

## COMING EVENTS

### **WEEKEND SESSHIN Saturday February 2 – Sunday February 3** at Kodoji

Led by Paul Maloney. Contact: Paul on 4784 2136 or 9514 2519.

### **AUTUMN SESSHIN Friday March 21 - Friday March 28** at Kodoji

Teachers: Subhana Barzaghi & Paul Maloney

Programme includes:- sitting and walking meditation; private interviews with the teachers; daily dharma talk; chanting; mindfulness work practice; vegetarian meals. In Zen tradition, a sesshin is based on intensive sitting meditation, in our case for seven or eight hours a day; such a schedule is usually suitable only for people who have previous meditation experience.

Cost is \$300 members, \$350 non-members; payment due 7 March.

Enquiries: Tony Miller (02) 9987 4312; 0432 566 784; email [tonyphilmill@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tonyphilmill@yahoo.com.au)



### **SAMU weekend of March 8-9** at Gorricks Run

Samu is Work Practice i.e. it is an essential aspect of our zen training. It is also fun. So come along and don't let just a few generous souls experience all the benefits.

Enquiries: Tony Coote 9817 3466. Let Tony know if coming.

### **BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY celebration, for the family, Sunday March 30.**

9.30 am children's craft, 10.30 am ceremony. Followed by potluck.

Enquiries: Janet Selby 6589 4636

### **ZEN AND ART RETREAT, April 24 - 27** at Kodoji

Led by Diana Levy and Janet Selby, yoga with Judy Belnick.

Make a Haiku Journey book interweaving words, images, painting and drawing inspired by our stunning country Zendo - Kodoji - a joyous way to gather your creative energies for 2008.

Because art materials are expensive, we need to know quantities. All materials will be provided. However, feel free to bring along your own journal, paints, and any other art materials you may like to use.

Payments due April 11. Cost \$125 members, \$150 non-members.

Enquiries: Diana Levy (02) 4751 3935, email: [diana\\_l@iprimus.com.au](mailto:diana_l@iprimus.com.au);

Janet (02) 9589 4636, mobile 0431 955 282, email: [janetselby@bigpond.com](mailto:janetselby@bigpond.com)

## REPORTS

### Art Exhibition sale

Last December's Zen Art Exhibition and Sale at the Annandale Zendo raised a substantial amount of funds which were donated to Robert Aitken Roshi's ongoing health care in Hawaii. Over \$2000 was sent, with money raised from the sale of Glenys's Ensos, Caroline's Photographs, Subhana's scrolls, Gail's scarf, Janet's ceramics and Colin Hopkin's drawing. Hand made Greeting Cards made by Caroline, Gilly, Glenys, Lily, and Linda also sold well. Thanks to all involved in setting up, and its ongoing supervision.

### Picnic in the Park, at Annandale, Sunday December 16

Despite rain and threats of rain that deterred some, dogs, babies, children, Sangha members new and old, with family and friends, all made it to the picnic down in the park after December 16th Zazenkai. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with many who can't make it to week night sitting, and to see how the young flourish! A very happy, relaxed time in a not very relaxed month.

### New Year Sesshin

New Year Sesshin took place at Kodo-ji from from 28 December to 4 January, in unexpectedly equable temperatures for the season. It was a smallish but powerful sesshin. Newsworthy events were:

- The presentation to Kodo-ji of three magnificent banners created by Lindy Lee and Rob Scott-Mitchell. Hanging the full height of the verandahs, and projecting out from them, the banners show, on the dojo, a Buddha, in orange; on the hojo, for the Dharma, a Kuan-yin, in blue; and on the cottage, for the Sangha, a field of flowers, in red. Buddha is blazing and transparent in full sun, Dharma darkly mysterious, Sangha happily profuse.
- A pilgrimage procession on New Year's Eve greeted the banners and was followed by a ceremony in the dojo, with the ringing of the great bell 108 times, as in Japanese New Year custom, and also in allusion to the 108 bhiksu precepts. Looking forward to the Chinese Year of the Rat, Subhana and Maggie, the sesshin teachers, gave learned and edifying disquisitions on rat lore.
- Brian Gutkin took jukai, in the presence of his partner Xia, their son Sean (aged 2), and Xia's daughters Amanda and Michelle. Brian's jukai vows will be printed in the next *Mind Moon Circle*.
- One keen sesshin student was a death adder (or deaf adder—different names for the same reptile), who made more than one appearance, refusing to flee when almost run over by a lawnmower and later escaping undignified imprisonment in a cardboard carton. It was last seen heading for the creek, and perhaps the other shore. Visitors to Gorrick's should nevertheless beware: death adders do not flee humans like other snakes and can easily be trodden on. Another presence was a red-back spider, who set up as host in one of the toilets.



