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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.3

New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue:

Ken Mellor, Elizabeth Mellor, Chwee Beng Low, Ralph Maiden, Sue Hung, Mary and Peter Beh, and Yu-Chen Tseng.

Many thanks to these benefactors for their support for Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa.

Target \$1 million launched

A fundraising appeal has been launched to raise the \$1million dollars needed to build the basic structure of Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. In housing terms this amount of money would get us to the "lock-up" stage. Imagine being able to come and see the Stupa take shape before our eyes!

If you wish to contribute to the Target \$1million appeal please fill in the attached Benefactor Application form. Any contribution is welcome or we invite you to choose one of the four levels of benefactors of the Stupa.

Message of support from Gaden Tri Rinpoche Lobsang Nyima

Lobsang Nyima, the spiritual head of the Gelug order of Tibetan Buddhism has written to offer his support. He says:

"I'm thinking to offer you a small statue of Lama Tsong Khapa which would contain sacred relics from both India and Tibet. This I request you, for the sake of auspiciousness, to place in the vase section (fifth level) of the stupa.

I pray that all your virtuous deeds will be successfully accomplished, and that the stupa you are going to build will become famous throughout the world, and that it will be a great source of accumulating merit for all beings."

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has requested us to seek relics from the high Lamas from all Tibetan Buddhist sects. 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.

The benefits of building stupas

(Lama Zopa Rinpoche at Tushita Retreat Centre, India)

Success depends on how much merit you have accumulated: this applies to success in general, and to success in particular practices which you do in order to achieve happiness of liberation and enlightenment. The whole of your success depends on your merit. In the Guhyasamaja text (one of the higher tantras) it says: "A stupa is a palace where all the Buddhas are abiding. Those beings who don't have the karma to actually see Buddha need the holy object of body, speech and mind - statues, scriptures, stupas - as a field for accumulating merit."

The benefits you receive from building a stupa equal the number of atoms of the stupa and these benefits exist as long as the stupa exists.

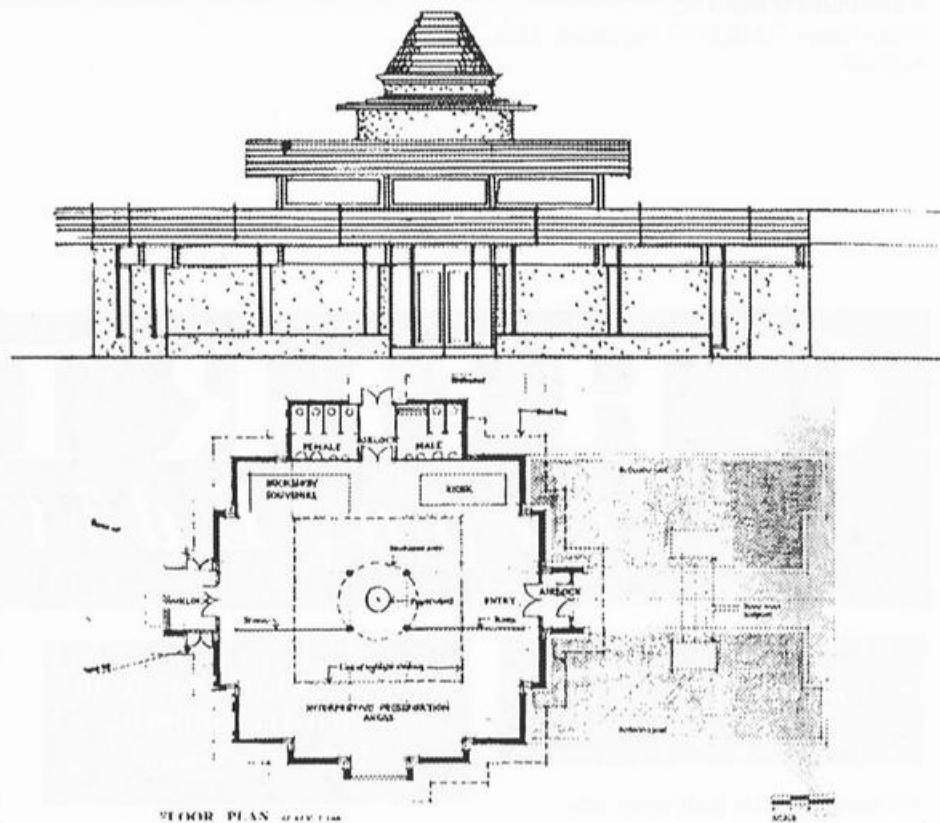
Sentient beings accumulate extensive merit by making offerings to holy objects, and from this merit happiness comes.....(to be continued next issue)

