

# 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 Rinzaï 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 Zazen 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.

Please arrive early. Help in setting-up is welcome. To help cover costs, we recommend a \$5 contribution, or \$3 concession, per session, or a weekly amount (if sitting more than one session) of \$6, or \$4 concession.

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, guidance and support

Orientation for newcomers is advised. For orientation, guidance or support in matters relating to Zen practice, contact our Practice Facilitators via Jill Baird on 9328 2207 or email: [jillebaird@yahoo.com](mailto:jillebaird@yahoo.com)

## Venue (Melway Map 30 B7)

Enter CERES Community Environment Park in East Brunswick from Lee Street. Go to the Education Centre, second building on the right after the CERES entrance gate.

## Committee Members 2010-11

- Peter Wong 9481 5986
- Clive Williams 9489 5214
- Colin Briton 9481 5986
- Tineke Lagerwey 9489 5880
- Michael McInerney 0413 550 332
- Gayle McPherson 0415 352 575
- Paul Gardiner 0415 714 111

## Membership & Newsletter Subscription

Enquiries about subscribing to the newsletter may be directed to Clive Williams: 9489 5214 or [cliwil@hotmail.com](mailto: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, Vic 3070, or [cbriton@alphalink.com.au](mailto: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 us C/- CERES, Cnr Roberts & Stewart Streets, Brunswick East, Vic 3057, or contact Jill Baird on 9328 2207 or at [jillebaird@yahoo.com](mailto:jillebaird@yahoo.com) For other matters, please contact a committee member. You can also visit 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 MZG Sesshin

- 2 – 8 Oct with Subhana Barzaghi (Walking Sesshin)
- 3 – 10 Dec with Subhana Barzaghi at Adekate Lodge

MZG Calendar SEPTEMBER 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Zazen 10am – 12 noon
5	6	7 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8 pm, followed by Dharma Sharing	8	9	10	11 Zazen, 10 am-12 noon
12	13	14 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	15	16	17	18 Zazen, 10 am-12 noon, followed by Sangha Forum.
19	20	21 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	22	23	24 Full moon sit 7-10 pm, see page 3	25 Zazenkai, 9am – 1pm
26	27	28 Zazen, 6.30 pm–8.30 pm	29	30		

# Melbourne Zen Group

Melbourne Zen Group Inc. (A0026699B)

Newsletter-September 2010

## MZG NEWS & NOTICES

### Death of Robert Aitken Roshi

Aitken Gyoun Roshi, beloved teacher and founder of the Diamond Sangha, died 5 August in Honolulu at the age of 93. We lovingly dedicate this edition of *Vast & Ordinary News* in his honor. Gillian Coote Roshi from the Sydney Zen Centre was among the great many who attended the deeply moving Memorial Service at Palolo Zen Centre, Honolulu.

### Annual General Meeting

Melbourne Zen Group has just held its AGM on 21st August with 13 people in attendance. Apart from Nola Firth, who is leaving the committee, members of the former committee have been reelected. Paul Gardiner would also be joining the new committee. Office bearers for 2010-11 will be decided at the next committee meeting on 9th September. We wish Nola well and thank her very much for her work as treasurer in the past 4 years. Minutes of the AGM will follow next month.

*Please note that because of clarification needed, the financial report is held over to be retabled at a Special General Meeting on 18th September, 12.30pm (just before the Sangha Forum) at CERES Education Building.*

—Peter Wong

### Committee meeting

The MZG Committee meets each month. If you would like to attend, or would like some matter raised, please contact a committee member.

### Spring Walking Sesshin

**Sat 2 - Fri 8 October**

In the spirit of going on pilgrimage since ancient times, either to visit wise teachers, famous temples or sacred mountains, we take up the practice of rambling through the bush and walking along meandering trails unburdened.

Please join us for 6 days of camping, sitting and walking in the company of fellow travellers under the guidance of Subhana Barzaghi Roshi along the Great Ocean Walk in the Otways. Contact Peter Wong or Colin Briton for details: 9481 5986 or yih@alphalink.com.au

### Rohatsu Sesshin with Subhana

**Barzaghi Fri 3 – Fri 10 December, Adekate Forest Lodge at Dean, near Creswick**

*It is a joy to support one another along the ancient and noble path of awakening. Traditionally December 8<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as the time of the Buddha's awakening. We celebrate this profound event with a seven day silent Rohatsu Sesshin. The schedule includes extended periods of zazen (sitting meditation), kinhin (walking meditation), dokusan (interviews with the teacher), work and rest periods. Zazen is the practice of peacefully abiding in the vast valley of your true nature that swallows up all names and forms. "On a withered tree flowers bloom", is a Zen metaphor to describe the perennial wisdom that comes forth from dissolution of the old ways of seeing and knowing. Wisdom teaches us that we are nothing, love teaches us that we are everything - which is to realise our oneness with the universe of flowers, frogs, forest and all beings.*

Sesshin flyer and application form will soon be available on our website. Contact Gayle McPherson on 9312 7512 or 0418 352 575 or email: [gaylemcpherson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gaylemcpherson@optusnet.com.au)

### 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 24 Sept (and 22 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec), 7-10 pm. For further details contact Meg on 9489 5880.

### Sangha Forum Sat 18 Sept following zazen 12.30 – 2 pm

This forum will focus on recent suggestions that we include a number of individual women in our sutra dedications. Everyone is invited to attend and add your voice as we explore the specific changes we may choose to make, as well their wider implications and meanings for us and our practice (Emma Stone).

### OTHER GROUPS:

#### Ordinary Mind Zen Melbourne

**Sesshin with Geoff Dawson:** Sat 30 Oct – Tue 2 Nov (Melbourne Cup weekend)

For details contact Tom Fisher:

[T.Fisher@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:T.Fisher@latrobe.edu.au) or phone 9712 0451