



WINTER SESSHIN at KODOJI –NEW DATES: August 2-5 led by Paul Maloney

This short sesshin is in the nature of an experiment with form to see if we can't reclaim the winter. After all, it seems odd to cut off from our practice such a fundamental aspect of experience as living with cold. And, of course, it will be cold- after all it is a Winter. But you can dress warm. Hakuin advises us that we should keep our feet warm (sox) and our head cool. Note, head 'cool' not freezing cold!! So you can feel free to wear some form of head covering should you wish to. We will sit in the dojo and eat in the cottage, sitting around the table. The cottage will be kept warm at all times. That way our meals will be hot. Further, I encourage those who wish to do so, to sleep in the cottage. I understand that some people have reservations about the cold. But it is to be remembered that back in the good old/bad old days, when we had seven day Winter sesshin, the people who reported the greatest satisfaction and joy were the jishas!! It seems that sitting for long hours on the veranda, supervising the dokusan line, had its particular aesthetic. Before you rush into signing-up for the sesshin, be aware that, by popular demand, we will be starting the day at 4 am.

Enquiries: Jean Brick 95603632



Photo Glenys Jackson

SPRING SESSHIN

28 September –5 October 2007

Led by Gillian Coote and Maggie Gluek, DS apprentice teacher. At sesshin we are free to be true to our hearts.

We are free to transcend the background chatter of our busy minds and to see into the fact of our own nature.

Sesshin offers us the chance to make great progress on the broad path of maturity. Traditional sesshin offers countless opportunities for practice - zazen, kinhin, walking meditation in the bush, dokusan, teisho, sutras and samu - work practice.

Enquiries Angela Neville 0418 22 33 46, angeneville@hotmail.com

BABY NAMING CEREMONY September 2

The sangha is warmly invited to the naming ceremony of Sarah and Nigel's daughter, Eva, on Sunday September 2. The ceremony will be held at 11am followed by a potluck lunch. Hope to see you there.

NEW WEB PAGE You may have already noticed that SZC's refurbished website is up and running. If you haven't seen it yet, please have a look. The Board began the process of re-invigorating the website last year. Glenys Jackson felt that images taken over these past twenty years would more vividly reflect who we are, and photo scanning was completed just prior to her sudden illness. Up from Melbourne to visit Glenys in hospital, Glenys' daughter-in-law, Selena Cross offered to do the technical side *gratis* and her skill and patience during this process has been remarkable. Thanks to those who offered feedback after the first draft, especially Nigel and Ron, and deep gassho to Selena, Glenys and Gillian. This newsletter's new banner is derived from the website.

SAMU Annandale - Sunday August 5 Start 9.30 am

Work includes: waterproofing the parapet roof; install donation box. Enquiries Tony Coote 8317 3466

SAMU Kodoji- Friday September 7 - Sunday September 9 (long weekend due to Friday September 7 being a public holiday because of the APEC meeting)

Work includes: stain Dojo verandah floor; stain posts etc Cottage; battens to Kitchen ceiling; make shower cubicle and doors; make good road if necessary; drag fallen wood to bonfire; weeding. Enquiries Tony Coote 8317 3466

KODOJI & ZEN ART EXHIBITION November 3 – December 29 2007

The main point about this exhibition is that we have been coming to Gorrick's Run for 25 years and the local people do not know who we are or what we are about. It's an opportunity to demystify our practice. What Suzie (*Suzie Startin, the curator of the St Albans Art Gallery. Ed.*) does not want is an exhibition of the Sydney Zen Centre with the emphasis being on Sydney. She wants an expression of the Zen people of the valley, given that in Zazen we practice deeply in the environment of the Macdonald Valley and that environment nurtures our practice. All the people of the SZC have a strong and deep attachment to the land at Gorrick's Run. When we exhibit at the Gallery we are doing so as Zen people of the valley not as the SZC, but the SZC is our support and their contribution is our donation on their behalf to the Bush Fire Brigade (10%). We are the neighbours of the people of the valley; our Zendo is part of their environment at all times. Even though we ourselves are physically transient, our hearts and minds are part of Gorrick's Run always. *Contact Gail abigailmaria@tsn.cc or Janet janetselby@bigpond.com for submissions.*

REPORTS

CITY RETREAT - MANJUSRI SESSHIN June 7-11 See Report from the Board.

