

N J P Newsletter.

Issue 5. December 2004.

Welcome to the sponsors, members and friends of Nying-Jey projects. We hope you will find this newsletter informative and interesting to read. The committee would again like to thank you all for your interest and support of the projects.



www.njp.org.au

The Nying-Jey projects web site is now up and running.

Have a look – you may even be in a photo from one of our events!

An archive of past newsletters, the sponsorship programs, past and future events, the history of N.J.P, plus lots more is online for you to access at the above web address.

Thank you to Jan Johannesen for this work.



PHOTOS OF THE MONSTER JUMBLE SALE FUNDRAISING EVENT.



FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE SANGYE MEDICAL CLINIC.

Our major fund raising event for this year was held in August. It was suggested by Julia Davis that we hold a Jumble Sale with the proceeds going to the Sangye Clinic. Barb Tyler at Vines Road Community Centre in Geelong gave us the use of the facilities at a very reasonable rate so that our goods could be stored and sold undercover. With the assistance of many generous people and in particular the attendees of the Drol Kar Buddhist Centre there was an ample amount of goods for sale.

From a virgin bedpan to a wetsuit to a little green vase that sold for \$25-. A remarkable young man by the name of Warren offered his assistance for the day, and it was because of him that the little green vase sold for \$25- and not \$2- as we had priced it!! Janeece ran a great barbeque, along with assistance from Graham, and she supervised "Sonny the Wonder Dog" who raised the incredible sum of \$13- by just being himself and receiving many pats. Marie Wilson of Ballarat ran a very successful raffle with the prize being one of her beautiful, exquisitely hand crafted quilts. She worked tirelessly getting people to purchase tickets and collected the extraordinary sum of \$450-. Sincere thanks go to Marie.

A big thank you also goes to Ali for her tireless collection of goods and her help over the entire weekend, thanks must also go to the other people who helped out on the day, and due to my frazzled state at the time I did not get everyone's names that I should have. Fiona, Soyang, Robyn, Judy, Gerhard, Jan, Cathy, Rebeka, Charlene, Susan – if I have not mentioned your name my apologies and my thanks for your efforts. Janeece and Colin were very supportive; they came up with ideas and did a lot of the behind the scenes work to make sure that things ran smoothly. Colin helped out everywhere, collecting and counting the money and all up there was a **profit of \$1,750-** which was a brilliant result for the Sangye hospital. The first hour of the sale was pandemonium, the second was fun and the third was time for a cuppa and a chat, followed by the clean up.

By Ani Tenpa Chodup.



SACRED FOOTSTEPS TOUR.

The N.J.P. Committee are very pleased and excited to be hosting the "Sacred Footsteps Tour" during February - July, 2005. N.J.P. President, Geshe Sonam Thargye and Helen Wright, National Tour Organiser, along with 6 visiting monks from Monasteries in Southern India, will be touring the countryside of Victoria and New South Wales.

The tour will increase an awareness of and appreciation for Tibetan culture. The monks will be creating Tibetan sand mandalas and butter sculptures as well as holding concerts which include Traditional Tibetan dances, music and chanting. Meditation sessions and informative talks will also be a feature at the various localities.

The tour will also be a fundraising event with the proceeds from the 2005 tour going to the building and equipping of a new hospital in Tibet, to replace the old **Sangye Clinic**. The land has already been purchased and construction has begun. The tour proceeds will help to complete buildings and provide equipment for the brand new clinic.

It is truly wonderful news that the Ganzi area of Tibet will have a new, clean and much more comfortable facility for patients.

