
SERPENTSTAR



Volume 1, Issue 1

Alban Heruin 1997

WELCOME TO SERPENTSTAR.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Inaugural Australian Druid Assembly this newsletter will help you share in the event, and hopefully act as the first strands in a communication web for members of O.B.O.D. in Australia and New Zealand.

Members who wish to participate are encouraged to send us articles and information on happenings in their areas, what Druidry means to them and how they practice and express their Druidry in an Australian and New Zealand context

Suggested headings from some members are

- *A member Skills/Services section
- * Grove and Seed groups upcoming events and contact details
- * A Bardic section
- * A roundtable section for discussion of Members expression and experience of the Druid path in a Southern Hemisphere context and setting
- * Anything else members would like to add.

The aim of this Newsletter/Notice Board is to inform and draw together members in the peace and light of the Grove, and to support and nourish each other in our quest for strength, understanding, knowledge, justice and love. Let's work together to achieve this aim.

In Light, Carole Nielsen.



Bardic Photographer



Notice Board

AUSTRALIAN SECOND DRUID ASSEMBLY attended by the Chosen Chief Philip Carr-Gomm will be held at Alban Eiler on Friday 18th Saturday 19th Sunday 20th and Monday 21st of September 1998 in N.S.W.

Costs are yet to be finalized.

This is a really special occasion, for not only is Philip attending the Assembly, he has also agreed to perform Druid Grade Initiations for the first time, by him, in Australia. Any Ovates who are eligible for this are asked to please write to the N.E.A. Grove in advance

THIS YEAR IS ALSO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY



OF THE RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE ORDER.

Phillip will be visiting Australia and New Zealand for approximately 2 weeks each. Members interested in the Chief visiting any areas that are not included in his itinerary are invited to write to the N.E.A. Grove. P.O. Box 92 NEWTOWN N.S.W. 2042 Australia with a proposal. Please be aware that you would have to arrange the costs associated with him travelling to your area. Updates coming.

Members are reminded to have their \$50.00 pledges in by Lughnasadh (Feb.) The \$50 pledges are to cover the cost of Philips ticket.

From the Inaugural Assembly we have pledges totaling \$1,260, but so far we have only received \$270, so dig deep for the harvest, as we need to have the money finalized by the end of February.

Please send all pledges in a cheque or money order payable to;

Carole Nielsen 18 Birdwood Ave. Wattlegrove N.S.W.. 2173 AUSTRALIA.

BIRDS CORNER

Alban Eiler 1997 Australian Inaugural Assembly

WHEN THE RAIN TUMBLED DOWN.

From all corners of Australia
They came, and New Zealand
Also To assemble at
Parawirra Grove.
And the rain tumbled down

Not to be disturbed
Zan and Akkadia clamoured
Up the rocks. With spear
And sword and declared
"This Assembly will commence."
And the rain tumbled down.

Another brave soul rose
Also; and declared "We
Will appease the Rain God".
So the Assembly began.
And the rain tumbled down.

The opening ceremony began
And the new Bards were
Sworn in. Then a break
In the clouds and that
Night the campfire
Blazed and near dawn
The rain tumbled down.

Second day the Assembly
Went on. The swearing in
Of Ovates began.
Akkadia said "take a
Walk Bards". So we did
A bush walk.
And the rain tumbled down.

From the valley we did
Climb up the hills and
Gorges. The summit
We did not reach
Darkness approached and we
Assembled back again
And the rain tumbled down.



Jokes and laughter
Abounded and it carried
Down the valley.
Then Akkadias call was heard. "Silence Bards
You are disturbing the Ovate Grove."
And the rain tumbled down.

On we went down in silence
And that night the
Campfire blazed, music
And storytelling did
Abound. Towards dawn
The rain tumbled down.

Third day and the close
Of the Parawirra Grove.
An uplifting ceremony
Commenced and then
We were to depart
Until another day
And the rain tumbled down.

Patrick the Bard

A PARABLE WITH DRUID SIGNIFICANCE

From Joel Hopkinson

The following parable is from the Sufi tradition but it could just as easily have come from the lips of a Druid. Interestingly the Sufi claim a pre-Islamic origin from Atlantis just as certain Druid schools do. A parable is a short story with religious or philosophical meaning. This story is taken from the text "Speaking in Parables", edited by the Australian poet, Bruce Dawe; Longman Cheshire Pty/Ltd. Australia, 1987.

The Question

A rich braggart once took a Sufi on a tour of his house. He showed the Sufi, room after room filled with valuable works of art, priceless carpets and heirlooms of every kind.

