

PERTH WESAK PANDAL - 2013

Wesak , the most sacred of Buddhist festivals commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death (called Parinirvana) of the Lord Buddha is held on the full moon day in May and on the following day.

Starting at dawn, Buddhists dressed in white, start to make their way to the temple to observe sil, in which they spend the day meditating, reading religious texts, and listening to Buddhist sermons. At night the temples are crowded with devotees bringing flowers and offerings.

Wesak is a joyous occasion and is celebrated with verve and imagination. Apart from the religious aspect of the Wesak day, it is a big cultural festival in all the Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia, especially in Sri Lanka. There are lots of vibrant events such as folk art and drama, puppet shows, colourful processions, concerts of devotional songs.

Among the many striking decorations are intricate Wesak paper lanterns of different shapes and sizes, and the thousands of little clay coconut oil lamps (pol-thel pahana) that flicker all night. Refreshment stalls (called Wesak Dansala/alms-giving) are set up on every corner of highly populated cities and the refreshments are given free to sightseers by the Buddhist devotees. This is a massive social service and forms a big part of the sightseeing activities during this time. The history of the typical 'dansala' dates back to the era of the Lord Buddha. At that time kings and other upper-class leaders provided food and refreshments for the poor especially during the festive seasons.

One of the biggest events unique to Sri Lankan Wesak festival is the Wesak Pandal, which is a huge construction of paintings illuminated by a large number of light bulbs. These bulbs light up creating incredible patterns and colours.

In commemorating these three historical events,
Kenwick Sri Lankan Buddhist Temple
(78 Austin Avenue, Kenwick)

will be displaying a beautiful Wesak Pandal

on the 25th and on the 26th of May 2013.

There will also be a "dansala" serving delicious vegetarian Sri Lankan food on both days.

This beautiful Wesak Pandal will depict the life events of the Lord Buddha and will be illuminated by a myriad of flashing colour lights which will consist of about 4500 lights.

The activity will also be a fun and vibrant way for your children to become more aware of the Buddhist cultural values.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you and your children to see a beautiful Wesak Pandal drawn, lit up and erected by your own Perth artists. This year, a dedicated team of about sixty volunteers have been working together, donating their valuable time, skill and creativity to build a huge pandal to bring this colourful cultural event to the West Australian Community.

The Pandal will be officially lit up on 25th of May at 6.30 p.m. by the invited guests.

We cordially invite you to join us and witness this valuable lifetime experience.

Let's celebrate Wesak together!

The team behind the Perth Wesak Pandal