

# Atisha



# Centre

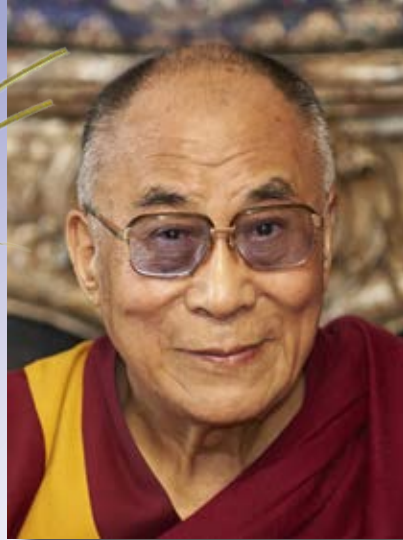
## ‘A Land for Completing the Human Potential’

*Lama Zopa Rinpoche*



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

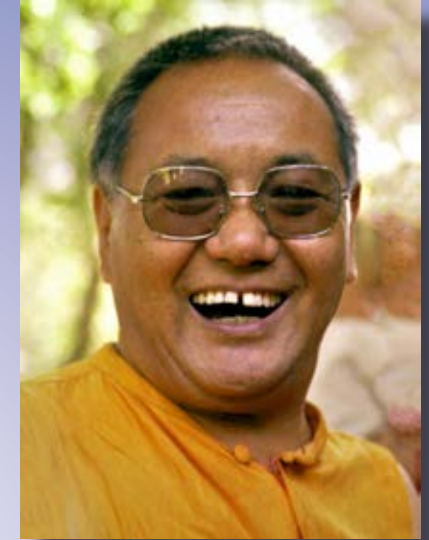




**Our Spiritual Leader  
His Holiness Dalai Lama**



**Our Spiritual Director  
Kyabje Thubten Zopa Rinpoche**



**Our Inspiration and Founder  
Lama Thubten Yeshe Rinpoche**

*“You cut the root of your problems in every moment when you cherish others.”*

*Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche*



**Our Resident Teacher  
Geshe Thubten Rabten**



# OUR PURPOSE WHAT WE PROVIDE

ATISHA CENTRE is dedicated to



- The transmission of Tibetan Buddhism through the promotion of study and dissemination of Buddhist teachings, emphasising the teachings of the Gelug lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.
- Atisha Centre's mission is to preserve the Mahayana Buddhist tradition by maintaining teaching and retreat facilities that support Mahayana practitioners in study, contemplation and meditation.
- We welcome people of all backgrounds and faiths to develop their natural wisdom and compassion through essential education and service.
- Maintaining at all times an affiliation with **FPMT Inc.**, a Californian non-profit, religious corporation representing an international group of organisations and individuals devoted to the transmission of the Mahayana Buddhist tradition and values worldwide through teaching, meditation and community service, and based upon the Buddhist tradition of Lama Tsongkhapa.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Over the last 12 months many changes have taken place within FPMT and Atisha Centre, most notably, the passing away of FPMT's Spiritual Director, Kyabje Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche, in April this year. Lama



Zopa Rinpoche for almost 40 years, guided and gave direction on the many spiritual activities of FPMT for which he co-founded with Lama Thubten Yeshe. The flourishing community of Atisha Centre, The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery and Machig Labdron Nunnery are some of the many projects of FPMT, fulfilling the vast vision of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche. In order to maintain the connection with our spiritual leaders, we need to continue to have the motivation to benefit others, and one of the most powerful ways of doing that is to fulfil the vision of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche. This is most important.

The Spiritual Programme, with guidance from Geshe Thubten Rabten, and assistance from the sangha members, continues to grow and will continue to do so next year. Sunday meditations, weekend courses, NVC and one-day courses are very well attended and our retreats are always booked to capacity. The spiritual energy generated by our various retreats, is very powerful and a great experience to be a part of. They provide great inspiration to those who attend and to those

who assist in the preparation. It is very encouraging.

I would like to thank Geshe Rabten for his wonderful teachings and sangha members from the Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery and Machig Labdron Nunnery for their support, and also to Andy Melnic, for coordinating our spiritual programme, and to Jan Stewart, Office Manager, and Pauline Walden for organising our programme and accommodation bookings. It is a very full and busy programme.

