



## **Jade Buddha for Universal Peace World Tour - Horsley Park NSW, Australia.**

### **Opening Speech by Ian Green On the Occasion of the Unveiling of the Jade Buddha, At Van An Temple, 7th August 2009**

Venerable Sangha, Mr Nick Lalick, Mayor of the City of Fairfield, Honoured Guests, Brothers and Sisters.

It is such a pleasure for Judy and I to be back here at Van An with our dear friend Thich Quang Nghiem. The last time we were here was with the Great Stupa Holy Relics tour when we lived here for 10 days and this is where we learnt to love Vietnamese vegetarian food and how to eat every meal with chopsticks.

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 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 4 million people paid homage to the Jade Buddha. Including over half a million people at Van An Temple in Dong Thap province.

The Vietnamese Australians have always been major supporters of the Jade Buddha. And it was our way of thanking them that we arranged for the first showing in the world of the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace, to be in Vietnam.

After touring the capital cities of our country the Buddha then heads back overseas again in 2010 to USA and Canada and in 2011 to Europe.

I thank the small but dedicated group of volunteers who have worked so hard to make this tour reality.

May the Buddhadharma flourish. Thank you all and may peace break out around our world.

NAM MO BON SU THICH CA MAU NI PHAT