Atisha Centre

Atisha Buddhist Centre



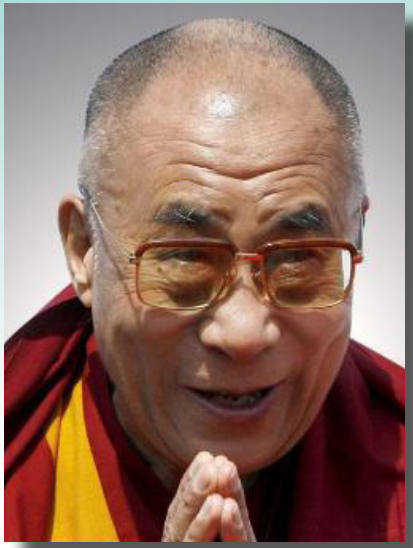


ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

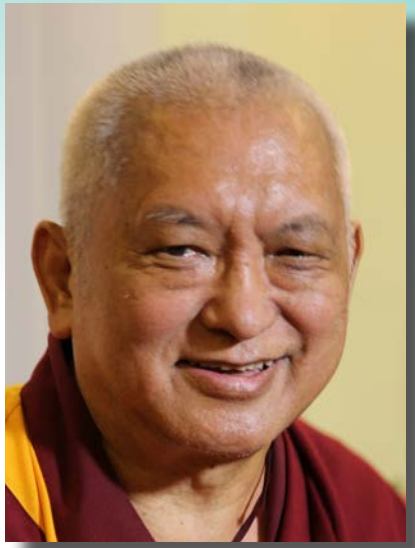
'A Land for Completing the Human Potential'

Lama Zopa Rinpoche

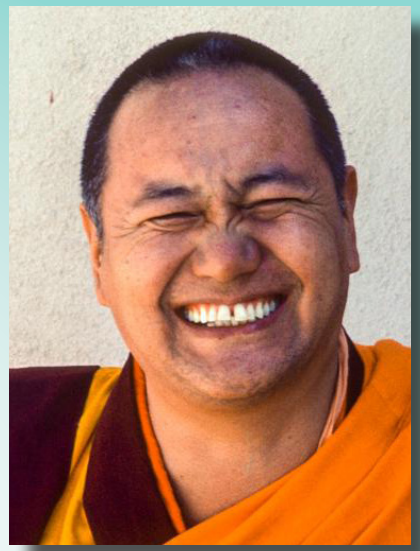




Our Spiritual Leader
His Holiness Dalai Lama



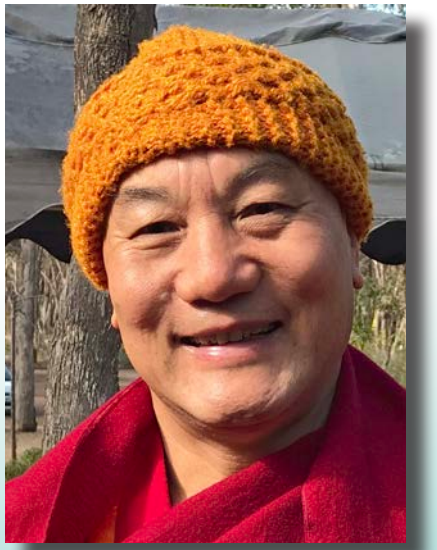
Our Spiritual Director
Kyabje Thubten Zopa Rinpoche



Our Inspiration and Founder
Lama Thubten Yeshe Rinpoche

"When 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 Resident Teacher
Venerable 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

What a year this has been!

Last year with the pandemic was quite extraordinary as we have not experienced anything like it before. This year was no different with so many lockdowns and restrictions being placed on all of us. It has most definitely been very challenging.

What I have noticed in my first 12 months of being the Centre Director is the resilience of Atisha Centre's staff, volunteers and community. Over the course of the year, we have had several events cancelled due to snap lockdowns, including two retreats and a Study Group weekend. The Shamatha Retreat was cancelled within 30 minutes of starting. Having to notify 30 retreatants and organising for some of them to be driven back to the train station so they could get home was not easy. However, with the dedicated effort of our staff and volunteers, we were able to make it happen.



I would like to thank Andy Melnic, Spiritual Programme Coordinator, and Jan Stewart, Office Manager, for their support with last-minute reorganising everything, cancelling programmes and making the necessary phone calls and emails to notify everyone of the changes; this could have been stressful for everyone, however due to their efforts, the process was made quite comfortable.