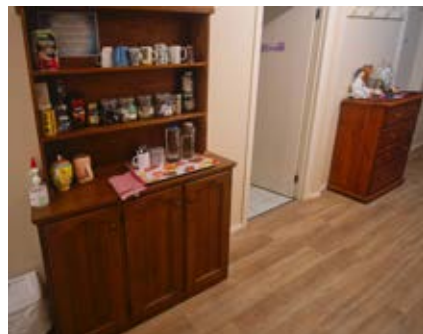
Atisha Centre's Board had a few changes during the year with Robyn Ralton (Chairperson) and Lee Lim (Treasurer) resigning in June. However, we were also able to welcome Jill Lancashire onto the Board in August.

Many thanks to Kathy Rice who is leaving us after nearly 20 years in the position of Membership Coordinator. Thank you Kathy for all your hard work.

The most important accomplishment of the Board this year due to the tireless effort of the Board's Secretary, Jan Townsend, was receiving Designated Gift Recipient Status from the ATO. This is an amazing accomplishment as it is very difficult to achieve. It allows for future donations to Atisha Centre's buildings to be tax deductible.

The construction of the Kadampa Stupa continues with Ricciardo Ferrari (builder) coming to Atisha Centre twice a year for 4 weeks at a time. Together with Mark Allaway coordinating the landscaping with assistance from Ken Fox and Steve Williams and his team of volunteers helping Ricciardo, we are hoping to have the Kadampa Stupa completed early next year. This would be a wonderful achievement for Atisha Centre as this was a major project requested by Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Once completed, it will be of great benefit to the community. It is very exciting.

Thank you to all of you for your generous donations and support. It will be a wonderful achievement to complete the stupa and most importantly, fulfil the requests of Lama Zopa Rinpoche.



We have many other projects on-the-go: We have Lama Yeshe's statue in the garden outside the gompa that will be completed shortly; the library is planning an extension allowing for additional storage room; developing a new front entrance gate is being planned; the gold buddha outside the accommodation requires an uplift; a 2m Ksitigarba statue has been kindly offered by a generous benefactor and we are waiting for that to be delivered.

We were able to upgrade the accommodation facilities with the building being painted inside, new carpets and flooring. Air-conditioning/heating has been put in all the rooms and we are planning upgrading the bedding and furniture. Atisha Centre's aim is to ensure those who come to the Centre are well looked after and will want to come back again. Therefore, providing comfortable accommodation, good quality food and having a flourishing spiritual programme is most important, and we do that.

To Atisha Centre's Office staff, Andy Melnic, Jan Stewart and Pauline Walden; Steve Williams and Ken Fox for managing and maintaining our property and grounds; Lama's Dharma Shop staff of Robyn Ralton, Arihn Howe and their volunteers; Venerable Chodak for taking on the Kitchen Manager's role and Kathy Rice and Helen Sleswick for continuing to assist with catering, and Pauline, Gail and Aileen for

coordinating the library. Also thanks to Neil, Bill and Kamal who help in the grounds; and Norma, Roxanne, Linley and Kristine for housekeeping support. Without them we would not have any clean rooms in the accommodation block.

In June, I offered my resignation to the Board after 3 years as Director of Atisha Centre. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role and I believe Atisha Centre offers a wonderful place for people to study and learn about the Dharma and be a source of refuge for those who have a connection with the Centre. I would like to say thank you to the Atisha Centre Board for their support over the last 3 years. The support offered to me has been overwhelming. We have been a very harmonious board and I feel that that is reflected well within the community.

Overall, the Centre continues to do well. We have a wonderful geshe and our community is very unique as no other community that I am aware of has a Buddhist centre, monastery, nunnery and a Great Stupa. It is vitally important we continue to work together and offer service from the heart, fulfilling the wishes and prayers of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, then our Dharma community will continue to grow, making the Dharma more accessible and being of great benefit to others.

**Gyälten Döndrup**  
**CENTRE DIRECTOR**



# MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the financial year the Atisha Membership numbers stood at 115.

Changes to the membership categories, approved at the last AGM, have yet to be implemented. It is proposed that these will take place early in the new year 2024.

At the time of writing this report, I have handed over the management of the membership to Jan Stewart, Atisha Centre's Office Manager.

So, I will take this opportunity to thank the many directors I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 19 years. I first began this role in 2004 when Yien Law was Atisha's Director. Following on from Yien was Carl Sillery, Ben Karmay, Cherry Rattue, Liam Chambers, Ruby Karmay, Frank Brock and Venerable Dondrup.

