

**Phrakhru Phawananuwat's Speech**  
**The Great Stupa of Compassion**  
**Bendigo, Victoria, Australia**  
**Tuesday 27 January, at 2 pm**

Dear Mr Ian Green and Buddhist followers,

First of all, I am very happy to hear of Mr Ian Green and his family's kind and generous gift of this land for the benefit of Buddhism, and also for constructing the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

The Jade Buddha is the largest Jade Buddha statute to have ever been created, it stands at 2.7 meters high, sitting on a solid alabaster throne of 1.4 meters high, with a total weight of four-tonnes, and is valued at more than 5 million dollars.

The Jade Buddha was carved from a rare boulder of high grade translucent jade (nicknamed "Polar Pride"), which was discovered in Canada in the year 2000. It was transported to Thailand in 2005, entrusted to be sculptured by Jade Thongtavee Company Limited. The carving of the Jade Buddha was overseen by the son of the founder and current manager, Mr Vanit Yotharvut. I had the honour of leading a group of monks to recite sutras before the commencement of the sculpturing project.

During the sculpturing process, many complications and challenges had to be resolved. However, all of these challenges were overcome by good karma. Upon completion, the Jade Buddha has been travelling all around the world where many people have been able to observe the parami and beauty, and to pay homage.

Today, I have the opportunity to visit Mr Ian at this fortunate place and to see the Great Stupa, which complements the creation of the Jade Buddha. This can be seen as a marvellous wonder of our time, for the benefit of all sentient beings, especially for Buddhism.

In this opportunity, I have brought Holy Relics of the Buddha gifted by His Holiness Somdet Phramaharatchamangkhalachan, the acting Supreme Patriarch (the Head of all Members of the Sangha in Thailand). He is the abbot of Wat Paknam Bhasicharoen in Bangkok, Thailand. His Holiness had entrusted the Holy Relics to me. Originally I did not have the intention to donate the Holy Relics to the Great Stupa, but I wanted to come here to visit Mr Ian. After having contact with Mr Vanit Yotharvut, I was informed that Mr Ian invited people to bring holy objects to donate to the Stupa.

I was surprised why I brought along the Holy Relics on this current visit to Australia. But upon learning of Mr Ian's purpose and intention for the Stupa, I decided that these Holy Relics would be best suited to the Great Stupa in Bendigo.

In the execution of big projects or performing good deeds, there will always be obstacles. I hope that these obstacles will challenge your perceived limitations and reassess your abilities, strengthen your need to create good karma, and may they be the force that will protect and assist you toward a successful outcome in the end.

May Mr Ian and his family and everyone present here today advance in your Buddhist practice. I wish everyone to permanently have the following four (4) things:

1. Longevity;
2. Beauty;
3. Peace, being of mind and body; and
4. Good health.