

Serpent Star

A newsletter of The Order of Bards Ovates and Druids in the Southern Hemisphere



IMBOLC 2021

Welcome to the Imbolc issue of SerpentStar!

Come back to us Lady, and bring the Spring!

I'm sure we'd all agree that Imbolc this year has been a particularly changing and challenging time. The ongoing pandemic situation continues to ask us what's really important in our lives, and seeks to teach us new ways of living. In the end, the greater Wheels of time and nature do the same - everything moves, changes, educates and stretches us to see things differently and rise to the challenge. My hope is that we all rise, in our own unique ways.

This issue brings us poetry, discussion and some spotlights on new projects and publications by our members. There are also a couple of important announcements - details about the online Southern Hemisphere Assembly being hosted by Macadamia Grove in September, and a call for someone to fill a very special role.

In peace

Mandy / | \



Pic by Chris Parker

SerpentStar, Imbolc 2021

SerpentStar is a free, volunteer-produced online newsletter for members of the Order of Bards Ovates and Druids in the Southern Hemisphere.

SerpentStar logo by Todd William Dearing. Cover image by Carmen Holloway. Watermark images courtesy freepik.com and druidry.org. All other images provided by the authors on the corresponding page, unless otherwise credited.

Submission guidelines and subscription info are available from serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org/about

Follow us on Facebook - search "SerpentStar"

Enquiries via email:
serpentstar.obod@gmail.com

All opinions expressed herein are solely the contributors' own.

A reminder to everyone that SerpentStar has a YouTube channel, which hosts last year's DDUDE talk series from Druids DownUnder. I'd like to see other videos from OBODies on there as well though - they can either be linked to ones already on other channels, or we can arrange for you to send them to me for upload. Get in touch if you have a bardic video or a short doco you'd like to share in SerpentStar.

Search 'SerpentStar OBOD' on YouTube to subscribe!

OBOD in the Southern Hemisphere

Groves & Seed Groups

The following are groups listed on OBOD's official Groves & Seed Groups List and have consented to have their information included in this list. Other groups run by OBOD members are listed in the Advertising section.

The Blue Mountains Seed Group

The Blue Mountains Seed Group holds regular public gatherings in Katoomba at the Blue Mountains Organic Community Gardens for the eight seasonal festivals of the wheel of the year. See our Facebook group for more information. This is open to anyone to come along, not just OBOD members. There are also private OBOD members only gatherings, but please come to the public gatherings to get to know the group first.

Email: thebluemountainsseedgroup@gmail.com, Facebook: Friends of the Blue Mountains Seed Group www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthebluemountainsseedgroup/

Brisa del Sur

We are a Seed Group called 'Brisa del Sur' (Southern Breeze) from Rosario, Argentina, and we are writing to introduce our group and share with you and the Order the fulfilling experience and wonderful learning we have had as a result of our journey along the Druid Path. You can contact us at southernbreezesfellowship@gmail.com and you can see our profile on Facebook www.facebook.com/Southernbreezesfellowship

The Cradle Seed Group

The Cradle Seed Group is based in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Group currently has only one Druid and two new Bards and one relatively new Bard. One area of focus is exploring other spiritual philosophies and understanding the synergies. Other areas of focus are to 'convert' traditional Ogham into the indigenous South African trees and also to understand and use indigenous medicinal plants and trees. All the eight yearly festivals are celebrated, and we will be holding our first group Alban. Full moon meditations are conducted for peace and harmony. Email Debby at triskel@mweb.co.za for details.



Druid Pilgrim Grove

We are a grove of wayfaring and friendly OBODies who are happy to support those seeking to engage with pilgrimage as part of their druid practice. We have members around Australia and NZ. A number of us are happy to meet up with pilgrims as they travel close to us. Contact danuta@adruid.com. FB: Druid Pilgrim is a Facebook group that engages with people interested in exploring pilgrimage and druidry. It also acts as a 'Friends of' space for those interested in connecting with Druid Pilgrim Grove.

