

## WORDS FROM THE TEACHERS

### Argentina Diamond Sangha Teachers Circle 2013, hosted by Group Zen Viento del Sur

Our DSTC in this ex-monastery in the countryside near Capilla del Monte was supported by a 7-day training period\*, with approximately 40 people from Argentina and Chile participating, including two little girls. It was the culmination of a dream. Aitken Roshi had visited Argentina some twenty years before, an inspiring time for many sangha members, some of whom then travelled to Hawai'i to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Diamond Sangha and to see Roshi one more time.

On our first night, the sangha welcomed us with a concert out in the garden under the Southern Cross and presented gifts of Argentine essentials - mate gourds with silver straws, packets of herba mate, dulce leche, a music CD, copies of El Dragon que Nunca Duerme, Viento del Sur's Spanish translation of Roshi's The Dragon Who Never Sleeps, and notebooks and pens for our meeting ahead, all in woven string bags. I was also given Roshi's Una Ola Zen: Los Haiku de Basho y el Zen (A Zen Wave) for our library. Our gift of clapsticks and Glenys' lovely card with her photos of Gorricks was admired by the sangha and Tony was soon knee-deep in conversations about how our sangha built/is building Kodoji. This was encouraging for Viento del Sur which conducts sesshin on land two hours from Buenos Aires where they too hope to build a dojo one day.

We sat with the sangha before breakfast. Their sitting was strong and their chanting in Spanish superbly musical, strong and resonant. We took our meals together, not in silence but amidst friendship and much laughter.

#### \*schedule

6.45	wake up
7.00	zazen/kinhin
8.15	breakfast
9-10.30	samu
10.30-11.40	Dharma study
11.45	zazen
12.15	lunch
1-2.30	rest
2.30	tea
2.35	zazen
3-5	sangha activity
5-6	exercise
6-6.30	zazen
7.15	supper
8.00	zazen/talk + q&a
10.00	bed



There were seven teachers in our circle - Daniel Terragno, who visits this and the Chilean sangha from his home in California, Ricardo Toledo, an apprentice teacher with Viento del Sur, Michael Kieran from Honolulu, Burkard Zill from Germany, Peggy Sheehan and Karin Kempe from Denver and myself. We all felt held and supported by the vitality and vigour of the sangha.

Our fellowship during the meeting was intimate and organic as, one by one, we shared teaching

experiences and related issues in our sanghas, worked through koans in the Wu-men Kuan, and looked into koans people wanted to revisit. We shared information about orientations, new technologies and resources, and ways Diamond Sangha teachers might stay connected. We learnt much from each other, deepening our friendship over an invigorating, nourishing week, the smaller- than-usual meeting a precious gift.

One evening, Peggy, Karin and myself gave a talk based on Ch'ien and Her Soul Separated, our first experience of working with translators. On another night, the seven of us spoke about how we had become involved with Zen, followed by q & a.

Mid-week, we went on an expedition to an important Comechingones site with two guides, Pelusa and Alfredo, who were knowledgeable about the plants, animals and indigenous people who lived in the caves up in the hills until the Spanish arrived from the north in 1573 and founded Cordoba - the new Andalucia. It was the usual brutal colonial encounter - women and children killed, men enslaved. After a huge Spanish assault, the remaining 300 went up a nearby sacred mountain and leapt to their deaths. These days, Capilla del Monte's Cerro Uritorco is a centre for alleged paranormal phenomena and UFO sightings.

On the last evening of our meeting, there was another splendid concert under the stars. The little girls had drawn cards which hung along the windows, one for each of us, and people pulled out their guitars and sang. There was humour too - an arrogant zen student who just couldn't stop thinking, another couple who arose from their zafus and embarked on a very sexy - imaginary - tango - and yet more wonderfully expressive music and poetry.

