Sydney Zen Centre
www.szc.org.au
251 Young Street
Annandale NSW 2038
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NEWSLETTER **October – November 2010**

REPORTS

Memorial Ceremony at Palolo Zen Centre for Robert Aitken Roshi

In late August I made the journey to Hawaii to farewell Aitken Roshi at Palolo Zen Centre. During a most moving ceremony, folks walked to the altar and spoke directly to Roshi. I thanked him on behalf of all Australian and New Zealand sanghas for flying South to lead sesshin here for so many years, guiding and teaching so many students and the fledgling Sydney Zen Centre.

Later that day, Michael Kieran, Nelson Foster and I gathered in Roshi's study to apportion his ashes among our respective sanghas according to Roshi's instructions, the fourth portion being for his son Tom. I carried our portion with me on the plane home, aware of what a great honour and privilege it is for Sydney Zen Centre to be entrusted with the safekeeping of his ashes. We reciprocate this trust by keeping our Bodhisattva Vows.

On my return I learned that the Board had agreed to subsidise this journey - deep gassho. A fuller report on the ceremony, with pictures, will be in the forthcoming Robert Aitken issue of *MindMoonCircle*.

Gillian Coote

Spring Sesshin: Lee Nutter takes jukai

Samu at Gorrick's August 20-22

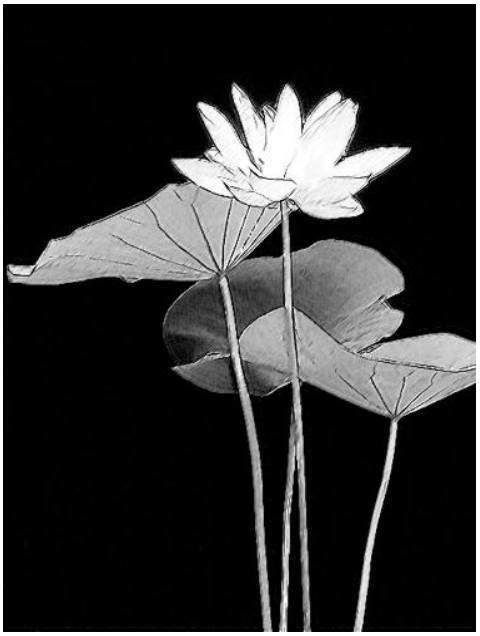
It all began with Sally and Colin. On Friday they rented a ute in Balmain, collected four beds from the One Stop Pine Shop and drove up to Gorricks. Their mission complete, the bed bodhisattvas slipped away the next day. Saturday saw Gail, Glenys, Larry, Simon and Tony C arrive and roll up their sleeves. They were joined on Sunday by Nigel, Sarah, Eva, Theo and Maggie. What was accomplished? Thus I have heard from the many-armed Samu Supervisor Coote: Weeds were sought and few found (except blackberries), an inventory was taken, windows were cleaned to sparkling, chairs were mended, beds assembled and estapoled, a fridge flue was cleaned, rat's nest under oven was cleared, lawn was mown, a couple of women got tangled in a blackberry thicket, delicious meals were concocted of course. Eva (age 3) proved

herself an excellent and solicitous conversationalist. When time came to leave, Glenys went to say goodbye...
Eva: *How are you getting home?* Glenys: *With that man over there (Larry).* Eva: *Is he your husband?* Glenys: *No he is not.* Eva: *Well who is your husband?* Glenys: *I don't have a husband. I live by myself.* Eva: *Oh well, we can find you a husband.* There's hope for us all.

Maggie Gluek

Dojo and hojo cleaning

A fortnightly roster for cleaning the dojo and hojo has been set up. Cleaning involves brushing and/or shaking zabutons and plumping up zafus and sweeping out the dojo, wiping down the altar and table in the middle room, sweeping the hojo and generally wiping down dusty surfaces. This can generally takes well under one hour, and can be done at any time within the fortnight in which you are rostered on. If you haven't already done so, please seriously consider committing to a slot: it is an easy but essential way of supporting the sangha. After all, samu is a pillar of practice.



Dojo leadership and cleaning

Complementing the dojo cleaning roster, people filling leadership positions are being asked to clean specific areas. Inos are responsible for wiping down the altars in the dojo, removing any spilt wax, making sure the water dishes are filled with clean water and sieving the incense in the incense holders to remove unburnt incense. The sieve for this is in the altar. They should also replace candles when necessary. At present we are experimenting with thick candles in glass containers in order to reduce spilt wax and make changing candles easier. If they don't help, we can try something else. Jishas are responsible for the hojo: keeping the altar clean as in the dojo, supplying a fresh glass of water for the teacher, shaking and plumping up the zafus and so on. Jikis are responsible for vacuuming or sweeping the middle room (the vacuum cleaner is in the room at the top of the stairs). Please take these cleaning duties seriously: they don't take long but they ensure that the centre is clean and tidy for members and visitors alike.

COMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting: Sunday October, 10.30

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Annandale on Sunday October 17th starting at 10.30am. Sitting will start at 8.30. The AGM will be followed by a General Meeting and then a potluck at 12.30. This is an important event and all members are encouraged to attend.

Memorial Ceremony November 14, 10.30

Our annual Memorial Ceremony will this year be especially poignant as Roshi's ashes will be formally installed on the altar by Subhana and Gillian. Some members may not know that Anne Aitken's ashes are already present behind her photograph on the side altar. The ceremony will begin at 10.30 and will be followed by a potluck.

Australian and New Zealand Diamond Sangha Teacher's Circle Meeting, Oct. 30-31

The Australian and New Zealand Diamond Sangha Teacher's Circle meets at Kodoji over the weekend of October 30-31. Some teachers will be flying in from interstate or overseas, so we need people who are able to pick them up on Friday 29th and/or drop them back at the airport on

Monday 1st or Tuesday 2nd. If you can help, could you let Gillian (gillian@gilliancoote.com) or Subhana (subhana@bigpond.net.au) know.

Panel Discussion by Diamond Sangha teachers from Australia and New Zealand
Following the meeting of Diamond Sangha teachers from Australia and New Zealand over the last weekend in October, four teachers will present a panel discussion at Annandale on Monday November 1st starting at 7.00pm. The teachers are Bob Joyner from the Adelaide Zen group, Arthur Wells from Christchurch, New Zealand, Ellen Davison from Kuan Yin in Lismore and Barry Farrin of the Forest Way Zen Group on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

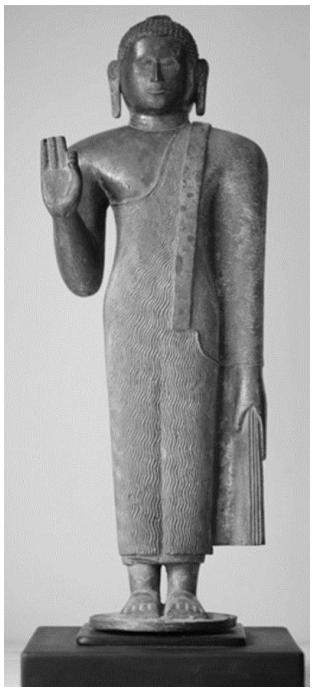
Rohatsu Sesshin December 4- 8 led by Gillian Coote at Annandale.
There will be a city-based Rohatsu Sesshin at Annandale, led by Gillian Coote, focussing on Dana: relinquishment, kindness, trust and generosity. This is an ideal opportunity for newcomers to experience sesshin. Dates, Saturday December 4th to Wednesday December 8th, the Buddha's Day of Realisation. Sesshin coordinator: Janet Selby janetselby@bigpond.com. or mobile: 0421369707

NEWS from the BOARD

New members: Welcome to Simon Yang Wang, and old friend Jennifer Gentle, who has rejoined. Warmly welcomed by us all.

Finances: Despite many comings in and goings out, we are in a sound situation.

A Publications Committee to oversee the production of *MindMoonCircle* has been formed. Members are Lee Nutter, Tony Miller and Jean Brick. One of their primary duties is to identify editors for each of the four issues of *MindMoonCircle* published each year, and to assist those who would like to edit an issue but are unsure of their skills. If you would like to take on editing an issue, please contact one of the committee members.



Teacher's room at Gorrick's: The Board has accepted Tony Coote's revised plans for the teacher's room at Gorrick's: a beautiful piece of work. Thanks, Tony.

SZC goes digital: Alex Mitrovich continues to work away at getting podcasts up on line, while Lee Nutter has set up a Facebook page for the sangha. Thanks to both of you.

Digital newsletter: Starting with the December-January issue, the newsletter will be posted to the SZC's yahoo list and on our website (www.szc.org.au). This will not only save many trees but will also reduce the energy consumed in posting and delivering individual copies. If you want to continue receiving a hard copy, please let Sally know before the end of October. We are looking for someone to take responsibility for mailing the newsletter to those who want copies; if you have opted to receive a hard copy, perhaps you could consider volunteering for this job.

Altar flowers: Glenys has taken on responsibility for arranging the flowers on the altar each week. Thanks, Glenys.

