

# MZG Calendar & Contacts

## About the Melbourne Zen Group

MZG was established in 1985 and is affiliated with the Diamond Sangha, a group founded in 1959 by Robert Aitken Roshi in Hawaii. The lineage has roots in both the Rinzai and Soto schools of Zen Buddhism. Our teachers are Subhana Barzaghi Roshi and Susan Murphy Roshi; both live in Sydney and visit Melbourne twice a year. Our activities include: weekly zazen (group sitting meditation), monthly zazenkai (longer group meditation), full moon sits, twice a year sesshin (week-long retreats with our teachers), weekend workshops and talks.

## Group Sitting Schedule

- Tuesday evening 6.30pm - 8.30pm
- Saturday morning 10.00am - 12noon
- Last Saturday of the month 9am - 1pm
- Full moon sits - see page 3 for details.

For all sessions, we recommend a \$5 contribution (\$3 concession) to help us cover rental costs.

On the first Tuesday of each month, zazen finishes half an hour earlier to allow time for Dharma Sharing: reflecting on personal experience in relation to an aspect of Zen practice. On the last Saturday of each month, there is a talk and Dharma Sharing in the last hour of zazenkai.

## Orientation

Orientation for newcomers is available by arrangement. Contact Jill Baird (details below).

## Practice Facilitators

For guidance or support in matters relating to Zen practice, contact our Practice Facilitators via Jill Baird on 9328 2207 or email: jillebaird@yahoo.com

## Venue (Melway Map 30 B7)

Enter CERES Community Environment Park in East Brunswick from Lee Street and go to the Education Centre - second building on the right after the gate.

## Committee Members

- Peter Wong (Chair) 9481 5986
- Clive Williams (Secretary) 9489 5214
- Nola Firth (Treasurer) 5428 9363
- Colin Briton 9481 5986
- Tineke Lagerwey 9489 5880
- Michael McInerney 0413 550 332
- Gayle McPherson 0415 352 575

## Membership & Newsletter Subscription

Enquiries about subscribing to the newsletter may be directed to Clive Williams: 9489 5214 or cliwil@hotmail.com We suggest that applications for financial membership be made only after having spent some time participating in the group's activities.

## Newsletter Contributions

Contributions from members, however brief, of any facet of their experience with Zen, are very welcome. Send contributions to Colin Briton at 8 Edward Street Northcote 3070 or cbriton@alphalink.com.au

Brief extracts from publications appearing in this newsletter are for the purpose of private study.

## Contacting Melbourne Zen Group

For introductory information about MZG write to PO Box 324, Carlton North 3054, or contact Jill Baird on 9328 2207 or at jillebaird@yahoo.com For other matters, please contact a committee member. You can also contact us by visiting our website.

## Our website: [www.mzg.org.au](http://www.mzg.org.au)

Visit our website and subscribe to our latest news updates by email. The website features information and resources regarding Zen practice.

## Upcoming Sesshin

- 2 – 9 April 2010 with Susan Murphy at Casa Pallotti

## MZG Calendar DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8 pm, followed by Dharma Sharing	2	3	4 Full moon sit 7-10 pm. See page 3	5 Zazen, 10 am–12 noon
6	7	8 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	9	10	11	12 Zazen, 10 am–12 noon <b>MZG Picnic, noon – 2pm</b>
13	14	15 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	16	17	18	19 Zazen, 10 am–12 noon
20	21	22 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	23	24	25	26 Zazenkai, 9 am–1 pm
27	28	29 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	30	31	1 JAN Full moon sit 7-10 pm. See p 3	2 JAN Zazen, 10 am–12 noon

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# Melbourne Zen Group

Melbourne Zen Group Inc. (A0026699B)

Newsletter-December, 2009

## MZG NEWS & NOTICES

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### November workshop with Susan Murphy

We are especially grateful to Meg Irwin, and of course Susan, for all the great work that went into this highly successful weekend program.

### CERES Festival

This year's Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival held 28<sup>th</sup> November was a good opportunity for MZG to show our presence at CERES, but the rain got the better of our plans. Nevertheless a few of us attended and our efforts were appreciated.

### Telephone dokusan

Susan Murphy offers telephone dokusan to MZG; if interested please contact Kirk Fisher on 0425 754 057 or email [kirkfisher@aapt.net.au](mailto:kirkfisher@aapt.net.au)

### Full moon sits

Full moon sits are on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 7-10 pm. For further details contact Meg on 9489 5880.

### MZG end-of-year picnic Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Everybody is most welcome to join our end-of-year picnic following the usual sit, from noon till 2pm. BYO lunch to share.

### Parliament of World Religions 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009

With the theme of “making a world of difference, hearing each other, healing the earth” the Parliament will be held in Melbourne. For details go to: [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org) The Buddhist Council of Victoria has listed all the sessions involving Buddhist presenters ([www.bcvic.org.au](http://www.bcvic.org.au)).

### Websites of interest

In the October issue of *Vast and Ordinary News* we listed a number of websites that might be of interest to readers. An additional one well worth a look is: [www.thezensite.com](http://www.thezensite.com)

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## Melbourne Cup Day Dharma Sharing:

### “Old Man Frontier loses his horse, how would one know that it was not fortunate?”

It can be difficult to foresee the twists and turns, the arising and ceasing of fortunes and misfortunes. There once was a man living near the northern frontier who was skilled in divination. (One day,) one of his horses ran off without apparent reason into the land of the barbarians. So everyone came to console him. But the (man) said, “Perhaps this would eventually be fortunate?” After several months, the horse came back from the land of the barbarians accompanied by a fine horse. And everyone came to congratulate him. The (man) said, “Perhaps this would eventually be misfortunate?” He was a wealthy man with fine horses, and his son was fond of riding. Not long after that, the son took a fall from riding (the new found horse) and broke his hip. Everyone came to console the father. The (man) replied, “Perhaps this would eventually be fortunate?” A year later, there was a huge invasion from the barbarians, and all able-bodied men took up arms and went to war. Of those (who went), nine out of ten died. It was only because the man's son was crippled that both father and son were preserved. Thus, the transformations of fortunes and misfortunes proceed without limit and are unfathomable.

--Translated by Peter Wong from “Lessons from the Human world”, *Book of Huai Nan Zi*. Translation adapted from <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E5%A1%9E%E7%BF%81%E5%A4%B1%E9%A9%AC>