



## THE GREAT STUPA LIBRARY

### LIBRARY MISSION

The Great Stupa Library will provide free and open public access to a comprehensive collection of learning materials specialising in the interface between Buddhism and Science. The library will also serve as an international centre of excellence for ongoing dialogue, study, and the harmonious sharing of wisdom between Buddhism, science and other world religions and philosophies.

### WHY A THEME OF BUDDHISM, INTERFAITH & SCIENCE?

Lama Yeshe first envisioned the development of a library as being an integral part of the Great Stupa—encouraging wider research, study and discussion between all religions and contemplative philosophies. In August 2007, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama blessed the Great Stupa and endorsed it as a Stupa for World Peace—a centre to facilitate deeper understanding, harmony and dialogue between all religions. In 2015, Lama Zopa Rinpoche reconfirmed the benefits of the library focusing on the interface between Buddhism, Science and interfaith harmony.

The library has a key role in making this vision reality. As a dedicated space, designed and equipped for sharing knowledge and wisdom between the contemplative traditions and science disciplines, the library will serve to promote and inspire peace, compassion, and the enrichment of human learning and experience through its developing collections and programs.

### AIMS OF THE GREAT STUPA LIBRARY

- To develop as a centre of excellence for the interface between Buddhism, science and other world religions and philosophies by:
  - building connections to similar organisations around the world
  - linking with networks of experts in wisdom traditions and scientific and philosophical disciplines
  - attracting scholars, academics, researchers, and those with a genuine interest in growing knowledge and understanding of the interface between Buddhism & Science
  - hosting programs to promote dialogue, teaching and learning between wisdom traditions and science and philosophy disciplines
  - making freely available a comprehensive collection of Buddhism, science & contemplative literature

- To provide an interpretative centre for visitors to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion
- To house an archive, including the history of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion and items of cultural and religious significance.

## **LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT**

Bringing the envisioned Great Stupa Library into being commenced in March 2016 with the creation of the library as a public company and by mid-2016 a Library Board, Constitution and Library Advisory Committee were established.

Currently the collection is temporarily housed in a refurbished building near the Great Stupa. The collection contains a mix of materials and exists primarily through the generosity of donors supportive of the library vision. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, the collection has been carefully catalogued and launched online. Library membership has opened in October 2017, and with this step actualizing the vision to facilitated learning between Buddhism, science and other world religions and philosophies commences.

With continued generosity of donors and benefactors and the contributions of other interested parties the library collection will continue to grow. Our long-term plan is to design a purpose-built multi-level library. This building will include an interpretive centre, kiosk/gift shop, archival storage, room for future growth and spaces specially designed to promote inspiration for individual and group learning.

## **LIBRARY FACILITIES**

- Purpose-built building, designed to provide state of the art library service and inspire harmonious dialogue, learning and teaching
- Focused and comprehensive collections on the interface between Buddhism and Science, Buddhism and Philosophy and Interfaith dialogue
- Facilities and technology to aid learning that are free to the public
- Information resources in a variety of formats, including print, multimedia and digital
- Archival material and collections of cultural significance
- Research material relating to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion
- Online collection catalog, freely available on the web
- Inspirational research and study areas
- Spaces for public talks and conference facilities
- Display and exhibitions areas
- An interpretative museum
- Library staff and volunteers