In these challenging times, Atisha Centre has still been able to support the local community, hold retreats and various courses and continue with Geshe Rabten's Wednesday night teachings and Study Group. We are very fortunate to have someone of the calibre of Geshe Rabten teaching the Dharma to us in an unmistaken way, and with the assistance of Venerable Lobsang Dorje as his translator, the Dharma is transmitted to us in a very accessible manner.

Late last year it became apparent that Geshe Rabten's and Venerable Dorje's visas could possibly be revoked, and they would have to return to India and London respectively. It did seem all was lost as every avenue to extend their visas had been exhausted. However earlier this year, in a last-ditch effort by the immigration lawyers and FPMTA, with the support of the Atisha Centre's members and community, Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, Machig Labdron Nunnery and The Great Stupa, Venerable Dorje's Labour Agreement was approved for another four years, with the opportunity for permanent residency within the fourth year, and Geshe Rabten's visa was also approved. We have applied for permanent residency for Genla and we are still waiting for it to be processed. Hopefully, we'll have some good news to announce prior to Christmas.

Thank you to all of you for your wonderful support for Genla and Dorje. The amount of support offered has been quite overwhelming.

Over the last 12 months, Atisha Centre has not only continued providing a great programme; it has also gathered momentum with long term projects.

A prominent project is the Kadampa Stupa. With the support of Peter Lane (Project Coordinator), Brian Ashen (Fundraising Coordinator), Christine Bohle (Mantra Rolling Coordinator), Bob Waterhouse (looking after the *shokshing* (life tree)) and the many other volunteers who have been assisting, we are slowly moving in a direction to complete the stupa by early to mid 2022.

We also have other statues planned for the Centre. Due to the kindness and generosity of an FPMT benefactor, Atisha Centre is waiting for a 2-metre Ksitigharba Statue which will be placed in the garden next to the gompa and we are also have a statue of Lama Yeshe planned for the Lama Yeshe garden.



Machig Labdron Nunnery is progressing well. The nuns, together with Basil the dog, provide great energy for the Centre, constantly leading pujas, giving teachings and being wise and calm (and humorous) to those who attend the Centre.

Atisha Centre would not be able to offer the peaceful and harmonious surrounds if it were not for the dedicated effort of its resident volunteers.

Andy Melnic continually produces our spiritual programme, which not only allows for direct Dharma study, but also offers other modalities that are of benefit to others.

Jan Stewart keeps the office in tiptop working order and does not seem to miss a beat.

Steve Williams and his group of volunteers – Phil, Bill, and Neil and Paul (who left earlier in the year) look after the grounds maintenance and do a wonderful job. Ken Fox looks after the gardens with assistance from Helen Sleswick and a small group from Creative Community Studios, a community support group in Eaglehawk.

Thanks to Niki Camilatos for her work as Accommodation Manager. Thanks also to Norma Mitting, Trish Nichols, Joan Hall. Kristine Walsh and Linley Kerlin who have been long term volunteers and Karen Swannie who joined the accommodation support team this year.

Venerable Drime, our Gompa Manager sets up for all our pujas and offers hatha yoga classes; thanks also to her small group of volunteers who assist with the maintenance of the gompa and for their daily water bowl offerings.

Lama's Dharma Shop is going 'great guns' under the direction of Robyn Ralton and her assistant Arihn Howe. The shop is always busy and with the dedicated effort of the many other volunteers that assist, it continues to grow.

The Wishfulfilling Jewel Café with Sharon Nichols at the helm, with the assistance of her daughter Elyse, turned out to be a 'gem' offering with a beautiful vegetarian and vegan menu. The café became a very popular place for those who attended the Centre over the weekends. Through Sharon's initiative the café was able to upgrade its facilities with a new a storage room and dishwasher. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Sharon and Elyse recently as they left the Centre for New South Wales; we wish them all the very best for the future.

I would also like to thank Pauline Walden and Gail Haig who work tirelessly to archive the library books, Jenny Hogan for all her support on various projects, Kristine Walsh who has only recently come on

board to assist with Sunday meditations, the café and accommodation housekeeping, and to all the other volunteers who assist with the running of the Centre. The Atisha Centre Board deeply appreciate the effort you all put in.

Thank you to Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery for their support in assisting Atisha Centre with retreat and course accommodation. It is very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the Atisha Centre Board for their support over the last 12 months. We are mostly a very harmonious Board and I feel that is reflected well in the community.

Overall, the Centre is doing very well. Visitors who attend the Centre remark how peaceful and harmonious it is here and how much they enjoy being a part of the surrounds. If Atisha Centre can continue to offer service from the heart, fulfilling the wishes and prayers of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, then the Centre will continue to grow and be of great benefit to everyone and to the local community.

