



REPORTS

Samu at Kodoji: 20-21 August

There were some problems getting into Gorricks Run for the Samu weekend. Gilly and I went up on Friday arriving just after lunch and launched into some of the scheduled jobs.

On Friday night it started to rain and, as we found out later from a neighbour, 68mm of rain fell on



Gorricks Run overnight, which caused our normally docile creek to become a roaring stream (chock-full of Zen ancestors).

We phoned Brendon on the Saturday, who emailed and phoned a number of people who'd said they were coming - too late for those who had already left and for those who didn't check their emails on the weekend.

One of those who'd already left, Stuart Solzberg, crossed the main river causeway but was then stopped by the creek crossing - he rang to let us know from St Albans. So too did Steve Paddison who had also crossed the river but was stopped by

the creek.

We checked the creek crossing water level again on Sunday and it was still high to walk across. Then we got a phone call from Greg Carty and Carl Hooper to say that they had got as far as the causeway but by this time, it too was impassible. Greg said a local at the St Albans pub had told him it would be a week before you could get a car across. That wasn't such good news for me and Gilly and particularly our dog Grace, who was running out of dog food.

To cut a long story short, we eventually drove across the creek on Tuesday at 3.30 pm (water above car doors, flowing swiftly, knee deep in one spot); the causeway by that time didn't even have water going over it. So, tired but happy, we got back home at nightfall.



We managed to do quite a bit in the 5 days up there including:

- Completion of finish to the new kitchenbenches
- Repair of the rusted-out gutter over the cottage entry
- Completion of anti-slip tape to all steps
- Completion of insulation and plywood to Hojo II (still some coverbattens to be fitted)
- Completion of the Hojo II bed platform

- Completion of external weatherboards to Hojo II
- Completion of deck near kitchen door
- Loads of weeding
- Inventory
- Cleaning

Tony Coote



Flood!

Dharma Cafe report

Dr. Alexander Tzannes was one of two Australian medicos who volunteered to go to Japan in the Rescue & Recovery team straight after the

March earthquake and tsunami. A small but appreciative audience was guided through this experience in mid-August via Alexander's powerpoint presentation, with questions afterwards.

Gillian

COMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting: Sunday 13 November

The Annual General Meeting, at which we elect the Board and the Grievance Committee for 2011-12, will be held on 13 November this year. Everyone is urged to come. There will be sitting 8.30-10, then the meeting will start at 10.30. The AGM will be immediately followed by a General Meeting. Bring something to share for the potluck afterwards.

Please consider in what ways you can contribute to our joint effort. You can be a Board member, take a leaders role in evening zazen, clean the zendo, do flowers, postage, look after the library, edit an edition of MindMoonCircle, coordinate a Sesshin, help with the Newsletter, or the flyers.

Sound of Silence Zazenkai: 4-6 November

Led by Paul Maloney.

Dogen said, "Zazen is not learning to do concentration. It is the dharma gate of great ease and joy. It is undefiled practice-awakening." (*Zazengi*). In his *Fukanzazengi*, he tells us, "You should therefore cease from practice based on intellectual understanding, pursuing words and following speech, and learn the backward step that turns your light inwardly to illuminate your self. Body and mind of themselves will drop away, and your original face will be manifest. If you want to attain suchness, you should practice suchness without delay."

There is a virtue in sitting, and there is a virtue in silence. In our busy lives there is little time for sitting, and seldom freedom from noise. So in our Sound of Silence retreats we can experience the gift of together sitting in silence, particularly on the first day.

The retreat starts on Friday evening and finishes on Sunday afternoon. Meals are simple, and people take turns to prepare. There is a minimum of interference with the silence.

If you would like to participate, contact:

Paul Maloney: paul.maloney@internode.on.net

Cost: \$100 for the weekend

Rohatsu Sesshin 8 – 11 December

Led by Maggie Gluek.

Traditionally Rohatsu sesshin finishes on December 8, the day commemorated as anniversary of the Buddha's awakening. This year, however, our Rohatsu will *begin* on the evening of Thursday December 8 and run through the afternoon of Sunday December 11, thus offering a shorter retreat which also includes the weekend. Taking place at the Annandale zendo, it will be non-residential.

Participants will bring food to share for lunches and suppers. Those with work commitments can be 'excused' on the Friday. This is an opportunity to take time out at an especially busy season of the year: precious time in which to honor in one's own person the Buddha's path of practice and realisation.

Enquiries: Gail Burrell-Davis - 0410-060-405

Support person needed

The 2012 Australia & New Zealand Diamond Sangha Teachers Circle (ANZDSTC) will take place from Friday February 24 to Monday February 27 at Kodoji and a support person to help organise teachers' travel and accommodation arrangements would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Subhana and Gillian

NEWS from the BOARD

Sangha Transmission for Paul Maloney: The Blue Mountains group of SZC has asked that Paul Maloney, a Roshi in the Diamond Sangha, be their teacher. The Board has agreed to this and are writing him a letter of welcome as the Blue Mountains Teacher.

New members: A very warm welcome to new members, Liz Rickman and Peter Bursky. May you both feel supported by us all as we practice together.

Central document repository: The Board is setting up a Central Document Depository to hold all important SZC documents, such as grievance procedures and sesshin matters. Access by SZC members will be through the Chairperson, secretary or webmaster only.