My thanks goes to the many members of the administrative committees for their support as well. Diane Gee and I worked closely in a sub-committee over the years. Diane was Membership Manager and we received advice and guidance from Gina MaCauley.



I would also like to thank the very many members I have had the honour of signing up over the years. I thank you for your patience and for your generosity and support of Atisha Centre. Through your membership, the Centre, the Dharma, the Atisha community have been able to continue to grow.

I am confident that membership

will flourish under Jan's guidance. Her commitment, sensitivity and kindness will ensure that Atisha Centre Membership will thrive.

Thank you all for the opportunity I have had to serve the Centre.

**Kathy Rice**

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGER**

# VOLUNTEERING

Atisha Centre relies very much on the volunteers who assist in the day to day activities and the retreats, courses and events that take place.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped out whether it be on one occasion or many. The work that you do is extremely valued.

I put it to all members that if you can help in any areas of our need – garden, maintenance, office, shop, library, gompa, events or housekeeping, we would really appreciate your support.

**Peter Bryar**

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**



# MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD - CHAIR

We respectfully acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land on which Atisha Centre resides. We also acknowledge that the land is unceded. And we pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

In April 2023 we were all deeply saddened by the news of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's passing. As the Spiritual Director of FPMT over so many years he skilfully guided the whole organisation with his extensive teachings and wise and compassionate advice. Lama Zopa Rinpoche is greatly missed and lovingly remembered.

We are most fortunate to have Venerable Geshe Rabten and Venerable Lobsang Dorje continue in their roles of teacher and translator for Atisha Centre. And we are also fortunate to have assistance for our programme from the wonderful sangha from the Machig Labdrön Nunnery and Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery.

Over the last twelve months, Atisha Centre has offered a full programme of teachings, retreats, pujas, meditations and yoga classes which have all been well-attended.

A big thank you to Andy Melnic, our Spiritual Programme Coordinator, for all his time and expertise in implementing the programme. It is evident by the response from our participants, how much interest and appreciation there is for all that is offered by Atisha Centre.

Our Director, Venerable Gyalten Dondrup, has offered steady guidance and direction for the Atisha Centre since 2020. The Board has really enjoyed working with him, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dondrup for his commitment to Atisha Centre in the role of Director. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Centre continues to offer a full programme of Dharma teachings, and to create a



welcoming and harmonious environment for all our volunteers and visitors. We now offer him our very best wishes for the future as he has resigned as Director of Atisha Centre in order to take part in the study programme at Nalanda Monastery in France, and to join the Nalanda monastic community. We hope that he returns to the Atisha Centre community in the future.

I joined the Atisha Centre Board as an ordinary member in April 2022, and became Vice Chair at our last AGM and subsequently agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Board when Robyn Ralton stepped down in July.

Jason Isma, our relatively new ordinary member of the Board, has been more than just ordinary in that he has taken on the role of coordinator for the Habit Alignment Key Retreat with Tenzin Osel Hita which is being held at the Great Stupa in December 2023. Many Atisha Centre members will also be volunteering and supporting this very different retreat. Jason has now decided to step down from the board to allow himself time to pursue new interests.

Also new to the Board is Jill Lancashire, but certainly not new to Atisha Centre. Welcome, and thank you for joining us.

The Board feels that it is a privilege to be able to offer service in this role, and I appreciate being able to share the responsibility of the Atisha Centre Board with such wonderful colleagues - thank you.

**Peter Bryar**  
CHAIR





# MESSAGES FROM THE BOARD - SECRETARY

Thank-you for the opportunity to serve a second term in the position of Secretary on the Atisha Centre Board. It is a pleasure to collaborate with such dedicated and passionate members of the Board. Venerable Dondrup continues to be a source of inspiration; his commitment and contribution knows no bounds.

The Board has met 10 times over the past 11 months. With Board members spread across Bendigo, Melbourne and Wodonga, most of our meetings have been facilitated by Zoom.

Atisha Centre continues to meet its obligations with federal and state government regulators: Australian Charities and Not-for Profit Commission (ACNC), Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV).

This year Atisha Centre achieved a major milestone by meeting ATO requirements for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for a school building fund. Yes! We have finally done it! Donations to the fund will be tax deductible for the donor. The fund can be used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of Atisha Centre buildings that meet the criteria for a school building (which is most of our buildings). The ATO has strict governance requirements for the fund. Financial and administrative procedures and processes are being established to ensure compliance, and withstand scrutiny by the ATO and ACNC. Receipts will be issued for donations to the fund so that you may claim them as a deduction at tax-time.

