

Atisha Centre

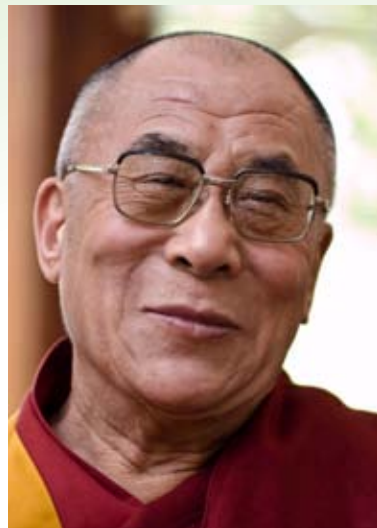


ANNUAL REVIEW

2016

‘A Land for Completing the Human Potential’

Lama Zopa Rinpoche



Our Spiritual Leader
His Holiness Dalai Lama



Our Spiritual Director
Kyabje Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche



Our Inspiration and Founder
Lama Thubten Yeshe Rinpoche



Our Resident Teacher
Venerable Geshe Thubten Rabten



“*W*hen a strong wind blows, the clouds vanish and blue sky appears. Similarly, when the powerful wisdom that understands the nature of the mind arises, the dark clouds of ego disappear.”



Lama Thubten Yeshe



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;
- Preserving the Mahayana Buddhist tradition by maintaining a location and facilities which provide the opportunity for people to develop their natural wisdom and compassion through service, study, practice and essential education;
- 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 Tsong Khapa.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The last year has flown by.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche visited us in 2014 and encouraged us to invite Venerable Geshe Rabten to the Centre and Monastery to assist as the senior resident teacher.

Geshe-la and Venerable Dorje arrived in February this year 2016. How fortunate we have been.

Geshe-la has provided a presence and focus for the Buddha-Dharma. His teachings are clear, ordered, personal, infused with antidotes and illustrations. He summarises each session and gives us the best opportunity to take good notes. Geshe-la also encourages us to put into practice what we are learning and to apply it in every day life. Geshe-la's teachings are eloquently translated by Venerable Dorje and are very easy to listen to.

It is so very, very wonderful that Geshe-la and Dorje are here.

I cannot thank Thubten Gyatso enough for his support for Geshe Rabten during his transition to Atisha Centre.

Geshe Rabten often comments about how wonderful it is to have the Centre here, set up for the practice of Dharma. Even though we have problems and sometimes there are difficulties in running a centre, it is still so fortunate to have these conditions.

It is a great joy working for Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the FPMT and I feel gratitude to each of the Board members, staff, members, volunteers and friends who work so hard for the Dharma.

Ruby Karmay
DIRECTOR

MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan for the area is presently under preparation for submission to Bendigo City Council.

We have been working on the Atisha Centre aspect of the Master Plan with David Robb, a town planner and Peter Weiss, an architect from Castlemaine. Peter and David are long-time supporters of the Great Stupa and Atisha Centre. The plan will create a footprint of buildings and infrastructure for the next 15 years.

There is a plan for a new sewage system and each of the three current Centres including the proposed nunnery has its own aspect of the submission. This will allow a lot of development for buildings and infrastructure in the future.

THE FIRST STAGE:

- Machig Labdron Nunnery community building for up to 12 nuns;
- New community building. This will house a large community room plus accommodation containing 12 to 15 beds;
- Separate new toilet block, storage and laundry near the courtyard;
- Staff Accommodation.

SECOND STAGE:

- Facilities building;
- Office, gift/bookshop, café, office spaces including an 18-bed accommodation area.

THIRD STAGE:

- Dining Area.



Grounds and Accommodation



Publicity Report

Atisha Centre website continues to be the public, electronic face of the Centre, providing up-to-date Information about programmes and providing the vehicle for online bookings and membership renewal as well as the platform for the Enews.

There are currently 1250 subscribers to the Enews and 104 Atisha Centre members enrolled through the website.

The quarterly newsletter adds a hardcopy support and convenience for members. A colour copy is mailed to all members and associated centres. Black and white print-runs are made available to casual visitors who call at the Centre. A PDF version and archive is available for download through the website.