The Golden Wattle Seed Group

The Golden Wattle Seed Group are an OBOD Seed Group in Adelaide, SA. We hold ceremonies for the Wheel of the Year, nature walks, meditations and other rituals for peace and for the land. If you would like to get in contact with us, email us at golden.wattle.seed.group@gmail.com or connect with our Facebook 'Friends of' page: search Friends of the Golden Wattle Seed Group (OBOD).

The Grove of the Summer Stars

The Grove of the Summer Stars (Pukerua Bay, Wellington, New Zealand) celebrates the eight great Seasonal Festivals throughout the wheel of the year. Each of these Druid festivals is held as a community festival and meeting point for diverse creeds and cultures to honour the turning of the year, and give thanks for its abundance. The Equinox and Solstice festivals are open to all while the four Quarter Festivals are for Grove members only. We meet at The Woolshed/Grove of the Summer Stars at 11am on the nearest Sunday to the particular festival, except for Beltane and Samhain which are held at night. Lughnasadh is held on the Sunday during Druid Camp even though it is a little early, ie the third week of January (Wellington Anniversary weekend). On the day (or night) people can bring stories, poems, songs, dances, readings and insights etc to contribute to the theme. The ceremonies are followed by potluck feasting to which everyone contributes. Contact: pamela@thewoolshed.com

Macadamia Grove

Welcomes and is inclusive of South-East Queensland and Northern New South Wales OBOD members who wish to join in with any activities. We celebrate the eight festivals of the year, and organise other events depending on members' interests. As Brisbane is a central meeting point most of our events are held close to the city, often in the bushland of Mt Coot-tha. Non-members with an interest in Druidry are able to attend some rituals by prior arrangement. Contact Sandra: macademiagroove@hotmail.com

The Melbourne Grove

Welcomes all OBOD members (local, interstate and overseas) to its seasonal celebrations. Family and friends may also attend with a member. We now have a public facebook page: Friends of The Melbourne Grove.
FFI contact: Trudy - 0409 186 316, moondancer@outlook.com.au

Middle Earth Fellowship Seed Group

Tauranga, NZ. Also Medieval village, Medieval craft camps, Medieval dance and Border Morris dance. Contact Yvonne yjames@balnacoil.xtra.co.nz

Silvereyes Seed Group

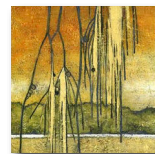
Perth Hills & members throughout the South West. Email: ghrianu@iinet.net.au

Song of the Eastern Sea Seed Group

Situated on the Central Coast of NSW, we invite OBOD members and guests to join us as we celebrate the eight festivals of the Wheel of the Year and explore nature and Druidry together. We have a number of projects in the planning, including a Sacred Grove planting, working on environmental issues as a group, and supporting our local community. Contact Chris at chris@druidryaustralia.org

The Windharp Seed Group

Based in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia and named after the She-oak or Casuarina, also known as a Windharp. She-oaks are known as windharps because of the mystical sound they make when the wind breathes through the knotted leaves - a soft music like that of the Aeolian Harp. We are a learning group who gather to celebrate the eight seasonal rituals of the wheel of the year and study together. We also hold various shared events and ceremonies that non-members are able to attend. Contact Tamzin Woodcock or Adrienne Piggott windharpseedgroup@gmail.com



Wollemi Seed Group

Nestled between the mountains and the sea, Wollemi Seed Group covers Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the Greater Hunter Region. Rich with flowing rivers, fields and natural beauty, we meet fortnightly to explore the depths of the Bardic and Ovate paths. We meet for each of the festivals, and invite all interested in Druidry and the love earth to join us. For information, contact Rollick on 0423 626 290 or bonsaidruid@yahoo.com.au

Useful websites for SH OBODies:

www.druidryaustralia.org - a central online resource for druidry in Australia - includes info/booking for the annual Southern Hemisphere OBOD Assembly.

Southern Hemisphere Order of Bards Ovates & Druids Online (SHOBODO) Community - Facebook group - a private group for Order members living in the Southern Hemisphere.

Druids DownUnder - Facebook group - a group open to druids of any path in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia/New Zealand in particular.

Don't see your group or website listed here?

Send a listing to serpentstar.obod@gmail.com and spread the word!

