



REPORTS

SAMU AT KODOJI, 24-26 August



Here's a photo of the happy Samuers at Sunday lunch. Not in the picture are Steve Crump and his son Angus who left just before lunch, Hayley who is just out of frame on the bottom right and the photographer Tony.

In the picture, from bottom left, clockwise around the table - Sarah, John, Greg C, Karlyn, Carl, Gilly, Glenys, Gail, Jason, Greg T, Mark, Robert, Kath and Adrian.

It was a great weekend and thanks to all for all the work, which included:

- Morning and evening Zazen done and dusted
- Timber trim and skirting to the new Teacher's Room and Kitchen extension completed.
- Nails punched and puttied
- Undercoat applied to the Teachers Room walls, ceiling and to part of the kitchen extension
- Rusted guttering to the Dojo replaced
- Anti slip strips applied to steps
- Hojo store cleaned out
- Grease trap cleaned out
- Windows cleaned and floors swept
- Zafus and zabutons aired and cleaned
- Broken chair repaired
- Firewood chopped and stacked
- Trees felled
- Bonfire of wood and branches lit and celebrated
- Blackberries behind the Hojo and beside the drive removed and treated
- Nettles in the compost patch grubbed up and burned on the bonfire
- New mower introduced to Kodoji and grass mowed (it was noted that people queued to take turns to experience the joy of self-propelled mower meditation)
- Inventory of food etc made

A special thanks to Glenys and Gail for their tireless work in the mammoth task cooking meals and washing-up for 18 happy Samuers.

LISTENING TO ANCIENT GROUND with senior Marri Tjevin elder, Frank Dumoo



Recently a group of SZC members gathered at the ABC to make a studio recording of *Ancient Ground* as part of an Encounter program, produced by Kerry Stewart. Subsequently, on a recent visit to Darwin, I was able, thanks to the generosity of Kerry in making the recording available, to play it to Frank Dumoo, the senior ritual leader for the Daly region and custodian of the *wangga* tradition from which *Ancient Ground* derives. Frank listened intently to the recording and then enthusiastically expressed his approval – “that’s really good son,” he said. He was clearly moved. I then explained to him and his wife Rosie about our Ancient Ground temple and showed him several photographs. Although I have, over the years, kept Frank abreast of the evolution of Ancient Ground from the *wangga* song, *Yendili*, this was the first time I was able to play him a good recording. It’s important, I think, for us, as a *sangha*, to have *Ancient Ground* authorised by the most senior Aboriginal elder concerned. Thanks to all who participated in making the recording: Kerry Stewart, Max Baker, Jean Brick, Peter Bursky, Maggie Gluek, Janet Selby and Brendon Stewart. Thanks too to Frank for his teachings and for his generosity and openness of heart in engaging with our Way.

Allan

(Top) Allan Marett and Frank Dumoo listening to *Ancient Ground* (photo Linda Barwick)

(Above) Allan Marett, Rosie Dumoo and Frank Dumoo talking about *Ancient Ground* (photo Linda Barwick)

STUDY GROUP at Zazenkai on 19 August led by Subhana

A lovely morning was spent on a Sunday in lieu of usual zazenkai with Subhana leading a study of the Diamond Sutra, one of the oldest Buddhist texts. As there were more than 20 people, we were put into groups and given one verse each to enjoy and report on. Here are some of the musings and responses we came up with.

Gordon Waters’ group:

*Mount Sumeru mind.
Nobody? No body. Great!
Buddha has explained.*

Diana Levy’s group:

*Possess, Retain, Hold, Grasp –
As the sand falls through your hands*

Sally Hopkins’ group:

*Thus I have heard:
Let go of appearances
And joyfully get on with life.*

*Don’t grasp for good.
Time for the next stride.*

*Clouds passing,
All a bubble riding*

Max’s group:

A poem by Cathy Tanaka:

Between

*Let me be alive
In well loved empty spaces
Like the instant between the stars
Or the now in my respiration
Still, like a notion of trees
Green, between a mountain's knees
Way below sun dappled breezes
Where pause is hallowed and meaning
ceases*



Do things have an intrinsic quality or not? Does a dog have Buddha nature or not? -Apparently not. Well actually, neither and both. But don't attach to this statement or push it away. It is neither a teaching nor a broken rhinoceros fan.