Facebook keeps us informed and reminds us of what is happening.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

In the last year the Atisha Centre Board has said goodbye to Jason Isma in the role of Treasurer and Jen Kyne as SPC and welcomed new Board members, Andy Melnic as SPC, Venerable Tsapel, and Cameron Young as our new Treasurer. We would like to thank Jason and Jen for the valuable contribution they have made to the Atisha Centre and welcome our new Board members.

The Board has restructured the way it operates and now meets on a bi-monthly basis. On the other month there are 3 sub-committees that meet to put together plans and ideas to take to the Board. They are the Membership sub-committee, Venue and Facilities sub-committee and the Bright Futures sub-committee. Each sub-committee contains a Board member and relies on other member volunteers to be involved. This approach has proved to be very positive as it has sped up the proposed work and decision-making process. We would like to thank Peter Lane and Helen Sleswick for volunteering for our sub-committees.

BRIGHT FUTURE AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

In April 2016, Rob Foster and his wife Katie ran a two-day workshop called “Creating a Bright Future and Cohesive Community at Atisha Centre”.

There were eight attendees who all had key roles at the Centre. This included a majority of our Board members. After this two-day

workshop the Bright Futures sub-committee was formed. The course started with the topic of “non-violent communication”, a way to focus on empathic listening and honest expression. It is a wonderful and easy-to-use tool that reduces the self-cherishing and personality-driven communication and helps us understand the needs of the individual and the organisation.

The process promoted honesty.

Rob acted as a guide to develop the key roles of NVC, the “Identity”, “Life-Affirming Purpose” and “Direction” of Atisha Centre. The group looked at where the Centre was heading in the short, medium and long term. The process was very energising as the team worked in small groups giving feedback to the larger group.

Since the workshops, we have structured our Master Plan and established our sub-committees.

With the new Board members and structure in place, the Board is very excited about the future of Atisha Centre. We welcome any interest from members who wish to get involved with our sub-committees over the next 12 months.

Please contact secretary@atishacentre.org.au if you would like more information.

Carla Lewinsmith
BOARD SECRETARY

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME



"I have found that the greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from love and compassion... Cultivating a close, warm-hearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease. It is the ultimate source of success in life".

"Old friends pass away, new friends appear. It is just like the days. An old day passes, a new day arrives. The important thing is to make it meaningful: A meaningful friend – or a meaningful day."

His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama

"The meaning of life and what makes life meaningful are the same thing - the benefitting of others. Anything that does not benefit others is ultimately meaningless".

Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche

Again we rejoice in the continual presence and assistance of the sangha from our monastery (Thubten Shedrup Ling). Their support and commitment is very important to Atisha Centre. Many thanks to Venerable Thubten Gyatso for his led-meditations, discussion groups, teachings and advice and for all the other demands we make on him, which take him away from his great projects at the monastery. This year we have found ourselves in the extremely fortunate situation of having a very precious new resident teacher - a *lharampa geshe* from Sera-je Monastery, Geshe Thubten Rabten.

Geshela has been teaching regularly every Wednesday evening, giving in-depth commentary on "Words of My Perfect Teacher", a text by Patrul Rinpoche on the *Lam Rim*. These teachings ("Wednesday Night Teachings") have been reasonably well-attended. Geshe-la presents an easy-to-understand, traditional series of meditations on the Graduated Path.



Earlier in the year we started our advanced Buddhism study programme ("Study Group") with the "Heart Sutra". Following that, Geshe-la has been teaching on "Buddhist Tenets", the profound presentations and explanations on the different schools of Buddhist philosophy. These teachings have proved very successful and hopefully we are seeing the beginning of a core of serious students for Geshe Rabten. We are doubly fortunate to have an excellent translator - Venerable Lozang Dorje. This is his first role as a translator and he is proving to be very skilful and importantly, comprehensible.

Additionally, Geshe Rabten teaches on a general subject every Community Day, when visitors get an opportunity to meet and share lunch. At this time also there is Dharma Club for children hosted by Cilla Brady. Many thanks to Cilla for engaging the children and also for her weekly coordination of the meditations hosted in Bendigo at the Anderson Room adjoining the Anglican cathedral ("Tuesday Night Meditations"). Venerable Lhundrub has been the main-stay of these meditations, supplemented by Venerable Yeshe, Venerable Namgyal, Cilla, Ben and Cameron. Many thanks to all these people.

The "Discovering Buddhism" modules are temporarily on hold. Many thanks to Venerable Lhundrub for his leading of these teachings earlier in the year and for Celia Weston for her coordination of the events. We hope to continue with the modules in the near future.