Gyälten Döndrup

Centre Director

Membership

Despite frequent lockdowns and the cancellation of many of our courses, retreats and teachings our membership has continued to climb. We currently have 125 paid up members. There were 37 new members over the past year. This is very encouraging.

Our single monthly contributors make up just over half of the total number of members. The next largest group is the single yearly payments, followed by the family yearly payments.

We thank all our members for their support of the Centre and their generosity in enabling the Dharma and the Centre to flourish. Hopefully the next 12 months will see us being able to gather together for social events, special pujas and teachings.

Kathy Rice

Membership Manager



Messages from the Board - *Secretary*

As I step away from my role as Secretary of the Atisha Centre Board, I want to acknowledge that government and health responses to Covid 19 have led to family, community and societal discord. I think it is important to attend to our individual and collective suffering over the past two years because this is the best pathway to healing.

Many of us have not been able to visit Atisha Centre during the periods of lockdowns in Victoria these past two years. There are some of us who are still not permitted to visit Atisha Centre, at least for the time being. No matter our individual views, it is my sincere wish that we stay connected to Atisha Centre, Dharma teachings and to each other.

I am grateful for the staff, volunteers and Board members of Atisha Centre for continuing to devote their efforts and energy to ensure that Dharma teachings continue. I am grateful for all of our members who provide the generosity and good will that is required to support the running of Atisha Centre. I am grateful for the monks and nuns of Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery and Machig Labdron Nunnery whose practices and teachings inspire us. I am grateful for our teachers, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lama Zopa Rinpoche and Geshe Thupten Rabten who show us love, kindness and compassion.



Carmella Quimbo
Board Secretary

Messages from the Board - *Chair*

I pay my respects to the traditional owners of the land on which the Atisha Centre sits, the Dja Dja Wurrung people and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Well, what a year 2021 has been! I am not sure any of us thought we would continue to be in lockdowns and at least for those of us from Melbourne, very rarely having the opportunity to attend teachings over the year in person. Thanks to the continued dedication of Geshe Rabten, Venerable Dorje and Andy, we have been able to continue to connect via the online teachings which is a blessing, though with so much of our day being via screens, just not the same as being in the company and feeling the energy of our Centre.

I would like to express my appreciation to Venerable Dondrup for his tireless effort since becoming Director just over 12 months ago. What a challenging time for the Centre, trying to keep the Dharma accessible and ensuring the safety of all our residents. My thanks too, to Robyn and Andy who have worked with Ven Dondrup to keep the Centre operating in what hopefully is the end of lockdowns but time alone will tell if that is the case. Thanks to Kevin for ensuring our finances stay on track and despite the challenge of reduced retreat and other income, exploring ways we can continue to grow and stay viable.

My sincere thanks go to Carmela who has been the Secretary for the Atisha Centre Board for some years now, but has sadly for us, resigned in October. Her wisdom and numerous skills will be sadly missed and we wish her well and hope to see her regularly at the Centre and at teachings over the coming year. Thanks to Kathy for stepping in to bridge the gap leading up to our AGM.

Much of the Board's work through 2021 related to reapplying for both Geshe Rabten and Venerable Dorje to be given work visas to enable them both to stay on at Atisha and continue to provide the inspirational teachings and precious dharma to our community. We were delighted to learn in July that Venerable Dorje's labour agreement had been granted which gave renewed hope that Geshe Rabten's labour agreement would also be approved which was the case a few weeks later. Dorje now has his Visa and we are positive that Geshe Rabten's will be through soon.

With the risks to our precious teachers and to many of our community who are older and therefore at greater risk, the Board decided to mandate double vaccination for all our community, staff, volunteers and all visitors to Atisha Centre. I am aware this condition has caused some concern and led to some choosing to leave the Centre and I thank them for all they did while here and wish them well in their future endeavors.

I sincerely hope 2022 is a more stable year for all of us, and we can participate in the teachings and retreats in person, not needing to rely on the recordings.

My sincere thanks go to my fellow board members for their work and commitment to the Atisha Centre and all its projects and programs. I sincerely hope 2022 provides more stability and a greater opportunity for large numbers of people to learn about our Centre and hear the wisdom of Geshe Rabten.

Jeannie McIntyre
Chair

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME

"The fact that there is always a positive side to life is the one thing that gives me a lot of happiness. This world is not perfect. There are problems. But things like happiness and unhappiness are relative. Realising this gives you hope.

His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama

"Whatever happiness and suffering there is in samsara, all of it comes from your karma. Therefore, through always examining your three doors, make effort to abandon nonvirtue and practise virtue."

Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche



This year of 2021 has continued to be frought with pandemics and uncertainty. Programme events have again been planned, organised and cancelled through ever-changing government regulations. Fortunately, thanks to our wonderful teacher, Venerable Geshe Rabten and his excellent translator Venerable Lobsang Dorje, when the Centre was locked down, we have continued to provide an online Programme.

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

Our regular programme continued to make great Dharma teachings available to local students as well as students from Melbourne, until the lockdowns. On Wednesday nights, Genla continued to teach, in depth, on the *lam rim* text by His Holiness the 3rd Dalai Lama, "Essence of Refined Gold". Genla finally completed the teaching in September with session number 108 - very auspicious. Genla is now giving commentary on "Lama Chöpa", the Guru Puja text by His Holiness 1st Panchen Rinpoche, Lobsang Chökyi Gyaltsen.

Venerable Lozang Rigsäl has continued to lead "Healing Meditations" alternating courses with "Death and Dying", each Tuesday morning for two hours. These sessions are very popular and have been open to everybody. They include meditations, discussions and offer support for people dealing with life problems, or dealing with others facing those. The event resumed since the ease of lockdown.

Our Buddhist Study Group has taken place sporadically due to lockdown, approximately twice monthly. Genla completed teaching Purbuchok Ngawang Jampa's "Lorig - Awarenesses and Knowers", the main text covering Buddhist psychology.

Genla is now giving a magnificent commentary on His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama's book, "Key to the Middla Way", a detailed, enthralling exposition on emptiness.

At Easter we managed to get in a 5-day retreat, where Genla taught on "Bodhisattva's Jewel Garland" by Lama Atisha. Many people attended and Venerable Gyatso led the meditations and discussion sessions. Our "Spring Retreat" was blown out of the water by a shock lockdown, so Genla taught the online subject of "Three Principals of the Path", by Lama Tsongkhapa.

At Christmas, we once again held our regular Chenrezig retreat, very popularly led by Venerable Jampa Choepal. A great way to end the year and begin the next.



"Discovering Buddhism" has now completed and and greatly benefitted our steady group of attendees. Many thanks to our course leaders, Venerable Thubten Lhundrup and Venerable Tenzin Tsapel.

"Intro to Buddhism" courses on Saturdays were led by Venerable Tenzin Tsapel. Many thanks! These one-day events attract a lot of people. Venerable Thubten Gyatso also led a very successful "Intro to Buddhism" retreat over three days - This was the first of hopefully many such longer intro retreats.

Venerable Thubten Drime continues to lead weekly Hatha Yoga sessions. Thank you! It is great to have this event to complement our events programme.

Most of our other events have been on hold during the pandemic.

"Lama's Dharma Shop", our book and gifts shop, ever improves and gets more exciting all the time, under the management of Robyn Ralton. Thank you to all the hard work from Robyn and all her volunteers who serve in the shop.



The "Publications Project" continues to develop. Geshe Rabten's teachings are being transcribed and edited. We are always looking for more volunteers to be involved with this project. All the teachings given by Geshela are available online as audio files, together with supporting handouts. From the beginning of last year all Geshela's teachings have also been videoed and transported to Youtube.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who has helped with the Programme and to Michael Chambers for his continued IT troubleshooting.



Many thanks to the following people for their efforts in making the Spiritual Programme happen and successful:

- Venerable Thubten Gyatso for “Intro to Buddhism Retreat”, “Easter Retreat”, “Wednesday Night Teachings” in December and “Sunday Meditations”.
- Venerable Tenzin Tsapel for “Discovering Buddhism”, “One Day Meditation” courses, puja leading, course meditations, “Sunday Meditations” and “Shamatha Retreat”.
- Venerable Jampa Choepal for “Chenrezig Retreat”, “Buddhist Daily Practice Day” and “Sunday Meditations”.
- Venerable Lozang Rigsäl for “Healing Meditations”, “Death and Dying” courses, puja setups and “Sunday Meditations”.
- Venerable Lozang Yeshe for Study Group” discussions and “Sunday Meditations”.
- Venerable Thubten Drime for the role of Gompa Manager, coordinating different events and leading “Hatha Yoga”.
- Jenny Hogan for coordinating “Discovering Buddhism”, “Death and Dying”, “Healing Meditations and various courses and one-day events.
- Helen Sleswick for coordinating “Sunday Meditations”.
- Raelene Boycott for coordinating “Tuesday Night Meditations”.
- Jeannie McIntyre for coordinating “Study Group” and various retreats.
- Robyn Ralton and staff of volunteers in Lama’s Dharma Shop.
- Pauline Walden for managing the Library with help from Gail Haig.

