

HEART OF WISDOM INC.

Heart of Wisdom Inc. was set up to manage large scale teaching events that are held on the rural property of the religious community situated just outside Bendigo, Victoria. The vision for this community was articulated by Lama Thubten Yeshe (Lama Yeshe) when in 1981 he visited the rural property on which work to establish Atisha Buddhist Centre had recently begun. Lama Yeshe used a twig to draw on the dry Bendigo dirt his plan for the centre, the stupa and the monastery. Over the last forty years Lama Yeshe's vision has slowly but surely become a reality.

Tenzin Ösel Hita Torres, the inspiration for and leader of this Habit Alignment Key, is the recognized reincarnation of Lama Yeshe.

The community on this rural property is still growing. It presently consists of Atisha Buddhist Centre, Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, Machig Labdron Nunnery, and The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion. Beautiful gardens surround the stupa and showcase the recently created Peace Park, which contains religious symbols from Catholic, Sikh, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist faiths. The Peace Park is a visual expression of interfaith accord, promoting open dialogue between different faith groups.

The Board of Heart of Wisdom Inc. is comprised of representatives from Atisha Buddhist Centre, Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery, Machig Labdron Nunnery, and The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion, plus a representative from FPMT in Australia and representatives from two Australian FPMT centres.



The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

The idea to build a Great Stupa on the property in Bendigo was the vision of Lama Thubten Yeshe, based on the design of the Great Stupa of Gyantse. The stupa has been built to inspire people to seek a peaceful and spiritual path, be a pilgrimage place for Buddhists from around the world and to provide a refuge of peace and serenity for all and especially those in need.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is the largest stupa in the Western World and given its impressive size it provides a perfect venue for major teaching events and seminars. The stupa has also become a major tourist attraction bringing many visitors to the Greater Bendigo area.



Atisha Buddhist Centre

Atisha Buddhist Centre's origins date back to 1981. Shortly after its humble opening in March of that year, Lama Thubten Yeshe Rinpoche visited Bendigo to give a public talk. It was established as a community-based, not-for-profit organisation to promote the study and dissemination of Buddhist teachings, emphasising the principles of the Gelugpa lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery

In 1994, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Spiritual Director of FPMT, asked Australian Buddhist monk Venerable Thubten Gyatso (Dr. Adrian Feldman) to establish a monastery on the rural property near Bendigo. Construction began in 1996 and the first monks moved into Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery in 1997.

Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery is the first and only monastic community of Australian monks ordained in the Gelugpa tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, the tradition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The monastery was named, "Thubten Shedrup Ling," meaning *Place for Study and Practice of the Buddha's Teachings*, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Machig Labdron Nunnery

The nunnery is recently established and is at the Development Application stage of building accommodation for nuns as part of the community on this rural property.