Circumambulating the Meditation Hall on His Holiness Dalai Lama's birthday and International Sangha Day.



Geshe Rabten, translated by Venerable Dorje, addresses a gathering of students and visitors at this year's celebration of the birthday of His Holiness Dalai Lama and International Sangha Day.



The monks also regularly take turns to lead the morning meditations on a Sunday, ("Sunday Meditation") which constantly attract a large group of able meditators, often including people new to the Centre.



Medicine Buddha pujas, Guru pujas and Tara pujas are held regularly in our main gompa and Geshe Rabten often attends. Thanks to our Director Ruby for organising these events.

Once a month on a Saturday we hold a whole day meditation course ("One Day Meditation Retreat") which has been well-attended. The last few months these have been led by Venerable Tsapel Jellbart and the feedback from these retreats has been extremely favourable.

On the Friday nights preceding the "One Day Meditation Retreat", we have been holding a Dharma movie night ("Soup and Movie Night") which provides an opportunity for a social Dharma event and an extra activity for people attending the meditation retreat, who have booked in to stay in the accommodation.

The bookshop-cum-giftshop, which now falls under the portfolio of the Spiritual Programme, is currently undergoing a new management restructuring. We decided to name the shop "Norbuling". A lot of work has been done so far by Justin Butler and Charlie Robinson. Many thanks to all those who have put a lot of time and effort into the shop this year, including Jen Kyne, Dechen Gerrard and all the shop serving-staff: Leonie, Cindy, Leah, Brian, Danielle, Fiona, Jen and Robyn.

Our Gompa Manager this year has been Peter Lane. Thanks Peter for all his setups and general care of the gompa. Thanks also to Liam

and Marilyn Chambers for their continued upkeep of the website and newsletter production. Also many thanks to Micheal Chambers for his timely and often IT troubleshootings.

Special thanks to Helen Sleswick for her coordination and catering of Programme events, and to Sandra Robertson and Jenny Mellberg. Many thanks to Kathy Rice for food, forms, and all office related work for the Programme. Thank you to Hannelore for her assistance in the library.

Please remember and rejoice in all the work of our outgoing SPC - Jen Kyne and in our subsequent stand-in SPC - Cameron Young. After my short time in this role, I realise how much work they must have done.

Please rejoice in all the good work done by everybody mentioned above, rejoice in the good work of anyone whose name I forgot to mention and forgive me for having forgotten.

Big love,

Andy Melnie

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

GOMPA KEEPER'S REPORT

Hello everyone. The last year has been busy for the Gompa, with the arrival of Geshe-la and Dorje-la. We have been very fortunate to be presented with the clear, deep weekend teachings twice a month as well as the weekly Lam Rim.

Many people have helped with teaching, meditation, pujas and event setups and changeovers, flower and water bowl offerings, and cleaning. I would like to list some of those people, with apologies to any I have left out!

My heartfelt thanks go to Ruby, Jen, and Andy, and to Rheese, Amanda, Linley, Cameron, Steve, Kathy, Celia, Brian, Justin, Trish,

Lloyd, Jaden and Mick, Mary and to all the rest who have helped from time to time. We can all rejoice in our efforts to help spread the Dharma, making teachings available to as many people as possible.

Peter Lane

GOMPA KEEPER



*C*HILDREN'S DHARMA CLUB

The Children's Dharma Club has continued this year with low but enthusiastic attendance by some wonderful children. Some of them come from quite a distance, from as far away as Woodend and Charlton, and other towns in the region, as well as the Greater Bendigo area.

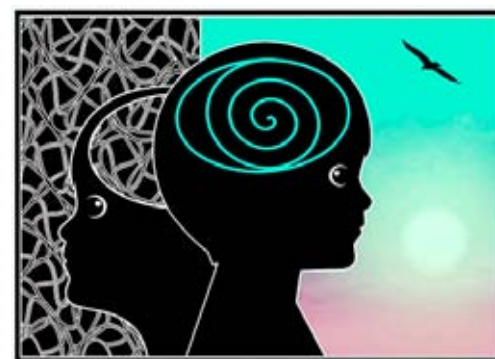
I have compiled an email list for the Children's Dharma Club, and this year I have endeavored to send an email out in advance of Community Day each month. I am getting more consistent with this! The email list is slowly growing.

