



## Encouraging Words from the Teacher

Allan Marett

### ‘Not Knowing’ and ‘Destitute Mind’: Two teahouses of Nanzenji temple

Once again I find myself writing out of the experience of pilgrimage to Shikoku. Like sesshin, pilgrimage has the capacity to shake up our lives: as we drop the regular routines and the concerns of our everyday lives and entering into a sustained period of practice, we create space for necessary truths to emerge.

Quite often these openings happen during periods when we are intensely focused, but not always. They are just as likely to happen while we’re peeling the potatoes or slogging our way up a hill, or they may even happen after or outside the retreat or pilgrimage.

During April and May I was walking pilgrimage in Shikoku with two dear sangha friends, Janet Selby and Jill Ball. At a certain point we broke off and went to Kyoto to view the cherry blossoms, which were then right at their peak. It was an unforgettable experience.

At Nanzenji temple, in northeast Kyoto, we bought tickets to view the famous Kano painted screens, which are set within Nanzenji’s wonderful gardens. It was here that I encountered the two teahouses, known as ‘Not Knowing’ and ‘Destitute Mind.’ Neither of them is particularly old, but their names have deep resonances. ‘Not Knowing’ is *mushiki* 無識, the answer that Bodhidharma gave to Emperor Wu of Liang, when he was asked, “who is this standing before me?” We usually translate Bodhidharma’s reply, “*mushiki*,” as “I don’t know,” but the “I” is completely redundant.

An information board in the gardens explained that the name of the second teahouse, ‘Destitute Mind’ (*Kyuushin* 窮心) refers to the heart-quality that corresponds to wisdom-quality of “not-knowing.” That is, the not-knowing mind and the destitute heart are fundamentally one and the same. This was my lesson for the day, and for the pilgrimage.

I am reminded of a Case in the Wumenguan, Qingshui, Solitary and Destitute.

*A monk said to Zaoshan, “I am Qingshui, solitary and destitute. Please give me alms.”*

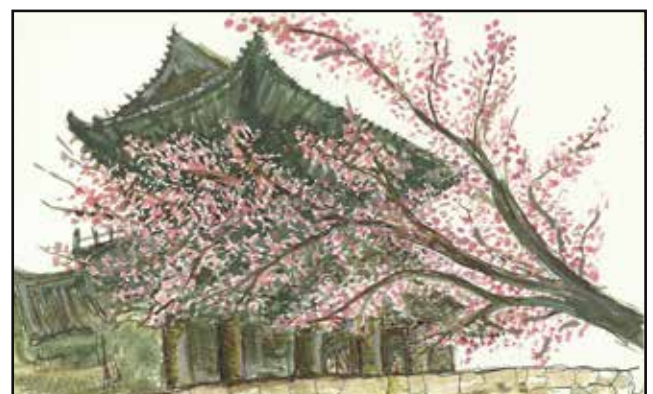
*Zaoshan said, “Venerable Shui!”*

*Qingshui said, “Yes sir!”*

*Zaoshan said, “You have already drunk three cups of the finest wine in China, and still you say that you have not moistened your lips.”*

For Qingshui, everything has fallen away—he is all alone in a universe totally devoid of things. Alone in this universe of absolutely nothing, he feels lonely and perhaps a little unnerved. Zaoshan kindly reminds him how rich this universe of utter poverty actually is, “you have already drunk three cups of the finest wine in China.”

This is not a matter of two sides or two dimensions of reality, one rich, one poor. Wumen’s “Not falling, not evading/Two faces of the one die,” (Wumenguan Case 2, Baizhang’s fox) can be misleading, as can Dogen’s two sides of the single moon: when you see one, you don’t see the other. It is not a matter of seeing either the poverty of emptiness or the richness of form. The richness of form is exactly the poverty of emptiness; the poverty of emptiness is exactly the richness of form. Not two. Remember what Dogen says (we recite this in our Precepts ceremony), “In the Buddha



Dharma, there is one path, one Dharma, one realisation, one practice.“ Or, as Keizan so beautifully says, “One branch from the old plum tree extends splendidly forth.”

So for me, the lesson of the two teahouses was that destitution and richness are not the flip sides of each other. They are absolutely one and the same. It is in its utter poverty that the Nanzenji garden most clearly reveals its utter beauty.

Keizan again.

*The wisteria has withered; trees have fallen down;  
Mountains have crumbled level with the plains.  
Flooding cascades have overflowed their banks;  
Fire flashes forth from the flint boulders.*

What could we point to in order to show that this pair of couple’s refers not to two, but to one? That the withering wisteria is precisely the flooding cascades? That the fallen trees and crumbled mountains are none other than the fire flashing from the flint boulders?

‘Not two, not three. The path is put right.’

