

NJP newsletter march

nying-jey projects for tibetan communities (australia)

2016

SUMMER IN TIBET 2016 PLACES STILL AVAILABLE



21 days ~ 16 July – August 5

dates confirmed with flight booking

\$5495; NJP sponsors \$4995

Places still available – closing early March

Contact NJP 0425 765757; njprojects@gmail.com

TIBET STUDENT NEWS 2015 TERTIARY GRADUATE SUCCESS

Very welcome news recently received from Tibet told us of twenty-six sponsored tertiary student graduates, all of whom have found work in the local communities. This is the kind of news that makes us all so glad we do the work we do. Great news to pass on to their sponsors too. And what a diverse group the latest tertiary graduates are.

The former S145 Yaya is a law graduate, S015 Dawa Lhamo is now a doctor, and there are twelve now working as teachers. We are also delighted for the six who have found work with the government and local council, the two electricians, three who have found jobs in retail and the former S097 Deyang who is working as a professional singer.

Congratulations also to the sponsors who supported these students for so many years. This is a great result.

Many of the sponsors of these students have very generously taken on new younger students to help them also achieve their goals and great opportunities in life.

A VISIT TO SERA MONASTERY

NJP sponsor Karen Mayer travelled to Sera Monastery India in December for teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Whilst resident at the monastery, Karen was able to catch up with her sponsored monk Phuntsok Tsering.

The first meeting with my sponsored monk in India started with a night-time unexpected knock on my door.

Phunstok Tsering from House 26B at Sera Jey monastery, who has a Geshe degree and is currently in charge of the kitchen and meals for the 4000 plus monks, was working overtime supervising meals for the Dalai Lama teachings of the 30,000 attendees.

It sounded a mammoth task and his schedule had him waking at 4am and working late into the night. So his unfounded apology for not being able to spend more time with me had us both laughing.

Having said that, a few nights later Phuntsok showed great generosity and kindness by cooking a delicious banquet for me. I felt very appreciative, not only was the meal delicious and of Masterchef quality, but even sparing time from his already overworked schedule left me feeling very humble.

It was wonderful to see so many visitors to Sera catching up with their sponsors via Nying Jey. It helped me realise the welcome contribution my small annual donation makes to the monks' lives and the efforts the monks and nuns go to in trying to repay that kindness.



HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS?

Postal or email?

Please let NJP know

Email: njprojects@gmail.com

THE DANGEROUS PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT

NJP Vice President Dr Darren Fahroedin also travelled to a teaching by the Dalai Lama in December, but held a week earlier than Karen's visit, at Gyumed Monastery. Darren doesn't sponsor anyone in India, but has given us a little glimpse of his journey, his time at home base in Sera Monastery and the time spent at Gyumed Monastery for the teaching.

Midnight Bangalore. Meeting up with my five travelling companions. Our common goal; to attend teachings by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, at Gyumed Monastery in Hunsur, Southern India.

The seven-seater rental car expected at 3am arrives at 2am. With my five travelling companions, we head into the night, taking the backroads, guided by online maps. Snippets of sleep amongst the hypnotic sway of Indian traffic, flashing lights, and tooting horns. At least one close call where a head-on loomed - the truck swerved back onto its own side just in time.

Five hours later bleary eyed drivers & passengers emerge from the car at Sera-Jey Monastery in Bylakuppe. We are greeted by Geshe Sonam Thargye and Kalsang, Sera monk and longstanding India committee member for NJP.

We settle into life at Sera Jey Monastery. More than just a monastery, really a collection of monasteries, and what is more like a small suburb that has arisen from the Indian jungle. This was once a small parcel of land given to the Tibetans by the Indian Government as they were granted asylum, most having fled their homeland since 1959.

What now stands has largely emerged since 1970 into a great Buddhist learning institution that mirrors the old

monasteries in Tibet. Tibetan Buddhism & culture is alive and well here. The support of the Indian Government to make this possible is a lesson in itself, though not without recent pressures about the ownership of this land. Generous support from NJP sponsors is another way Australians support not just the survival but the flourishing of Tibetan Buddhism.



We ate well, perhaps too well! An evening walk around the monastery, soon became our post-prandial ritual. Armed with torches we encounter a cobra, no snake charmers here, just a friendly warning from a monk in the darkness. A wide berth and we view the writhing reptile from a safe distance.

Geshe Sonam Thargye with long standing and very hard working India committee member Kalsang Namgyal



Common mode of transport for monks going to the teachings



Long line of monks & nuns entering Gyumed



Settling in to listen to the teachings in the front yard of monks houses surrounding the main temple



A rich experience indeed, even before I get to the teachings! I pinch myself as I realise 'I am in India and I am about to listen to His Holiness the Dalai Lama again'. I feel very blessed.

Our travelling Dharma group now numbers eight with 2 visitors from Russia who arrived the day before us. An hour commute from Sera Monastery to Gyumed Monastery each morning, a little more on return. The day is full. Like clockwork we get ready at the designated departure time.

Gyumed Monastery has a relaxed and rural feel even on the occasion of the Dalai Lama's teaching there.

Amongst trees and bunkhouses the mood is festive, inclusive and I am reminded of how this simple monk has brought Tibetan Buddhism to the world, brought different Buddhist traditions together and created a conversation between Buddhism and science which is transforming the way we all view our world.

Four days of teaching – the words of the Dalai Lama continue to echo in my mind and find a resonance in my being in the days and weeks that follow. This and so much more occurred in a week jammed packed with adventure. A dangerous path? Well at times, but I wouldn't have it any other way.