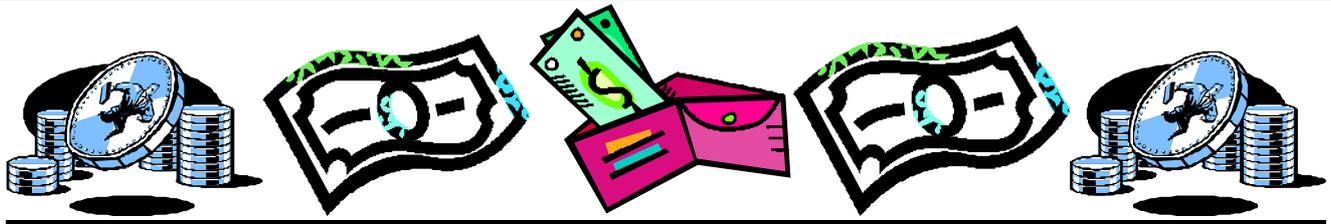


Sand mandalas completed in Geelong during a previous tour.

Don't forget to visit:

www.njp.org.au

for an update of the itinerary and details and of the tour under the 'Upcoming Events' page.



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY SPONSORSHIP PAYMENTS?

Many people have asked me what happens to their money once NJP has received it. Hopefully my answer will give you an insight into how we operate and clarify some issues for you.

First thing is I can't stress enough how important it is for you to put the I/D on the back of your cheque or in the reference field of the deposit slip. Without that information I really struggle to correctly assign the monies to their intended recipient. Luckily this rarely happens so all of you take a big bow. When it does happen, I have no other alternative than to pay it into NJP's general account. If you have made payments and have not received a receipt via email or with the 6 monthly Newsletter you may be in this category. Please contact me and we can sort it out. If I have successfully identified you and your recipient I will either email a receipt or print one to be sent with the Newsletter. All your payments are put into the QuickBooks accounting program that is backed up daily. This program compiles a history of your payment records right down to cheque numbers. At the end of each month when our bank statement arrives, I reconcile my records against the banks record that ensures the accuracy of our records.

Every odd numbered month we send your sponsorship payments to the students. This entails compiling a list of the payments received for the two months just ended containing the: Students name, Students Number, Sponsors Name, Amount (less 3%). We also add to this list, details of any payments received for the School (don-sch) or Hospital (don-hos). We obtain a Bank Cheque for the total amount and send it by Telegraphic Transfer through the Bank of China to Kusho Sangye Rinpoche in Ganzi. (He is the founder and principle of the school and hospital). The list is then sent via registered mail to him. Upon receipt of the monies and our list, he credits the monies to each student and holds it for them in trust. He ensures each student receives the benefits of the sponsorship by providing them individually with uniforms, traditional costumes, school stationary, class notes, meals, and accommodation if required. He also uses the money to benefit them as a whole through the purchase of computers, hiring of teachers, and provision of the basic infrastructure to house & accommodate them. All this is provided free of charge as the families are very poor and the children would not have normally had the opportunity to receive an education. They also receive medical care though the Sangye Hospital.

Every even numbered month we send the monies to the Monks. Once again a list is compiled of the payments received during the last two months containing the: Monks Name, Monks Number & Address, Sponsors Name & Address, Amount (less 3%) and the equivalent amount in Indian Rupees. Any donations to Sera Je Monastery are also added to this list. We obtain a Bank Cheque which is sent via registered mail to our contact at Sera Je Monastery. He banks the cheque and when he receives the list that is emailed directly to him he can then credit the monies to the monks. They are held in a trust fund by the house secretary who is responsible for the purchasing of all their basic needs like food which is debited from their accounts. They are also given money to purchase study items they do have access to their monies and can withdraw some if they wish to visit family during their holidays. The money can be used for any medical expenses they incur and if the need arises, they can obtain a loan to cover larger medical expenses which are expected to be repaid.

**** If they incur extra large medical expenses, NJP has recently established a Medical Emergency Fund (don – mef) to assist them with such costs.**

The sponsorship payments has allowed them to move from the crowded 6 – 8 to a room situation into a more modern 4 to a room unit style accommodation with internal showers and toilets. Their food, which used to be served to 3000 monks at a sitting from large pots, whilst satisfying their hunger was lacking in nutrition. With the sponsorship they are eating far more nutritious meals and have better health as a result. Their concentration and studies are also much improved.