OBOD Worldwide

www.druidry.org - Official site of the Order of Bards Ovates and Druids

www.druidcast.libsyn.com - Direct download and shownotes for DruidCast (or subscribe via iTunes)

Facebook Groups

OBOD Friends (open to members and non-members, discussing general topics)

Order of Bards Ovates and Druids (closed group for members of the Order)

Publications

Touchstone (HQ) Sent free to all members taking the course, and once you have finished receiving course material you can subscribe separately. Touchstone is only available to members of the Order.

Contact Penny touchstone@druidry.org

Druidenstein (German) www.druidry.info/das-magazin-druidenstein

Dryade (Dutch) www.obod.dds.nl

Il Calderone (Italian) issuu.com/ilcalderone

Menhir (French) issuu.com/obod-menhir/docs

Ophiusa (Portuguese) www.obod.com.pt/ophiusa.htm



Pagan Transitions

Pagan Transitions was created over 12 years ago to help pagans create meaningful and beautiful funeral rites which reflect the spirituality of the person who has passed through the Gateway, and offer support to the bereaved.

As well as templates that can be adapted to suit individual funeral requirements, and a selection of reading material and poems, there is also a list of Pagan Funeral Celebrants who can create and lead the funeral rite for you and arrange everything with the Funeral Director. Pagan Transitions is a volunteer-run free service.

If you are a Pagan Funeral Celebrant and would like to be listed please visit www.pagan-transitions.org.uk and complete the application form. Any suggestions on how the service can be improved are welcome.

Bright Winter Morning

*My face is cool
As the pale morning sky
Only on the left side.*

*Dry knobby ankles
As white as a lemonade iceblock,
Stick out of my dressing gown.*

*A shoulder
(Also the left one)
Has kept me awake,
Alert as a mopoke
All night.*

*Eyes as dry as the Todd River bed
Watch the dancing leaves,
Their night blanket cast off.*

by Cecily

Southern Hemisphere Assembly UPDATE

***THIS YEAR:** Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic this year's Assembly is online - Friday 10 - Monday 13 September 2021.*

This will be a free event, open to all OBOD members in the Southern Hemisphere, held via the Southern Hemisphere Order of Bards Ovates & Druids Online SHOBODO Community (Facebook) and Zoom.

Markets - Divination Sessions - Eisteddfod - Crafty Chat - Grade Workshops - Talking Circles - Opening / Closing and Seasonal Rituals

Speakers:

Chris Parker (Incense-making)

Liz Prackett (Herbal Preparations)

Julie Brett (Nature Journalling)

Mandy Gibson (Druidry & Contemplative Practice)

Pamela Meekings-Stewart (Living Treefully)

More to come!

All sessions will be conducted within Zoom and recorded - links to the rooms will be published in the Facebook group and emailed to the mailing list, and recordings will be made available after the event.

PLEASE BRING:

A bowl of water.

A stone.

Incense or dried herbs or leaves in a vessel.

An unlit candle.

An implement to light the candle.

Full schedule and Zoom links will be published closer to the weekend.

Not a Facebook user? Join the mailing list by emailing mandy@druidry.org

Assembly 2022 - As there have been no volunteers, and due to the lack of certainty around a face to face event, senior community discussions have agreed that the 2022 Assembly will not go ahead.

Assembly 2023 - Volunteers are now being sought to host the 2023 Southern Hemisphere Assembly - contact Sandra at macademiagrove@hotmail.com for details.



Ancient Druids & Their Relics

by John Welch



Information from ancient druids is not the same thing as reports by Roman or church historians about druids. A few facts in antique artwork can be seen and the meanings can be speculated by matching similar things. It's very likely that when Celts in Spain had 2 customs which matched British Celts' customs then another Spanish custom was also known in Britain. A Spanish Celtic vase from the 3rd-1st century BC shows horned snakes.[1] England also has a horned snake around a post altar, as in an altar found at Lycia, in Turkey. As these 2 altars are almost identical and the Lycian example is Grecian, then maybe the British one was imported, perhaps in Roman times. But the Gloucestershire horned snake seems genuine.[2] The goddess Brigantia was known in Spain and in Britain.[3] A Celtiberian coin's inscription suggests it means this goddess: "a coin with Iberian script, BRIGANT_N of a Celtiberian goddess." Olmstead, Garret (1994). The Gods of the Celts and Indo-Europeans. Budapest. pp. 354-361. Brigantia in Scotland is holding a globe and has a Medusa emblem which often was a horned snake. She was known from Hungary to Ireland.

