

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**

Honoured Guests, Venerable Sangha...Brothers and Sisters.

It is a great pleasure to be here at the closing ceremony at the Museum of Western Australia. The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is being taken on a tour of the world in the wish that it will inspire everyone who sees it to follow the path of peace.

I am pleased to say that the showing here in Perth has been a great success which has exceeded all our expectations.

Over the last two weeks we estimate that over 25,000 people came to see the Jade Buddha. A great result! This is the first time the Jade Buddha has been shown indoors and I'm sure that after this success in Perth it will not be the last time.

From Perth the Jade Buddha travels back to Sydney where it will appear on stage with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. After that it is off to Melbourne before travelling to USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. After the world tour concludes in 4 or 5 years the Jade Buddha will come to its final home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo.

Rising to a height of nearly 50 metres the Great Stupa will be the largest Buddhist Stupa outside of Asia. Its total cost is in excess of \$20 million and it is entirely funded by donation. All donations received here in Perth will go toward the world tour of the Jade Buddha and the construction of the Great Stupa.

We thank the Museum of Western Australia for their vision in hosting the Jade Buddha tour.

We thank everyone who has supported this visit to Perth...everyone who has sponsored a small piece of the Jade boulder or a light offering to the Jade Buddha. We especially thank the team of 150 volunteers who have worked so hard to make this showing such a success.

I particularly thank Ven Jhampa, Ven Kunsang, Diane, Lily, AK and Sau Chee for their hard work throughout the showing.

And finally I thank the Project Coordinator of the Jade Buddha tour of Perth Mr Victor Ngu. It was Victor's passion that the Perth showing of the Jade Buddha to be one of the best in the world that has driven us all. I ask Victor to come forward to accept this model of the Great Stupa as a sign of our appreciation. Thank you all and may peace break out around our world.

Ian Green
Jade Buddha for Universal Peace