The account name will be "Atisha Centre Inc School Building Fund". The BSB and account number will be advised soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue in service to the Atisha Centre community as we work together to realise the aspirations of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

I dedicate any merit I have generated through my actions to all sentient beings. May they be free from suffering and quickly attain complete enlightenment.

**Jan Townsend**  
**BOARD SECRETARY**





# SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME

*“Whatever we say, let us speak clearly and to the point, in a voice that is calm and pleasant, unaffected by attachment or hatred. Look kindly at others, thinking, it is thanks to them that I shall attain Buddhahood.”*

*His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama*

*“The “greatest gain” isn’t a lot of material possessions but realisations - the path to enlightenment.”*

*Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche*



The year of 2023 saw the passing into Nirvana of our precious guru, Lama Zopa Rinpoche. Rinpoche’s presence remains with us very strongly in hearts and minds and Rinpoche continues to be our holy Spiritual Director.



The year was fairly consistently packed with programme events. Attendance numbers continue to be low in regular weekly events, but higher in retreats and shorter courses and introductory events. Many thanks once again to our excellent teacher, Venerable Geshe Rabten and his fantastic translator Venerable Lobsang Dorje, for many hours of teachings on traditional texts and instructions. Everything Geshela has taught, continues to be recorded and made available (for posterity) to everyone for replaying and personal study.

Many thanks for the continued programme support from the nuns from Machig Labron Nunnery and the monks at Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery. As always, I am very grateful to all the volunteers and coordinators of our different events.

This year, the programme has included the following events and topics:

- Wednesday Night Teachings with Geshe Rabten,
- Twice-monthly Study Group with Geshe Rabten,
- Weekly Sunday Meditations led by various sangha and non-sangha members,
- Our annual Chenrezig Retreat led by Venerable Gyatso,
- Two five-day Shamatha Retreats led by Venerable Tsapel,
- An Ultimate Healing Retreat led by Venerable Tsapel,
- Easter Course with Geshe Rabten and Venerable Tsapel,

- Winter Retreat with Geshe Rabten and Venerable Tsapel,
- A double Nyung Nä retreat led by Llysse Velez,
- A Non-Violent Communication course led by Venerable Lekdron,
- Hatha Yoga workshops led by Venerable Drime and Annie McGee,
- Introductory courses led by Venerable Dorje, Kathi Edward and Jeremy Cohen,
- Buddhism in a Nutshell led by Venerable Dorje,
- Tuesday Meditations in Bendigo led by Venerable Damcho,
- Prayers for the Deceased (monthly) led by Venerable Drime,
- Children’s Dharma Club with Melissa Currie and Donna McMahon,
- Weekly Hatha Yoga on Monday mornings led by Venerable Drime,
- Celebration of holy days such as Sakadawa, Losar, Lhabab Duchen, Chokyur Duchen, His Holiness Dalai Lama’s birthday, Lama Tsongkhapa Day,
- A special all-night Tara Night,
- Regular pujas (Guru, Medicine Buddha, Tara) led by Venerables Tsapel and Drime.

This year, our Buddhist Study Group topic from Genla has been, “The Middle Lam Rim”, a commentary on the text by Lama Tsongkhapa, explaining in great depth the stages on the path to enlightenment. Genla’s great attention to detail makes this a very rich and inspiring course of meditation and pure practice Dharma.

Genla also started our new Wednesday Night Teachings’ topic with his commentary on Shantideva’s famous text “Bodhisattvacharyavatara”: “Engaging in the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life”. Many thanks to Venerable Dorje for his superlative interpretations.

At Easter we completed a 5-day retreat, where Genla taught on “Spiritual Advice for a Heart-Disciple” by Gendün Gyatso ,the 2nd Dalai Lama. Many people attended and Venerable Tsapel led the meditations

and discussion sessions.

For our Winter 5-day retreat, Genla taught on “Verses Urging to Take the Essence of this Human Life” by Lama Tsongkhapa. Again this retreat was well-attended with Venerable Tsapel leading meditations and discussions.

