



**BAROM KAGYU CHODRAK DRUPJU CHULING (INCORPORATED)**

INC 9888339 - ABN 72 168 544 397

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## **Losar Festival Celebration in Sefton 25th February – 27th February 2017**

Losar is considered to be the most significant festival of the Buddhist Community in Tibet. The festival marks the Tibetan New Year and is celebrated with great splendour and grandeur. The word Losar has been derived from two Tibetan words, “lo” means ‘year’ and ‘sar’ meaning ‘new’. The Tibetan Buddhists observe the festival to ward off evil spirits and welcome the arrival of the New Year filled with happiness and prosperity.

The Tibetans follow the lunisolar calendar, which means that the date is indicative of the moon phase and the time of the solar year as well. Losar, the Tibetan New Year is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the calendar. The date of this year will fall on Monday, 27th February 2017.

For many days before the Tibetan New Year, the Sangha traditionally engages in a practice of the Protector Mahakala to clear away the obstacles of the previous year and open the way for the new one to come.

During the last two days of the old year, which is called Gutor, people in Tibet begin to prepare for the New Year.

**The first day of Gutor:** The celebration of Losar begins on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the Tibetan calendar, the day before Tibetan New Year’s Eve. On that day monasteries hold a special kind of ritual in preparation for the Losar celebration. In addition a kind of special noodle called *guthuk*, made from flour with water and is prepared with each of the nine different fortune symbols that predict the fortune of the person in the next year. Eating *guthuk* on that particular evening is very important as the tradition that accompanies it signifies the safe passage into the New Year.

*Dough balls:* Also, people place various ingredients, such as chillies salt, wool, rice and coal, in dough balls, which are then handed out. The ingredients that one finds hidden in one’s dough ball are supposed to be a light hearted comment on one’s character.

**On the second day of Gutor,** religious ceremonies are held. People go to visit the local monastery to worship and make offerings to the Sangha. Tibetans also set off firecrackers to get rid of evil spirits.

**The last day of the year,** is a time to clean and prepare for the approaching of the New Year. Houses are thoroughly cleared, after which people get dressed and proceed to have a reunion feast.



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**On the Tibetan New Year's Day.** Lamas in the monastery will hold religious celebrations, which including worshipping Buddhist deities, chanting Buddhist scriptures, and having a new year banquet.

Venerable Lama Namsai from Barom Kagyu Sydney will organize a 3 days celebration ceremony for Losar New Year of 2017 to take place in our Sydney centre, starting from the White Zhambala Pudja on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 through to the Tibetan New Year Day 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The timetable is as follows:

**25 February 2017  
Saturday**

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

**White Zhambala Pudja**

*This pudja is especially beneficial to anyone who has problems in business and lives*

*Students can bring back the Long Life Flags from last year for blessing from Venerable Lama Namsai.*

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Mahakala Pudja**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Mahakala Soup (*guthuk*); Dough Balls**(a prediction of the New Year) will be handed out to each member during the dinner.

**26 February 2017  
Sunday**

**Tibetan New Year Eve**

09:30 am – 12:00 pm

**White Zhambala Pudja**

*This pudja is especially beneficial to anyone who has problems in business and lives*

*Students can bring back the Long Life Flags from last year for blessing from Venerable Lama Namsai.*



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12:00 pm – 2:00 pm      Lunch Break

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm      **Mahakala & Che Lhu Ceremony**

*During this ceremony Venerable Lama Namsai will pray to remove all negative karma accumulated and all negative energies on prayers that all sentient beings will experience long life, excellent health and happiness.*

**27 February 2017      Tibetan New Year Day**  
**Monday**

9:00 am – 11:00 am      **White Zhambala Blessing  
&  
Receiving Siddhis**

11:30 am – 12:30 pm      **Serving Khabseys & Rice  
Ceremony.** Butter tea and rice will  
be offered to every member.

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm      **Making offerings to Sangha**

*Many great masters have commented on the tremendous benefit of making offerings to the Sangha as a way of increasing the benefit of prayers and Dharma activities. Regardless of the amounts of the offering, all people supporting the Three Jewels out of love and compassion are benefited by generating these precious qualities, by receiving prayers and blessings of the Sangha, and in turn, the activities of the Triple Gem are increasingly uplifted and strengthened by the generosity of practitioners and their contributions.*

On behalf of Venerable Lama Namsai, we are looking forward to seeing you in our Sydney Centre to celebrate the Losar Festival of 2017 together.