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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.9

New Benefactors

We welcome the following new benefactors for this issue: the family of **Madame Chew Sai Choo** (Malaysia), **Peter Weiss** (Australia) **Tom, Suzanne, James** and **Callum Castles** (USA). Many thanks on behalf of us all to these generous benefactors for their support for Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa.

New advice from Rinpoche on the design of the Stupa



We have recently received advice from Lama Zopa Rinpoche that there should not be a Prayer Wheel on the sixth floor of the Stupa.

Rather, Rinpoche advises, "the sixth floor can feature deity mandalas (3 dimensional mandala and sand mandalas) or relics there."

Prayer wheels will be a major part of the Stupa as Rinpoche advises

"The prayer wheels should be on the outside wall of the stupa, 100 000 prayer wheels, small ones lining the walls and large ones in the doorways so that people can turn while circumambulating." Rinpoche also said: "On the walls inside you can have many many tsa tsas, and fresco paintings of the Buddha's life story on the walls...paintings, lots of paintings of Buddhas or tsa tsas...can have Buddha's life story, 1000 Buddhas, can have many. Can have Lama Tsong Khapa's life story (and just to prove Rinpoche has not lost his sense of humour he added "Ian Green's life story") in the Gompa."

The architect of the Stupa of Universal Compassion, Peter Weiss, is incorporating Rinpoche's advice into his designs and is also making a 3-dimensional model of the Stupa for review by Rinpoche. Subsequent to the above, Roger Kunsang, Rinpoche's Secretary added:

"Rinpoche checked and it came out best re the statues inside the stupa to be of the Guru (Lama Yeshe). If possible 50,000 and if possible 12 inches high, at least 8 inches, if not 6 inches."

TV ad for the Stupa



We have just completed a very unusual TV ad - for the Stupa! The TV commercial is of 30 seconds duration and features footage of the Dalai Lama, the Gyantse Stupa in Tibet and the model in Australia. The commercial has been produced thanks to voluntary contributions from various professionals including **David Bilcock, Carmel Travers, Greg Sneddon, and Armadillo Productions.**

The commercial (known as a Community Service Announcement) will be aired free of charge by the three commercial TV stations in regional Victoria and by various community TV networks. If you have a contact with a TV station please ask if they would play our community service announcement.

Guest speakers available

The Stupa Promotion Committee have begun offering guest speakers to interested clubs and groups. So far the interest has been high with talks given in Bendigo to a Rotary Club, Probus Club and National Council of Women.

The usual guest speakers are **Judy Green** and **Ven Tony Beaumont** working as a double act and judging by audience response their talk is very well received.

For details on guest speakers call Judy Green on 61 03 5442 6277.

The Stupa goes on tour



Lily, Peter and Ian re-painting the model

The model of the Stupa continues to be presented to groups and events. **Peter "Swami" Stripes** is often seen manning the Stupa stand. This year Peter has taken the display to The Buddhist Summer School, the Tibetan Buddhist Centre and to teachings by Geshe Michael Roach.

If you have any suggestions on other locations please contact Peter on 61 03 5348 7554.

The search for relics continues

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said that holy relics are necessary to make the Stupa beneficial. These relics, along with other offerings will be kept within the Great Stupa itself. We are seeking relics from Buddhist leaders around the world. Recent responses have included

Gelek Rinpoche (USA) who writes "With regard to a request for relics for the stupa, I have nothing from the great masters to add. Thank you for allowing me to rejoice in your great activity."

Structural Engineers to the rescue

You will have seen our calls for structural engineers to help us with the engineering on the Stupa. To date we have had several enquiries from various parts of the world. We have also had considerable help in developing the engineering from **Gerin Hingee** (Canberra) and **Bob Styles** (Bendigo). Many thanks to Gerin and Bob. However they could still do with some support from other Engineers. For further details please contact the architect **Peter Weiss**.
Ph: 61 0891 922 305.
Email: nbcacbm@tpgi.com.au

Wanted: Mechanical Engineer

The Stupa of Universal Compassion requires the services of a Mechanical Engineer for the next stage of planning and development.