Just before we left South America, we met Daniel in Santiago over a Chilean meal, and he sent his warm regards to old friends in Australia and New Zealand, commenting on how the bonds between the various Southern Hemisphere Diamond Sanghas seem to have become even stronger. *Gillian Coote*

## REPORTS

### **SAMU AT GORRICKS RUN March 22, 23**

Thirteen bodhisattvas dedicated themselves to preparing Kodoji for autumn sesshin; this included painting, mowing, window-cleaning, raking, building and installing a new toilet, tree-felling, weeding and labelling the new zabutons, as well as zazen and delicious meals. Thanks to Greg, Carlynne, Jason, Michael, Nerryl, Brendon, Kerry, Larry, Glenys, Bernadette, Vanessa and Gilly. Two chestnut trees are fruiting but it seems the third tree has unexpectedly died. *Tony Coote*



Photo: Glenys Jackson

## **VALE GORDON WATERS 18 June 1962 - 5 February 2013**

On 11 and 13 February memorial ceremonies were held at Annandale for our good friend, Gordon. There was chanting, and shared words about our Gordon experiences. Seventeen SZC members attended his funeral organized by his wife, where Maggie Gluek, among many others, spoke, and members present chanted The Heart Sutra. So many good friends, so much love.

The following was the dedication at the Annandale ceremonies.

*We dedicate our gathas and our sutras to you, Gordon Waters,  
Sekishin Genkai- Sincere Heart, Profound Ocean.*

*We acknowledge your dedication to the Buddha way.*

*We acknowledge your acceptance of things just as they are, and your grace in the face of adversity and death.*

*We acknowledge your love of the sangha and of your many friends and relations, and in particular your partner, Anna, who has supported you so steadfastly.*

*You have been a friend and inspiration to many, a joyful companion of the Way.*

*Your teachings of patience, good humour and acceptance have touched us deeply and we now hold you in our hearts.*

*May you find peace as you enter that profound, unknowable ocean that unites us all.*

### **Memorial Services 11 and 13 February**

We held a memorial service for our friend Gordon Waters last night at the zendo. “*With drooping heads and tremulous tails, they mashed their way through the thick mud, floundering and stumbling between whiles, as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints.*” Dicken’s description of the Dover Mail captured the effort and weight of our walking meditation. The mail always needs delivering. So too do we need to walk, and breathe and live, even in grief. In this way what is mundane lives on. And is death not just another delivery that needs to be made? It is the daily toil of nature and we feel it as such; the heavy cold, the slop of mud in the heart and the falling to pieces at our larger joints: knees, hips and shoulders. After walking we sat and someone told me I too would die. With a drooping head I let it soak in. The mail does not wait and when it leaves someone else will lean against the same damp air of the zendo, stumbling and mashing through the same thick mud.

*Max Baker*

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **Introduction to Zen Meditation, Thursday Evenings 4, 11, 18 April 7- 9pm**

Paul Maloney will be offering 3 classes on Thursday 4, 11 and 18 April at Annandale. These will be informal, Q &A, and will cover the fundamentals of Zen practice, such as koan practice, Emptiness, The Great Vows. Notes will be emailed to participants each week on request. Suggested donation \$20 for all the three classes. Bookings: Paul Maloney [paul.maloney@internode.on.net](mailto:paul.maloney@internode.on.net)

### **The Buddha’s Birthday and Naming Day Celebrations 14 April**

This is a joyous family and friends day to celebrate the Baby Buddha, usually starting with craft work in the garden for the young children, (about 9.00am) then a shared ceremony (10.30am) and a shared potluck meal. Anyone wishing their baby named contact Gillian Coote [gillian@gilliancoote.com](mailto:gillian@gilliancoote.com).

### **LECTURE SERIES on Thursdays May 2, 9, 16 at Annandale 7pm**

**2 May Wendi Adamek** *Master Wuzhu, an 8th century Chan/Zen master*

**9 May Wendi Adamek** *Buddhist Women in the Tang dynasty*

**16 May Paul Maloney** *Zen and the Ways*

**The Lecturers:** Born in Hawai’i, Dr. Wendi Adamek has been a Buddhist practitioner for many years, beginning with her introduction to Zen by Aitken Roshi at the Maui Zendo in 1975. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University and has written two books on Chinese Chan Buddhism. Her current book project centres on a 7<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist site in Henan, China. She has lived in India, China, and Japan, and her other interests include Daoism, writing fiction, forest restoration, and environmental literature. Paul Maloney Roshi, a Diamond Sangha teacher with over 40 years of experience of Zen practice in both Australia and Japan, has been teaching at the Sydney Zen Centre since 2002.



