

TIBETAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



NEW TEMPLE COMPLETED

It was with overwhelming happiness and relief that we received all the required approvals - and there were many - to begin using our newly built traditional temple earlier this year.

For the past 25 years, we have offered courses on meditation and Buddhism in a variety of rooms, garages, and a farm shed, all converted from their original use into something resembling a Tibetan temple. Our last was the farm shed at Herne Hill which has served us well for six years, accommodating several retreats a year ranging from weekends to three weeks.

For many students in the West, converted sheds, garages and offices are the only temples they will have the opportunity to use. So it's a truly wonderful and humbling experience to be able to move into a temple which is not only purpose built, but which has meticulously followed traditional Tibetan Buddhist architecture.

As all visitors to the temple will know, the temple has become a significant landmark on Campersic Road. The exterior of the building is ornate, with many auspicious symbols including deer and dharma chakra, victory banners, water dragons, eight auspicious symbols and five symbols of sense offerings, and more than four hundred lotus petals. These symbols are painted with gold paint, which also covers the vast roof and reflects the many different moods of the sky. The front entrance is magnificently aspected at the top of flights of stairs, and awaits an ornate door surround and decorative ornaments.

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If undeliverable please return to:
Tibetan Buddhist Society
274 Campersic Road, Herne Hill
Western Australia 6056

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We rely on students to renew membership of their own accord. Most memberships need to be renewed at the end of October at \$45 per person, \$55 for a family, or \$25 concession.

Please check with Marg or Wayne to make sure your membership is up to date.



All membership fees go towards payment of the substantial electricity, water, rates and other bills which we incur. Membership entitles free use of our library, and invitation to the members' Christmas dinner.

CALLING ALL MERIT PIGS!

What better way to dump some of that negative karma you've been lugging around for lifetimes than by helping with the upkeep of the only Tibetan Buddhist temple in WA?

We have a cleaning roster, gardening activities and plenty of other tasks that need to be done on an ongoing basis. Please speak to Marg or Wayne if you'd like to help out.

You can also sponsor the fresh flowers which are offered on the altar each week. Any amount is welcome.

CHRISTMAS CAKES

Cakes have been one of our principal fundraisers for over 20 years.

Over 120 cakes have been baked in our new commercial kitchen, and are awaiting purchase. Please take orders from friends, family, work colleagues, etc. They also make excellent gifts. The fact that we have many returning customers is testament to their quality. Price is \$30 for a 2kg cake.

ORNAMENT SPONSORSHIP

There are still a small number of gold lotus petals adorning the outside of the temple available for sponsorship at \$50 each (tax deductible).

The ideal Christmas gift for the man or woman with everything? Your sponsorship can be presented as an attractive gift voucher.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY

274 Campersic Road, Herne Hill 6056

Tel: (08) 9296 0086 Fax: (08) 9296 6135

Email: tibetanbuddhistsociety@bigpond.com

Web: www.tibetanbuddhistsociety.com.au

For all the Tibetan lines and ornaments the temple seems to fit just perfectly against the backdrop of Herne Hill. Our landscaping, including 60 trees, 120 roses and a green, reticulated lawn, is still in its early days, but in future months and years is intended to plant over a thousand trees and shrubs, creating a lush haven for bird life.

Inside it is a beautiful light-filled space, able to accommodate nearly 300 people. The white, European marble of the floor was chosen after rejecting many alternative samples, and contributes to the ethereal quality of the light inside. Many students have commented on the atmosphere inside the gompa, especially at night when our statues and thangkas are lit up – it certainly is a very special and sacred place for us to use for our practices.

Our two metre Buddha statue was finally installed on a magnificent throne in the custom-built five and a half metre high Tasmanian oak altar. In accordance with tradition, over four days a group of students filled the statue with sandalwood, jewels, cloth, and holy texts as well as many millions of Tibetan mantras which had been painstakingly rolled by a small group of students over three years.

The thangkas in the temple have adorned all our previous meditation rooms. Along with these are two new statues recently donated by students, as well as a magnificent three metre high appliqué Medicine Buddha thangka created at the Norbulingka Institute which was established, with His Holiness's blessing, to preserve traditional Tibetan art and culture. So impressed were the students with the exceptional quality and beauty of this thangka, that benefactors came forward immediately to order an appliquéd Maitreya Buddha thangka of the same size for the facing side of the temple.

There is a large dining area which opens out into a paved al fresco area, serviced by a commercial kitchen, specially designed by Marg, drawing on her wealth of experience in catering and food preparation. This means no more cooking for scores of people using only domestic appliances. Plus we now have the capacity to make large quantities of foods like Christmas cakes to help fundraise.