Please rejoice in all the good work done by everybody.

Andy Melnic
Spiritual Programme Coordinator





LAMA'S DHARMA SHOP

Needless to say it's been a topsy-turvy year navigating the various Covid lockdowns and regulations. Despite all this, or perhaps because of it, Lama's Dharma Shop has continued to thrive, and we are very grateful to all our lovely customers for their support.

Books consistently sell well, as do all the Dharma and Tibetan related products – such as incense, statues and other ritual items, prayer flags, thangkas, singing bowls and carpets.

Our imports from Kopan Monastery in Nepal, and the Tibetan Medical Institute in India, have increased exponentially, as our shop becomes more well-known for the specialty products that they supply.



In terms of turnover it has been the biggest year yet, with a very auspicious grand total of $108,884.

This is comprised of shop sales of $91,043 plus online shop sales of $17,841.

A big part of our success is due to our reliable and enthusiastic shop team – Fiona Silver, Cilla Brady, Arihn Howe, and Jenny Hogan – who not only provide excellent service in the shop, but also extend a warm welcome to our many visitors - I am very grateful for their ongoing commitment to the shop.



Arihn Howe joined our shop team at the beginning of 2021 and has been training as Assistant Manager – learning all aspects of running the shop and managing the inventory, which is now quite a big task given the increase in turnover. With her experience and expertise she has become a real asset to the shop and for Atisha Centre.

Robyn Ralton
SHOP MANAGER

KITCHEN MANAGEMENT AND CAFÉ

The Wishfulfilling Jewel Café, under the expert direction of Sharon Nichols,, also had an excellent year with total sales of $20,574.

The café was open each weekend, and apart from the financial contribution, it also created a wonderful, warm ambiance in the Atisha courtyard with many people becoming regulars for chai or lunch on the weekends.

Sharon was joined in 2021 by her daughter Elyse who became the barista and ran 'front of house' which allowed Sharon to concentrate on the kitchen.

And during the August/September lockdown this year, Sharon assisted Bob Waterhouse with the extensive kitchen renovation - adding a spacious storeroom, a new sink, dishwasher, and hand washing facilities.



We are extremely grateful for everything that Sharon and Elyse contributed to Atisha Centre, and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Another success story is Lama's Hardy Plants, which is expertly managed by Ken Fox, and creates a beautiful spectacle in the courtyard. For the 2020/2021 financial year we sold 519 plants with a total income of $3182. As with the café and the shop, we are also developing a regular clientele for our wonderful range of succulents.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to contribute to Atisha Centre, and I very much appreciate the camaraderie and friendship of the Atisha community, and in particular the support and wise counsel of Venerable Dondrup, Jan Stewart, and Andy Melnic.

May the Buddha Dharma continue to flourish for the benefit of all.

Robyn Ralton
SHOP MANAGER



Property

The summer of 2021 ended with a very heavy 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 wet and is only just ending in the last few weeks with the beginning of some warm weather. An unusually cool and wet spring means that the gardens are growing well, the grass is still green and we have not needed to buy water for our tanks as the rains are 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. A self-contained dwelling for the Director was completed, rotten poles have been replaced, the kitchen area has been improved, drainage continues to be improved, the driveway is maintained, many maintenance repairs have been performed and more work is planned for the future.

Phil and Bill still continue to help at the Centre due to the kindness of their hearts and their enjoyment of coming out here. Neil Mitting has had some serious health problems of late and will be unavailable for quite a while. He is missed and prayers go out for him and his family.

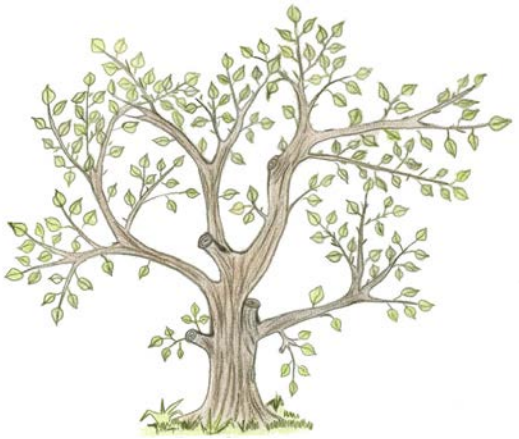


Many thanks to: Ken, Phil, Bill, Neil and Paul for all their hard work.

Steve Williams
Property Manager







Office and Accommodation

The Atisha Centre Office has been open and closed quite a few times over the past year. However, the good news is we are again now open, Melbourne is out of lockdown, and Melburnians will soon be able to visit us again.