Our programme consists of meditation practice, stories, Dharma songs in English accompanied on guitar etc, and art projects, often a colouring-in of a Dharma image or scene which the children seem to love to do, and other art projects like making cards, etc. for specific days like Mother's Day, Vesak, etc. Sometimes we venture out for a walk around the Stupa, to the Exhibition Centre or up to the

Monastery. Ruby and I have facilitated these children's groups for the past few years.

I was talking recently with Andy and Ruby about possibly changing the name from Children's Dharma Club to Children's Dharma Group or similar, as I think some people might think it's a club you have to join to attend.

Cilla Brady
DHARMA CLUB
COORDINATOR



*L*IBRARY

Members continue to enjoy the library resources. This year the collection has been expanded with the addition of approximately 500 books. Some are new texts, others additional copies of well loved texts. At present I am sorting through a collection of DVDs and CDs so do keep a look out for the new resources.

Returns continue to be an issue as members do not always remember to bring items back. As we operate on an honour system we need your co-operation to make it work, so would you please check your shelves and return any library items you are no longer using.

Hannelore Best
LIBRARIAN



*T*SATSA-MAKING

A special thanks for many years of tsatsa making from Keith Garrett, the sales of which benefit the Centre. We rejoice in your merit.

TUESDAY MEDITATION IN BENDIGO

The “Tuesday Evening Meditation” is going quite well at the new location in the Anderson Room at St Paul’s Church in Bendigo. It moved from the Atisha Gift Shop on Lyttleton Tce late last year. Venerable Jampa who had been leading it until the end of 2015 has been living elsewhere this year, and Venerable Lundrup has taken up the challenge of leading the meditation group on most Tuesdays. Thank you Venerable Lundrup for your consistent and inspired facilitating of this group. Venerable Yeshe and Cilla have also led the meditation evening when Venerable Lundrup was not available.

Numbers are steady and at present we get about 15 - 20 participants. When the cold weather first hit, the numbers dropped and we thought

winter was going to be quiet, but this soon changed. It seems that it is a service to Bendigonians that is needed and appreciated.

We are displaying Atisha Centre flyers and newsletters each Tuesday evening, as well as announcing Atisha Centre events and encouraging people to attend them.

We have recently begun to collect names and email addresses to create an emailing list. Cilla has put this on an Excel doc and emailed it to Andy. This is a good step to increase communication with this group who include people who attend the Atisha Centre in Myers Flat, and also some who only go to this Tuesday evening event.



MACHIG LABDRON NUNS' COMMUNITY REPORT

I was appointed as manager of Machig Labdron Nuns' Community in February on the "Day of Miracles", and have joined Atisha Centre Board of Directors in that role. My main job at present is managing the building project to accommodate 11 resident and visiting nuns.

The site for the building is on the south side of the Monastery's "yellow brick road" and on the high side of the access road to the Great Stupa that runs north-south between the Monastery and Atisha Centre. It is a pleasant, treed site with a gentle slope to the east and with a view of the Great Stupa to the north-east. The directors of the Great Stupa, Shedrub Ling Monastery and Atisha Centre have approved the site and have expressed their support for the project.

Sketch plans are being developed in consultation with interested nuns who currently live at FPMT centres in Australia and overseas, Atisha center personnel, and others. Facilities and bedrooms will be arranged around a central courtyard. We are consulting with David Robb and Peter Weiss to prepare plans to be included in the next five year Master Plan for the whole site.

An operational and investment account has been opened with the Bendigo Bank, to manage contributions, and expenditure when things get underway. Some seed capital existed prior to my appointment and additional contributions are welcome and building.

Tenzin Tsapel
MACHIG LABDRON NUNS' COMMUNITY



KITCHEN, DINING-ROOM AND COURTYARD

Atisha's kitchen, dining area and courtyard are an integral part of our community, where people gather to share food, conversation, and companionship. Whilst people come to Atisha for teachings and meditation, provision of nutritious food, full of flavour is an important part of their experience here.

An abundance of thanks to Sandra who continually surprises us with her creative dishes which she so enjoys doing, and to Norma and Carmel who keep this space clean and pristine for all to enjoy.

Our Community Day each month is well attended and lots of thanks to Jenny who is a wonderful support in the kitchen. Also thank you Lee for your washing up skills and humour which are always appreciated.