Like the pillars on the vase, a 1st century temple in Surrey, which probably had a tree/pillar, is claimed to be tall.[4] "The building itself was 11.5 metres in diameter and was probably more than 10 metres high." The head-dress found at this temple site has a 5 spoked wheel.[5] If we turn in the other direction and look at Vedic tradition we find: "Pandita was a title in Indian Buddhism awarded to scholars who have mastered the five sciences in which a learned person was traditionally supposed to be well-versed. The five

sciences are: science of language, science of logic, science of medicine, science of fine arts and crafts, and science of spirituality." The stipulation can be traced to (but may well predate) the Mahavana, by Maitreya-Natha (ca. 270-350 CE), which states: "Without becoming a scholar in the five sciences, not even the supreme sage can become omniscient. For the sake of refuting and supporting others, and for the sake of knowing everything himself, he makes an effort in these [five sciences]."

If we go back to the Arcobriga vase there is a central figure which may have eyes, it resembles this, the lord of the universe.[6] He lives in a tall tower and is Darubrahma "The Sacred Wood-Riddle", Daruedebata "The wooden god". The diagram shows the black stump god with white eyes within a tower. "Puri Jagannath temple .. has three God/Goddess .. The idols are carved out of Devadaru "divine tree" or Deodar wood". [6]

Another resemblance is a symbolic temple vine in India like the vine on the Arcobriga vase. This article has 28 pages but the main points are copied here: GAUTAMA V. VAJRACHARYA. KIRTIMUKHA, THE SERPENTINE MOTIF, AND GARUDA.

p314: "Further, ancient Indians believed that the rain cloud appears like a vine. These literary sources correlate with examples from Indic art, which depict the cloud as kalpalata, the wish-granting vine emerging from makara [crocodile], elephants, or other animals and symbols that can be recognized in rain cloud formations. Usually the Gupta torana [temple gateway], depicted in the sculptural representations of contemporaneous shrines, the rainbow-like arch connecting the twin makaras"

p318: "cloud elephants in the heavenly Ganga that circulates the water between the celestial and terrestrial oceans, represented by two makara [crocodiles] at the end of the mattavarana architrave. The lotus vine is also inhabited by various aquatic and semi-aquatic creatures. A Sanskrit synonym for makara is dhara, literally "rainwater." The water fountains are Skt. dhara-makara, bring many varieties of creatures including cattle to the earth as they descend from heaven at the beginning of the monsoon. All symbolic and decorative elements on the ceiling, including aquatic and semiaquatic creatures such as fish, water buffaloes and elephants, also appear around the entrances to Indic temples, including the Ajanta cave shrines, because the entrances of Indian shrines and temples represent the atmospheric gate of heaven. Likewise, the door of Orissan temples show water buffaloes and elephants within lotus vines (fig.18)...depicted in the Ajanta ceiling paintings."

p319: "The development of the kirtimukha motif is also affiliated with the age-old Indian belief that the crawling body of a serpent appears in the atmosphere in the form of a monsoon cloud. The Atharvaveda 4.15.5-10 tells us that at the time of drought, when cattle continue to lose body weight, people in India anticipate seeing the monsoon cloud that resembles a giant serpent, gargara. In his sixth-century Brhatsambhita (27.2), Varahamihira states that in the morning or the evening of the Asadha month, if the cloud looks like "a half body of a snake (without head and tail), but showing its crawling abdominal section", one can forecast torrential rain in the near future."

[7] Vajracharya G. Kirtimukha, the serpentine motif and Garuda. Artibus Asiae 2014 Museum Zurich.

The snakes on Arcobriga vase stand near-upright above the roosters on the ground. The Norse tree has a squirrel travelling between an eagle above and a snake below. As the vines curl around the Arcobriga pillars then snakes possibly climb them to the vine of the heavens. Gundestrup cauldron has a divine figure holding a horned snake to his ear, with vines which are next to some but not all the animals and not next to the warriors. Evidently, druids saw a tree as a snake's passage to the gods and snake-oracles gave wisdom.

