

Temple is the timeless space where our practice originates and continues forever



TEMPLE PROJECT

Milestones towards the 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Myoju Insert #16 BSCM #13 08.12.2018

During the last two years, Jikishoan has achieved two major milestones: Building 'Tokozan Jikishoan', its own home temple; and having it officially recognised by Sotoshu Shumicho (the Soto School Headquarters in Japan) as a Soto School 'special overseas temple'. A third milestone, Jikishoan's 20th Anniversary with the celebration of the Mountain Seat Ceremony (Installation of the Abbot), is now only a few months away.

We have just completed Match-the-Pledge #4, raising \$12,235 towards funding our Anniversary celebrations. Thank you to all who so generously contributed. In September, \$2,055 was raised for the 20th Anniversary Book.

Since its inception in 2013, the Building Sub-Committee has been engaged in many activities.

What follows is a summary:

- **20 JUNE 2013: Building Project Team Inaugural Meeting #1.** Since then, twenty-four meetings have been held at regular intervals.
- **JULY 2013 – April 2016: Bank negotiations.** Advised in 2013 that we could service a \$240,000 loan, we were then denied when we applied for a loan in October **2014**. In **2016**, a loan for a Pascoe Vale property, suitable as a replacement of Footscray zendo, was approved. The Committee decided that property did not satisfy all our requirements.
- **MAY 2014: First Open Forum** at Footscray zendo for consultation with the community.
- **OCTOBER 2014:** Application to State Revenue Office for **stamp duty exemption**.

- **JULY 2015: Building Sub-Committee formed** with Terms-of-Reference document adopted at CoM #203.
- **2016: Country property considerations**, but market prices were beyond our grasp at that stage.
- **Ongoing Fundraising:** Through pooling all of Jikishoan's resources, funds to purchase a property went from **\$87,957** in June 2013 to \$392,000 in February 2017.
- **JANUARY 2015: First Myoju insert** informed the community about the Building Project. Since then, fifteen **inserts** have appeared, informing the community about the Temple Project progress and fundraising initiatives.
- **AUGUST 2015:** An anonymous donation of **\$50,000** from a member of Jikishoan's community starts the **first Match-the-Pledge (MTP)** fundraising drive. By June 2016 **\$115,804** is raised. **MTP#2**, with a goal of \$25,000, raised **\$26,117** by December 2016. **MTP#3**, with a goal of \$30,000, raised **\$38,695** by December 2017.
- **DECEMBER 2016: Preparations for the Home Temple** commences with a **Ground-Breaking** ceremony held on 11 December.
- **DECEMBER 2016 – DECEMBER 2017: Temple Foundations** are laid, ground clearing commences. The Sangha starts providing help with labouring, building, painting and rostered daily lunch. **Building Permit Approval** is granted. **Wall-raising** event in December 2017.
- **JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2018:** Building progresses to the point of **Inauguration** of the newly completed zendo on 2 September, signalling commencement of home temple's first activity.
- **MAY 2018:** On 1 May **Sotoshu Shumucho** officially acknowledges Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community and grants the temple the title **Tokozan Jikishoan** ('Tokozan' means 'Mountain of Light'). On 11 May, Sotoshu officials from Japan and the US arrive at Tokozan Jikishoan to hand over official documents and visit our Footscray zendo, now named **Shogoin**.
- **AUGUST 2018:** Match-the-Pledge #4 launched to raise funds for **Jikishoan's 20th Anniversary** celebrations, to be held from 10 – 12 May, 2019.
- **SEPTEMBER 2018:** Jikishoan's Building Fund account has grown from \$2,900 in June 2013 to \$288,654. This amount, growing with interest and through ongoing donations, is for the purpose of purchasing a property. Donations to this account are tax deductible.
- **OCTOBER 2018:** Daily practice orientation period begins at Tokozan. Ekai Osho introduces and orients the Shuso and Jisha ryos by developing a suitable schedule of zazen and samu practice.

With deep gratitude for your continued interest and contributions.

May the New Year for all of you be one of contentment, health and possibilities.

Gassho,

Christine Maingard

on behalf of the Building Sub-Committee