



TIBETAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY
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TIBETAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY
274 Campersic Road, Herne Hill
Western Australia 6056



Tibetan Buddhist Society

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2008

TRADITIONAL TEMPLE NEARS COMPLETION



The traditional Tibetan temple is nearing completion.

Construction of our temple is nearly complete – there remains only finishing touches to the inside, and the erection of the roof ornaments.

The white European marble floor is currently being laid in the temple, final details for the altar and throne for the statue are about to be completed, kitchen equipment is being installed, and landscaping is about to begin.

The gold roof and painting of the parapet mouldings have had a dramatic effect in turning it from merely a concrete building, into a temple.

We have all been interested to capture the moment our minds moved from seeing a building being constructed to actually seeing “a temple”. We have definitely reached that point.

Although we don't have a firm completion date,

we expect within several weeks to install the statue and begin the process of consecrating it. This will involve filling it with the millions of mantras a small group of students lead by Ineke has spent over two years rolling.

In addition to all the mantras, the statue will also be filled with numerous other substances, including sandalwood, cloth, herbs, incense, etc.

Once this process is completed, we will then invite our Spiritual Head, Ven. Geshe Thubten Loden, to visit to perform a blessing ceremony. All our generous benefactors and sponsors, along with members and other invited guests will receive invitations to the ceremony.

See our website www.tibetanbuddhistsociety.com.au for colour photos.

SUPPORT THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

A number of benefits are gained through membership. In addition to assisting the Society to fulfil its main goal to develop and preserve the pure Mahayana Buddhist teachings, members are entitled to membership of our extensive library of Mahayana teachings and art books, receive our newsletter and are invited to our complimentary members' dinner each year.

Membership falls due for renewal at the end of October. If you have joined after May, your membership will remain current until October of the following year.

Tibetan Buddhist Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone (h): _____ (w): _____

Tax deductible donation to the building fund Amount \$ _____

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

Cheque enclosed. Please make cheques payable to the Tibetan Buddhist Society. Amount \$ _____

Charge to my credit card account. MasterCard Visa Amount \$ _____

Card Number: Expiry date: /

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Direct deposit: TBS BSB: 083 091 A/c: 04838 2415 Ref: your surnamemembership* Deposit date: _____

*IMPORTANT: Please use reference 'your surname and membership' (i.e. smithmembership) so that we can trace the deposit to your request to become a member/renew your membership.

TIBETAN REFUGEE APPEAL

We are pleased to have sent a contribution of \$5,000 towards the \$120,000 Geshe-la has pledged to the Tibetan Refugees Scholarship program and the Sera Je Monastery Hospital Fund.

We will still collect money up until late February, so if you wish to contribute, it is still not too late.

The scholarship appeal followed a special request to the Tibetan Buddhist Society's Spiritual Leader, Venerable Geshe Acharya Thubten Loden from the Tibetan Minister for Education, Mr Thupten Lungrig.

In 2007 Geshe-la initiated two fundraising appeals for Tibetans in India:

- The Tibetan Refugee Students in India Scholarship Appeal for 28,000 refugee children to raise \$100,000. This is intended to help the Tibetan Department of Education provide a scholarship programme for young Tibetan refugees in India to attend college or university in order to educate the future leaders, thinkers and citizens of Tibet.
- Sera Je Monastery Hospital Appeal to raise \$20,000 to support the hospital in the monastery which provides medical care to thousands of Tibetan refugees in India and local Indian people each year.

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. Under Geshe.



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

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 20 April 2 pm. All members are warmly invited to attend.

Landscaping:

Shortly 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 has been published in a second edition. Because we buy copies wholesale, 40% of the cover price goes directly to TBS - all sales gratefully received.

BECOME A SPONSOR - BENEFACTOR

It is due to the unbelievable generosity of many people that we have been able to undertake this \$2.5 million temple project. Many have given donations for the temple in general, and many have chosen to sponsor specific items such as auspicious symbols, the gold roof, marble floor, etc.

There are still many significant items remaining to be paid for, such as

- the moulded hand-painted front door surround (\$10,000)
- the Tasmanian oak altar (\$25,000 remaining)
- the laying of the marble temple floor (\$30,000)
- 390 gold lotus petals (\$50 each)

Easter Retreat March 21-23

The topic this year will be the development of calm abiding, along with graduated path meditations.

However, if the temple is not completed in time, the retreat will not go ahead.

Gift Vouchers Available

We now offer gift vouchers for any amount, which make a really meaningful present.

They are very attractively presented, and can be used against the cost of a course, or for a donation to the temple, or can be used to purchase anything we sell such as books, CD's, cushions, etc. (see our website: www.tibetanbuddhistsociety.com.au)

TEACHING PROGRAMME

CLASSES COMMENCE 19TH FEBRUARY

Path to Enlightenment

Tuesdays 7.30pm-9.00pm (follows school terms)

Classes commence on 19th February.

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 10th February 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 course or to register, please email us, visit the website or call us on 9296 0086.

Vajrayogini and Yamantaka Practice

Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm (follows school terms)

Classes commence on 20th February.

For students who have taken appropriate initiations.

TUSHITA PUBLICATIONS

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

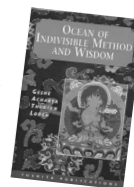
This book explains the fundamental nature of the mind and its potential for enlightenment. It includes an extensive explanation of the state of a Buddha. Paperback, 310 pages, 4 colour photos, 11 line illustrations



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