The church of San Martin of 11th century is about 200km west of where the vase was located. Spanish Celtic forts were used until 5th century when Spain was partly Catholic. The church has pillars, curved arch with central door and a triangle peak which are common designs but they didn't have to be arranged in the same design as the vase.[8] This suggests that the vase pillars were actually built for Druid traditions, with vines and horned snakes as symbols. It's likely that this was a tradition at Surrey temple and other druid sites.

Contact johnwelch593@gmail.com

Molokai my Heart

by Deborah Rose Halani

Molokai my heart is embraced
Heartfelt vibrations surround me
Wrapped in swaddling and held like a newborn baby
Protected and calm


Halawa Valley the birth mother
Two waterfalls pour down as the giver of life
Bringing life to the seed of the land
Holding purity in its pools
Under the ancestral eyes and protection of the spiritual caretakers
The water flows to give new life

You move so slowly and serenely towards the sea
The birth canal providing life and growth to all plants as it moves towards the
wide expanse of water expelling more spiritual forms
You open up as fresh water and transform into swirls into the salty sea
Giving birth in the combined waters
Protecting and nurturing into the first days of new life.

They come, the ancients and water spirits to give assistance to the divine new
form

Spirit friends celebrating in the constant giving of life
Whales congregate and participate in this birthing of the mother
And yet she is still, whilst always flowing, she is still
Allowing human and animals to learn and cherish the cycle of life and the purity
it offers
Bless you earth Mother for all the challenges, in always giving of life, in a never-
ending loving way.





IMBOLC

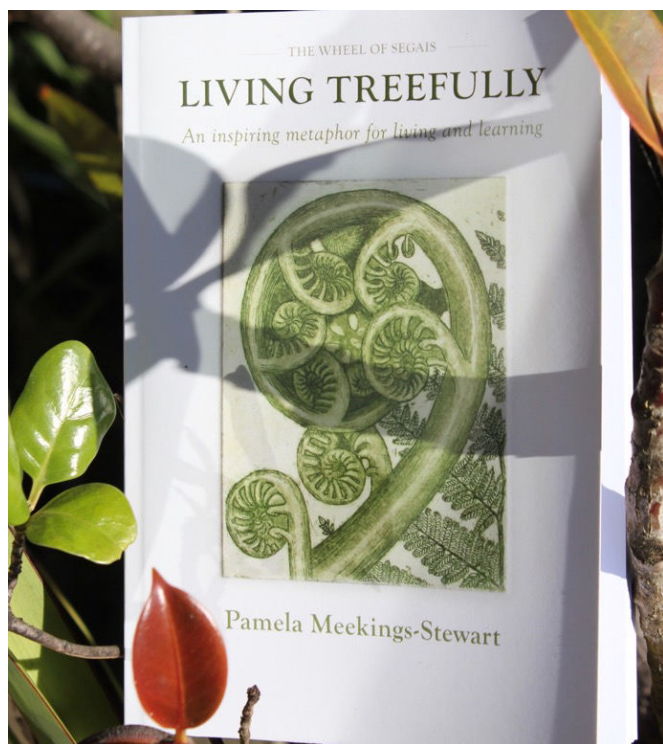
She is the still blue centre of the flame,
Or the flash of fire on a red hot blade,
She lights the sparkle of the morning dew,
Weaves dreams in the early mists.

Her voice may be heard in the faintest breeze
As it kisses the tops of the budding trees
Or the roaring river when the ice floes yield,
And a torrent sweeps its bed.

The cold Earth quickens at her touch,
To greet the first shy blush of dawn,
And snowdrops lift their nodding heads
For this is Brídies morn.



The header image for the Aotearoa section of SerpentStar has been created by Glenn Conroy, who writes: "The image is comprised of several elements that are of special meaning to members of the Grove of The Southern Stars; Matariki, (seven sisters constellation), pounamu, (greenstone), ti kouka (cabbage tree), and of course Kapiti Island."



Here it is!!! Living Treefully – An Inspiring Metaphor for Living and Learning, ready to go out to the world! It was beautifully blessed by Moira and all the Druids who attended Winter Solstice. Thank you one and all.

