

**Jade Buddha for Universal Peace World Tour - Perth, WA, Australia.**

**Closing Speech by Ian Green**

**On the Occasion of the Closing Ceremony of the Jade Buddha Exhibition  
At Museum of Western Australia - Perth,  
31st October 2009**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the closing ceremony of the exhibition of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace. My name is Suresh Rajan and I am the Executive Officer for the Ethnic Communities Council of WA. Before we commence the formal proceedings this afternoon, let me acknowledge the prior ownership by the Nyoongar people of the land on which we are gathered. We pay our respects to the Nyoongar elders, past and present and we thank them for the use of their land for the last two weeks that this Buddha statue has resided here. We also thank the WA Museum and their staff in having been incredible efficient and accommodating hosts over that period. We will be formally thanking them a little bit later in these proceedings.

I would like to acknowledge the presence this afternoon of the following special guests:

- Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton and representing the Premier of Western Australia, Hon Mr Colin Barnett and Dr Nyuk Nahan. Dr Nahan has been an incredible supporter of the Buddha statue with details on his website as well as a number of articles in his newsletters etc.
- Hon Liz Behjat, the Member for the North Metropolitan Province in State Parliament and her husband, Reza Behjat and their son, Ali. I also owe an apology to Ms Behjat for having acknowledged her and then noting her absence at the opening ceremony. The invitation sent in the mail to her went astray and that was the reason she was not here for that event. So, if we caused you some embarrassment, we proffer our apologies.
- Hon Ms Margaret Quirk, Member for Girrawheen
- Mr Frank Crawley, Honorary Consul General for Sri Lanka
- Mr. Tan Seng Khee, Vice Consul for the Consulate of Malaysia
- Mr Fred Belford President, Royal Association of Justices of WA and his wife
- Ms Nihal Iscel, President of the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre
- Hon Sam Piantadosi, Former member of Parliament and Deputy Lord Mayor of Town of Bassendean and his wife Angie
- From the Museum and their Board of Trustees we have the following people:
  - James Dexter and his wife Kate
  - Diana Jones
  - Tim Eastwood
  - Dr Anita Lee Hong
  - Felena Alach
- And probably the most special guests are all of you who are here in various capacities, as volunteers, visitors and the general public. Your presence here is much appreciated.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the closing ceremony. Unfortunately for a number of us it is a sad time whilst we gather to say goodbye. Goodbye to something that has become a part of the lives for many of us. We have

come in here many times during the last two weeks and sat with what felt like a close friend and certainly a very calming influence. We have contemplated what it is we could do to strive for world peace. We have contemplated what we could do in our own personal lives and in our own little way to get that world peace. And, whilst we have been doing all of that, we have had the good fortune of having this statue by our side. It has been a quite remarkable two week period for all of us associated with the statue.

We have an approximate figure of the numbers that have been through but we believe this figure may be a little bit down on the actual. Our estimate is that somewhere between 20 and 25 thousand people may have come to the Museum over the period that the statue has been in situ. This compares with around 8000 at the Museum over the same period last year and similar numbers the year before. So I guess in any measure this has been an outstanding success.

I don't intend to speak for long as there a number of people who are also speaking. I know that all of us have come, over the last two weeks to regard this statue as a live being. We have taken it into our hearts and embraced it as a fellow human being. Therefore in saying goodbye, we do so in a fashion befitting that closeness: Remember that while we say goodbye

Goodbye is not an Ending  
When you know that people care,  
For miles may come between you,  
But warm thoughts are always there  
Goodbye is not an ending  
But a different start for you,  
A time for making brand-new friends  
And seeing dreams come true  
Goodbye is not an ending,  
For you'll find along life's way  
Within your heart you'll always have  
A part of yesterday.

And yesterday we had this magnificent statue in our midst

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now call on Dr Make Nahan representing the Premier of Western Australia, Hon Mr Colin Barnett, to come up and address us

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now call on Mr Victor Ngu to come up and address us

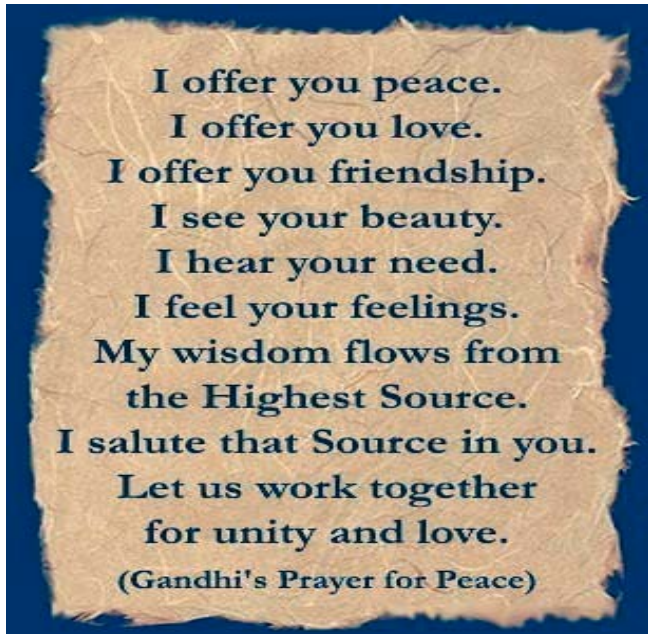
Ladies and Gentlemen, Venerable Jhampa will now address us and hand out some awards.

We now have a dedication by Ven Kunsang and Ven Jhampa

As the very last item on our agenda, we now have the group dedication. It is with you and we hope

that you would join in but appreciate it if you choose not to:

If you can turn to the person to your right and offer this prayer for peace to them



And finally:

May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind  
quickly be freed from their illnesses.  
May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free.  
May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one  
another.  
May those who find themselves in trackless, fearful wildernesses—  
the children, the aged, the unprotected---  
be guarded by beneficent celestials,  
and may they swiftly attain Buddhahood.  
Om Mani Padme Hum