### Shakuhachi at Annandale

At the zazenkai at Annandale, on Sunday January 20, Jim Franklin presented a talk on the shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) and its practice. By way of illustration he also played four solo pieces, and very powerful and evocative pieces they were. Jim explained that playing the shakuhachi is a meditational practice, and the pieces we heard were composed expressly for this purpose. The player attends to one note at a time, each note treated specially, each note now.

Jim will be performing at the World Shakuhachi Festival, to be held this year in Sydney, July 4-8, at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (see their website for details).

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The board sent \$1032 from the Sangha towards supporting Aitken Roshi. There will be more to come from the Arts Sale.

After a discussion about Dana at sesshin, it was decided to continue the practice of set fees. It was agreed to raise the teacher's payment for sesshin from \$2,000, which has been the case since the days of John Tarrant, to \$2,500 (i.e. \$287 per day). The annual payment is to be increased by 3%, to be reviewed each year in regard to the financial health of SZC.

It was agreed to pay Apprentice teachers for co-teaching at sesshin \$100 per day. In the case of more than one co-teacher, the amount would be split between them. (They do not pay for sesshin).

Jill Steverson has agreed to be Tenzo and look at the sesshin recipes.

A chart of when Gorrick's is booked has been put on the Annandale noticeboard by Brendon Stewart. It is hoped that more people will avail themselves of the wonderful opportunity to spend time at Gorrick's, alone, with friends, or family.

John Merson gave a report on the fledgling Blue Mountains branch of SZC. A fuller report in the Newsletter is planned for later.

A letter of thanks is being sent to Lindy Lee and Rob Scott-Mitchell for their gift of three banners given to us for Gorrick's. These were made during a TV filming about their art work.

Allan Marett presented a proposal for the maintaining of consistency and accuracy in conducting the ancient rituals of our evening practice. He suggested that there be people in charge of overseeing this and holding 2 training sessions a year, for all leaders, even the most senior, as all can gradually make changes without even recognising it. There will be more on this matter.

Tony Coote, as treasurer, reported that SZC is in a reasonably healthy financial state.

## NOTICE BOARD

### **FULL MOON CEREMONY**

February 18, 20 Precepts to be discussed – I take up the way of Not Praising Myself while Abusing Others.

### **ZAZENKAI at ANNANDALE -**

February 17 **8.30 am– 12pm** Dokusan Subhana, talk Subhana - Art.

March 16 **8.30 am– 12pm** Dokusan Paul Maloney, talk Paul Maloney – Mahayana History.

### **YOGA CLASSES**

Jude Belnick will be holding yoga classes at the Zen centre on Tuesday mornings (subject to approval by the board). The classes will be from 6.30am - 7.30am and then optional sitting until 8am. It will be a monthly enrollment costing \$40- \$50 depending on whether there is 4 or 5 classes in the month. \$12 for a casual class. Income will go towards Aitken Roshi or Sydney Zen Centre. Contact Jude [jude.belnick@gmail.com](mailto:jude.belnick@gmail.com)

**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 Friday Feb 8 at Sarah Kanowski's in Annandale.

**ORIENTATIONS: Monday evenings 6pm, Wednesday evenings 6.45pm**

- for newcomers to receive orientation to the practice.

**Monday evenings :** Main organiser is now Sue ([suebazbi@bigpond.net.au](mailto:suebazbi@bigpond.net.au)) please email to book.

**Wednesday evenings :** Call Janet Selby on 9589 4636 or just turn up at 6.45pm for an introduction to the practice.

**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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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.

**REORGANISATION OF DOJO ROLES AT ANNANDALE**

From May 2008 dojo roles for evening sitting and zazenkai will be organised in a new way. The following coordinators will organise rosters and training for the roles of Ino, Jikijitsu, Jisha and Orientation: Orientation—Maggie Gluek; Ino—Allan Marett; Jikijitsu and Jisha—Tony Miller. Coordinators will shortly contact people already trained for these roles to invite them to join a pool of people willing to take on these roles. Training will also be provided twice a year for people wanting to learn these roles. One important innovation, which is aimed at improving the standard of our ritual practice, is that all members of the Ino, Jikijitsu and Jisha pool must, however experienced, attend one training session a year.