I have had the good fortune over the past year to meet many more lovely new and returning members and visitors. And as part of my job is receiving accommodation requests, the most outstanding feature I have noticed is the increased number of people who have stayed at Atisha Centre between lockdowns for personal retreats; possibly as a combination of not being able to travel overseas, as well as the pandemic providing the unusual opportunity of more time for reflection.



This year Niki Camilatos came on board as Accommodation Manager, and along with the hospitality expertise of Norma Mitting, Trish Nichols, Linley Kerlin, Kris Walsh and Karen Swannie, the housekeeping team have taken beautiful care of our accommodation premises. The accommodation revenue this financial year was $37,666.00, which is an increase on previous years, impacted by the pandemic.



A beautiful parting contribution from our outgoing Centre Director Frank Brock last year was a sublime photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama that now sits above my office desk, which is a profound image for members and visitors to enjoy when they first enter the Office.

It has also been very enjoyable working with our new Centre Director Venerable Dondrup; Dondrup has lots of great ideas for developing the Centre and our offering to the community.

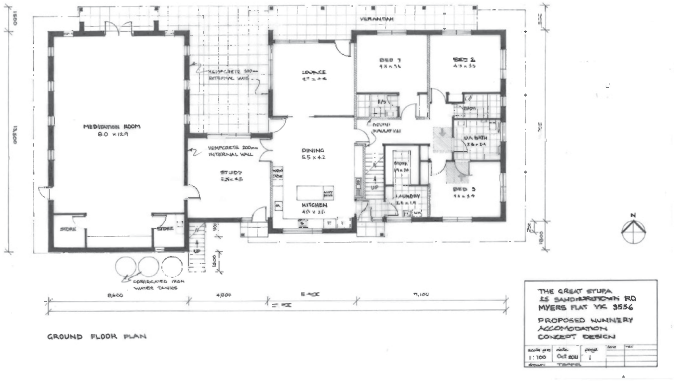
Thank you to all who support Atisha Centre so there can exist such a peaceful haven for people to develop their natural wisdom and compassion.

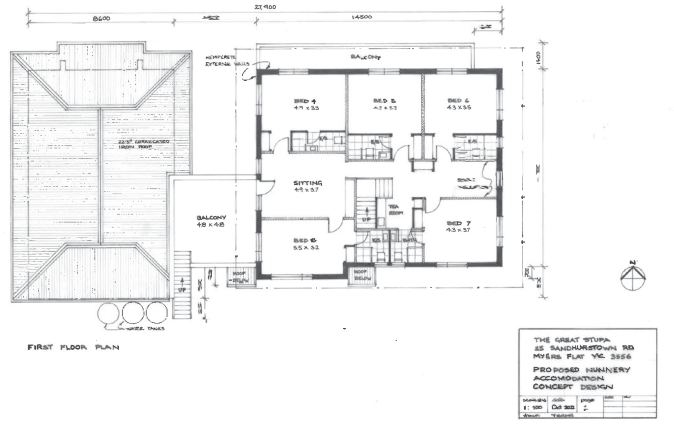
Jan Stewart
Office Manager

Machig Labdron Nuns' Community

The nuns community is stable and we continue to benefit from being able to live as a community in this special holy place. The lockdown allowed time for each of us to do some personal retreat. We assisted with recording the teachings, continued the pujas when numbers still limited and all lead programme events again when things opened up.

The building project has been slow with further changes. Last year doubts surfaced, regarding our site near the Lama Yeshe village. Council require a full 10m tree-free area around the building and thin coverage up to 80m. That meant we would lose the buffer of trees between our site and the Lama Yeshe Village ring road.





We sought out a new site and entered discussion with Ian Green and Venerable Gyatso. We settled on a new site that the nuns and all three directors agreed is viable. The site is already partly cleared and near other developed areas which the City Council prefer. It is situated on the North side of the Stupa, near the large dam and camping site for big retreats. The Great Stupa has completed the first stage of the new off-grid utility network and our site is situated in a convenient location to be able to connect to that.

Geshe Rabten blessed the new site in May. Redesigning for the new site has been quite a task. We appreciated some key design suggestions from Asoka Rajapakse, our Sri Lankan architect friend. We have now settled on a new design that we are all happy with. Sketch plans are being prepared ready to apply to Council for Planning Permit.