REGULAR DATES

Dokusan *Mondays:* Subhana: October 11, 18, 25; November 8, 15
Paul Maloney: October 4; November 22
Maggie Gluek: October 25; November 29

Wednesdays: Gillian Coote: October 13, 27; November 3, 10 17

Full Moon Ceremony: November 22 & 24: Not misusing sex

Precept Recitation and Dharma Café: October 18 & 20

Zazenkai: November 21: Talk - Andrew Judge; Dokusan: Gillian Coote

Board Meetings: October 12 and November 9. 7.00 sitting: Meeting starts at 7.30. All members welcome. Full minutes of every board meeting are posted on the Yahoo SZC list for members to read. If you are a member, are not getting the Yahoo group emails and wish to do so, please contact Nigel Pearn: firstnigel@ozemail.com.au.

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. The October meeting will be replaced by a Culburra weekend (thanks Julie) on October 23-24. The November meeting is at Helen's on November 8th.

Orientations: Monday evenings *6pm,* **Wednesday evenings** *6.45pm*
For newcomers to receive orientation to the practice.
Monday evenings: Please email the following to indicate that you are coming:
October 1: Sue - suebazbi@bigpond.net.au
October 25: Jean - jeanmbrick@yahoo.com.au
November 15: Tony M - tonyphilmill@yahoo.com.au
November 22-Allan - allan.marett@gmail.com
December 13-Maggie - magpiewarble@yahoo.com

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

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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

OTHER EVENTS

Blue Mountains Yatra: On Saturday Oct 9th, Diana Levy will lead a one day yatra in the Blue Mountains. This part of the Blue Mountains, Kings Tableland, is rich in Gundungurra culture and history. It will be a day of silent meditative walking, meditation in country and some interpretation. The walk is accessible to people of middling levels of fitness, as it is along fire trails and the gradients are gentle. There is a modicum of walking under powerlines, off-track and rock-hopping. Stunning views of Kedumba (Jamison) valley and Cox's river. Some people may like to camp on the Saturday night at the beautiful NPWS campsite at Ingar waterfall and swimming hole. Meet: Wentworth Falls, Stockyard carpark 8am; Cost: $10 to cover basic expenses + dana**;** Contact: Diana Levy asap, on (02) 4751-3935, mob. 0432-619-305, email: diana_l@iprimus.com.au

Clay and Meditation Workshop with Janet Selby Sunday 31 October
10.30am to 3pm $60. Clay and firing included.
Bookings janetselby@bigpond.com or 0421 369 707
This workshop will focus on Jizo Bodhisattva and our personal interpretation in clay.

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

Members of the Board: Allan Marett (Chair); Alex Mitrovic (Deputy-Chair); Sally Hopkins (Secretary); Meghan Hay (Treasurer); Gail Burrell-Davis (Assistant Treasurer); Will Moon; Nigel Pearn and Gordon Waters. **Teachers:** Subhana Barzaghi, Gillian Coote **Apprentice Teacher:** Maggie Gluek. **Newsletter editor** Jean Brick jeanmbrick@yahoo.com.au

Jukai photograph: Tony Coote

SZC Calendar: October - November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 26	**27** Zazen 7-9pm	**28**	**29** Zazen 7-9pm	**30**	**October 1**	**2**
3	**4** Zazen 7-9pm	**5**	**6** Zazen 7-9pm	**7**	**8**	**9**
10	**11** Zazen 7-9pm	**12** **Board Meeting** start 7.30 pm	**13** Zazen 7-9pm	**14**	**15** **Women's Group**	**16**
17 **AGM Sitting 8.30-10.00** **AGM 10.30 General Meeting** **Potluck**	18 Zazen & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	**19**	**20** Zazen & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	**21**	**22**	**23** **Women's Group Culburra weekend**
24 **Women's Group Culburra weekend**	**25** Precept Recitation & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	**26**	**27** Precept Recitation & Dharma Cafe 7-9pm	**28**	**29**	**30** **Australia/NZ Diamond Sangha Teacher's Meeting**
31 **Australia/NZ Diamond Sangha Teacher's Meeting**	**November 1** **Zazen & panel talk: Aust/NZ Diamond Sangha teachers** 7-9pm	**2**	**3** Zazen 7-9pm	**4**	**5** **Women's Group**	**6**
7	**8** Zazen 7-9pm	**9** **Board Meeting** start 7.30pm	**10** Zazen 7-9pm	**11**	**12**	**13**
14 **Memorial Ceremony 10.30** **Potluck**	**15** Zazen 7-9pm	**16**	**17** Zazen 7-9pm	**18**	**19**	**20**
21 **Zazenkai 8.30-12.00** **Talk: Andrew Judge** **Dokusan: Gillian Coote**	**22** **Full Moon Ceremony** 7-9pm	**23**	**24** **Full Moon Ceremony** 7-9pm	**25**	**26**	**27**
28	**29** Zazen 7-9pm	**30**	December **1** Zazen 7-9pm	**2**	**3**	**4** **Rohatsu Sesshin: Annandale**