WINTER STUDY GROUP 22 July

Students who attended the Winter Study Group, led by Gilly, were rewarded with the demystification of The Platform Sutra, an 8th century text attributed to Hui-neng, the Sixth Ancestor. The discussion was rich and varied, ranging from the apparent necessity for the creation of an illiterate Hui-neng, to the translation both of texts and Zen Buddhism as a whole, to the making of history. Plans are afoot for more regular Roaring Stream study groups, perhaps every other zazenkai. Gilly also suggested participants might increase their involvement by taking responsibility for a particular chapter, perhaps offering an overview and/or raising questions for discussion. Further feedback will no doubt ensue over tea after zazen on Monday and Wednesday evenings, . . .

SAMU in JUNE The proposed Samu at Annandale in June (now August 5) was cancelled due to wind and heavy rain. Sarah and Nigel and baby Eva were at Gorricks and they report that the recent storms have left many trees fallen, sand on a river crossing, and parts of the road washed away, but basically all well. The Big Tree Felling that took place during the end-of-May Gorricks Samu was well timed to prevent damage to the Cottage and Hojo.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

- * A warm welcome to Will Moon, who re-joins us as a Sangha member, and to new member Linda Aitkin.
- * The **Manjusri Sesshin** was shortened due to Gilly's ill health. With just five full-time participants and over a dozen part-timers, nevertheless the sitting was deep and steady, and many found it a most valuable time. Angela combined Tanto and Ino roles, Sally was our steady Jiki and Jisha was a moveable feast. These short sesshin at Annandale which enable people with family commitments as well as newcomers an opportunity to sink, however briefly, into sesshin mode are very valuable, but it is also important to hold the form. The Board is considering how to work more effectively within the tension of demanding fulltime attendance and opening it up for people to drop in for one or two blocks, which this city-based form offers. Any suggestions from the sangha would be welcomed by the Board.
- *Greg Try has had to resign from the Board due to a change in work times. He has served as a Board member since October 2003, and was for 2 years Minutes Secretary. Thank you from us all, Greg!
- *Angela Neville has undertaken to be Sesshin Co-ordinator for the Spring Sesshin. She and Tony Miller will work together. Thank you to them both!
- *Kim McShane is in California for 6 months so Caroline Josephs and Sue Bidwell have undertaken to do Orientations on Monday nights.
- *At Jean Brick's suggestion there is now an ONLINE application form for Sesshin that will make it easier for some people. Direct payment of fees is also an option.
- *As a result of the special efforts of 11 sangha members, especially Caroline Josephs, a cheque for \$1010 has been sent from the Sangha to Duluminmun, Uncle Max, to enable a book of his teachings, and photos of his country to be produced. Any profits go towards activities for Aboriginal youths.

*\$200 has been sent to the St Albans Fire Brigade who help protect Kodoji.

*A cheque for \$100 was sent to ANTar (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) who are running a campaign "Close the Gap" Indigenous Health Rights. This was part of a payment offered to Paul for leading the Winter sesshin, which he re-donated back for a good cause.

NOTICE BOARD

FULL MOON CEREMONY

July 30, August 1 *I take up the way of not lying.*

September 24, 26 *I take up the way of not giving or taking drugs.*

ZAZENKAI at ANNANDALE 8.30 – 12 August 19 - Teisho and dokusan Paul Maloney
September 16 Teisho and dokusan Gillian Coote. This will be followed by the **Spring Study Group**.

