

Tibetan Buddhist Society

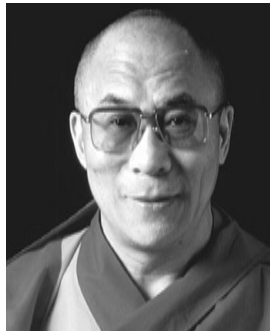
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2007

GREAT TREASURE OF THE WORLD, HIS HOLINESS 14TH DALAI LAMA

2007 is an especially auspicious year with His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama's scheduled visit to Australia in June this year.

His Holiness is one of the most admired spiritual leaders of our time. Universally acclaimed for his insight, kindness and compassion, he achieved worldwide recognition when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

A man whose country has been the victim of war and violence and who is nonetheless the world's most consistent advocate of peace, touches those who meet him with his warmth and universal



My religion is very simple.

My religion is kindness.

- H.H. the Dalai Lama

wisdom, and message of love, compassion and tolerance.

We are delighted to announce that His Holiness will be in Perth on June 6th during which he will participate in two free events at the Burswood Dome. From 9.30 am til 11am there will be a "Spirituality and Sustainability Forum," during which His Holiness will discuss climate change and environmental issues with local speakers. Then from 4pm to 5.30 pm he will give a public talk entitled "Ethics for a New Millennium".

Visit the website www.dalailama.org.au for more details.

TRADITIONAL TIBETAN TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

As recent visitors to Herne Hill are aware, construction has recently begun on our new temple. This exciting development is only possible due to the inspiration and blessing of our kind spiritual head and teacher, Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden, as well as the overwhelming generosity of many members, students and friends, and after a long, protracted process in obtaining a building license.

We are honoured to be involved in an extremely rare opportunity to establish a traditional temple, in a non-Buddhist country - one which we hope will be of direct and indirect benefit to many thousands of people in the decades to come.

Designed to be the same as the temple built by Geshe Loden in Melbourne, it closely follows traditional Tibetan architecture, and will be a unique landmark of Tibetan Buddhist culture in Western Australia.

The temple is designed to be spiritually inspiring and visually striking. With its rich symbolism, it is an outward expression of the inner qualities that practitioners of the Buddha's teachings seek to develop.

The centerpiece of the new temple will be a spacious meditation hall with an altar which will house our two metre Buddha statue.

The statue will be filled with the script of nearly six million mantras, all hand-rolled by a small group of our students and positioned in prescribed places within the statue.

The grounds will be extensively landscaped with sweeping lawns, trees and flowering plants and overall, the temple and its gardens will offer a tranquil and inspiring environment.



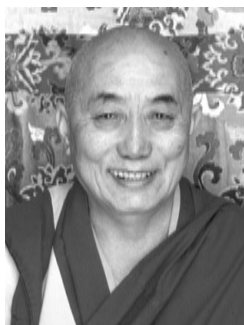
The slab has now been poured for the traditional Tibetan temple.

GESHE LODEN'S EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES

In December 2006, Geshe Loden donated \$90,000 of his personal savings to ten thousand monks in Sera, Ganden and Drepung Monasteries in India, and to 160 elderly Tibetans in Mundgod Old Peoples' Home. The donations were dedicated to the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the freedom of Tibet.

Geshe.la usually travels to India and personally hand delivers his donations, however, now aged 84 years, Geshe.la asked four students of the Tibetan Buddhist Society in Melbourne to present the donations on his behalf.

Since establishing the Society in Australia in 1979 Geshe Loden has saved the money he receives in personal donations, and delivered thousands of personal offerings to exiled Tibetan communities.



Venerable Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden, Spiritual Leader and founder of the Tibetan Buddhist Society.

Under Geshe.la's guidance the Society has raised over \$90,000 for projects to assist victims of disaster in Australia and Asia such as drought, floods, tsunami and earthquake.

Last year Geshe.la organised over \$7,000 for the Sera Je Monastery Hospital which provides medical care free to the 3500 monks, and half price medicine to the lay community.

Geshe.la currently has a target to raise \$20,000 after a recent request by the Minister for Education in Dharamsala, Kalon Thupten Lungrig. The Department administers over 80 schools providing education to more than 28,000 young Tibetan children in exile.

Each year nearly 1,000 students graduate from these schools with the aspiration to pursue higher education, but many are unable to do so due to lack of funds.

NEWS BRIEF

AGM:

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 27 May at 2 pm. All members are warmly invited to attend.

Landscaping:

Later in the year we will begin the major task of landscaping around the new temple. While we will have professional help for some of the larger tasks, we'll need a lot of helping hands to effect the transformation from paddock to pure land. Please consider putting some time aside to help with this once-in-a-lifetime pioneering activity.

Bookshop:

While we have always stocked a small range of books for purchase by members, in recent months Marg has considerably expanded the range of available titles. Feel free to come up and spend some time browsing before the next class.

Buddhism for Busy People:

David's book is being published in a second edition this June. Because we buy copies wholesale, 40% of the cover price goes directly to TBS - all sales gratefully received.

Yamantaka Retreat

Our annual Vajrayana retreat this year will be a two week Yamantaka retreat from

Saturday 7th July concluding with fire puja on Saturday 21 July.

Les will lead the meditation sessions, and give teachings throughout the retreat.

Accommodation is limited, so please indicate early your intention to register.

Facility cost is \$700.