*Allan Marett*

*Painting of Nanzenji temple by Janet Selby, March 2017*

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## Reports

### SAMU at KODOJI 27-28 May 2017

Another great weekend of Samu at Kodoji with Greg Carty, Tony and Gillian Coote, Nick Denington, together with Jo, Fleur, Heath and Snoopdog, and Paul Maloney showing up. Our work practice included replacing a length of guttering that had rusted out on the Dojo, rebuilding the kitchen steps, replacing two rusted-out inner sleeves of the toilet pans in the double longdrop loos, painting the cottage and exterior dojo, chopping wood, mowing, bush regen/weeding and cleaning. And of course, our weekend included regular Samu activities - zazen, conversation and preparing and eating fine food. - *Tony Coote*

*Photos by Jo Denington*



*Nick on the roof, painting.*



*Tony painting the building.*



*Gilly in her element doing bush care.*



*Gilly, Nick, Heath and Fleur have a warm cuddle in the cold.*

## DEEPENING YOUR PRACTICE

Subhana + Brendan Stewart

### Reaping the bounty of the garden/cultivation

During the autumn month of May twenty three people, mostly from our Sangha met each Thursday night for a different experience of deep Buddhist practice. While Zen and the practice of zazen was the flavouring that informed our work, the guidance and teaching that Subhana offered was about Buddhist insight. Subhana's idea was to offer a short intensive course that took the metaphor of gardens and gardening and sowed in the wisdom of the four Brahma-Viharas. Over six weeks we thought, talked and contemplated the literature and research together with our own personal experience of our mind and it's amazing capacity to be aware, love, compassion, emptiness and how to live ethically. The warm enthusiasm that gathered around our group each week was wonderful to be a part of. Thank you to Subhana and Brendon for organising this.

## SAMU at ANNANDALE 18 June 2017

As usual, the Sunday Samu was preceded by zazen, then Sally Hopkins, Kerry and Brendon Stewart, Gilly and Tony Coote and Glenys Jackson got down to work. A major task was the removal of the yam plantation from the nature strip, carried out with gusto, the yams gathered, distributed and (later) eaten and the foliage mulched. The ficus was pruned, the garden tended, the dojo cleaned and a new door to the inside bathroom was installed. Post-samu, the electrician has upgraded the switchboard so that the circuit breakers are much less likely to trip when a number of appliances are turned on at the same time and the smoke detector alarms have been replaced.

*Tony Coote*

## WINTER INTENSIVE 10-16 July 2017



Now in its fourth successful year, the yearly intensive practice weeks led by Allan Marett (sensei & GYZ barista) brought our near and far sangha together once again for another very enjoyable week.

The group was a little smaller compared to previous intensives, as some of the regular Ashfield members have moved away in recent times. With a smaller group it let us be a bit more open and free in the schedule and this gave the week a definite theme of joy and ease, with everyone presenting their own version of the first chapter of the Diamond sutra, day in, day out.

David Loy's talks on both the Friday and Sunday offered the week a much appreciated perspective on

why we come together to sit as we do, such as in weeks like this.

The week ended with a full day zazenkai at Annandale with everyone contributing a solid round of sitting and Allan giving a wonderful talk on Case 22 of the Blue Cliff record, Hsueh-feng's Turtle-nosed Snake, which is available on the website.

Hope to see you all next year for the intensives fifth year!

*Peter Bursky*

## RILEY LEE'S CONCERT 29 July 2017

It is too late for inclusion in this Newsletter. Back before there were any teachers in Sydney, Riley Lee used to teach up in the dojo once a week, so we could sit to the sound of the shakuhachi.

## WINTER SESSHIN 2017 was cancelled

Unfortunately due to low numbers, this year's Winter sesshin was cancelled. There is a minimum amount of participants required for the format to proceed smoothly.

# Coming Events



## Spring Sesshin at Kodoji 30 September-7 October led by Gillian Coote

Our sesshin celebrates the hundredth anniversary of our founding teacher, Robert Aitken, Dawn Cloud, 1917-2017. Over the silent peaceful days, breath by breath, as the ochre cliffs, eucalyptus forests, brilliant starry skies and the songs of frogs, crickets and birds advance and confirm the self, birds and trees and stars and we ourselves come forth in perfect harmony.

Sesshin Co-Ordinator: Janet Selby [janetselby@bigpond.com](mailto:janetselby@bigpond.com)

(Note: sesshin starts and ends on a Saturday and includes a public holiday, Monday October 2)

*When I sit with my friends in zazen  
I vow with all beings  
to touch and receive and convey  
the mind of rivers and stars.*

Robert Aitken, Dawn Cloud (1917-2017)

## Transmission of Jeff Ward Canberra, 14 September 2017

A dharma transmission ceremony for Jeff Ward will be held in Canberra on Wednesday 13th September at 4 pm followed by supper. The ceremony will come at the end of the first ever Canberra Zen Group sesshin to be taught by Paul Maloney and Jeff Ward (Friday 8 September - Wednesday 13 September). Both the ceremony and sesshin will be at The Gathering Place, 4 Bancroft St Dickson, ACT. The supper following the ceremony will be at Jeff and Tomoko's place, 85 Higinbotham St, Watson ACT.

