

REPORTS

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIAMOND SANGHA TEACHER

Dear Board and Community Members,

It gives me great pleasure to invite ALLAN MARETT to begin teaching in the Zen Way in the Diamond Sangha tradition.

Allan began sitting in 1973, when he and a group of friends formed a small informal sitting group in Cambridge, England. In 1975 he sat his first two sesshins with his friend, Jonathon Condit (formerly a monk at the LA Centre) at Throssel Hole Buddhist Abbey in the north of England. In 1976 he moved to Kamakura, Japan, with Mari Rhydwen, where they became students of Yamada Roshi and also first met Robert Aitken. Allan moved to Sydney in 1978 to take up a position at Sydney University which coincided serendipitously with the establishment of the Sydney Zen Centre and with Aitken Roshi's first sesshin in Australia, which he and Mari attended with their children, Beatrice and Lucy. Allan has studied with a number of teachers; Yamada Roshi, Aitken Roshi, John Tarrant Roshi, and then became a student of mine. He has also benefited from the teachings of the other SZC teachers; Gillian Coote Roshi, Paul Maloney Roshi, and Maggie Gluek.

Allan has had a distinguished academic career from 1986, as Professor of Music at the University of Hong Kong and then Professor of Musicology at the University of Sydney. Allan spent 20 years doing field study and researching Aboriginal song and ritual in Northern Australia. More recently he has participated as a singer in Aboriginal ceremonies and as a result has developed a keen interest in exploring resonances between Aboriginal and Buddhist thought and ritual.

Over the past three years he has, together with Linda Barwick, completed a Buddhist pilgrimage in Shikoku, Japan, which has led to an interest in integrating walking meditation into practice. Following recent trips to China and Japan, he has also begun resuscitating his Chinese and Japanese language skills, learnt in the course of his doctoral and post-doctoral studies of the history of early Sino-Japanese music, and deploying them to the study of Chinese and Japanese Buddhist texts in their original languages.

Allan has demonstrated a love and dedication to the Diamond Sangha, including care and respect for its forms and tradition. He has been a long-term member of the SZC and has demonstrated an ability to lead and instruct others through his numerous leadership roles; at the regular zazen nights at Annandale, as well as the leadership roles at sesshin. Allan is especially appreciated for his strong clear voice and musical talent in leading our chanting practice and sutra service. Due to his training in Aboriginal song, he has introduced a powerful old song called, "Ancient Ground" into our Sutra service. Allan has recently done a very fine job of serving and guiding the community as chairperson of the SZC Board.

Teaching is a demanding path, it is invitation to always walk under the Vast Sky with ones heart open with compassion to the suffering of others. It is a gift and privilege to share intimately with companions of the way through all their travails and sublime joys along this steep mountain path of liberation. As Nelson Foster Roshi once remarked, "A new teacher will be trained by the Sangha, trained by its challenges, trained by its trust, trained by the ten thousand things".

I believe that Allan Marett's extensive knowledge and background and wise leadership is a great asset to our Zen community, He will also make a fine addition to our local team of teachers and to the wider Diamond Sangha. I give my blessing to Allan Marett Sensei as he enters the great ocean of joy, pain and deep responsibility that lies in the heart of teaching. It is now his turn to turn the Dharma wheel, to guide practitioners step by step, to awaken others to their true nature and to convey the healing light of the Buddha dharma to all beings.

For the dharma, Subhana Barzarghi, Myo Un An Roshi

NZ and AUSTRALIAN DIAMOND SANGHA TEACHER'S CIRCLE

Eleven teachers had a nurturing, productive and enjoyable meeting at Annandale, beginning with a meal together on Friday February 24 and concluding after lunch on Monday February 27. Brendon co-ordinated the meeting regarding travel and accommodation and made the decision to transfer to Annandale due to the risk of flooding. Jill prepared menus and bought the food, and Gail stepped forward and cooked suppers, freeing up time for discussion. On behalf of the eleven teachers, a deep gassho to the three of you for supporting us so ably, to the Annandale residents for accommodating us, and to the Sydney Zen Centre for hosting this, the fourth Australia & New Zealand Diamond Sangha Teachers Circle. On Monday night, there was a sangha event with four of the interstate or faraway teachers on a panel facilitated by Subhana.