SPONSORSHIP OF AUSPICIOUS SYMBOLS

The total cost of the new temple is an estimated \$2 million. With the funds already generously donated and an approved bank loan for \$700,000, we are about \$200,000 short of being able to finance the entire project.

The outstanding \$200,000 is needed to complete the temple with important auspicious symbols and ornaments. In order to raise this amount, we are offering the unique opportunity to sponsor specific items. In future years, donors visiting the temple will be able to see the benefit of their generosity in tangible form.

Items available for sponsorship include:

White marble floor	\$35,000
Hand painted ornate front door surround	\$10,000
2 x Victory Banners	\$3500 each
420 Lotus petals	\$50 each
4 x roof ornament dragon heads	\$1000 each
3 x roof spires	\$1000 each

26 golden auspicious ornaments \$1500 each which are representations of symbols of good fortune and five qualities of enjoyment, for example:

- the conch shell representing the Buddha's teachings expanding;
- the endless knot which overlaps without beginning or end and symbolises the Buddha's endless wisdom and compassion;
- the treasure vase represents the spontaneous manifestation of all that is wished for;
- the lotus symbolises purity and the renunciation of suffering;
- the dharma chakra as a symbol of the holy Dharma.

If you would like to sponsor one or more of these items, please let Marg know of your interest as soon as possible, so that she can allocate the various auspicious symbols to sponsors.

TEACHING PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 24TH APRIL TO TUESDAY 3RD JULY (NOTE NO CLASSES ON 8TH MAY, 5TH & 12TH JUNE)

Path to Enlightenment

Tuesdays 7.30pm–9.00pm (follows school terms)
(Note no classes on 8th May, 5th and 12th June)

Suggested facility charge \$10

An ongoing class which students may join at any time. Taught by Les, over the course of 12 – 18 months the class systematically progresses through the Lam Rim, or Path to Enlightenment text, which presents the core teachings of Tibetan Buddhism.

Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation

A five week course commencing Sunday 12th August from 10am–12.30pm.

Facility charge \$100 for the series (includes morning tea)

This course provides an excellent opportunity for students without any prior experience to be gain a foundation understanding of the practices and philosophy of Buddhism and meditation, and its application to everyday life.

Subjects covered include the nature of the mind and its potential for enlightenment, the four Noble truths, karma, why we experience dissatisfaction and how to bring about change, compassion and the ultimate nature of reality.

To find out more about the next available course or to register, please email us, visit the website or call us on 9296 0086.

Learn to Meditate Seminar

A day-long course Sunday 24th June 10am–4pm

Facility charge \$100. (lunch, morning & afternoon tea included)

The significant benefits of meditation on health, both mental and physical, have long been established by scientists. In brief, the practice of meditation has been shown to provide highly effective anti-stress therapy, helping lower high blood pressure, improve the immune function, enhance neural co-ordination, and increase activity in the left frontal cortex of our brain which is associated with happiness and relaxation. These findings all accord with classic Buddhist teachings on the benefits of meditation and thought transformation.

During this course Les will provide a number of techniques that can be used to overcome challenges such as stress, depression and the simple wish to experience greater fulfilment in everyday life.

Vajrayogini and Yamantaka Practice

Wednesdays 7.30–9.00pm from Wednesday 16 May

For students who have taken appropriate initiations.

TUSHITA PUBLICATIONS

NEW RELEASE

Prayers for the Path of Indivisible Great Bliss and Emptiness

Compiled and translated by Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden

Prayers for the Path of Indivisible Great Bliss and Emptiness is Geshe Loden's eighth book. It brings together for the first time in one edition all the major prayers and sadhanas compiled and translated into English by the Spiritual Leader of the Tibetan Buddhist Society, Venerable Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden.

Hardcover, 261 pages, 11 colour photos, 19 line illustrations

Essence of the Path to Enlightenment

The concepts of Tibetan Buddhism are explained in this clear and concise introductory book, presenting the central principles behind the Buddhist way of life and what it means to be a Buddhist. Hardcover, 344 pages, 4 colour photos, 16 line illustrations

Meditations on the Path to Enlightenment

The meditations on the path to enlightenment are presented in an accessible and inspiring way in this book. Hardcover, 601 pages, 4 colour photos, 20 line illustrations

Path to Enlightenment in Tibetan Buddhism

A complete, step-by-step guide and extensive explanation of all the stages of the Buddhist path leading to enlightenment. Hardcover, 1097 pages, 4 colour photos, 26 line illustrations

The Fundamental Potential for Enlightenment

This book explains the fundamental nature of the mind and its potential for enlightenment. It includes an extensive explanation of the state of a Buddha. Paperback, 310 pages, 4 colour photos, 11 line illustrations

The following three books are only available to those with highest yoga tantra initiation.

Ocean of Indivisible Method and Wisdom

A unique and authentic guide by a highly qualified tantric master to the practices of Solitary Hero Yamantaka. Hardcover, 441 pages, 4 colour photos, 25 line illustrations

Path to the Union of Clear Light and Illusory Body

A complete explanation of the tantric practice of Vajrayogini, this book provides detailed instruction on the eleven generation stages and the completion stage practices. Hardcover, 615 pages, 4 colour photos, 27 line illustrations

Great Treasure of the Six Yogas of Naropa

An explanation of the advanced highest yoga tantra practices in Tibetan Buddhism, this book also provides an explanation of the foundation practices needed for these. Hardcover, 588 pages, 4 colour photos, 27 line illustrations



