

Jade Buddha for Universal Peace World Tour

**Ian Green's Closing Speech at Quang Minh, Melbourne, Australia.
Sunday, 3 January 2010.**

Honoured Guests, Venerable Sangha...Brothers and Sisters.
It is a great pleasure to be here at the closing ceremony at Quang Minh.

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 Quang Minh has been a great success which has exceeded all our expectations.

Over the last two weeks we estimate that 10,000 people came to see the Jade Buddha. I congratulate Abbot Thich Phuoc Tan and everyone at Quang Minh who with very short notice created this magnificent and sacred presentation of the Jade Buddha.

From Melbourne the Jade Buddha travels 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 at Quang Minh will go toward the world tour of the Jade Buddha and the construction of the Great Stupa.

The Great Stupa has enjoyed a close brotherly relationship with Quang Minh for many years. This connection was sealed even further by the sponsorship of a Jade Buddha carved from "Polar Pride" which will be permanently on display in this magnificent temple. This Jade Buddha has nine copies here at Quang Minh and today we wish to offer Venerable Phuoc Tan the final piece of his collection – the 10th Buddha for the main shrine.

Thank you all and may peace break out around our world.

NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT

Ian Green