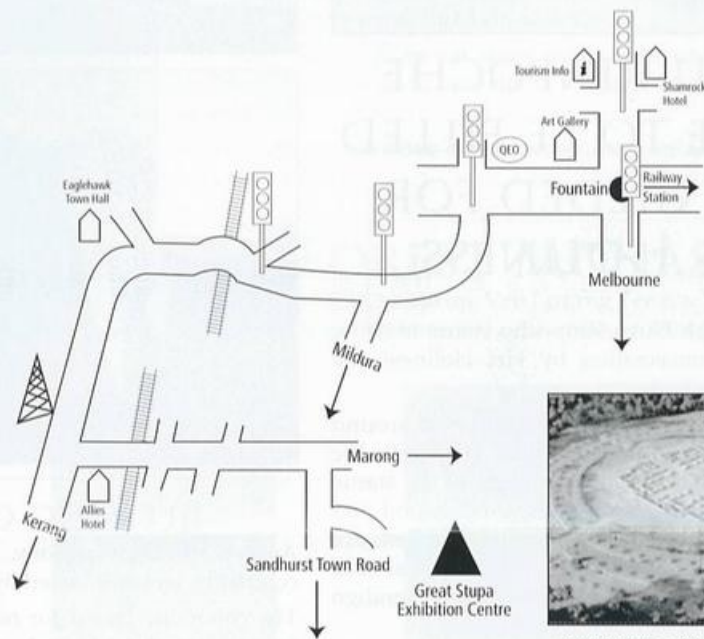


The first light festival

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.



Aerial photo of the Great Stupa site.

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 a 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

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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