SPRING STUDY GROUP – September 16, 1-3pm *The Roaring Stream, Chapter 4* Yung-chia with Gilly Coote.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday October 21

HELP HOMELESS MEN An invitation to men to join a team of volunteers, who staff and sleep overnight at a refuge for homeless men on Saturday nights. The refuge provides protection and companionship to these men on what is the most dangerous night of the week on the street. Sleepover volunteers are rostered once a month. We arrive around 7/7.30 pm, and the shelter opens at 8 pm. It caters to a maximum of ten homeless men, screened and referred by the Homeless Persons Information Centre. A group of early volunteers sets up the hall and prepares a simple supper. The two or three sleepover volunteers then chat with the men, sleep in a hall with them, offer them breakfast, and clean up, closing the shelter by 8am. Guests include regulars and semi-regulars, who are long-term homeless, and one-offs, perhaps new to the city or just out of jail. The majority suffer from some form of mental illness and/or addiction. They come from many backgrounds and bring many histories. The refuge is in the hall of Christ Church St Laurence at Railway Square. Several SZC members have volunteered there for some time: Tony Miller, Nigel Pearn, Brendon Stewart, and Peter Thompson. Most other volunteers are Christ Church parishioners, a group that has quite a few affinities with Zendoids. The experience builds satisfying friendships and community. The refuge is under the umbrella of Cana Communities, a volunteer organisation of Catholic origin, but highly unofficial, with no church or government funding. Its moving spirits, Sister Anne Jordan and Father Brian Stoney, bodhisattvas who have lived in the Redfern community for fifteen years, running a range of programs to support "those who are the most rejected and most powerless". If you wish to volunteer, or to know more, contact Tony (9987 4312) or Brendon (9879 7290).

WOMEN'S GROUP The women's group is open to SZC female members. If you are interested in joining, and want to find out more about the nature of the group and how we operate, please just link into the group and ask any questions. Next meeting is scheduled for August 10 at Jean's, then at Koula's place on September 14.

ORIENTATIONS: Monday evenings [*Note: Address is 251 Young Street, Annandale.*

Entrance is in Arguimbeau near the corner of Arguimbeau and Young]

The following is the schedule for newcomers to receive orientation to the practice. It will take place at 6pm for an hour prior to sitting commencing at 7pm till 9pm -- followed by tea and biscuits and chat. You are welcome to take the opportunity to participate with senior students and teacher in this orientation. We suggest you allow the time for the introduction and for sitting after to experience the full range of experiences on a Monday night, including meditation, ritual, interview with teacher, social time with fellow students. You may choose however, not to stay for the entire evening. There is no charge, although we welcome donations -- as we are all volunteers and the community exists on members' fees and donations. Please email Caroline, Maggie, Sue or Tony to book in and ensure that one of these people will be present for you.

The schedule for orientation for **August - September** is:

August 6	Tony tonyphilmill@yahoo.com.au
August 13	Sue suebazbi@bigpond.net.au
August 20	Caroline cjosephs@tpg.com.au
August 27	Sue
September 3	Tony
September 10	Maggie magpiwarble@yahoo.com
September 17	Maggie
September 24	Sue

Wednesdays evenings : Call Janet Selby on 9589 4636 or Glenys Jackson on 9519 9063 or just turn up at 6.45pm for an introduction to the practice.

USE OF KODOJI ZENDO 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. Enquiries to Brendan Stewart - phone 9879 7290, email br.stewart@uws.edu.au

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.

WALKING COUNTRY with Aboriginal Elder, Uncle Max (Dulumunmun)

To Uncle Max's sacred mountains near Tilba. 4 days – Friday 26 October to Monday 29 October, 2007. Expressions of interest to cjosephs@tpg.com.au.

Walking Country, Creating Country Saturday November 10 and 11

A re-restorative weekend workshop bringing storytelling, image and word to experience in landscape. Come to a wonderful artist property near Jamberoo for a weekend of silence, meditation, massage and expressive work in country. Enquiries to cjosephs@tpg.com.au

