



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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INFORMATION SHEET SEVENTEEN THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE NEPALESE PEACE PAGODAS IN THE TRADITIONAL NEPALESE CONTEXT

Pagoda making commenced in Nepal from the 4th century A.D. There was also another Pagoda making period from the 18th century onwards. There are other 3,000 Pagodas in Nepal, sometimes several dozen in a single village. Whilst the architecture of each Pagoda is strikingly similar, the themes discussed on the Pagoda's doorways, archways, struts, and so on are contextual to the village and persons where the Pagoda is located.

Brisbane's Nepal Peace Pagoda is similar to Pashupatinath Temple on the eastern side of Kathmandu, on the banks of the Bagmati River. Pashupatinath Temple is considered to be one of Hindu's most sacred sites, and many Hindus visit to make a pilgrimage. The Royal Family of Nepal also visit Pashupatinath prior to making an important decision or travelling overseas.

Pashupatinath Temple, like the Brisbane Nepal Peace Pagoda, is dedicated to the Lord Shiva, considered to be the most powerful of the Hindu Trinity, and is also an important site for cremation by funeral pyre, recognizing the important role in Hinduism of water as a symbol of life.

The Pashupatinath precinct has separate admission for Hindus and non-Hindus, and an admission charge is required.

Within the traditional Nepalese context, only the Priest, Monk, or guest would be allowed inside the Pagoda. Worshippers would come to the Pagoda forecourt and ring the Peace Bell to alert the deity they have come to worship, and would do their worship at the Pagoda's forecourt outside.

The second and other levels of the Pagoda would be used as 'mandap' ('rest house' in Sanskrit) where itinerant Priests and Monks would always be guaranteed accommodation as they travelled from one village to the other.

Pagodas also have an important role for festivals and worship according to the Village's Patron Deity.

They are the religious, community, social, and market place centres of the Village.