Tenzin Tsapel
Building Project Manager
Machig Labdron Nuns' Community

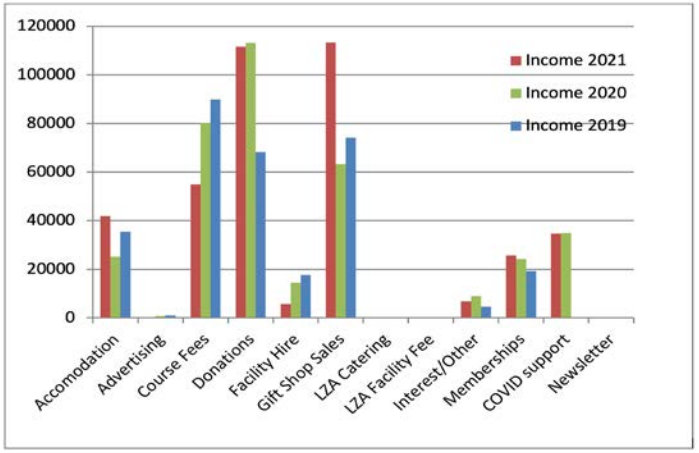


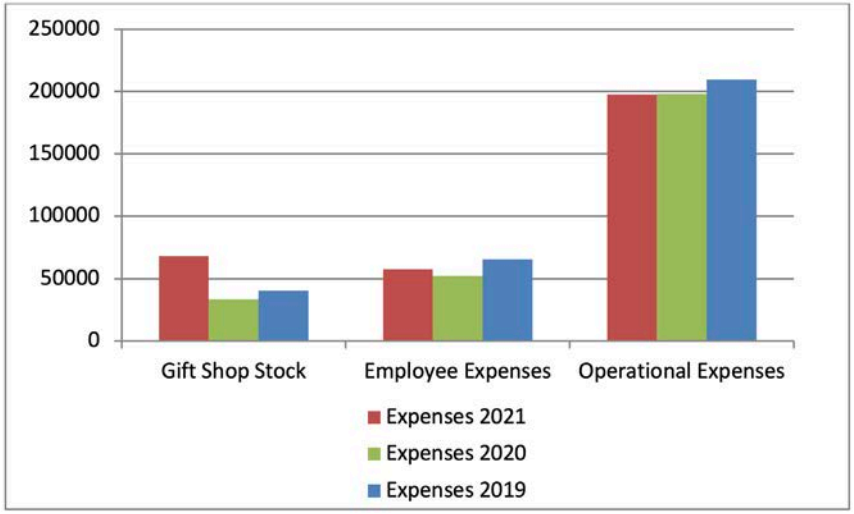
Geshe Rabten and his visitors, Geshe Doga, Geshe Könchog and Geshe Lobsang, at the new building site for Machig Labdron Nunnery, with other visitors and residents, last May.

FINANCES 2020/21

FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2020/21 financial year has seen Atisha Centre report an overall profit of $65,004. This result is largely due to the COVID support packages that the Centre received in the first half of the year, totalling nearly $35,000, along with generous donations from our community and a fantastic year in the shop.





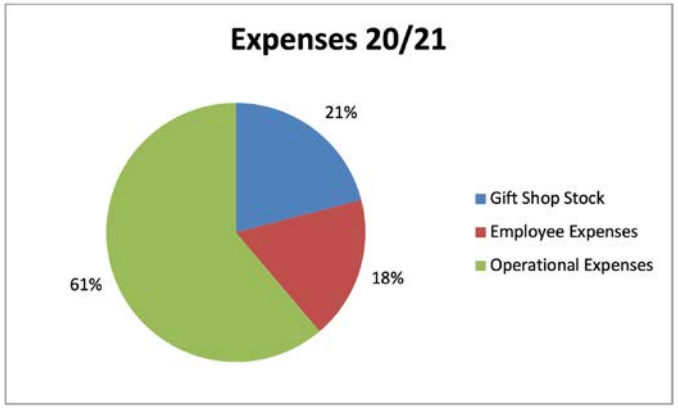
Total income for this year is $29,604 higher than last year even thanks to the above and an increase in accommodation.

Due to COVID 19 and the restrictions that were placed on the operation of the Centre, there was a further decline in course fees and facility hire.

Operational and employee expenses have remained steady compared to last year. 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.