The Nuns receive their payments every four months. The Nuns are living in 6 separate nunneries throughout Ganzi and are also in desperate need of support. We collate a list of the payments received for each Nun for the previous four months. We include the Nuns Number, Name (in English & Tibetan), & the Amount they are to be credited. As in the case of the Students, we deposit a Bank Cheque at the Bank of China for Telegraphic Transfer to Kusho Sangye Rinpoche in Ganzi. Just like the students, the nun's sponsorship payments are held in trust by the nunnery superiors and used to improve their standard of living both individually and collectively. All their needs are taken care of and they do have access to their funds if required. Being able to purchase fresh food has seen a big improvement in the standard of their health along with improvements to their standard of living.

Please note that we deduct 3% from the payments to cover our administration costs. In practice, that means that the recipients receive 97% of your sponsor's money.

As a point of interest, Sera Je has accommodation in the newly built house 26B and sponsors are most welcome to stay there. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with the monk you are sponsoring. Janeec & I will be staying there in October 04 and will be happy to answer any queries from potential visitors.

Tashi Delek to you all.

Colin Kelsall
Treasurer NJP.

A SHOPPING TRIP TO NEPAL.

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to accompany Geshela on a shopping spree to Nepal to purchase handcrafts for the 2005 Sacred Footsteps tour.

Kathmandu is a noisy, smelly, overcrowded, dirty, tumbling down city that is bustling with life. At the end of a busy day of negotiating and buying with my calculator constantly at my fingertips, it was refreshing to retreat to Bodhanath. This is the Tibetan sector of Kathmandu, where we stayed for 2 weeks.

It is a very interesting part of the city where daily life for Buddhists evolves around a huge stupa. From early morning until after dark, people circumambulate the stupa - chanting, praying, chatting and begging.

We were off to an unexpected slow start with a four day curfew called the day after we arrived. This meant shops and roads were closed. The Nepali people had expressed their anger and upset over 12 of their countrymen being killed in Iraq, by rallying, burning down Katar Airlines and destroying a mosque. The curfew was instated to quell any more trouble. Once curfew was lifted, we were off. I had to run to keep up with Geshela and negotiating the pavements was another thing. We achieved a lot in the next 10 days, and Geshela was very satisfied with our purchasing. He said it was much easier and cheaper in Nepal than India. The Nepali people are very warm and friendly and it was a pleasure dealing with them. Business transactions usually began with the ritual cup of coffee. Geshela was a hard bargainer and we got some good deals. Now we are waiting for the 18 large boxes of thankas, shawls, jewelry, prayer

wheels, incense (just to name a few goodies to whet your appetites) to arrive sometime in November. If anyone can help with transportation of these from the Melbourne docks could you please call Fiona 52614690 asap. The boxes fill 6 cubic metres. Now I know what it's like to "shop till you drop" by Fiona Crawford. (N.J.P. committee member)



TOP OF THE WORLD TOUR

With Geshe Sonam Thargye

Travel to Tibet with Geshe Sonam and experience Tibet through his eyes. This is a unique opportunity to see and be part of Tibetan life and culture that would not normally be accessible to the average westerner.

It is a rare opportunity for sponsors of students and nuns in and around the Ganzi district to meet them in their own environment.

The tour will be in August 2005 and will consist of two parts:

The first part will be of 2 weeks duration and will focus on visiting Ganzi and its surrounds. You will go to the Sangye School to meet the students and the Rinpoche, the nuns and the nunneries, the Sangye hospital and local temples and sacred sites. A further option of a 3 day trek will be available for those who wish to participate or you can have a leisurely 3 day rest to enjoy the pristine environment of the area. During these 2 weeks you will meet Tibetan Nomadic families still living as they did centuries ago, plus local sightseeing.