Mindfulness in the kitchen is a very fulfilling practice and I continue to enjoy serving the Atisha community in this way.



Helen Sleswick
KITCHEN MANAGER



FINANCES 2016

TREASURER'S REPORT

While the Centre recorded a profit for the year of \$26,637 we continue to feel cash flow pressure with our commitments to the “Monastery and Geshe Fund”. At the moment we are only covering half the costs of the geshe and translator and are relying on savings to pay the rest. We would like to take this opportunity to invite members and friends of the Centre to consider contributing to this fund on a regular basis to help support this important part of the future of the Centre and the Monastery. Details of how to contribute are available on the website as well as at the Centre. For those who are currently contributing, we would like specifically to thank you and we rejoice in your merit.

Courses, accommodation, facility hire and membership continue to be major earning areas for the Centre. We would like to thank specifically our members for the cash flow support that the monthly membership payments provide to the Centre. This payment provides a cashflow core around which the Centre can operate and we are very grateful for the support that you provide in offering this monthly amount.

There have been some cost reductions this year that have helped our finances. Our use of a shared room on Tuesday nights at the Anderson Room, St Paul's Anglican Cathedral has reduced our costs in running this event compared to previous years where we paid a lot more for a dedicated room. We also negotiated a reduction in the cost of our insurance as well as gaining an improvement in the coverage of the policy.

There have been improvements in the stock management process that we are using for the Atisha Centre shop. This will aid in better management in this area.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the Centre financially this year and we hope you will continue with that support into the future. The Centre, as a place of teaching and promoting the Buddha Dharma, relies upon the generosity of its members and friends. On behalf of the committee, I would like to express our gratitude for, and rejoice in, your continuing support.

Regards,

Cameron Young

TREASURER

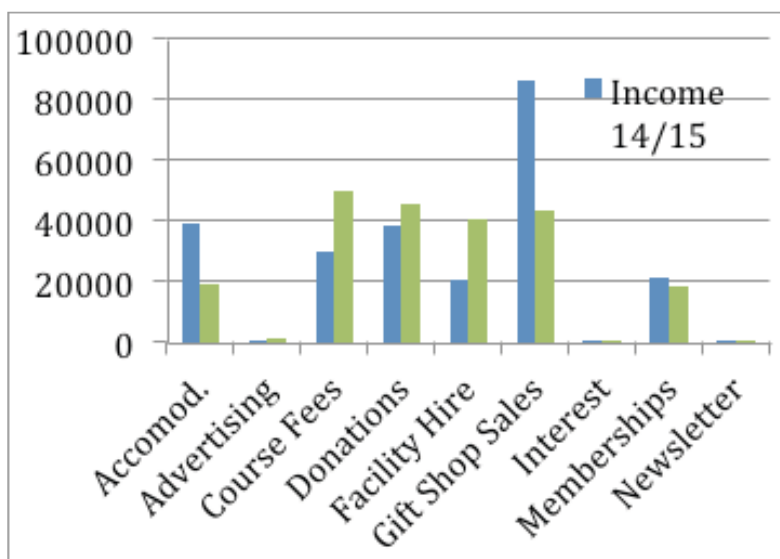


FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

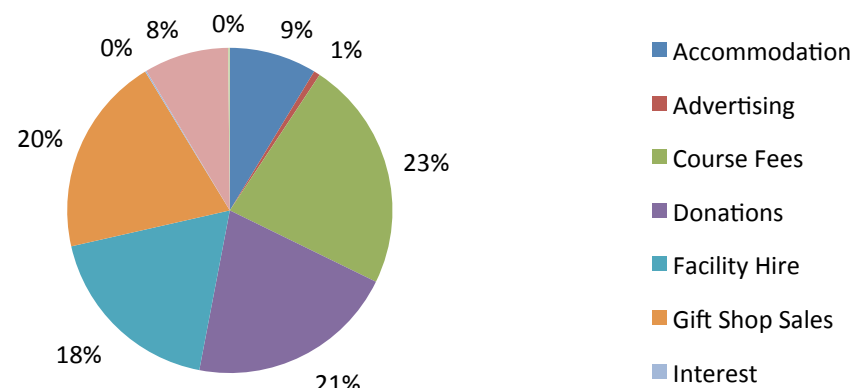
The 2015/16 financial year has seen the Atisha Centre report an overall profit of \$32,245 which is huge turnaround on the previous year's loss of \$12,586. Although there was a decrease in our total income, there was also a significant decrease in our expenses.

