

## AUSTRALIA'S GREEN TARA

A beautiful depiction of Green Tara is destined for the Lama Yeshe Memorial Garden at Atisha Centre in Bendigo, Australia. It was commissioned by Atisha Centre's Dennis Kenny and Ruby Karmay in 2003.

Sculptor and long-time student of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Barbara McLean, has gifted her time and studio space to make this project a reality. Barbara's work includes commissioned portrait sculptures of politicians, war heroes, athletes and chiefs of the Yassawa Islands of Fiji. Her folio of thirty portraits of tennis champions for the Australian National Tennis Hall of Fame is the largest collection of bronze portraits in Australia.

The life-size statue of Tara was originally modeled in clay, and in late 2004 this clay image was coated in silicon rubber in order to make a

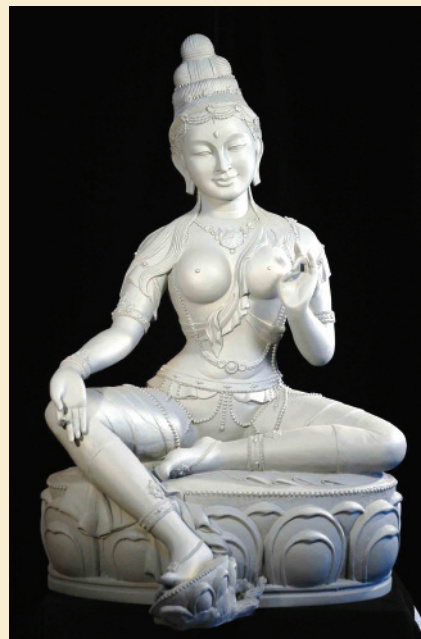
mold to capture the work for future castings.

The fiber-glass version pictured is made from this mold. There are many more individual and complex molds to be made of the sculptural details to complete Australia's Green Tara.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has viewed and approved the work in progress, quietly saying it was "very good, very well made".

The aim is to caste Tara's image in bronze, coloring her the pale blue-green of the Australian gum leaf, as suggested by Ven. Thubten Gyatso. A Tibetan-style pagoda to shelter her is also planned.

This will be the first Westernized image of the noble lady Tara, and because of the way in which she is constructed, the silicon rubber mold will be available for the casting of many more statues.



For more information about the project please visit the website of the Atisha Centre at [www.atishacentre.org.au](http://www.atishacentre.org.au) or contact Ruby Karmay at [rubykarmay@gmail.com](mailto:rubykarmay@gmail.com).

## LKPY's Peace Grant Projects

By Shyla Bauer

September 21, 2008 was the United Nations International Day of Peace. To celebrate this, Loving Kindness Peaceful Youth (LKPY) continued its tradition of practicing generosity by awarding a \$AUD5,000 peace grant. The winner of the 2008 peace grant was Nadi Jay-DeSilva (pictured). Nadi aims to spend the next year developing a modern, highly engaging and interactive website – Happy Heart – that encourages people, particularly youth, to get involved in volunteering programs.

The winner of the 2007 peace grant was a group of students who used the grant to help put together a Peace Unplugged concert in Suva, Fiji. They took to the stage on September 26, 2008, creating a concert beyond their expectations, with capacity audience and performers – acoustic solo, group, poets and theatre groups – coming together to create and discuss peace in a completely acoustic concert. Check out their website [www.bebo.com/PeaceU8](http://www.bebo.com/PeaceU8). As Peace Unplugged says: "Peace can be found in the strumming of a guitar or the chirping of birds ..."



For more about the peace grant go to [www.lkpy.org](http://www.lkpy.org) or email [peacegrant@lkpy.org](mailto:peacegrant@lkpy.org)



## Sanghata Sutra Marathon

For ten days in October, the monks of Nalanda Monastery in Lavaur, France again successfully recited the *Sanghata Sutra* continuously in an effort to create merit for the welfare of all sentient beings. In order to encourage others to help them meet their ambitious fundraising goal, the 24-hours-a-day marathon was broadcast live via webcam! Half of the funds raised was sent to Tsetang Khangtsen, the college within Sera Je Monastery in which their abbot, Geshe Lobsang Jamphal, studied. The other half was used to mend the leaky roof in their oldest building, a beautiful French château. For Losang Tsultrim, the marathon “was like diving into the Dharma”. “For the 10 days that we recited, even when we weren’t reading, it was still over us somehow. It was like we were soaked in the sutra,” he said.

## A Glimpse of FPMT in the Palm of Your Hand

FPMT International Office has designed and produced an attractive brochure intended to give a sense of the amazing FPMT organization in a format that fits in the palm of your hand. Containing inspiring images and quotes from His Holiness, Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche, this brochure touches upon FPMT’s worldwide network of Dharma centers, compassionate service projects, excellent education programs, and its International Office, giving new-

comers and older students alike a fresh illustration of the vast services which the FPMT organization provides. The International Office team hopes that the brochure will be a helpful way to connect visitors, students, center/project directors and board members to Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the FPMT, and hopes that this will help existing centers and projects to place themselves in the amazingly positive and inspiring context of the worldwide FPMT mandala. These long awaited brochures can be ordered through the Foundation Store [www.fpmt.org/shop](http://www.fpmt.org/shop).

## FPMT Handbook for Mandala

The FPMT Handbook has been updated! This is the essential policy and guideline reference for all offering service in the FPMT organization. As Lama Osel Rinpoche recently commented:

“I really feel it is vital all centers should use the Handbook, which may not be happening fully at present. There is so much of Lama Yeshe’s advice contained in the Handbook. Lama Yeshe left everything so perfectly. He was a very modern teacher.”

Last updated in 2003, the FPMT Handbook encapsulates 40 years of key organizational advice from our Founder, Lama Yeshe, and Spiritual Director, Lama Zopa Rinpoche together with experience and best practice from those offering service over the years. It is a very juicy manual.

One exciting aspect of this update is that we have combined the FPMT Handbook with the *Service Manual for Spiritual Program Coordinators* in order to make these excellent tools easier to access and use.

Osel also recommended that “center staff, key personnel, and all residents should possibly even sit an exam on the Handbook to ensure they really know it!” ☺

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- Grant A (Toongabbie)

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