



Jade Buddha for Universal Peace World Tour - Sydney, Australia.

Speech by Ian Green for the Opening Ceremony.

Representatives of the Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, and Sikh faiths, honoured guests, Brothers and Sisters.

In the year 2000 an 18 tonne boulder of jade was discovered in Canada. Its massive size and gem-quality sparked intense interest in what was described as “the find of the millennium”.

I was introduced to that boulder, which by then had been given the name “Polar Pride”, in 2003. Today marks the culmination of over five years of dreaming, planning and hard work for my wife Judy and myself, as well as for the thousands of people around the world who have donated their money and their time to this project; to create the world’s largest gem-quality Jade Buddha.

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 reflect upon peace; peace for the world; peace in their relationships; peace for their families and friends; peace at work; and peace in their mind.

So far, our visit has exceeded our greatest dreams. In just three months in Vietnam over 4 million people paid homage to the Jade Buddha. In Brisbane several thousand came to see the Jade Buddha and today we open our display at one of Sydney’s iconic sites, the magnificent Chinese Gardens at Darling Harbour.

After touring the capital cities of our country the Buddha will head overseas again, in 2011 to USA and Canada, in 2012 to Europe and in 2013 it will travel back to Asia. After all the travelling it will find its home at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo.

We thank our benefactors who have helped pay for our costs and our small but dedicated group of volunteers who have worked very hard on this visit for the past six months.

I also thank Kylie Kwong who has made time in her busy life to unveil the Jade Buddha. Like the Jade Buddha, Kylie has a heritage that is steeped in Asia but at the same time is very much an Australian.

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