Visitor Reception Centre plan finalised

The Visitor Reception Centre will incorporate an Interpretive Centre on Buddhism, Stupas and Tibet, a bookshop, a kiosk and toilets.

While the centre is designed to provide an appropriate introduction for the visitor when the stupa is complete, the reception centre will play an important role immediately. The centre will be a focal point for interest in the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. Three dimensional models and video presentations will present the plans for the stupa and a background to the development.

The plans have been prepared by Ron Riddle of Riddle Radcliff architects. Construction of the Visitor Reception Centre will cost around \$450,000. These funds are being sought from the Victorian State Government.



Salim Lee - architect to the Stupa

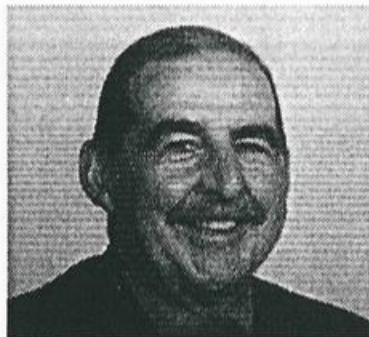
Salim Lee, the head of the large Perth-based architectural firm, Salim Lee and Associates has agreed to take on the responsibility of being architect to the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. Salim is already well known around Bendigo as he is the architect for Thubten Shedrup Ling monastery.

Look out celebrities!

Imogen Langham is preparing to approach a number of celebrities to seek their support for the Stupa. More news of Im's endeavours in future editions of Chorten -Stupa edition. If you have any ideas or contacts please write to Imogen Langham, PO Box 172 Daylesford, VIC 3460 AUSTRALIA.

Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa Bendigo Region Promotion Chairman appointed

Well known Bendigo personality, Robert Cook has agreed to head up a committee to raise the awareness of the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa in the Bendigo region.



Although not a Buddhist, Rob sees the stupa as being a very worthwhile project and especially valuable for the Bendigo region. Rob's committee will concentrate initially on raising the profile amongst "opinion leaders" in regional Victoria.

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)

First Name.....

Second name.....

Address.....

.....P/code.....

Country.....

Please find enclosed cash
cheque

Please debit my Bankcard
Visa M/card Amex

Card No

Expiry Date...../.....

Signature.....

BENEFACTOR APPLICATION

I wish to become a benefactor of the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa.

First Name: _____ Second Name: _____

Address: _____

P/Code: _____ Country: _____

- I wish to become a...*
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Enlightenment Benefactor: | US \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
A \$64,000 |
| Happiness Benefactor: | US \$25,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
A \$32,000 |
| Karma Benefactor: | US \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
A \$12,800 |
| Life-Long Friend: | US \$1,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
A \$1,300 |

Please find enclosed my Cheque.....

Please debit my Credit Card.....

Visa Mastercard Amex

Bankcard

Card No.

Expiry Date: ____/____

Signature: _____

Please mail to Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa project 15 Mackenzie Street,
Bendigo Victoria 3550 AUSTRALIA



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 Mackenzie St. Bendigo VIC 3550 AUSTRALIA.
Phone (03) 5442 2866, 015 007 410.
FAX (03) 5442 5301.



A Member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition