



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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long has the Pagoda been here?

The Pagoda was made for World Expo '88, and took two years of carving of indigenous Nepalese timbers by 160 Nepalese families in Kathmandu. It was shipped to Brisbane via Colombo, and assembled for World Expo '88 at the Expo site. During World Expo '88 the Pagoda was located at the Expo site's southern most gate, near South Bank (then Expo South/Vulture Street) Railway Station.

When South Bank Parklands was opened in 1992, on the former Expo site, the Pagoda was re-situated to its present riverfront location.

2. Is it teak? What type of wood is it?

The Pagoda is made of woods indigenous to the forests of Nepal. Three different types of timbers were used, each with their respective strength and stress properties. 'saal wood' for the support beams, 'asna wood' for the floorings and ceilings, and 'sisso wood' for the decorative elements.

3. Is it from Thailand?

No, the Pagoda is from Nepal, of indigenous Nepalese timbers, carved by Nepalese craftspersons in Nepal.

4. Did they make the Pagoda here?

No, the Pagoda was made in Nepal, the result of over 1 million work hours by 160 Nepalese families, some two years of work. It was finally re-assembled on site for World Expo '88 by a handful of Australian workers under Nepalese supervision, a task that required a few days. Same again happened when the Pagoda was dismantled and re-erected at its present riverfront location.

5. Is it used as a temple today?

The Pagoda is used predominantly as a tourist attraction and significant cultural heritage of World Expo '88. It can also be used for private functions, from weddings to corporate business product launches, parties and so on.

The Pagoda is also used by the Nepalese community and Nepal Australia friendship

groups for special festivities, Nepalese New Year, and charity events.

6. Who looks after the Pagoda?

The Pagoda is managed by South Bank Corporation, who is the manager for South Bank Parklands.

7. Who owns the Pagoda?

The owner of the Pagoda is the City of Brisbane.

8. Was it a gift from Nepal?

The Pagoda, like many international Pavilions at World Expo '88, was commissioned and created for the six months of the World Expo. And, at the end of the Expo it had to find a new home. We are indebted to the Nepalese for creating the Nepal Peace Pagoda for World Expo '88 – we are doubly blessed that we were able to keep it.

9. What does the number 2045 mean at the side of the Pagoda?

This refers to the date 1988 A.D. in the Hindu 'Vikrama Samvat' calendar. The Vikrama Samvat calendar commenced in 57 B.C.

10. Why do people give money to the goddess, and what happens to the money?

People give money to the goddess because they see money there. The money is collected on a regular basis by South Bank Corporation and is used towards maintenance costs of the Pagoda.