We have seen an increase in Course income which is gradually bringing us back in line with previous years, as well as an increase in the facility fees due to the hiring out to various yoga groups throughout the year. Donations have also increased due mainly to the offerings made to Jampa's retreat.

Accommodation income is considerable lower as last year's figure included income from the Lama Zopa Retreat. Gift Shop income has also declined due partly to the decrease in shop opening hours and last year's figures included sales as a result of Lama Zopa's Retreat.



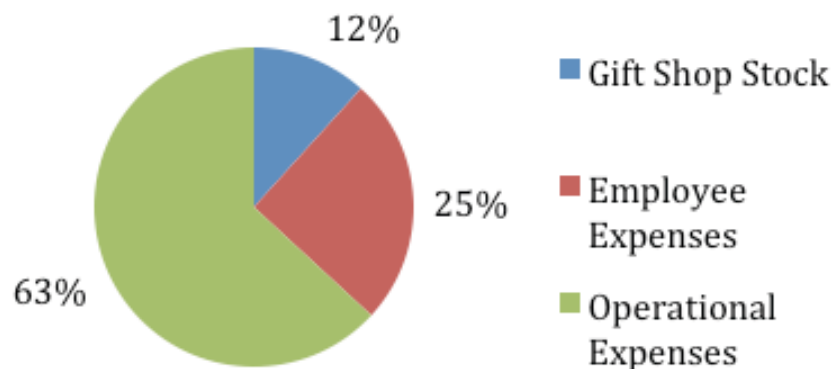
Income 15/16



The expenses for the year have decreased by approximately \$64,000 compared to the previous. The majority of this decrease is related to the decline in Gift Shop sales and as a result less stock being purchased. Employee costs have also decreased as the previous year included Maxine's payout of annual leave. Offerings have continued to increase due to the financial support being offered to the Monastery for Geshe Rabten.



Expenses 15/16



Monthly recurrent payments include:

- Insurance \$956;
- FPMTA Levy \$388;
- IT assistance \$50;
- Photocopy Hire \$258;

Offerings are also made on a regular basis including:

- \$50 to TSL Monastery;
- Offerings to sangha for meditations, teachings and retreats;
- Geshe and translator since February 2015 of \$1,000 per month;
- Long life Pujas for His Holiness Dalai Lama and Lama Zopa Rinpoche;
- Light offerings.

And other times throughout the year as required.

*P*RACTISING GENEROSITY AS A CENTRE: 2015 - 2016

A percentage of the income from our yoga courses and larger donations have been redirected back into our community this year.

Offering have been made to:

- Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery;
- Lifeline;
- Food Share Bendigo;
- Red Cross;
- Lama Zopa Rinpoche Food Fund - Sera Monastery;
- Fred Hollows Foundation;
- International Mahayana Sangha Inc;
- RSPCA Horses;
- Edgar's Mission;
- Enlightenment Tree;
- Lama Yeshe Wisdom Archive;
- Karen Community;
- Great Stupa of Universal Compassion;
- World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA).

Wendy Buchan
FINANCIAL MANAGER

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our current membership stands at 93. There were 94 members this time last year. We currently have 10 Family Memberships, the same as last year, 55 Single Memberships, up from 50 last year and 28 Single Concession Memberships, down from 34 last year. Over 50% of our members have chosen to pay by direct debit on a monthly basis.

In addition to our fee paying members we have two Lifelong Members and two Honorary Members.

There have been changes to the benefits that flow onto our members over the past year. The 10% discount in our shop is no longer available, the Mandala Magazine is now published twice a year instead of four times and, while there are still discounts available on some courses/retreats, those with Dharma teachings are now by donation rather than a set fee, so discounts obviously do not apply.

Members continue to make use of the two free nights accommodation. Up until the 30th June 2016, ten members used either one or two of their free nights compared with four in the same period for 2015.

THANK YOU TO:

- Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery;
- The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion;
- Bendigo City Council;
- Bendigo Bank;
- Bob Waterhouse;
- Star Cinema, Ron;
- The florist shop in Eaglehawk;
- AASB: Accounting and Auditing Solutions Bendigo;
- Fitzpatrick's Hardware;
- Bunnings, Eaglehawk;
- Food Share Bendigo;
- Officeworks - Bendigo;
- Bolton's Office National;
- Cambells Cash and Carry;
- Roger King's IGA Eaglehawk;
- Micheal Chambers Deep Tread Internet;
- Michael and Thi Kodama (Plants);
- UFS Pharmacy.



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Eugene Marshall in May this year. 'Gene was a wonderful member who contributed a lot to the Centre.

Kathy Rice
MEMBERSHIP MANAGER



PROPERTY REPORT

Summer 2015/2016 began with a hot spell which portended a serious fire season and fortunately the New Year saw a period of cooler cloudy weather which diffused the fire threat. Winter 2016 has been wet since the time of the Festival of Light; our dam is full and the water tanks are also full. The workshop dam will be empty by December from being used to water the gardens in spring and early summer. We now pump water from the dam in the Vo's paddock, into our dam behind the workshop, which allows us to keep the gardens alive through the hot dry summer. During summer I pump water at least every second day with a pump supplied by Peter Korevaar.



The dam water is not suitable for use in the fishpond and evaporation through the summer drops the water down to a shallow level. A donation was asked for a tanker of water (\$180) to refill the pond at the end of summer and was generously given by Yien Law. This will be needed every summer due to poor water quality from the dam. New tanks are needed to increase our storage capacity so as to catch surplus rain when the tanks are full at the accommodation.



Bollards have been installed throughout the Centre to control traffic as there has been damage to garden walls from vehicles driving indiscriminately through the Centre. They are painted white; some are fixed and some are removable.



The retreat bell has been repainted by Ian, and moved closer to the accommodation building and the path to the dining room, which allows for easier access for the bell ringers.

Check drains have been built in the driveway gutters to prevent blockage of pipes during heavy rain events. The driveway has seen heavy potholing along the full length due to constant rains all winter. The gravel pile has been depleted fixing these potholes and more will need to be purchased.

Pigs from next door have been entering Atisha Centre grounds since December 2015. I have repaired over 500 metres of fence but the pigs have been able to go further along past the repaired fence, to enter the property. They have caused damage to the gardens and some irrigation pipes and have terrorised several of the visitors and volunteers. The council rangers have attended and given warnings to the owner of the pigs.



Dietmar has been building nesting boxes for birds and possums, and so far 20 of these have been placed in trees throughout the forested areas. There have been sightings of birds inhabiting some of them already, as well as possums. Foxes or feral cats have killed two possums and a juvenile cat has been trapped and removed to the RSPCA.

Thinning of the tree trunks continues so as to enhance the beauty and strength of the forest areas within which the Centre is nestled. Work will also continue to provide habitat for insects, frogs and reptiles, such as lizards, so as to increase the health and diversity of the ecosystem. The wet winter has meant that we have a lot of grass and weed growth this year which has added to the workload in a big way.

Cabling is continuing for the installation of LED path lights near the accommodation building as well as between the kitchen and the main meditation hall. The outdoor statues are showing signs of weather damage and repairs will begin when the dry and warm weather comes. They need to have pavilions built over them to protect them from UV and water damage.

Tim is renovating the garden hills alongside the garden Buddha statue and he has also done an amazing job with the gardens at the car park and office entry areas. He has been cultivating these gardens so they have absorbed the maximum amount of water from the constant winter rains.

A ReIn drain (from drain lengths donated by Cameron) is being installed



behind the kitchen to reduce flooding from heavy rain events.

The winter rains have given the gardens and forest a boost and we will see a good spring growing season leading into the summer.

Steve Williams
PROPERTY MANAGER



ATISHA CENTRE STAFF

BOARD

DIRECTOR: RUBY KARMAY

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR - OUTGOING: Jen Kyne

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR - INCOMING: Andy Melnic

CHAIR PERSON: Brenton Russell

TREASURER: Cameron Young

SECRETARY: Carla Lewinsmith

BOARD MEMBER: Diane Gee

MACHIG LABDRON NUNNERY: Venerable Tsapel

FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE MANAGER - OUTGOING: Kathy Rice