Living Treefully is for any person, organisation, group, team or relationship that has ever asked the question, 'Where next?' – a system for managing change and 'living treefully' in the seasonal way that trees do.

It can help to guide you and provide insight, no matter where you are in the journey of your life right now. When you are starting a new endeavour, just like the tree you will begin in Winter with planting the seed of what it is you wish to harvest. Alternatively, when you are stuck in a rut, instead of trying to jump to a solution you can take a moment to ask where you are in the cycle of the seasons at this moment. Winter/Seeding? Spring/Emergence? Summer/Maturation? Autumn/Manifestation?

WINTER - the time of **SEEDING**, of Potential and Possibility, of Beginnings. The **SEED** beneath the winter soil is excited by the spark of life, promising what is to come. Our projects need to start with intuition, idea, potential, the big picture

SPRING - The time of **EMERGENCE**. The tiny plant pokes two little green leaves **ABOVE THE SOIL** and its growth is nurtured by the warming Spring rain. Our vulnerable ideas need nurturing in order to discover their potential and grow stronger.

SUMMER - The time of **MATURATION**. Under the harsh glare of the summer sun, the plant's abundant spring growth requires some **DISCIPLINE** and **STRUCTURE**, branches are pruned, laterals are pinched out or a supporting trellis is erected, to ensure the best possible harvest (outcome). When it is ready, our project must be given structure and subjected to intellectual rigour to make sure it can mature to a successful harvest.

AUTUMN - The time of **MANIFESTATION**. A time of completion, of **HARVEST**. If we have followed the cycle well, our project will reach completion. A time of satisfaction and reflection.

And the cycle goes on – we can choose **DECAY** or **GENESIS** – an ending or the planting of a new Seed.

The Wheel of Segais – Living Treefully describes this seasonal cycle as a vitally important process and an invaluable tool that you can start using any time. Journey around The Wheel of Segais, delve into the wisdom pool and the quadrants of the four seasons. See how others have benefitted from ‘living treefully’ in the personal stories told throughout the book and try out the exercises offered at the end of each segment.

For prices and payment options go to www.wheelofsegais.com or send me an email – pamela@thewoolshed.com – and I’ll send you an invoice.

*Think like a Tree
Soak up the sun
Affirm life’s magic
Be graceful in the wind
Stand tall after a storm
Feel refreshed after it rains
Grow strong without notice
Be prepared for each season
Provide shelter to strangers
Hang tough through a cold spell
Emerge renewed at the first signs of Spring
Stay deeply rooted while reaching for the sky
Be still long enough to hear your own leaves rustling.*

The Salmon of Wisdom has certainly been busy and a number of products are now available for ‘treeful’ living, life coaching and divination. For more information about the Personal Reader Kit, Online Reader Training and Life Coaching and Readings in person and online, it’s all on the website: www.wheelofsegais.com. More about the new Wheel of Segais Way-Showing Cards in the next edition of SerpentStar!

And if you would like to learn a little more about how this seasonal metaphor and ‘thinking like a tree’ can be used to understand the cycle of all things, be it a project, an intention, a goal, a life purpose, a relationship, a business, etc. take a look at this live video I did for ‘Tea with a Druid’ which I call, ‘Living Treefully’. It includes a short meditation that you might enjoy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sphYwzemtFM>