**Zazenkai:** 19 May Kim Bagot offering talk, Gillian Coote offering dokusan

**Women's Group:** 12 April, Gilly, 25-26 May Weekend at Kodoji (Enquiries Sally 9554 9587)

**Orientations:** Monday evenings 6pm, Maggie Gluek, [maggiwarble@yahoo.com](mailto:maggiwarble@yahoo.com)  
Wednesday evenings 6.30pm, Janet Selby 0421 369 707, [janetselby@bigpond.com](mailto:janetselby@bigpond.com)

**Dojo Leadership Roles:** Sue Bidwell is hosting Jiki instruction and she would be happy to teach Jisha to anyone who wishes on a Monday night.

## 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*, plus new titles.

**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](mailto: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, 19 Russell Road, Leura. Phone 4784 2136. The meeting is occasionally held at another venue, so it is best to check some days before,.

**Canberra Zen Group:** Meets at Wat Dhammadharo on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Gary for more details: mobile 0429 635 412; email [gcaitcheon@gmail.com](mailto:gcaitcheon@gmail.com)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

SZC (02) 9660 2993      [www.szc.org.au](http://www.szc.org.au)

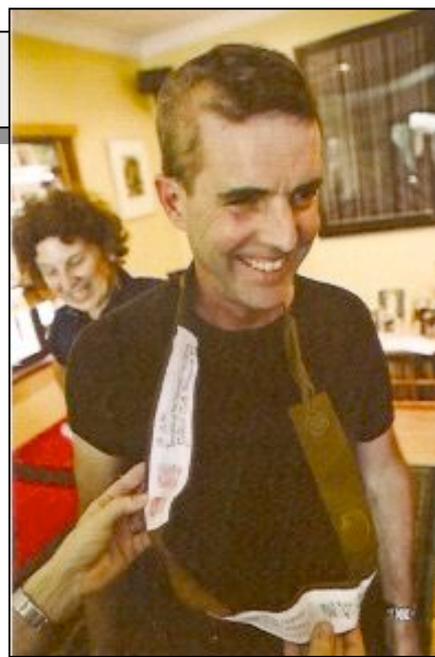
**Members of the Board:** Brendon Stewart (chair); Lee Nutter (assistant chair); Meghan Hay (treasurer); Gail Burrell-Davis (assistant treasurer); Sue Bidwell (assistant secretary); Harry Tamvakeras; (assistant secretary); Kim Bagot; Adrian Clement; Michael Tierney; Jason Koh

**Teachers:** Subhana Barzaghi, Gillian Coote, Paul Maloney

**Apprentice Teachers:** Maggie Gluek, Allan Marett

**Newsletter editor:** Janet Selby [janetselby@bigpond.com](mailto:janetselby@bigpond.com)

*Gordon Waters, Sekishin Genkai - Sincere Heart, Profound Ocean*  
Photo: Lee Nutter



## SZC Calendar APRIL-MAY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 March	1 April Zazen 7-9pm	2	3 Zazen 7-9pm	4 <b>Introduction to Zen</b> , Paul Maloney 7-9pm	5	6
7	8 Zazen 7-9pm	9 <b>Board meeting</b> 6pm sit for 6.30 meeting	10 Zazen 7-9pm	11 <b>Introduction to Zen</b> , Paul Maloney 7-9pm	12 <b>Women's Group</b> Gilly's	13
14 <b>Buddha's Birthday</b> Celebration and potluck Craft from 9am	15 Zazen 7-9pm	16	17 Zazen 7-9pm	18 <b>Introduction to Zen</b> , Paul Maloney 7-9pm	19	20
21	22 Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	23	24 Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	25	26	27
28	29 Zazen 7-9pm	30	1 May Zazen 7-9pm	2 <b>Lecture 7pm</b> Wendi Adamek 'Master Wazhu'	3	4
5	6 Zazen 7-9pm	7	8 Zazen 7-9pm	9 <b>Lecture 7pm</b> Wendi Adamek "Buddhist Women in the Tang dynasty"	10	11
12	13 Zazen 7-9pm	14 <b>Board meeting</b> 6pm sit for 6.30 meeting	15 Zazen 7-9pm	16 <b>Lecture 7pm</b> Paul Maloney "Zen and the Ways"	17	18
19 <b>Zazenkai 8.30-12</b> Kim Bagot talk, Gillian Coote dokusan	20 <b>Full Moon Ceremony</b> Not Taking Drugs	21	22 <b>Full Moon Ceremony</b> Not Taking Drugs	23	24 Winter Sesshin Early Bird deadline	25 <b>Women's Weekend at Gorricks</b>
26	27	28	29	30	31 Winter Sesshin No more applications	1 June