OFFICE MANAGER - INCOMING: Theresa Smith

FINANCE MANAGER: Wendy Buchan

MEMBERSHIP: Kathy Rice

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME

SPC: Andy Melnic

GOMPA MANAGER: Peter Lane

SHOP MANAGER - INCOMING: Charlie Robinson

SHOP STOCK MANAGER - OUTGOING: Dechen Gerrard

SHOP VOLUNTEER MANAGER - OUTGOING: Jen Kyne

LIBRARY: Hannalore Best

TUESDAY NIGHT MEDITATION COORDINATOR: Cilla Brady



DINING AND CATERING

KITCHEN MANAGER: Helen Sleswick

PUBLICITY

WEBSITE: Marilyn Chambers

NEWSLETTER: Liam Chambers

FACEBOOK - OUTGOING: Gina Macaulay - INCOMING Carla Lewinsmith

POSTERS

OUTGOING: Liam Chambers

INCOMING: Andy Melnic

GROUNDS

PROPERTY MANAGER: Steve Williams

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michael Chambers

MASTER PLAN

Ruby Karmay, Venerable Tsapel, Andy Melnic, Peter Lane, Steve Williams

STRATEGIC PLAN and BRIGHT FUTURES

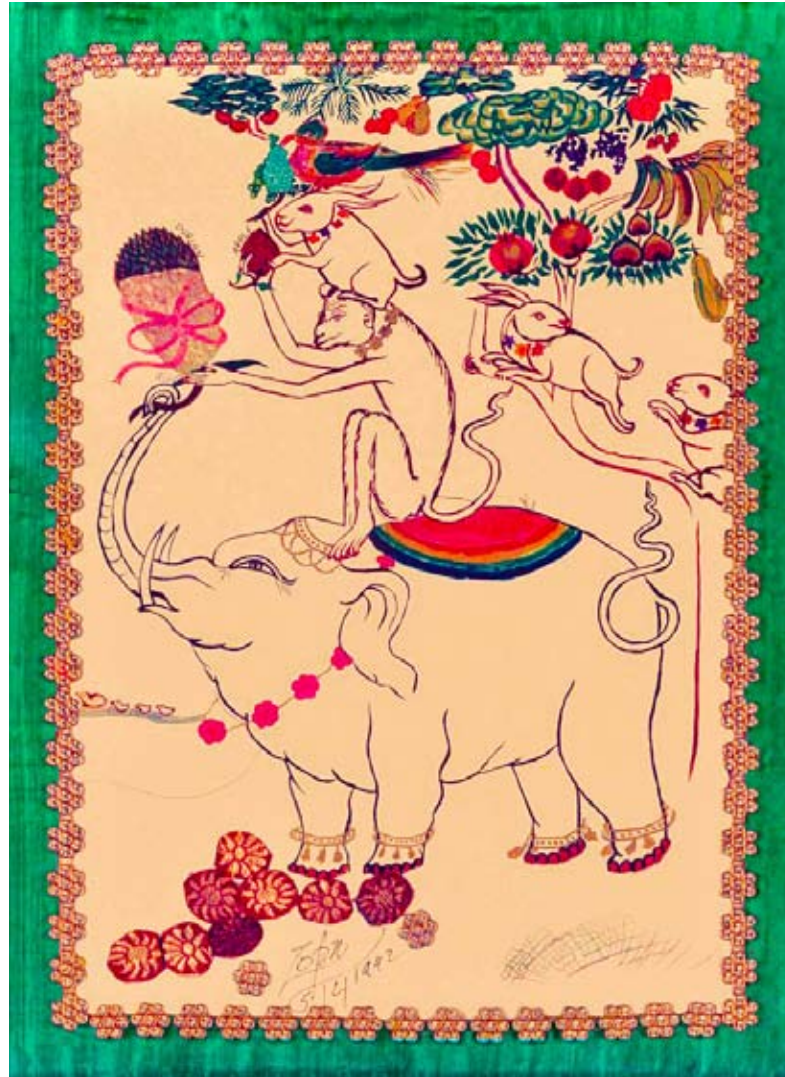
Brenton Russel and Bright Futures team

PROJECTS

MERIT BOX - OUTGOING: Cam Young

MERIT BOX - INCOMING: Vacant

KADAMPA STUPA: Peter Lane



May 2017 be a year of peace and harmony in
your home, family, work place and community.

THANK YOU

*A*tisha 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.

*M*ay we all rejoice together.



Atisha Centre Inc. No. A0045465N / ABN 44 568 476 377

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