There are eight spacious bedrooms offering very comfortable accommodation and great views.



LIBRARY BOOKS

We are currently computerising our library, so all books can now be scanned. Please check if you have outstanding books.

If you have overdue books, but can't make it to classes to return them, please post them back, or you may leave them in our letterbox in plastic bags, anytime.

MAHAMUDRA RETREAT JAN 3–10

Next January, Les will lead a mahamudra retreat, beginning Saturday 3rd and ending Saturday evening 10th January.

Mahamudra is one of the most powerful and precious meditation practices in our tradition, focusing on both the conventional and ultimate nature of mind itself.

Les will teach extensively commencing with teachings on how to develop concentration, before applying this skill to penetrating the nature of the mind. He will also lead the meditation sessions.

Each day will commence at 6.30am, so unless you live near the centre, it is recommended that you stay in our accommodation of shared rooms.

The cost of the retreat is \$350, which includes accommodation and delicious meals. For more details or a registration form, please email Marg. Please register by 15th December.

BOOK SHOP

Located in the foyer of the temple, the book shop sells a wide range of products. The closing down of Wisdom Books in Subiaco, which used to have the best Tibetan Buddhist book selection in town, happened at about the same time that our new shop became available.

We now stock a much wider range of Dharma books including the full range of the excellent books by our spiritual head, Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden. There are also many books now available as CD sets, including many by His Holiness Dalai Lama, as well as the very popular *"Buddhism for Busy People"* by David Michie.

We also have a larger range of Dharma practice items permanently available – such as meditation cushions and stools, malas, brocade book covers, incense etc.

The shop also sells a range of products like coffee, herb tea, homemade muesli, panforte, jams, ginger cordial, locally made chocolate, nougat, Swan Valley grape juice, natural soaps, environmentally friendly cleaning products, and so on. Many of the jams, chutneys and the cordial are made from produce from our own orchard. Rather than spend dollars with the major retail chains, by buying these from our shop you can directly benefit the building fund.

You may even consider taking some of these items to re-sell them to friends or work-colleagues. All profits go directly to the temple building fund – which, contrary to what the name suggests, is actually a very large mortgage!

NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to students who may have joined us during the course of an introduction or meditation course!

You probably already know that Les teaches classes on *Lam Rim (Path to Enlightenment)* every Sunday afternoon at 4pm. While it's not necessary to begin at the beginning of this on-going study of Geshe Loden's book of the same name, Les will be starting from Chapter One from the beginning of 2009 (first term date to be advised on our website). If you have been thinking about coming to classes, this would be an appropriate time to begin. As well as covering all the topics on the *Path to Enlightenment* from the beginning subjects, Les also covers the practice of meditation.



VISITORS – BY APPOINTMENT

You may have noticed that we now have gates installed at the entrance.

These will soon be automated, which means they will be closed most of the time and only opened for classes, working bees etc. If you plan to visit, you will have to arrange a time, or prearrange to get a code so you can allow yourself to open the gates.

Next year we will run guided temple tours, for individuals or groups, compete with an afternoon tea.

MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

This will be our first "social event" in the new temple, and we hope to hold many social gatherings in the future, enjoying the wonderful facilities of our new building.

It will be held after the final *Path to Enlightenment* class for the year, on Sunday 7th December, at 6pm.

It is free to financial members. Membership year ends 30th October, so if you have not renewed since then you are not current. Non-members or guests of members are welcome at a cost of \$20ea. RSVP prior to 25 November.

GIFT VOUCHERS

We now have available Gift Vouchers which are very attractively presented and can be for any amount over \$20.

They may be redeemed against a course or books, or anything else we sell such as cushions, etc. Why not consider a gift voucher for one of our courses (value of \$100) as a Christmas present.

Tibetan Buddhist Society Membership Form

How your membership helps

The Tibetan Buddhist Society needs your help to ensure the ongoing success of the Society's aims and many activities.

These include support of the gompa, ensuring the preservation of the pure mahayana Buddhist teachings through Tushita Publications and providing support to those in need in our community. Without its members, the Tibetan Buddhist Society would be non-existent.

Member benefits

Members enjoy access to a library of Buddhist literature, a sumptuous dinner held at Christmas and receive the Society's newsletters.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone (h): _____ (w): _____

Membership: – \$45 standard \$55 family \$25 concession \$10 newsletter only

Tax deductible donation to building fund _____ Cheque enclosed. Amount: \$ _____

Credit card – Visa Mastercard Bankcard

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Name on card: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry: _____ / _____ Amount: \$ _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email as an Acrobat PDF? If so, please state email address:

(please print clearly): _____



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