The second part will be a further 3 weeks duration where you will visit Lhasa and 3 of the oldest temples in Tibet being Drepung, Galden, and Potala temples. You will also visit His Holiness the Dalai Lama's former palace and the original Sera Monastery. This part will also take in many of the ancient Tibetan temples and sacred sites plus local sightseeing in the beautiful Himalayan Mountains

You have an opportunity to stay on in a voluntary capacity to work in either the hospital or the school after the tour has finished.

The tour will include airfares, transfers, accommodation, some meals, permits, and your personal guide.

All profits raised from this tour will be donated to the new hospital in Tibet.

This tour is sponsored by Nying-Jey Projects.

Full details will be available in early 2005 when tour details are finalised. Expressions of interest are now being taken so please contact:

Fiona Crawford on Phone: 52614690, Email: fimarkpri@optusnet.com.au to register your interest as numbers will be limited.

An email from the N.J.P. Secretary and Treasurer: October 2004, India.

Hi All,

still at Sera Je Monastery, we have decided to stay a bit longer as it is just so nice being here and I am only just recovering from the Delhi Belly. Those Indians wiped me out good and proper. Colin has been fine though during our time here and is making an absolute guts of himself on the Tibetan momo's. We keep getting special meals prepared for us and of course momo's are always on the menu.

We went to see Jampa & Sherap yesterday at Gymer Monastery. Sherap is away for a few days on Monk business but hopes to get to see us at Sera Je before we leave. Jampa was really well and sends his love to everyone. He showed us around the Monastery and showed us his room where he is doing his retreat. You can touch the walls on all sides if you spread your arms out. I would go crazy in there for 3 yrs; obviously my spiritual enlightenment is a long way behind Jampa's. We also met Geshela's teacher and the senior Abbot as well. They don't speak any English so there was a lot of smiling and nodding etc. happening. What delightful men they are. The senior Abbot is the brother of the Rinpoche that we send the money to in Ganzi so when Geshela explained who we were there was even more smiling and nodding happening. These are such beautiful people it is going to be a tragic shock to the system and have to get back into crazy India. The visit resulted in more kata's. We have got a mountain of these now. We are seriously looking at another bag to get all our gear home. And we still have Goa to visit. We are having lunch with Wangchen today at his house so that will be another feast no doubt. Maybe today I will finally be able to join Colin on the momo's. The monks all look so good and are delighted to see us. They send their love to everyone. We have met some of the new monks coming out to Australia with the tour. They are a strong, healthy looking bunch this time. You won't be short of any physical labor with this lot!

House 26B is a 3 storey 'U' shaped building with its own teaching room where all the monks can gather for teachings, puja ceremonies and prayers. It also has its own large kitchen where they can prepare meals for everyone on special occasions. The toilet/showers are all tiled, modern and spacious. Trouble is there's only one tap for each shower and it's not the hot tap, so afternoon is a good time for a shower. There are now only two monks sharing a spacious room where they used to be up to six. Many of them have their own cooking facilities where they can cook their own meals from produce they buy from the local markets. They also have the option of obtaining their meals from the Monastery's kitchen.

They have areas where they do their washing and a great view from the roof where their clothes lines are. Sera Je has primary and secondary schools in very close walking distance plus Guest Houses, Internet Cafés, Hotels (no beer) & shops of all sorts. It's a miniature city with all of its facilities. Also just out of the grounds are Tibetan Camps where families of some of the monks live and work the fields. In each of the Tibetan camps of which there are several, there are more shops and factories producing all sorts of goods by the Tibetans. We were showed through the Carpet and Incense factories and were amazed to see it all being done by hand. The carpets are stunning so we bought one for my daughters wedding present and had it shipped home.

PS. After we left Sera Je and were biding our time waiting for a train to Mysore a city about the size of Melbourne. We were in a small back alley shopping when Sherap tapped us on the shoulder. It was wonderful to see him especially when we thought we had missed him when we were at Sera Je.

Anyway love to you all, see you soon, Janeece and Colin.

If you would prefer to receive future Newsletters (in full color) via your email, please contact us with your name and email address.

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