This engineer will need to have experience in airconditioning and allied fields on larger buildings. The Stupa is an incredible project to be involved with and we are appreciative of all offers of help. For further details please contact architect Peter Weiss (see above).

On the web

The Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling stupa is now on the Web. We invite you to look us up at WWW.stupa.org.au.


Ian Green, the project Director believes that a website is an essential communication tool for a project such as the Stupa of Universal Compassion because it is of interest to so many Buddhists. The website will be updated regularly so that wherever you are around the world you can keep up to date with the latest architecture and news for the Stupa.

On the site information is in the following categories:

- Blessings of the Lamas for the stupa
- Historical perspectives on the Gyantse Stupa
- The world wide search for relics for the Stupa
- About the Stupa
- Latest architectural plans of the Stupa
- The benefits of building a stupa
- History of Buddhism in Bendigo
- Funding the Stupa
- Becoming a benefactor
- Latest news
- Contact details.

The construction of the website has involved many months of largely voluntary work. Special thanks goes to graphic designer **Peter Robertson**, multimedia producer **Peter Wiseman**, computer specialists **SBSS** and **Cook Green and Moore**.

THE STUPA OF UNIVERSAL COMPASSION



The Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling Stupa will be a unique and cultural masterpiece the Great Stupa of Gyantse (Kathmandu) in Tibet. This will make it the largest stupa in the Western world. Inside the stupa will be a large number of relics and many other treasures will be kept here. Tibetan Centre in Bendigo Australia.

Website opening page

Songline upon the Great Stupa

Ross Drake, a student of Atisha Centre and an active supporter of the central Victorian Aboriginal community, says that the Stupa of Universal Compassion is situated on at least one of the "Songlines" of Australia's original inhabitants.

Ross explains:

"A Songline is a very important and prominent aspect of Aboriginal culture. To an Aborigine it resonates with exceptional connections to what is known as the "dreaming". It is, however a concept which is very difficult to explain in terms of the English language. It is only through a subtle perception and deep intuitive knowing that a Songline becomes alive. Songlines are heard by the mind not the ear. They are created by what might be called an "ethereal wake". Aborigines believe that anyone walking over land leaves a trail of a sort. Indeed it is said, if you walk the same path, singing the same song or chant with a concentrated mind for many years, you will create your own Songline.

Traditionally, Songlines are created by chants of the local custodians of the tribal land. As each tribe had different chants, each Songline has a different song or chant to it. By recognising these songs you are able to know which tribal land you are walking through.

Songlines often lengthened out to cover thousands of kilometers with perhaps up to 100 different chants upon it.

The Songlines were mainly used by "Bihars", or messengers, who travelled along the Songlines to perform various cultural tasks. Songlines not only provided a

sense of direction they also offered a safe avenue or corridor for crossing through tribal land. Traditionally anyone moving off the Songline would be considered as an invader and would be dealt with accordingly, usually by spearing.

There is a Songline pathing through the Atisha Centre where the Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Ling Stupa is to be accomplished. It was discovered by appreciating the ethereal environment a Songline occupies and by recognising certain landscape markings. The marking that depicts the beginning of the Stupa Songline is a "Ring Tree" on the Loddon River. It is now a very old River Red Gum. When the tree was small, Aborigines of the old time bent a branch back upon itself and tied it to the trunk to form a ring shape. The branch has since merged into the tree as one growth. Later a piece of bark was axed out to scar the tree trunk. The Songline traveller places his back against this scar and looking ahead sees the way along the Songline (in this case, through the Stupa site).

The Aborigines have created these Songlines over thousands of years, but since the coming of the white man the Songlines have been decimated and are in need of repair. Perhaps a role of the Stupa will be to repair the fragile existence of a Songline. By means of understanding is a beginning made."



Ross points out the scar on the tree trunk



Judy Green and Ross Drake by the old River Red Gum.



The ring created by Aborigines of the old time.