May the benefits of our meeting pervade the whole universe. *Gillian*



NEWS FROM TAIDO in the Netherlands

Dear Dharma sisters and brothers hello there, it's Taido (some of you may remember me as Linda Joy Howden). I have sat with many of you in sesshin at Gorricks and numerous times at Annandale. I had a dream a number of years ago to live in residence in a Zen Centre somewhere with a Roshi for at least a year. And as you know we do not yet have such a space in Australia. A wonderful friend Anne Buescher suggested the International Zen Centre Noorder Poort in the Netherlands, (she was a student of Prabhasa Dharma Zenji, who was the Master of my current



Master Jiun Hogen Roshi) and so a new journey for me began. I have now been here for 3 years and this has been both the most challenging and wonderful journey of my life thus far. Our daily schedule consists of mostly 5am wake ups filled with hours of meditation, chanting and work practice until lights out at 10pm. We have perhaps 15 various types of sesshin and numerous other workshops and weekends throughout the year. I live in residence here with six others. I feel blessed that I have given myself this gift, this opportunity to practice in such an environment. Last year I asked to become an Unsui (a Buddhist nun), I felt this to be a natural step, a step to deepen my commitment to myself, to Jiun Roshi and to my practice. So I had my Ordination Ceremony last July when I was given the name Taido which means Great Peaceful Way. My mum Marie made the journey over from Australia to be here for this special

occasion – a WONDERFUL experience!!! My journey here continues and many of you are often in my thoughts, the beauty and preciousness of my connection with my Australian Dharma family, With Love and Tenderness, Taido.

Here are a couple of photos from my Unsui Ordination, with my mum Marie, who made a wonderful journey over here for this occasion.

COMING EVENTS

AUTUMN SESSHIN has MOVED TO ANNANDALE April 6-13 (Easter holiday)

led by Subhana and Maggie Gluek

The 7 day Autumn Sesshin with Subhana and Maggie has now been relocated to Annandale due to the unpredictable & fickle nature of the weather, as well as the prediction of further rain. This year has brought unusual environmental conditions with the ground being so saturated after many months of rain, so in the likelihood of a further downfall over night up the valley the creeks will be up and roaring, leaving Gorricks inaccessible. So in consideration for all the participants' safety, well-being and the potential difficulties with Gorricks this year we have decided reluctantly to shift Gorricks to the city dojo.

Please note that the schedule has changed and part-timers are welcome. If you are thinking of joining sesshin please contact Sue Bidwell sue.bidwell17@gmail.com

Regular Monday & Wednesday nighters are welcome to continue to attend the normal evening programme during sesshin

BUDDHA's BIRTHDAY and Baby NAMING CEREMONY April 15

This is the fun family day that we celebrate each year, full of children, families, laughter, songs, poems, joy, and love all round. It is to honour the BIRTH of the BUDDHA. It will start at 9.30am in the Annandale garden with art and crafts for the young organised by Janet Selby. Then at 10.30am we gather in the dojo for the BABY NAMING CEREMONY. If there are any babies to be included in this Ceremony this year contact Gillian Coote gillian@gilliancoote.com

After the Ceremony there will be a potluck lunch. All families (and relations) most welcome!

STUDY CIRCLE during the usual Zazenkai. May 20, 8.30am -12 noon

Subhana will be leading a Study Circle on May 20 on The Platform Sutra of Hui-neng. As Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker say in *The Roaring Stream*, "The irrelevance of status, intellect, and learning in Ch'an (Zen) is a central theme of The Platform Sutra, as is the importance of not understanding, of no-thought or non-thinking." The morning will start as a normal Zazenkai with chanting and sitting and then will become a Study Circle.

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS SESSHIN 8-13 June 2012 (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Walking and pilgrimage is a core Buddhist practice that has been central to Zen training since its inception. This five-day retreat, which will be led by Maggie Gluek and Allan Marett, will combine both walking and sitting meditation. We will be based at Kodoji and going out from there for daily periods of walking meditation in the vicinity of Kodoji as well as in the Dharug and Yengo National Parks. Participants will need a reasonable level of fitness as we will be walking for about four hours a day. Member full \$250, Member daily \$50; Non member full \$325, Non member daily \$65.

Enquiries: Janet Selby: 0421 369 707; janetselby@bigpond.com

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

DONATIONS AND IDEAS WELCOME!

The SZC Board is reviewing our financial position and, on current trends, we'll be depleting our funds year by year unless we can manage to improve our balance of costs and funds. The Zen Centre is a vibrant cherished entity and we believe everyone wants to ensure its ongoing viability as it means so much to us all.

