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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.5

New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue: **Florence Chew, Ivan and Teresa Milton, Cook Green & Moore Pty Ltd., Christine Conlon**

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

Fundraising Report

Slowly but surely we are approaching our initial target of \$100,000 cash donations to cover the cost of groundworks and foundations of the Stupa.

All contributions are very welcome or we invite you to choose one of the four levels of benefactors of the Stupa.

Your contribution does not have to be in a lump sum. You may choose to make regular payments through your bank or to make a bequest to the Stupa.

If you wish to contribute to the appeal please fill in the attached Benefactor Application form.

Delegation to State Government on Visitor Reception Centre



On October 9, 1997 a delegation met with Minister **Phil Honeywood** (Victorian Government Minister of Ethnic Affairs) and Minister **Louise Asher** (Victorian Government Minister for Tourism).

Members of the delegation are shown above (left to right):

Peter Hargreaves (*Member of local promotion committee*),

Michael John MHR (*Member of State Parliament*),

Ian Green (*Director of Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa Project*),

Ron Best MHR (*Member of State Parliament*),

Phil Honeywood (*Govt. Minister*),

Rob Cook (*Chairman of Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa Local Promotion Committee*),

Barry Ackerman (*Mayor City of Greater Bendigo*).

The delegation sought support for the submission which has been made to the Victorian Government seeking \$460,000A for the construction of the Visitor Reception Centre.

The 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.

Relics offered by Denma Locho Rinpoche

Locho Rinpoche, one of the lineage holders of the Gelug sect has written to say:

"I am very happy to learn of your stupa project. I would like to make my offering of a holy object for the purpose. Please let me know how to transport it. With best wishes, regards and prayers."

It is hoped that **Peter Langham** will be able to pick up these relics and others from Lamas in India during his visit in the next few months. Anyone else interested in helping out with an auspicious delivery service please contact the office.

Holy Lynx bones

Frances Howland of Kathmandu has offered the bones of a Tibetan Lynx named **Tashi** to Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. (Sounds unusual we know).

Tashi was rescued from Tibet by **Lama Pasang**, and friends **Massimo** and **Susanna Corona**. Apparently he was an extraordinary Lynx which was blessed by many Lamas. On his death Tashi was cremated at Swayambunath Stupa in Kathmandu and **Lama Zopa** instructed that a special puja be held for him.

Lama Zopa said the bones should be treated as holy. Some have been sent to Tibet and some will come to Bendigo.

Making Bequests

Those wishing to leave a bequest to Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa in their will, please contact the office for bequest forms.

Sculptures in the stupa

Just as in the Gyantse stupa, we will be having many life-size statues in Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa. **Lama Zopa** has said that these statues should include the 8 Medicine Buddhas, the 16 Arhants, and the 21 Taras - just to name a few.

Ven. Thubten Gyatso will oversee the statue and fresco side of the stupa.

Celebrated Dharma sculptors **Peter and Denise Griffin** have been approached to undertake the work and a tentative plan has been set for Peter and Denise to come to Bendigo in a few years time. They would undertake to produce statues and also instruct local artists in traditional methods.

Sponsor a statue

If you have a favourite deity or manifestation of the Buddha why not talk to us about sponsoring it's construction? One benefactor has already offered to fund a major statue within the shrine rooms.

Tibet Pilgrimages

A pilgrimage to Tibet and especially Gyantse is being planned for friends of the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa.

Well known Tibet guide, **Tashi Tsering** of Tenzing Himalayan Expeditions, has offered to lead a group tour. For each booking on the Gyantse pilgrimage Tashi Tsering will provide a substantial donation to the stupa.

Details on the pilgrimage are expected soon. Anyone interested should contact the Stupa office.

Stupa models being prepared

Models of the Tse-Chen Cho-Kho Stupa are currently under preparation by **Finn Mathews**.

The models are around 12cm high. They will be cast in quality materials and decorated.

They will also be filled with mantras and consecrated to be holy objects in their own right.

Once completed these model Stupas will be offered to benefactors.

It is understood that a generous benefactor has offered to fund the costs of making these model Stupas.



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

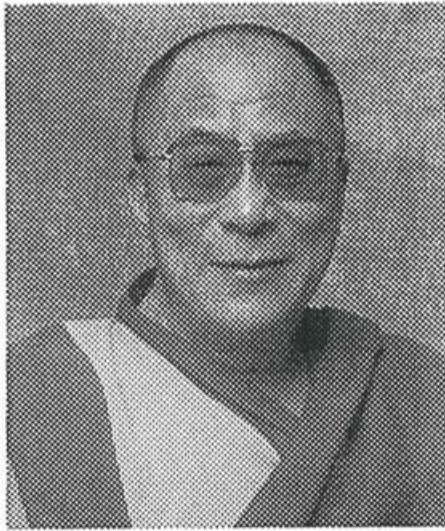
Please debit my Bankcard
Visa M/card Amex

Card No

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

Signature.....

His Holiness The Dalai Lama on Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa



At this moment, when the Tibetan cultural heritage is facing extinction this Tibetan style stupa will be very significant and I think it will be very useful to remind us not only of Buddhist spirituality but also of Tibetan Buddhist culture.

And from a Buddhist point of view, support for such noble work is a good way or method to create more virtuous karma.

And then to those people who are working for this stupa: right from the beginning your motivation should be very sincere and you should not think about fame or personal gain. You should simply dedicate all your activities and all your energies in working for this stupa to all sentient beings and for the benefit of the Buddhadharm.

As Buddhists we consider motivation to be very important...very essential.

Basically this kind of stupa we call "Go-Mang Chorten", which means a stupa which has lots of doors. That is the general name, but I would have as the particular name:

"Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling". I don't know the exact meaning in English, but it means something like the dharma place of great compassion. So you will have better translations but the Tibetan is Tse-Chen Cho-Khor.

If you would like a friend to go on this mailing list or for further information please contact Ian Green,
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