“Lama’s Dharma Shop”, our book and gifts shop, continues to improve and gets more exciting all the time, under the management of Robyn Ralton who retired mid-year, and lately of Arihn Howe. Thank you to all the hard work from Robyn and Arihn and all their volunteers who serve in the shop.

The “Publications Project” continues to record and document Geshe Rabten’s teachings. Gail Haig has recently come on board to train to take over this project. We are always looking for more volunteers to be involved. All the teachings given by Geshela are available online as audio files, together with supporting handouts. Most of Geshela’s teachings have also been videoed and are available on Youtube.



**Andy Melnic**  
**SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR**



*Procession during His Holiness Dalai Lama’s birthday*

# LIBRARY

The library has focused this past year, on meeting the goals set in 2022 of preserving photographs, converting VHS tapes of teachings to MP4, that date back to the 1980's. This has extended to the scanning of past newspaper articles and flyers relating to early Atisha Centre teachings and events. The Chorton newsletters are gradually being summarised to make it easier to sort the photos into a sequential history file and digitising these newsletters has also recently commenced.

During the year, the library received the donation of a DVD/VHS player and a small amount of books, including a couple of first edition texts. Additionally, some of the holy objects in the library were repaired, cleaned and restored, thanks to the skills of Atisha Centre's Manager of Holy Objects, Christine Bohle.

Our reference library section is increasing, with recently published books and early edition Dharma texts, and shortly we intend to provide a study area for users. My grateful thanks goes to all the library team: Gail Haig, Aileen Wolfe and David Major for their support and service to the library.

**Pauline Walden**  
**LIBRARY MANAGER**





# LAMA'S DHARMA SHOP



It has been another good year in Lama's Dharma Shop with total sales at \$94,793 for the 2022/2023 financial year. With shop sales contributing \$82,029 and \$12,764 through our online store, \$1,305 in plant sales and a generous sum of \$2,185 given in donations.

Seeing these figures, it is easy to appreciate how valued this little shop is to our Dharma students and the wider community as a whole, and we could not do it without our wonderful team of volunteers. A big thank you to Cilla Brady, Fiona Silver, Ken Fox, Pauline Walden, Lou Payne, Brian Ashen and newcomers Warwick Shepcott and Neil Bowker who provide a welcoming face to our many visitors.

A special mention goes to Robyn Ralton who since 2018 has volunteered her expert management skills and worked tirelessly in creating an aesthetic of quality resource books, Dharma objects and practice items for the benefit of all who visit Atisha and our beloved Dharma Shop.

We are all thankful to Robyn who retired from her position as shop manager in June of this year and wish her the best in future endeavours. I am grateful to have received such excellent tutorage. Thank you Robyn.

Throughout this year we have continued to update and beautify the shop, both inside and out, and most recently a fresh coat of paint and rearranging of the signs and posters outside has given the shop entry a

fresh appeal. Thanks to the maintenance team for their efforts.

It is joy and a privilege to meet and greet the many visitors who flock to Atisha, whether for retreat, for study or just to enjoy the quiet surrounds or marvel at the Great Stupa of Compassion. I am happy to be part of their experience and exploration of Buddhism. A big thanks to all who shared their appreciation and support for Lama's Dharma Shop throughout the year.



**ArihnHowe**  
**SHOP MANAGER**



# PROPERTY

The summer of 2023 ended with a good rain event in January, which filled all the dams, and more good rains fell in February, March and April. The winter has been long and mildly wet; last year we had double the rain of this year. This spring the eucalypts are enduring an early attack from caterpillars and are showing quite a lot of browning off. The grass is still green and is starting to dry off now. We have needed to buy water for our tanks as the meagre rains are not keeping them topped up.

The maintenance team has continued with their wonderful work of improving and maintaining the infrastructure of Atisha Centre so that it can function smoothly and provide the setting for the transmission of the Dharma.

The plinth for Lama Yeshe statue has been rendered and now needs to be decorated and roof construction in the next phase.



The ultraviolet levels are very strong at the present time and this is accelerating damage to exterior surfaces of buildings and statues. The maintenance team continues the repair and rejuvenation of buildings. The final coat of paint went on the front wall of the shop. Courtyard furniture is being repaired and repainted. There is a need to paint the shop, office, kitchen and toilet block roofs due to rust and deterioration. This is part of next year's ongoing maintenance. The Shakyamuni Buddha statue is showing signs of serious damage due to ultraviolet and I will be covering it with a tarp to stop further damage until it can be repaired by a specialist.