All welcome. Some billeting for visitors from interstate will be available for the ceremony with members of the Canberra Zen Group.

Please direct inquiries about sesshin or RSVP if you wish to attend the ceremony to:

Pip Atkins, [pip.atkins@gmail.com](mailto:pip.atkins@gmail.com).



### Zen Roots Workshop

Paul Maloney has generously offered a Saturday workshop on August 12 from 1pm to 4pm for all members. This is a great opportunity to share in his extensive knowledge of Zen Buddhist theory and practice. Please contact Kerry if you wish to attend: [stewartkerry4@gmail.com](mailto:stewartkerry4@gmail.com)

### Samu at Kodoji 26-27 August

Contact Tony Coote if you wish to attend: [tony@tonycootearchitect.com](mailto:tony@tonycootearchitect.com)

*Painting from Japan, Janet Selby, 2017*

# Notices

## Membership fees due

A reminder that membership fees for the financial year 2017-18 are due. The fees for this year are:

Sydney \$444/annually, \$222/bi-annually, \$111/quarterly, \$37/monthly  
Out of town \$324/annually, \$162/bi-annually, \$81/quarterly, \$27/monthly

A reduced fee is available for those who wish to remain a part of the sangha but don't engage in regular dokusan and live at a considerable distance from Sydney. Please talk to Brendon Stewart if you wish to pay the reduced fee.

Renewing members do not have to complete a form unless you wish to change your address or contact details.

Payments can be by cheque or bank transfer to:

Sydney Zen Center Incorporated  
BSB 062 182  
Account 1013 7103

If you are currently paying by regular bank transfer, please update the transfer amount from 1 July.

*Jason Koh Treasurer*

## Asylum Seekers Centre

The Womens group sent \$830 to the Asylum Seekers Centre this financial year. Warm coats, jackets and jumpers especially appreciated in the cold weather-oil, bismati rice and things like shampoo always needed. Donations can be put in the special box upstairs in the library at Annandale.

Enquiries: Lesley, email [lesley.treleaven@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.treleaven@gmail.com) or 0410 621756

## Leadership Roles

Dojo leadership is not only a fantastic way to actualise caring for the sangha and merging one's practice with the vast field we all share, it's also a great way to guarantee you'll turn up.

For those interested, please contact the following leaders who can guide you in the form of the roles.

**Ino:** Peter Bursky [mowerman26@hotmail.com](mailto:mowerman26@hotmail.com)

**Jiki:** Sue Bidwell [sue.bidwell17@gmail.com](mailto:sue.bidwell17@gmail.com)

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

## Books for Sale

Robert Aitken books for sale at Annandale include:

*The Ground We Share, The Practice of Perfection, Zen Master Raven, The Morning Star, Original Dwelling Place.*

And don't forget the book of poems by SZC members Sally Hopkins and Glenys Jackson, *The Morning Star*.

*Painting from Japan, Janet Selby, 2017.  
Allan Dings the bell in Temple 3, Shikoku, Japan.*



# News from the Board

## Riley Lee Fundraising Concert 29 July

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Riley Lee Shakahachi Benefit Concert from 6-8pm on Saturday 29th July. There will also be 3 members talking about their encounters with Aitken Roshi, to commemorate his 100th birthday. We are happy the first concert is sold out.

## Donations

The Board would like to thank all those members who generously donated money for the slow combustion heater for the cottage at Kodoji to replace the leaking pot belly stove. Also, for the defibrillator which now is stored in the central room at Annandale and will go to Kodoji whenever members visit. Your financial help has been crucial in allowing us to buy these necessary life warmers and savers.

## Thank You

The DEEPENING PRACTICE Course held by Subhana and Brendon was extremely well attended, and those people who came along reported that it was very helpful for their practice. Deep bow of gratitude.

## Welcome

We are happy to have 2 new members join the sangha- Rick Polito and Daniel Banyer.

## Online Feast [szc.org.au](http://szc.org.au)

We would like to invite members to link into our Facebook page and regularly check out our shiny new website...there are always lots of new events, talks and podcasts that you can access there. Here is the new masthead.



## Librarian Needed

Liz, our current librarian is going overseas from September for a couple of months, so we need someone to take her place. Please consider doing this important and rewarding job... and you get to read as many dharma books as you like!