At the end of the tour the braggart asked, "What impressed you most of all about my house?" The Sufi answered "The fact that the earth is strong enough to support such a massive building"



COMMERATIVE T SHIRTS.

As part of the fund raising for Philip's visit, a range of good quality T shirts with Celtic and Druidic motifs will be offered for sale at around the \$25.00 mark, which will include postage.

Sizes will be from size 8 for children to XX Large.

A catalogue will come out with the next Newsletter.

ANY MEMBER WISHING FOR THE ORDER'S ROBE PATTERN ARE ADVISED THAT THESE ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE N.E.A.GROVE. JUST SEND A STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO THE GROVE AND THEY WILL PUT IT IN THE MAIL IN TIME FOR YOU TO MAKE IT FOR THE 2ND ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER.

*Briefly in balance, night and day
Then light begins to grow
The days will lengthen by the
Minute,
But dark will ever follow.*

*Through the ever changing cycle
The Summer Solstice brings
The longest day, a turning point
Now darkness pulls the strings.*

*The Equinox in Autumn
Will be the half way mark.
The world still turning onward
Toward the longest dark.*

*And at the Winter Solstice
When all seems dead and lost
A tiny spark of light is born
And burns up through the frost.*

CADIE

MEMBERS' SKILLS & SERVICES SECTION

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE TREE ESSENCES:

Now available through member Rosemary Wade, these Tree Essences correspond to the Lunar Manths and each have a Waxing and a Waning Essence, usually taken as a Cycle as prescribed for a specific healing purpose.

Individual dosage bottles are \$10; practitioners can order

A complete kit of stock bottles at \$348- and orders can be taken for the booklets of Devic and Tree spirit Counsels at \$13- for further information contact Rosemary -

E-mail: abalone@coolgold.com.au or

Write: 396 Pinnacle Rd. Tyalgum N.S.W. 2484 Australia.

CELTIC CHESS:

A full range of individually hand-crafted Celtic Gameboards and pieces of the Indo-European Tawyl group

Including Tawlbort, Gwyddbwl and Tawlbrrd are now available created by member Joel Hopkinson. Any members interested in taking up these ancient Celtic games of the land and Kingship please write to Joel at:

52 Crown St. Holland Park, Brisbane 4121 QLD Australia.

HERBS, RESINS, INCENCES & OILS:

Pure and potent herbs and resins, suitable for Ceremonial uses, such as Incense and oil making are available. Our Botanica Range includes Olibanum Resinoid pure Frankincense), Galangal, Galbanum, Sandalwood, Oakmoss and Myrrh are amongst the usual and arkane Products we offer. Please write for a recent price-list, which offers the opportunity to purchase quantities ranging from 150g to a Kilogram of each herb or resin.

Studio neter Botanica: P.O. Box 92 Newtown N.S.W. 2042 Australia.

Please send S.A.S. E to each of the above with your enquiry.

All members are invited to include their Skills or Services In this Section, please send details to Carole Nielsen (see Address under "Noticeboard").

NOTES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER/NOTICE BOARD..

IT IS HOPED THAT, WITH MEMBERS SUPPORT SERPENTSTAR WILL COME OUT QUARTERLY TO FACILITATE ACTIVE AND CONSTANT COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS FROM ALL STATES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

AN APPROXIMATE BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERS STATE BY STATE APPEARS TO BE;

NSW 20 VIC 12 S.A. 10 W.A. 8

N.T. 1 QLD. 3 ACT 1

NEW ZEALAND 10 members

ANY MEMBERS WISHING TO SHARE CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS ARE INVITED TO SEND DETAILS TO THE SERPENTSTAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES NOTICES AND OTHER INFORMATION WILL BE THE 1st DAY OF THE MONTHS OF MARCH, JUNE, AND SEPTEMBER

MEMBERS SHOULD THEN HAVE THEIR NEWSLETTER BY THE 2nd WEEK. THIS WAY MEMBERS WILL HAVE ADEQUATE NOTICE OF CELEBRATIONS IN THEIR AREA OR STATE IN TIME TO LINK UP, IF THEY SO WISH.

MEMBERS WISHING TO RECEIVE SERPENTSTAR FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS ARE ASKED TO SEND EITHER STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES, A BOOK OF STAMPS OR A \$5.00 DONATION TO CAROLE NIELSEN, 18 Birdwood Ave Wattlegrave 2173 NSW Australia. TO HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS OF SERPENTSTAR.

IT IS HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE O.B.O.D. WILL USE THESE PAGES FOR A FREE AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE DRUID PATH IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ALL OPINIONS WILL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND PUBLISHED.

ALL CONSTRUCTIVE CRITISISM WELCOMED !