Atisha Centre makes regular offerings to the following:

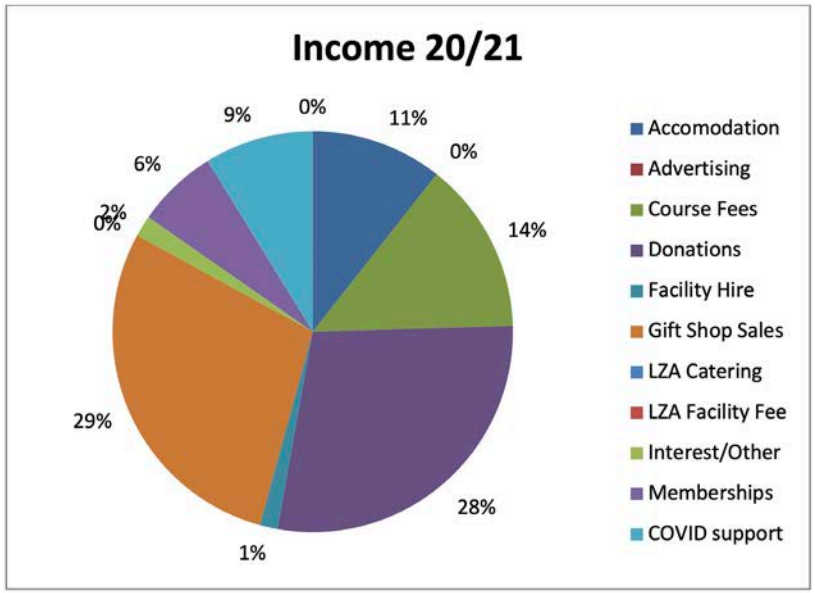
- $50 to TSL Monastery
- Offerings to sangha for meditations, teachings and retreats
- Geshe and translator offerings ($1100/fnt) and insurance expenses ($750/mth)
- Long-Life pujas for HHDL and Lama Zopa Rinpoche
- Light offerings
- And throughout the year as required both locally and internationally.



Wendy Buchan
FINANCE MANAGER

The financial functioning of Atisha Centre has continued positively during these past two years during the Covid pandemic. Many thanks to Wendy Buchan, Financial Manager, for her on-going support and for the producing the Financial Manager's report, which provides details of the income and expenses.

In the financial report for 2021, Atisha Centre's net assets and total equity totalled $513,443, in comparison to $448,439 in 2020. The liabilities for 2021 totalled $12,061, an increase of $5125. A total cash balance of the Centre's accounts is $345,606, compared with $232,729



in 2020. This balance includes the committed balance of $141,426 for the Nunnery and the dedicated donations for Dharma projects.

Despite the pandemic interruptions to our regular income sources: courses, accommodation and the other Centre-based activities, Atisha Centre has operated on a break-even basis in most months. The generous online provision of teachings has continued, enabling the receipt of donations through the online portal established by the Spiritual Programme Coordinator. The Board gratefully acknowledges the continued work to generate income, notably by the gift shop, and by the coordination of teaching and course activities, and the generous donations offered to the Atisha Centre.

I am pleased to report that the expenses related to visas for Geshela and Dorje have been met, and we are grateful for the many donations and supporters who have helped in this.

We have recognised the need for frugal spending during this time and regularly continue to review income and expenses to ensure the funding of Atisha Centre's activities. Several forward thinking ideas for financial management have been worked on, to be implemented in 2022. These are expected to inform further insights into the optimal budgeting of the Spiritual Programme activities; and for stimulating other sources of income to support the Centre's activities and services. The development of the new Membership tiers and donation streams are currently being implemented.

We anticipate the progressive resumption of Centre activities to re-establish the financial stability of the Atisha Centre into 2022.

Kevin Mulrain
TREASURER



ATISHA CENTRE STAFF

BOARD

CENTRE DIRECTOR: Venerable Gyälten Döndrup

SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR: Andy Melnic

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FINANCE MANAGER: Wendy Buchan

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SPIRITUAL PROGRAMME

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SHOP MANAGER: Robyn Ralton

LIBRARY: Pauline Walden

DISCOVERING BUDDHISM COORDINATOR: Jenny Hogan

DEATH AND DYING: Venerable Lozang Rigsal / Jenny Hogan

DINING AND CATERING

KITCHEN MANAGER: OUTGOING: Sharon Nichols

NUNNERY

MACHIG LABDRON NUNNERY: Venerable Tsapel

PUBLICITY

WEBSITE: Andy Melnic

NEWSLETTER: Andy Melnic

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PROPERTY MANAGER: Steve Williams

GARDENS AND GROUNDS: Ken Fox

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT CONSULTANT: Micheal Chambers

GESHE AND TRANSLATOR

GESHE CARE: Kathy Rice

ACCOMMODATION

ACCOMMODATION MANAGER: OUTGOING: Niki Camilatos

PROJECTS

KADAMPA STUPA: Peter Lane

THANK YOU

Atisha Centre would like to express the deepest gratitute 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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