# Notice Board

## Dokusan

*Mondays*

Subhana: July 31, August 14, 21, 28

September 11, 18

Allan: September 25

*Wednesdays*

Gillian: ust 2, 16, 23, 30

September 13, 20, 27

## Full Moon Ceremony

August 7+9

*Not Defaming the Three Treasures.*

## Dharma Café

September 4 + 6

## Zazenkai

August 20, 8.30-12pm. Talk Janet Selby,

Dokusan Gillian Coote

September 17, 8.30-12pm

Talk + dokusan Maggie Gluek

## Orientations for Newcomers 7-9pm

AUGUST

Orientation: Thursday 3rd

Kim Bagot: kimballb7@gmail.com Beginners' Night:

Thursday 10th with Allan Marett

SEPTEMBER

Orientation: Thursday 31st August

Brendon Stewart: stewarts34@bigpond.com

Dharma Cafe: Monday 4th & Wednesday 6th

See website for more details [www.szc.org.au](http://www.szc.org.au)

## Board Meeting

August 8 + September 12

6 pm for 6.30 start.

All SZC members very welcome.

## Womens Group Open to all Women Members

August 11 Sarah's.

September 9 (a Saturday) Diana's.

# Regular Notices

## 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 \$20 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. Please note that the local Fire Brigade has advised restrictions during summer.

Try giving the family a wonderful weekend, or yourself a few days of private retreat.

Enquiries to Brendon 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 Sundays of each month, 2 - 4.30pm in Lawson. Our teacher is Paul Maloney, 9045 3897 or contact Jane at [janeandino@yahoo.com.au](mailto:janeandino@yahoo.com.au)

## Canberra Zen Group

Meets on Wednesday evenings.

Please contact Gary for more details: 0429 635 412

email [gcaitcheon@gmail.com](mailto:gcaitcheon@gmail.com)

## North Shore Zen Group

Meets on Thursday nights 7-9pm at the *Quaker Meeting House*, 59 Boundary Road, Wahroonga. Please bring your own zafu/stool and zabuton.

Contribution \$5 - \$10 towards hiring the venue.

Please contact Maggie Gluek for more details:

[magpiewarble@yahoo.com](mailto:magpiewarble@yahoo.com).

## Ashfield Morning Zazen

SZC members interested in morning zazen and dokusan are invited to join a small group that sits regularly on Wednesday mornings from 6.30am - 8.00am.

Please contact Allan Marett [allan.marett@gmail.com](mailto:allan.marett@gmail.com)

0409712767 or Peter Bursky

[mowerman26@hotmail.com](mailto:mowerman26@hotmail.com) 0405 042 236

## Members of the Board

Kerry Stewart (Chairperson) [stewartkerry4@gmail.com](mailto:stewartkerry4@gmail.com); Helen Sanderson (secretary); Jason Koh (treasurer); Sue Bidwell; Alex Budlevskis; Georgina Reid; Ameli Tanchitsa; Brendon Stewart.

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

**SZC:** [info@szc.com.au](mailto:info@szc.com.au), [www.szc.org.au](http://www.szc.org.au)

## SZC Calendar August - September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 30	31 ZAZEN 7-9pm	August 1	2 ZAZEN 7-9pm	3 Orientation 7-9pm	4	5
6	7 Full Moon Ceremony <i>Not defaming the 3 treasures</i> 7-9pm	8 Board Meeting 6pm for 6.30	9 Full Moon Ceremony <i>Not defaming the 3 treasures</i> 7-9pm	10 Beginners' Night with Allan 7-9pm	11 Women's group Sarah's	12 ZEN ROOTS: workshop with Paul Maloney 1-4pm
13	14 ZAZEN 7-9pm	15	16 ZAZEN 7-9pm	17	18	19
20 Zazenkai 8.30 -12 Talk Janet Selby dokusan Gilly	21 ZAZEN 7-9pm	22	23 ZAZEN 7-9pm	24	25	26 SAMU at Kodoji
27 SAMU at Kodoji	28 ZAZEN 7-9pm	29	30 ZAZEN 7-9pm	31 Orientation 7-9pm	Sept 1	2
3	4 DHARMA CAFÉ 7-9pm	5	6 DHARMA CAFÉ 7-9pm	7	8	9 Women's Group at Diana's
10	11 ZAZEN 7-9pm	12 Board Meeting 6pm for 6.30	13 ZAZEN 7-9pm	14	15	16 Spring Sesshin Early bird payments due
17 Zazenkai 8.30-12 Talk and dokusan Maggie Gluek	18 ZAZEN 7-9pm	19	20 ZAZEN 7-9pm	21	22	23
24	25 ZAZEN 7-9pm	26	27 ZAZEN 7-9pm	28	29	30 SPRING SESSHIN starts