We enjoyed constructing our own rafts like something from IKEA. The instructions were old and dusty and the universal tool didn't always fit. Confused, we popped our rafts in the water and started our journey across Samsara. My raft is sturdy but 'I' keep getting splinters.

*Where are they heading?
In our rafts of being and non-being
Should I grasp or relinquish?
No! Not another bloody question!*

Left: Manuscripts and prints obtained by Aurel Stein from the "Library Cave," no. 17 of the Mogao Caves at Dunhuang. At the bottom is the earliest complete printed book, a copy of the Diamond Sutra dated 868 CE. Photograph © The British Library.

SPRING SESSHIN AT KODOJI 21-28 September

There were 19 people at the end of sesshin who all agreed that the feel of the previous week had been one on harmony and ease. At one stage up to 26 participants enjoyed the birdsong, the food, the stars, the goanna in the compost, and a rare sighting of a brush turkey. In an encounter unique to Kodoji, the Dragon and the Phoenix met in a kerfuffle that passed quickly away. It was a moving Jukai ceremony which welcomed Stuart Solzburg to the Sangha, who was given the dharma name *Shoshin* 'True Heart'. May you walk the path with integrity. Deep gassho to all. *Janet*



NEW MENS GROUP

A newly formed Men's Group - aka 'Dharma Bros' (perhaps) - met for the first time at Allan Marett's place on Tuesday 21 August. Following a period of zazen, we had a personal sharing over tea and macaroon's (thank you Zoe!) and discussed the role and possible future activities of the group: monthly meetings (zazen followed by a sharing), a weekend walking retreat, dharma discussions, artistic activities, and outings to local restaurants. Sangha men who are interested in joining in the activities of the group should contact Max Baker at max.baker@sydney.edu.au

COMING EVENTS

INTRODUCTION TO ZEN MEDITATION with Paul Maloney Roshi

Thursdays 7pm – 8.30pm for 4 weeks from 4 – 25 October

The program will be quite informal, consisting of practice instructions, practice periods of varying duration, Q&A as required, plus notes provided by email to participants as requested from week to week. A donation of \$20 has been suggested for the 4 weeks. Bookings: paul.maloney@internode.on.net

AGM 21 October 10.30am

You will have received the invitation to the Annual General Meeting. It is an important sangha occasion. There is possible zazen 8.30-10, then the meeting starts at 10.30, followed by a potluck lunch. A new Board will be elected, reports given by the Chair, Treasurer, and the Teachers, with time for general discussion, then a shared potluck meal.

ARTS RETREAT at KODOJI 26-28 October

An Arts Retreat is planned for the weekend of the 26 to the 28th of October. Spring in Kodoji! Diana Levy will take people for a haiku walk and help them to express it in haiku. Janet Selby will be offering a Clay and Meditation workshop. Gail McCall will show participants how to dye a silk scarf Shibori style using gum leaves and onion skins. Breakfasts, morning and afternoon teas will be provided, otherwise participants will bring food to be shared. Cost for materials, workshops and accommodation: \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members, \$55 for children. Enquiries: Coordinator Gail Burrell-Davis, gailmccall@bigpond.com

MEMORIAL CEREMONY 11 November

Australian tradition has been for November 11 to be a day of Remembrance for those who died in Wars. Here we have been keeping the day as a Memorial Day to honour all our family and friends who have died, whether recently or long ago. Everyone is encouraged to bring photos for the altar, poems, stories. There is zazen at 9pm and at 11pm there will be a Memorial Ceremony, with time to speak of those whom we are especially remembering. A potluck lunch will follow.

