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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.4

New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue:

Gary Houry and Pamela Carvajal, Margot Brulotte, Alice Arbuthnott.

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

Fundraising Report

Fundraising to build Tse-Chen-Cho-Khor Stupa has been underway around 9 months. To date we have raised over \$30,000 in cash and in kind. In addition we have registrations from those intending to leave bequests in their will which total over \$125,000.

The initial fundraising target is \$100,000. This will enable us to proceed with the groundwork and foundations of the Stupa.

If you wish to contribute to the Tse-Chen-Cho-Khor building appeal please fill in the Benefactor Application form on page 3. We invite you to choose one of the form types of benefactors, however any contribution is most welcome.

Making Bequests

For those wishing to make a bequest to Tse-Chen-Cho-Khor Stupa please contact the office for all information.

The Karma, Happiness and Enlightenment benefactors are offered Stupas in the Stupa garden for their ashes.

Message of support from Buddhist Council of Victoria

Lachan Duncan, the secretary of the Buddhist Council of Victoria has written to offer support. The letter reads:

"In recognising the richness, diversity and variety of Buddhist traditions the mission of the Buddhist Council of Victoria is to act as a collective body for the Buddhist organisations in Victoria. The current membership of the Buddhist Council is 17 Buddhist temples, organisations and groups. The stupa is a very important symbol common to all schools of Buddhism. Each tradition having its own unique designs for the construction of a stupa. The construction of this stupa will greatly benefit the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor community and the Victorian community in general."

Support from the Bendigo Chinese Association

Tan See Tuang, the secretary of the Bendigo Chinese Association writes:

"The construction of the Great Australian Stupa at the Atisha Centre will further establish Bendigo as a very important cultural centre not only in Victoria but also in Australia. As Buddhism is very much a part of the Chinese culture, the Bendigo Chinese Association strongly supports the efforts of the Atisha Centre in seeking support for this very important project."

Letter from Lama Osel

Thank you for your letter, the booklet on the "Great Stupa" and the video. Up till now I didn't have the opportunity to see the video because it is not allowed to have a TV at Sera Je Monastery. So I am waiting for an opportunity outside Sera. But I wish you all the best with the stupa project and with Thubten Shedrup Ling monastery, that these projects may be completed without any obstacles.

Much love Tenzin Osel

Funding decision on Visitor Reception Centre awaited

A submission has been place with the Victorian Government seeking A\$460,000 for the construction of the Visitor Reception Centre.

A response is expected soon. The centre will incorporate an interpretive centre on Buddhism, Stupas and Tibet, a bookshop, a kiosk and toilets.

See the plans for the centre on the back page fo this newsletter

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 benefits of building stupas

Continued from last issue.

(Lama Zopa Rinpoche at Tushita Retreat Centre, India).

As soon as the stupa is completed, in that very second, it becomes an object with which beings can create the cause of happiness. Having one more holy object gives sentient beings one more opportunity to create merit.

The continued existence and flourishing of the Buddha depend on the continued existence of holy objects of the Buddha. The teachings exist in the mind so how can their existence depend on the existence of these external holy objects? You have to think about this - you have to understand this. It is not easy to have scriptural understanding and realisations of the teachings in your mind. To actualise the teachings of the Buddha within your mind through the practices of listening, reflecting and meditation, you need to have a lot of merit. The most powerful merit one can accumulate, and accumulate very easily, is in relation to holy objects of the

Buddha. By making statues and stupas, and by making offerings to them one accumulates inconceivable merit that immediately becomes the cause for enlightenment.

The purpose of making holy objects is not only for the person who makes them to complete their collection of merit; it also gives many other sentient beings, who do not have the karma to actually meet Buddha and make offerings to him, the opportunity to make offerings to the holy body, holy speech and holy mind. In this way sentient beings make connection with Buddha and accumulate the merit of having made offering to Buddha.

This connection with Buddha is very important.

Have model will travel



Ian Green, Judy Green and Peter Langhan attend the Tse-Chen-Cho-Khor display at a recent event with H.H Sakya Trizin in Melbourne. Central to the display is the Stupa model created by Kevin O'Rafferty and friends. The Stupa display and the video are available for events throughout Australian and Asia.

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... Life-Long Friend: A \$1,300
US \$1,000

Karma Benefactor: A \$ 12,800
US \$ 10,000

Happiness Benefactor: A \$32,000
US \$ 25,000

Enlightenment Benefactor: A \$64,000
US \$50,000

Please find enclosed my Cheque.....

Please debit my Credit Card.....

Visa Mastercard Amex

Bankcard

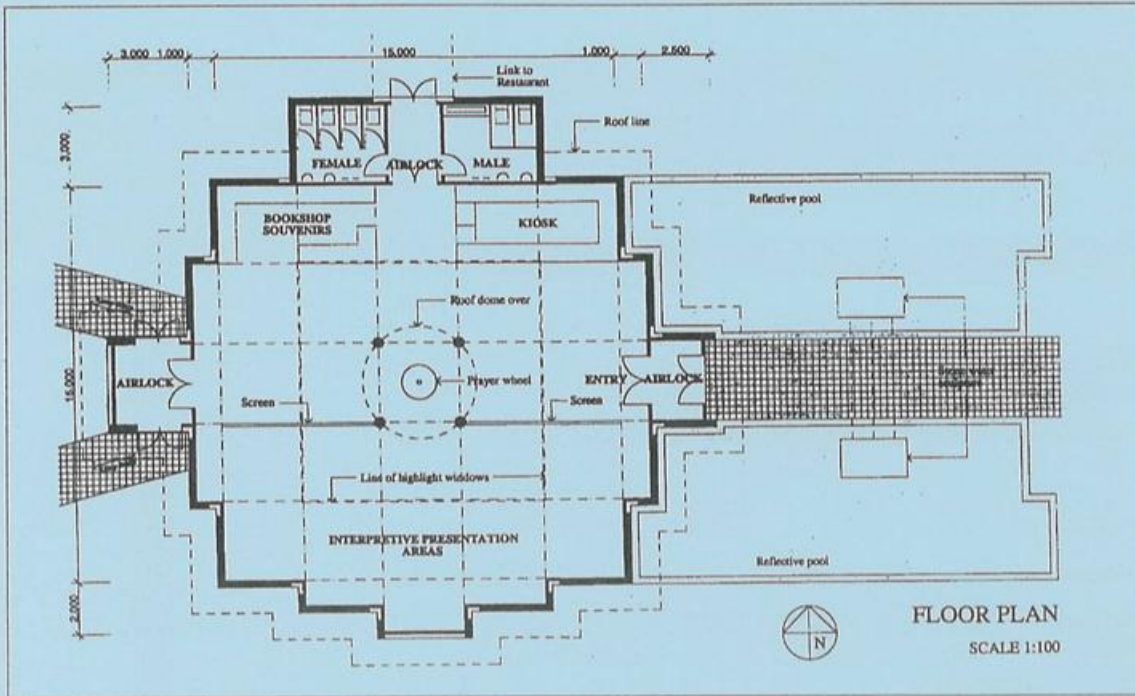
Card No.

Expiry Date: ____/____

Signature: _____

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





• Floor plan of Visitor Reception Centre.

• Perspective view of the Visitor Reception Centre



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 Project, 15 Mackenzie Street, Bendigo VICTORIA 3550 AUSTRALIA. phone (03) 5442 2866, 0417 398 877. FAX (03) 5442 5301.



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