



'The Wisdom Age'

Newsletter of Drogmi Buddhist Institute
A Tibetan Buddhist Centre in the Sakya Tradition

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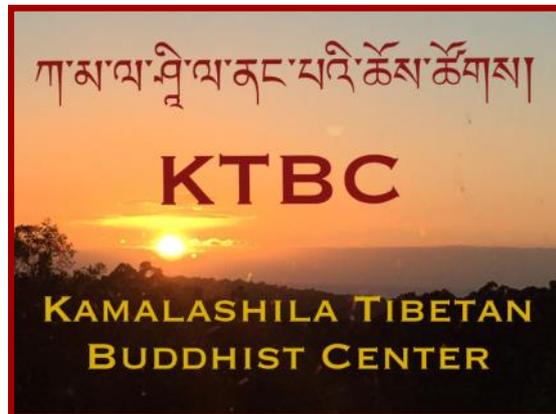
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OUR NEW HOME

KAMALASHILA TIBETAN BUDDHIST CENTRE, TILBA NSW



Drogmi Buddhist Institute is delighted to announce that the inaugural event at the new premises were held at Tilba Tilba on 5 & 6 December. Khenpo la announced at the AGM that the new premises is now named "*Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre*". His Holiness the Sakya Trizin has given His blessings for the purchase of this property and it's name. His Eminence Luding Khen Rinpoche gave his blessings recently to Khenpo la and the centre members. This so very special as we embark on further Dharma activities.

On Saturday 5 December at 4:30pm, Khenpo la, the committee, members and friends gathered for the AGM. Khenpo la gave his heartfelt thank you to all those who assisted in the purchase and move to the new premises. There were so many who helped, packing and unpacking, cleaning, transporting goods, and cooking to name a few tasks. This required great effort and many members and friends assisted. Khenpo la paid a special thank you to Joe Morrissey, a dedicated member who offered many hours of legal service to the centre. After the formalities, the celebratory dinner was offered and we all got to enjoy each others company in the beautiful surrounds.

On Sunday 6 December at 6:30am, Khenpo la led the first group practice with the elaborate Green Tara Puja. This was followed by recitation of Recollecting the Triple Gem and the Sixteen Arhat Puja. The Sixteen Arhat Puja is traditionally conducted at such auspicious and celebratory occasions. The puja was beautifully led in Tibetan by Khenpo la and in English by Lael and auspicious rice and tea was offered.

It is such an extraordinary blessing to now have a permanent home for Drogmi Buddhist Institute and our precious teacher, Khenpo la.

A regular meditation morning will be held starting next year, along with many other events we are currently planning including retreats and workshops.

Information on the full program for 2016 will be available in early January and will be emailed to you. We look forward to sharing time with you at Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre very soon.

Please note all our contacts remain the same including the phone number.



Khenpo la's Address at the AGM 5 December 2015 & Images of the Transition to Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre, Tilba Tilba NSW

Khenpo thanked everyone for participating in this Annual General Meeting, noting it was an historical meeting being the first held in this very special place. Khenpo reflected that since 2009 we have been looking for a permanent base, and that while the wish was to be close to Sydney, economically this was beyond our reach. The search had moved to the Wollongong area when we heard from members that this centre in Tilba Tilba was going to be sold. We started exploring the feasibility of purchasing the property, inspections were undertaken, and negotiations commenced. The centre had been running for 20 years, with a lot of good infrastructure, but still with work to be done.

Khenpo stated his belief that there were good opportunities for long term growth for the centre, and that our energies as members and committee must now turn to raising funds to pay the mortgage off as soon as possible.

Khenpo advised that while at Lam Dre in Malaysia he spoke with His Holiness the Sakya Trizin of the hope to buy the property, and asked His Holiness to pray for our success. When contracts exchanged on the property, Khenpo asked Jack (DBI President) to write to His Holiness, who gave His support and blessing to the centre. His Holiness also gave His blessing to the name "*Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre*" (KTBC). His Holiness had sent a letter, which was circulated at the meeting.

His Eminence Luding Khen Rinpoche also gave his blessing, and Khenpo advised that His Eminence has accepted Khenpo's invitation to visit in 2017, noting this has yet to be confirmed.