Sexton's memorial bell: The wheel rim bell given by Sexton Bourke will be his memorial at Kodoji, and the Board is looking into the possibility of having his bell poem engraved around the rim. We also made a donation to the accommodation in which Sexton's wife Pamela stayed when he was in hospital, in lieu of flowers for his funeral

Anne-marie Buescher scholarship: An Anne-marie Buescher Scholarship to aid people who cannot afford Sesshin fees, has been approved by the Board. It has been seeded using \$1,000 of Anne's bequest and will be topped up annually through a levy of \$10 per person per sesshin. (the levy is included in the new sesshin fees below). The top up for 2011/2012 will be \$700, so that by the following sesshin we will have a fund of \$1700. The Board has yet to decide on a mechanism for the awarding of the scholarship.

Finances: Treasurer Meghan Hay has provided the Board with detailed information about SZC's financial situation, basic costs of sesshin, and how these relate to sesshin fees, membership fees and so on. Based on this information, the Board has approved a fee increase for 2012 sesshin. Full time fees will be \$370 for members and \$480 for non-members. The setting of these rates took into account inflation, the new Scholarship fee levy, the use of organic food at sesshin, and both fixed and variable costs of running sesshin and owning Gorricks. The break-even number of participants at sesshin (with 2 teachers) is 13.

Changes to sutras: Subhana and Gilly, with Paul and Maggie's support, proposed changes regarding our main sutra dedication. These changes arose from discussion at the recent Diamond Sangha Teachers Circle at Damme, Germany.

NOTICE BOARD



Gift recipient status for SZC Building Fund: The Australian Tax Office has confirmed that we are a DGR, or Deductible Gift Recipient for a fund (in our case the Sydney Zen Centre Building Fund). This restores the status of gifts to the building fund as tax deductible for the donor. If you would like to make a donation to the building fund, simply flag it as such and we will issue a receipt against which you can claim a tax deduction from your income.

Books for sale: *The Roaring Stream. A New Zen Reader*, ed. Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker is on sale at Annandale, along with Robert Aitken's books: *Taking the Path of Zen*, *Mind of Clover*, *The Dragon that Never Sleeps*, *Encouraging Words*, *The Morning Star*, *Vegetable Roots Discourse*, *Zen Master Raven* and *The Gateless Barrier*.

Leadership roles at evening zazen: Any members, regularly sitting, who would like to take up the practice of being a dojo leader at evening zazen, please see one of the leaders, or speak to a teacher

Use of Kodoji: Kodoji is available for use by members of the SZC and guests (if accompanied by a member). It can also be hired by other groups if approved by the Board. Fees are \$15 per night for members and \$25 for non-members. There is a \$100 booking fee for non-member groups. Booking of Kodoji is essential and it is also essential to receive instructions about use of the facility before going there. Try giving the family a wonderful weekend, or yourself a few days of private retreat? Enquiries to Brendan Stewart - phone 9879 7290, email br.stewart@uws.edu.au

Blue Mountains Zen: The Blue Mountains Zen Group meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, from 3.00-5.00 p.m., at Paul Maloney's home. The address is 19 Russell Road, Leura. Phone 4784 2136. The meeting is occasionally held at another venue, so it is best to check some days before, should one think of joining us for a sit.

Canberra Zen Group: Wednesday evenings fortnightly at 7.45 at the Orana School in Weston. Contact Tony Shields for details – email: tshields@netspeed.com.au, phone 6262-5150



CONTACT INFORMATION

SZC (02) 9660 2993 www.szc.org.au

Members of the Board: Allan Marett (Chair); Alex Mitrovic (Deputy-Chair); Brendon Stewart (Secretary); Meghan Hay (Treasurer); Gail Burrell-Davis (Assistant Treasurer); Lee Nutter and Gordon Waters. **Teachers:** Subhana Barzagli, Gillian Coote **Apprentice Teacher:** Maggie Gluek.
Newsletter editor Jean Brick jeanmbrick@yahoo.com.au

Photographs: Gillian and Tony Coote at a wet samu weekend!

SZC Calendar: October - November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2	3 Zazen 7-9pm	4 Board Meeting start 7.30 pm	5 Zazen 7-9pm	6	7	8
9	10 Precept Recitation & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	11	12 Precept Recitation & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	13	14 Women's Group	15
16	17 Zazen 7-9pm	18	19 Zazen 7-9pm	20	21	22
23	24 Zazen 7-9pm	25	26 Zazen 7-9pm	27	28	29
30	31 Zazen 7-9pm	November 1	2 Zazen 7-9pm	3	4 Sound of Silence zazenkai	5 Sound of Silence zazenkai
6 Sound of Silence zazenkai	7 Full Moon Ceremony 7-9pm	8	9 Full Moon Ceremony 7-9pm	10	11 Women's Group	12
13 AGM 10.30 Potluck lunch 12.00	14 Zazen 7-9pm	15 Board Meeting start 7.30pm	16 Zazen 7-9pm	17	18	19
20 Zazenkai 8.30-12.00 Talk: Jean Brick Dokusan: Maggie Gluek	21 Zazen 7-9pm	22	23 Zazen 7-9pm	24	25	26
27	28 Zazen 7-9pm	29	30 Zazen 7-9pm	December 1	2	3