

AUCKLAND ZEN CENTRE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2021

Mission -- Why we exist

To foster the teachings of Zen Buddhism by providing authentic training in its disciplines, practices and devotions. To cultivate wisdom and compassion in widening circles, starting in our hearts and knowing no bounds.

Vision -- What we want to offer

A strong, responsive core community (Sangha) of practitioners committed to embodying the Buddhadharma for the benefit of all sentient beings; caring for each other and reaching beyond, to families, communities, nations, and ecosystems.

- ❖ A full and vital programme of sittings, sesshins, Dharma classes and other activities conducive to the spiritual development of individual members and to the building of a cohesive community.
- ❖ Support for Sangha members to engage in full-time training.
- ❖ A community that makes informed and compassionate decisions about its impact on the earth, air, water and their myriad inhabitants.
- ❖ A physical home for the AZC that is a sanctuary and an embodiment of Zen teaching.
- ❖ Open, honest and harmonious communication within the Sangha.
- ❖ Opportunities for Sangha members to engage with the wider community and serve others.

Direction -- How we intend to work

1. **Disciplines & Devotions** -- To offer a full range of opportunities for practice & training
 - a. Regular group and individual practice
 - b. Full range of ceremonies and celebrations
 - c. Sound education and resources on basic Buddhist teachings
 - d. Avenues for full-time practice and deeper commitment (including becoming a student, taking Jukai, lay investiture, priesthood).
2. **Organisation** --To develop and manage an effective and well-functioning organisation
 - a. Good governance
 - b. Good management
 - c. Effective Fundraising
3. **Property** -- To carefully maintain our facilities (and improve them where needed), so that they remain practical, welcoming and accessible
 - a. Maintain 52 Princes St in conjunction with Sangha House(s) in a way that meets the Sangha's needs for sittings, residential training and short sesshins.
 - b. Continue to explore options to improve our practice environment and to attract more Sangha to Onehunga
4. **Ecological Responsibility** -- To help create a sustainable society
 - a. Apply the First Precept, *Not to kill but to cherish all life*, to all decision-making
 - b. Make informed decisions
5. **Community** -- To develop avenues of communication and opportunities for involvement
 - a. Inform public about what the Centre has to offer
 - b. Develop Trust/Sangha Communication
 - c. Strengthen Sangha fellowship
 - d. Develop beneficial relationships with the wider community