Stage 4 of Kadampa stupa has been completed and Ricciardio returned on the 5th of October to work on stage 5 of its construction. The 13 rings have been laid and rendered and the umbrella and top should be attached by the 5th of November when Ricciardio returns to his home at Chenrezig Institute.

Extra parking spaces have been created for the nuns near the track to the gomba. I plan to make a path from accommodation, around the back of toilet block to the kitchenette to make it easier for guests to navigate their way. The accommodation verandas have been sanded and sealed and this will be given another coat at the beginning of winter each year to protect the timber. Extra solar carpark lights will be installed in strategic places for safety of guests as well as more 12v led path lights.

**Steve Williams**  
**PROPERTY MANAGER**





# OFFICE AND ACCOMMODATION

2023 has seen us fully open again, which is wonderful. I have been in this role for over 3 years and feel every day I have more gratitude to be serving here with our lovely sangha, members, residents and other friends and guests.

Accommodation, retreat and workshop bookings have been steady, and almost everyone comments on the “serenity” of our environment. We have completed more upgrades to our accommodation block, including new carpet and split systems, of which our guests are very thankful. The courtyard in front of the office has been beautified



and simplified as well. We continue to have much appreciation for our wonderful housekeeping team – Norma Mitting, Linley Kerlin, Roxanne Ellis and Kristine Walsh.

It is a joy to see so many people at Sunday Meditation, and now the wonderful Venerable Chodak and volunteers are providing chai and homemade cakes. This is the perfect way for the community to continue the meditative communion afterwards. It continues to be much fun to work with Andy in the Office, and light and easy sharing of the Office Manager role with Pauline. It has been impressive to see Arihn step into the Shop Manager role so effortlessly, and admire her fresh ideas for our shared

space (and simultaneously miss Robyn who has moved on).

It will be a bit sad and strange for Venerable Dondrup not to be with us next year, however we give many thanks for his amazing service as Director and wish him all the best in France. And walking into the office each time and seeing the Dalai Lama’s meditative pose above the office desk is the perfect reminder of why we are all here.



**Jan Stewart**

**OFFICE AND ACCOMMODATION MANAGER**





# MACHIG LABDRON NUNS' COMMUNITY

In June last year we obtained Planning Permit Approval from the Bendigo City Council for a two story nunnery. We then engaged Penno Drafting and Design to prepare construction plans. During that process an error with the design set us back. Penno suggested either (1) to adjust the design to allow for a larger accessible stair to meet regulations or (2) avoid stairs with a change to two one-story buildings, each under 300sq m, that would be easier to construct and may be nicer to live in, if we had the room.

Some months earlier, Ian Green offered us the flat pad adjacent to our site. A welcome additional space that improved the peaceful ambience.

With a choice to be made and room now for a bigger footprint, the second option was attractive and a big change was made



to design two one-story buildings on the new site. Planning Permit Amendment for the new design was approved in March this year.

Once engineering, thermal report and Penno's construction plans and documentation were complete, we invited three local builders to quote on the build. With building cost increases all three quotes were scarily high. Tact Constructions was successful, with the best revised quote and the best suggestions for cost cutting measures,

while retaining design and thermal integrity.

Adjustments to the construction plans and other documentation are underway with the aim to apply for a second Planning Permit Amendment. The earliest now to begin is around February 2024. Now our focus has changed to the practical need of creating our own legal entity. Clear aims and structure will assist us to develop a strong responsible community, able to satisfy changing community needs as we continue to make a positive contribution to the various dharma activities onsite and in the wider FPMT and general community.

Special thanks to Atisha Centre primarily for accepting us as a project over this process. And thank you also to our kind benefactors and friends who believe in and support our aims for a stable community to last a long time.