The first training workshops will be offered as follows:

February 17. 1.00-2.30pm (following zazenkai): Training workshop for Jikijitsu and Jisha led by Tony Miller. Please bring something to share for lunch.

March 16. 1.00—2.30 (following zazenkai): Training workshop for Ino led by Allan Marett. Please bring something to share for lunch.

**REGULAR DATES**

<b>Dokusan – Mondays:</b>	Subhana	February 4, 11, 25, March 3, 10, 31
	Maggie Gluek	March 17

Wednesdays: Gilly Coote February 6, 13, 27, March 19, 26

(No dokusan March 24, due to sesshin)

(No dokusan March 5, 12 - Gilly will be at Diamond Sangha Teachers' Meeting, Denver, Colorado)

**Full Moon Ceremony** – February 18, 20: *I take up the way of not praising myself while discussing the faults of others.*

March 17, 19: Precepts recitation.: *Not praising myself while discussing the faults of others.*

### **Zazenkai at Annandale**

February 17 8.30 – 12 noon – Subhana dokusan, and talk - Art.

March 16 8.30 – 12 noon – Paul Maloney dokusan, and talk – Mahayana History.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:geemonga@bigpond.com)

**Board Meetings** are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (with zazen at 7pm beforehand). All SZC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Next meetings are on February 12 and March 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](http://www.szc.org.au)

**Members of the Board:** Nigel Pearn (Chairman), Tony Coote (Treasurer), Britta Biedermann (Correspondence Secretary, Will Moon, Janet Selby (Minutes Secretary), Sally Hopkins (General Secretary), Allan Marett, John Merson (representing Blue Mountains). **Teachers:** Subhana Barzaghi, Gillian Coote **Apprentice Teachers** - Paul Maloney (w) 9514-2519; Maggie Gluek 9987 4312 **Newsletter editor** – Doug Mason [dougmason@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dougmason@ozemail.com.au)

### **SANGHA-RELATED EVENTS**

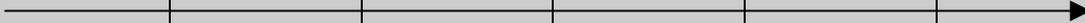
#### **Flamenco Dance event**

*(submitted by Angela Neville)*

My flamenco dance school, El Duende, is part of El Caballo Blanco, a show which combines the two great passions of southern Spain - horses and flamenco dance. We do a couple of short performances, but the Lipizzaners, Andalusians, Friesians and Arabians are the focus of the show, displaying their beauty and grace in a choreographed production. The show is on Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm and at the moment there's a buy-one-get-one-free offer. I will be dancing Saturdays throughout February. If you come to the show give me a call and let me know so I can come and say hi!

More info including prices and venue at: [www.elcaballoblanco.com.au](http://www.elcaballoblanco.com.au)

## SZC Calendar February - March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 27</b> <b>Women's</b> <b>Retreat</b> 	<b>28</b> Public Holiday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Weekend</b> <b>Sesshin</b> Paul Maloney
<b>3</b> <b>Weekend</b> <b>Sesshin</b> Paul Maloney	<b>4</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Women's</b> <b>Group</b> (Sarah K's)	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>12</b> <b>Board</b> <b>Meeting</b> start 7.30pm	<b>13</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>ZAZENKAI</b> 8.30-12 Talk on Art Subhana, Dokusan Subhana	<b>18</b> <b>Full Moon</b> <b>Ceremony</b> Not praising myself while abusing others	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Full Moon</b> <b>Ceremony</b> Not praising myself while abusing others	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>March 1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Samu at</b> <b>Gorricks</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Samu at</b> <b>Gorricks</b>	<b>10</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>11</b> <b>Board</b> <b>Meeting</b> start 7.30pm	<b>12</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Women's</b> <b>Group</b> (Sally's)	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>ZAZENKAI</b> 8.30-12 Talk Mahayana history, Dokusan Paul Maloney	<b>17</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Sesshin</b> 	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>Buddha's</b> <b>Birthday</b> 9.30 craft for kids 10.30 ceremony Potluck	<b>31</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>April 1</b>	<b>2</b> Zazen 7-9pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

*This newsletter is available on our web site: [www.szc.org.au](http://www.szc.org.au)*