Several factors have impacted upon our financial situation, including general cost increases, some of which are inevitable and cannot be altered. However there are several things we feel could be reviewed, and these include unpaid pledges and costs related to the production and posting of MMC, as well as additional fund-raising activities to help boost our income.

So if you have any innovative and feasible ways to raise funds and reduce costs, consistent with our values, please just email any of the Board members – any and all ideas will be considered!

NOTICE BOARD

BLUE MOUNTAINS YATRAS - 26 May, 2 June

Diana Levy will lead two separate days of kinhin in nature to 'cut off the mind road'. The Blue Mountains with its rich history of walking offers a great chance to pay attention, step by step. See dianajumpsintoaiku.blogspot.com

YATRA Saturday May 26 from 8am to approximately 4pm (next date October 13).

This day is for middlin' fitness people, gradients gentle, 3 and a 1/4 hours walking. Meet at Lawson railway station 8am. Register by 18 May. Cost \$20+ dana.

ELDERS YATRA 2 June from 9:15am to approximately 3pm (next date October 7)

This yatra is designed for those in the iron years, where bodies weaken even as wisdom grows. We will also do tai ch'i with teacher Donald Elniff. The walk is very gentle, about 2 to 3 hours long, and there will be seated meditation in a cave. Register by May 11.

Meet at 9:15 am, Wentworth Falls station, Stockyard carpark. Cost \$20+ dana.

Contact Diana email: diana.r.levy@gmail.com or (02) 4751 3935, or mob. 0432 619 305

INO ROLES REQUIRED: A plea for more evening LEADERS, most especially people who would be willing to take up the role of INO. It does NOT require a 'good voice'!

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*.

Library: All interested in buying books and/or enlivening the library, please get in touch with Gordon Waters: gordonwaters@optusnet.com.au

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 stewarts34@bigpond.com

Blue Mountains Zen: The Blue Mountains Zen Group meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, from 3-5 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

Laughing Kookaburra Meditation Group (Woy Woy): Join us for a sit and a cup of tea, we meet 1-2 times per month on Thursday nights from 7-9pm, dates TBA, at Stuart and Tara's house in Woy Woy. Please contact Stuart for details: email: ssolzberg@gmail.com mobile: 0424 623 800

CONTACT INFORMATION

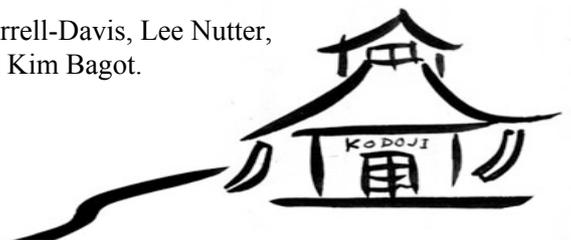
SZC (02) 9660 2993 www.szc.org.au

Members of the Board: Brendon Stewart, Meghan Hay, Gail Burrell-Davis, Lee Nutter, Gordon Waters, Sue Bidwell, Harry Tamvakis, Will Moon, and Kim Bagot.

Teachers: Subhana Barzagli, Gillian Coote, Paul Maloney

Apprentice Teachers: Maggie Gluek, Allan Marrett

Newsletter editor Janet Selby janetselby@bigpond.com



SZC Calendar April – May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April End of Samu At Kodoji	2 Zazen 7-9pm	3	4 Zazen 7-9pm	5	6 Easter Sesshin starts	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Easter Sesshin ends	14
15 Buddha's Birthday 9.30 Craft 10.30 Ceremony	16 Zazen 7-9pm	17	18 Zazen 7-9pm	19 Board Meeting 6.30pm	20	21 Women's Group Marianne
22 No Zazenkai	23 Zazen 7-9pm	24	25 Zazen 7-9pm	26	27	28
29	30 Zazen 7-9pm	1 May	2 Zazen 7-9pm	3	4	5
6	7 Zazen 7-9pm	8	9 Dharma Café 7-9pm	10 Board Meeting 6.30pm	11 Womens Group Jill	12
13	14 Dharma Café 7-9pm	15	16 Zazen 7-9pm	17	18	19
20 Zazenkai 8.30-12.00 Zazen, Study Circle with Subhana	21 Zazen 7-9pm	22	23 Zazen 7-9pm	24	25	26
27	28 Zazen 7-9pm	29	30 Zazen 7-9pm	31	1 June	2