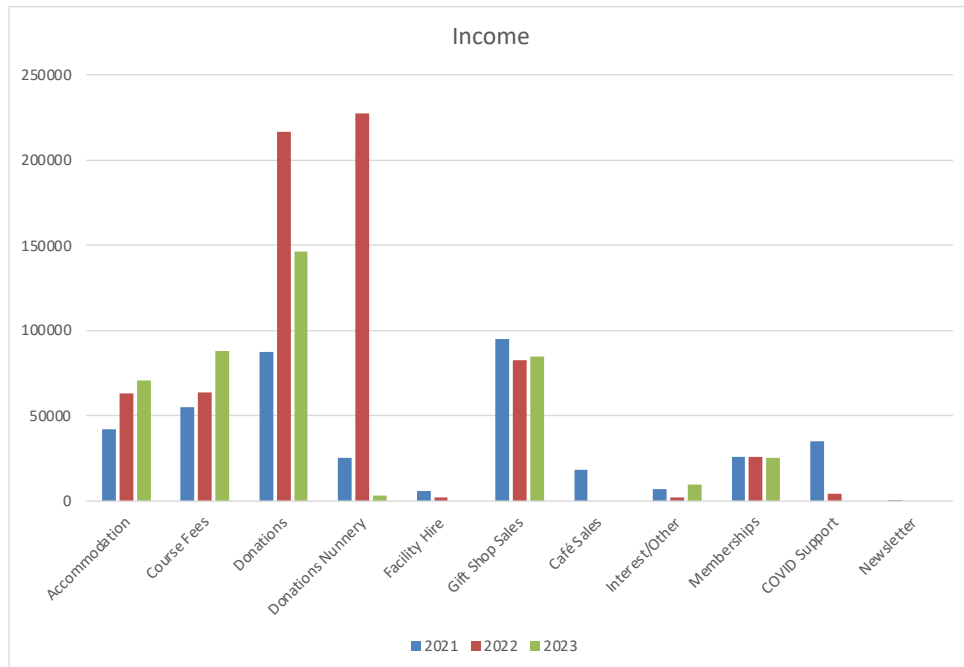
**Tenzin Tsapel**  
**PROJECT MANAGER**  
**MACHIG LABDRON NUNS' COMMUNITY**



# FINANCES 2021/22

## FINANCIAL REPORT

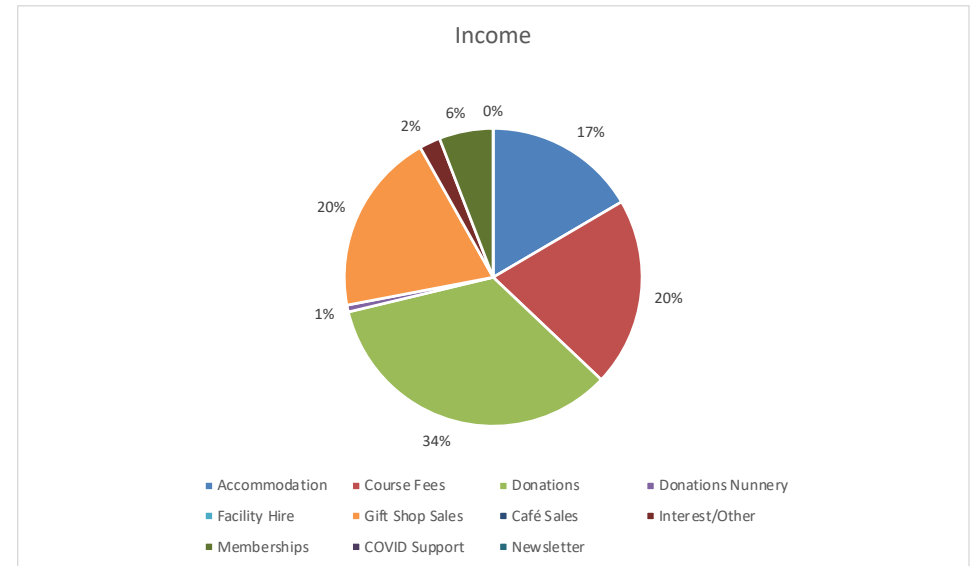
The 2022/23 financial year has seen Atisha Centre report a small profit of \$5,000, significantly lower than last year. However, this result is largely due to expenses relating to upgrading the accommodation



facilities (\$63,000) which included new carpets and flooring, painting, bedding and airconditioning/heating, additional work on the Kadampa Stupa and increase in offerings to Geshe and Translator offerings. Donations compared to the previous year were not as high. This is mainly due to a large donation received last financial year. Generally,

donations were still very good which allowed us to make some improvements to the gompa.

Even though there was a slight drop in sales with Lama's Dharma Shop,



the shop still had another good year.

Total income for this year increased again on top of another good year previously, mainly due to the above and further increases in accommodation and course income. Accommodation income increased by over \$7,000 and course fees increased by almost \$25,000. Membership remained steady and annual donations were good too.