REGULAR DATES

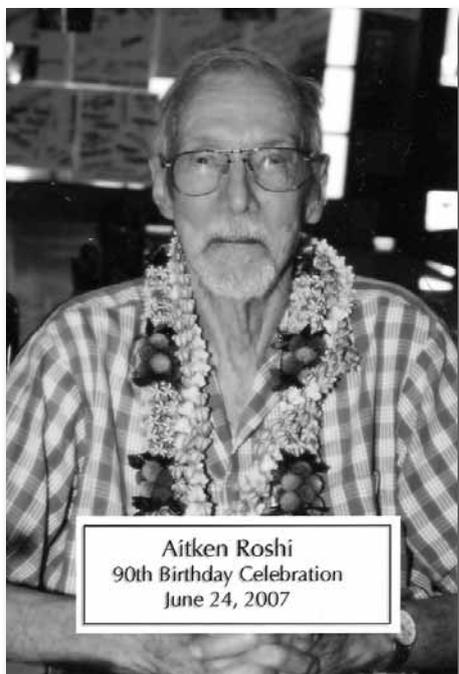
Dokusan – Mondays: Subhana August 6, 13, 20 Sept - 3, 10, 17
Maggie Gluek August 27 September 24

Wednesdays: Gilly Coote August 8, 15, 22, 29 September 5, 12, 19, 26

Full Moon Ceremony – July 30, August 1: *I take up the way of not lying*
September 24, 26: *I take up the way of not giving or taking drugs.*

Zazenkai at Annandale 8.30 – 12 noon – August 19 - Paul Maloney dharma talk and dokusan;

September 16 Teisho and dokusan Gillian Coote.



This will be followed by the **Spring Study Group** 1 - 3 pm: *The Roaring Stream*, Chapter 4, Yung-chia, led by Gillian Coote.

Blue Mountains Zen Blue Mountains Zen Group. At Patrick Kearney's place, Woodford. Contact Paul Maloney, for meeting times. Phone 4784 2136 or 9514 2519.

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

Braidwood Zen meet weekly on Tuesdays at 5.30pm. Casual trippers through Braidwood of course particularly welcome. Contact Nicola on (02) 4846 1075 or email: geemonga@bigpond.com

Board Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm (with zazen at 6.30pm beforehand). All SZC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Next meetings are on August 14 and September 11.

Full minutes of every board meeting are posted on the notice board at Annandale for public perusal.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Members of the Board: Nigel Pearn (Chairman), Tony Coote (Treasurer), Sally Hopkins (Secretary), Janet Selby (Minutes), Sarah Walls, Andrew Judge, Britta Beidermann, and Sarah Kanowski. **Teachers:** Subhana Bazaghi, Gillian Coote **Apprentice Teachers** - Paul Maloney (w) 9514-2519; Maggie Gluek 9987 4312 **Practice leaders** – Kim McShane 9560 9781 (Monday nights); Sarah Walls, Janet Selby 9589 4636, Glenys Jackson 9519 9063 (Wednesday nights), **Editor newsletter** - Janet Selby janetselby@bigpond.com

SZC Calendar August-September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 29	30 Full Moon Ceremony Not lying	31	August 1 Full Moon Ceremony Not lying	2 WINTER SESHIN At KODOJI 7pm	3	4
5 Sesshin ends → SAMU Annandale 9.30-4pm	6 Zazen 7-9pm	7	8 Zazen 7-9pm	9	10 Women's Group (Jean's)	11
12	13 Zazen 7-9pm	14 Board Meeting	15 Zazen 7-9pm	16	17	18
19 ZAZENKAI Dokusan And Talk Paul Maloney	20 Zazen 7-9pm	21	22 Zazen 7-9pm	23	24	25
26	27 Zazen 7-9pm	28	29 Zazen 7-9pm	30	31	September 1
2 Baby Naming Ceremony 11 am	3 Zazen 7-9pm	4	5 Zazen 7-9pm	6	7 SAMU KODOJI	8
9 SAMU KODOJI ENDS →	10 Zazen 7-9pm	11 Board Meeting	12 Zazen 7-9pm	13	14 Women's Group (Koula's)	15
16 ZAZENKAI 8.30-12 Dokusan And Talk Gilly STUDY GROUP 1-3pm	17 Zazen 7-9pm	18	19 Zazen 7-9pm	20	21	22
23	24 Full Moon Ceremony Not giving or Taking drugs	25	26 Full Moon Ceremony Not giving or Taking drugs	27	28 SPRING SESHIN Gilly & Maggie	29
30	October 1	2	3	4	5 Sesshin ends →	6

This newsletter is available on our web site: www.szc.org.au