Khenpo spoke of seeing the centre as one which will be of benefit to the wider community, and that it will be made available for activities such as yoga, healing retreats, and family retreats. Khenpo is considering one week Mindfulness, Vipassana style retreats being held several times a year for Buddhists and non-Buddhists. Khenpo's goal is for the Dharma and broader communities to come and feel they have some peace and joy at the centre, feel comfortable and included, and also have some spiritual benefit. The centre name was chosen to reflect that it will have many uses to support spiritual development and health, not solely as a retreat centre.

Khenpo noted that the existing

accommodation is basic, and that if we are to undertake the program he envisages it, improvements would need to be made to accommodation, and for this to occur we need to be financially strong.

Khenpo spoke of the need to have a plan, which would then guide the contributions of people in an organised way. For example, the Gompa area will be mapped, and a plan developed for a stupa and garden. This plan will then be used to guide people in what they can do to help KTBC. In this way people can contribute, the community grows stronger, and everything will be completed according to an overall plan, so there is an orderly approach rather than chaotic.

Khenpo reminded us that Dharma is medicine for the ego, and to be mindful when we run a place that this is not done with ego. We need to ensure we are humble, kind and respectful.

Khenpo advised that Chenrab is happy to be the centre caretaker not only when Khenpo is away, but when he returns. Khenpo noted that we are very fortunate to have the support of such a reliable person, who knows the Dharma so well. Khenpo shared that whenever he has mentioned the new centre to people on his various teaching engagements, they have been very supportive and happy there is now a base. Khenpo hopes that all these people can come and spend time at KTBC. Khenpo then thanked the people in Sydney and the South Coast who helped with the move, as well as members of the committee. Khenpo specifically asked Lael to formally thank Joe Morrissey for undertaking all the legal aspects of the purchase. When asked to describe his vision for KTBC, Khenpo la summarised as follows:

- ◇ His personal dedication to working together for many years to come to ensure the centre is of benefit to many people.
- ◇ Pay off the mortgage.
- ◇ Negotiate with Council to build additional accommodation.
- ◇ To run different spiritual activities so to have a mixture, which would benefit the community.

At Khenpo la's request Jack read His Holiness the Sakya Trizin letter of support.





Above: After travelling 5 hours, the Shrine and Khenpo la have arrived at their new home.
 Below: Two days later the truck arrived from the Sydney centre driven by Noel and Ann.

Above left: Ani Nyidon provides the exhausted moving team a delicious Tibetan dinner.
 Above right: Green Tara & Sixteen Arhat Puja led by Khenpo la in KTBC's new Gompa.
 Below left: Andrew, Suzanne Alan and Annie help throughout the week whilst others returned home.
 Below right: Khenpo la plants the first of many lily's in the pond, a beautiful beginning.



Many thanks to long time student of Khenpo la's, Katarina for celebrating at her home in Sydney and for providing the precious lily planted above.



UPCOMING HEALING & PURIFICATION RETREAT



Khenpo la invites you to visit the *Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre* for the Healing and Purification Retreat from 27 December to 1 January.

Khenpo la is keen to share this very special place with you all. It is located near Tilba Tilba, one of the most beautiful areas in NSW, and a perfect place to rest and re-energise your body and mind after a busy year of work, family and everyday commitments. The land is also a very special spiritual place for the local Aboriginal community, being of major cultural significance.

Being only a few minutes drive to the stunning South Coast beaches, you are welcome to arrive a day early and depart a day later, to enjoy what is on offer in the natural beauty of the area. Please let us know in advance if you intend to do this so that we know to expect you.

This retreat is a perfect opportunity to receive teachings and instructions on meditation from such a perfect guide such as Khenpo la. The retreat will focus on the Medicine Buddha and Vajrasattva practices, and will include plenty of time to rest. One of our centre members, Hollie, who is a yoga instructor, will also offer a yoga session once a day to attendees.

When:

27 December (2pm) to 1 January (10am)

Where:

Kamalashila Tibetan Buddhist Centre, 9000 Princes Highway Tilba, NSW (on the right heading south 1.6kms past the Bermagui turnoff).

Cost:

Full Retreat \$500/\$450 members/early bird/concession;
Daily \$100/\$90 membership/early bird/concession

*Cost includes teachings, meals, accommodation and texts.
Early bird discount is available for payments made in full by
20 December*

Bookings are essential at www.drogmi.org or call 0403 779 099.

Note:

When booking please indicate if you are requiring accommodation. The retreat is available to attend on a daily basis.

Everyone is welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