ROHATSU SESSHIN in December led by Paul Maloney. The sangha will be advised.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Annual General Meeting 21 October The AGM is when we vote for the members of the Board for 2012-2013. Everyone is urged to come on Sunday 21 October at 10.30, one of the few times when the Sangha can all meet together. People are also urged to stand for the Board. It is wonderful practice, in an intimate setting, often FUN, and is absolutely necessary for the continuance of SZC. If you are generous enough to offer one evening a month for meetings, please see a leader or email.

New Member A very warm welcome to new member, Sarah Sherringham.

Library The library has been expanded and refreshed. Go and see for yourself, and what's more- USE it. There are many very good books there. We are grateful to Peter Bursky for donating bookcases, Lee Nutter for transporting them, Gordon Waters, for his initial idea, and for all his work, Gail Burrell-Davis for all her designing, shifting, moving and stacking, and Sue Bidwell for her work with the indexes. Many thanks from us all. Anyone who has ideas, or suggestions for books to be bought for the library, or Dvd's related to Buddhism, please contact Gordon at gordonwaters@optusnet.com.au

Pledges Due All members are urged to PAY their PLEDGES, if they have not yet done so, and also put in a membership form for the Treasurer. SZC cannot run on fresh air!

REGULAR DATES

Dokusan *Mondays:* Subhana: October 1, 8, 15 November 5, 12, 19, & 26
Wednesdays: Gillian Coote: October 10, 17, 24, 31 November 7, 14, 21

Full Moon Ceremony: "I take up the way of not stealing", Monday 1 Oct, Wednesday 3 Oct.

Precept Recitation and Dharma Café: Monday 26 November, Wednesday 28 November. Newcomers especially welcome.

No Zazenkai: Annual General Meeting 21 October, Memorial Ceremony 11 November

Board Meetings: Thursdays 11 October, 8 November. Sit starts at 6.00pm meeting starts at 6.30pm. All members welcome. Full minutes of every board meeting are posted on the Yahoo SZC list for members to read.

Women's Group: 12-13 October Julie's at Culburra, 9 November Maggie's.

Men's Group: 9 October, 13 November. Contact Max Baker max.baker@sydney.edu.au

Orientalions: Monday evenings 6pm, Maggie Gluek, magpiwarble@yahoo.com
Wednesday evenings 6.30pm, Janet Selby 0421 369 707, janetselby@bigpond.com

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*.

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: Meets at Wat Dhammadharo on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Gary for more details: mobile 0429 635 412; email gcaitcheon@gmail.com

Laughing Kookaburra Meditation Group (Woy Woy): The group is based at the Woy Woy Environment Centre, 267 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. Come and join the Laughing Kookaburra Sangha Zen Group. Contact Stuart at ssolzberg@gmail.com, or 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 Tamvakeris, Will Moon, Kim Bagot. **Teachers:** Subhana Barzagli, Gillian Coote, Paul Maloney **Apprentice Teachers:** Maggie Gluek, Allan Marett
Newsletter editor: Janet Selby janetselby@bigpond.com

SZC Calendar October-November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sept	1 October Full Moon Not Stealing	2	3 Full Moon Not Stealing	4	5	6
7	8 Zazen 7-9pm	9	10 Zazen 7-9pm	11 Board Meeting 6pm sit	12	13 Women's Group Julie's Culburra
14	15 Zazen 7-9pm	16	17 Zazen 7-9pm	18	19	20
21 AGM 10.30	22 Zazen 7-9pm	23	24 Zazen 7-9pm	25	26 ART'S RETREAT Gorrick's —————→	27
28 Art Retreat —————→	29 Zazen 7-9pm	30	31 Zazen 7-9pm	1 November	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting 6pm sit	9 Women's Group Maggie's	10
11 Memorial Ceremony Zazen 9am Ceremony 11, potluck lunch	12 Zazen 7-9pm	13	14 Zazen 7-9pm	15	16	17
18	19 Zazen 7-9pm	20	21 Zazen 7-9pm	22	23	24
25	26 Dharma Café 7-9pm	27	28 Dharma Café 7-9pm	29	30	1 December