There has been a large increase in total expenses in comparison to last year. The increase in expenses relate to the continued construction of the Kadampa Stupa, accommodation facility upgrades, improving facilities in the gompa with air conditioning and an increase in the Geshe and translator offerings. With the increase in gift shop sales there has also been a corresponding increase in shop expenses as more stock has been purchased to keep up with the increase in sales.

Additional expenses include insurance, accounting fees and utility fees.

Atisha Centre makes regular offerings to the following

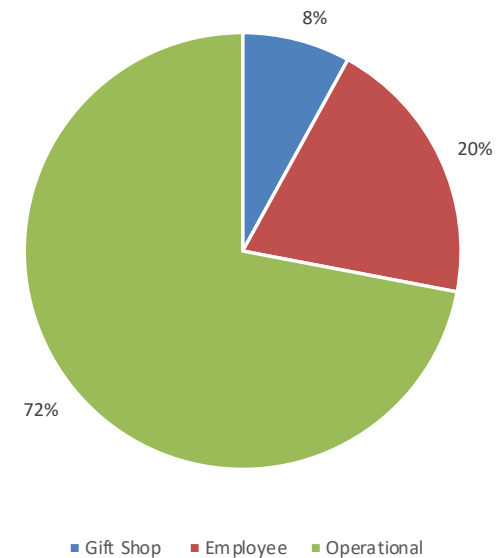
- \$50 to TSL Monastery
- Offerings to sangha for meditations, teachings and retreats
- Geshe and translator offerings and insurance expenses
- Long life pujas for HHDL and Lama Zopa Rinpoche
- Geshe and translator flights
- Light offerings
- And other times throughout the year as required both locally and internationally.

Even though our overall income dropped from last year, overall, Atisha



Centre had another good year financially and is doing very well. This is due to having a good, vibrant spiritual programme supported by clean

Expenses 22/23



and comfortable accommodation and good, tasty food.

I would like to say thank you Maurie Taylor and Denise Barnett from Bendigo Bookkeeping in assisting Atisha Centre.

**Gyalten Döndrup**  
CENTRE DIRECTOR





# ATISHA CENTRE STAFF

## BOARD

CENTRE DIRECTOR: Venerable Gyälten Döndrup

CHAIR: Outgoing: Robyn Ralton / Incoming: Peter Bryar

VICE-CHAIR: Jillian Lancashire

TREASURER: Outgoing: Lee Lim / Incoming: Mary Leet

SECRETARY: Jan Townsend

MEMBER: Vacant

## FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE MANAGER: Jan Stewart

FINANCE MANAGER: Bendigo Bookkeeping

MEMBERSHIP: Outgoing: Kathy Rice / Incoming: Jan Stewart

## SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR: Andy Melnic

GOMPA MANAGER: Venerable Thubten Drime

SHOP MANAGER: Arihn Howe

LIBRARY: Pauline Walden and Gail Haig

STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR: Kathy Rice

## DINING AND CATERING

KITCHEN MANAGER: Venerable Thubten Chödak

## VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Peter Bryar

## NUNNERY

MACHIG LABDRON NUNNERY: Venerable Tsapel

## PUBLICITY

WEBSITE: Andy Melnic

NEWSLETTER: Andy Melnic

## MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

PROPERTY MANAGER: Steve Williams

GARDENS AND GROUNDS: Ken Fox

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT CONSULTANT: Micheal Chambers

## ACCOMMODATION

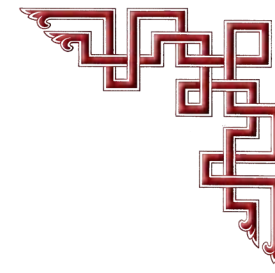
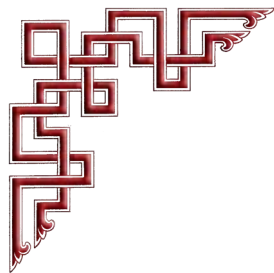
ACCOMMODATION MANAGER: Vacant

## PROJECTS

HOLY OBJECTS MANAGER: Christine Böhlé







# THANK YOU

Atisha Centre would like to express the deepest gratitude and appreciation to all our teachers, members, supporters, volunteers, friends and benefactors.

Your kindness helps provide the conditions needed to carry out Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche's great vision for the Centre and the FPMT organisation.

Our accomplishments are the direct result of your generosity and commitment to the Centre. May we all rejoice together.



Atisha  Centre

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