The Wheel of Segais

Aotearoa



Inspiration, wisdom and blessings from New Zealand

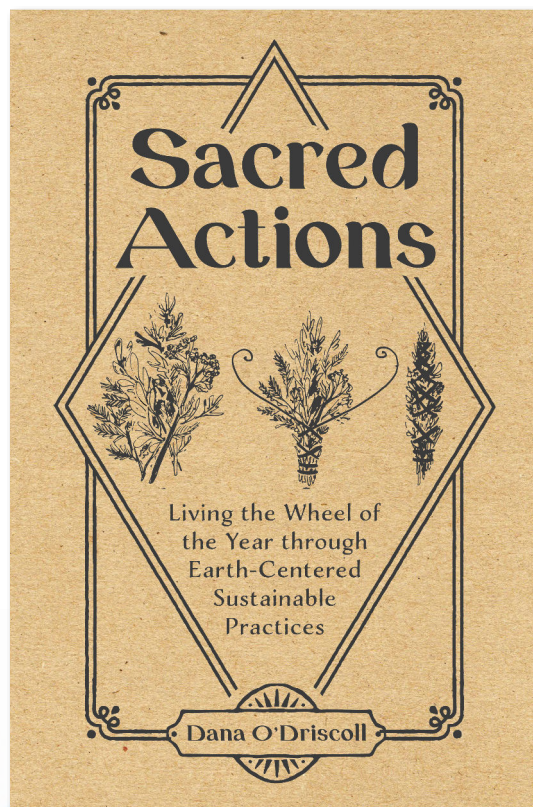
Book Review - Sacred Actions by Dana O'Driscoll

By Mandy Gibson

As someone who has enjoyed Dana O'Driscoll's blog, The Druid's Garden, for several years now I was excited to be approached to review her new book, *Sacred Actions: Living the Wheel of the Year through Earth-Centred Sustainable Practices*. Her approaches to everything from daily practice to permaculture, from healing the land to creation of personal sacred tools, are so incredibly detailed, meticulously considered and thoroughly explained. This book is no exception, and clearly a labour of love. It's laid out in the eightfold year that we're all familiar with, and certainly there are aspects that are aligned with Northern Hemisphere practice. But what greets you as you dig into each section is a whole year of personal and external practice that could easily be applied in our region as well - the internal work and ways of looking at the world that she presents are universal.

What's even more engaging is the encouragement to embrace all that we do as sacred, to turn it in to a truly daily practice which combines self-sufficiency with self-care and relationship with the wider world. She gives detailed how-tos for each season and concept, framed around a lovely set of triads, and uses her own stories as both examples and templates. My own deep work with history and family at this point in my life resonated deeply with her story of her Grandmother and explanations of the power of heritage in the Imbolc section, and although the book consciously begins with the Winter Solstice I feel a reader could (after reading the whole thing first of course!) jump in wherever they are in the year and gain benefit from it.

Sacred Actions: Living the Wheel of the Year through Earth-Centred Sustainable Practices is available from Amazon and Book Depository.



A challenge that many pagans and Earth-based spiritual practitioners face is how to integrate sustainable living with our everyday lives. By offering a vision of “sacred actions,” or the integration of sustainable living with Earth-based spirituality, learn how to combine the three ethics: people care, earth care, and fair share, to execute comprehensive sustainable living through the lens of paganism. Find a wide variety of accessible sustainable-living activities, rituals, stories, and tools framed through the neopaganism eightfold Wheel of the Year. Each chapter is tied to one of the eight holidays, offering specific themes that deepen topics, including home and hearth, lawns and gardens, food and nourishment, ritual items and offerings, reducing waste and addressing materialism, and much more. Consider this your manual of personal empowerment through sustainability as a spiritual practice.

Dana O'Driscoll serves as the Grand Archdruid in the AODA and is the OBOD's 2018 Mount Hamens Scholar. She is a certified permaculture designer and permaculture teacher who lives in western Pennsylvania at her 5-acre homestead.

SerpentStar and Druidry Australia are looking for a new Editor!

After six years with SerpentStar and nearly a year with Druidry Australia I have decided to step down from this dual role, effective from the release of the Beltane 2021 edition of SerpentStar. It's been a very rewarding time, and although it's time for me to focus on other things (including my long-neglected Ovate studies!) I do highly recommend the 'Editor experience'.

To make this transmission smooth I am calling for volunteers now, with a view to announcing the new Editor at Beltane.

The dual role involves:

- Sourcing and editing content for four issues of SerpentStar a year (currently releasing at each of the fire festivals).
- Update/maintenance of the look and content of Druidry Australia and the SerpentStar page contained within, the SerpentStar Facebook page, and SerpentStar YouTube channel.
- Communication with Southern Hemisphere OBOD community members, including answering messages and emails generated by the above platforms, and ensuring the release of SerpentStar is advertised across various online OBOD communities.
- Providing support to Assembly host teams with booking forms etc hosted on Druidry Australia.



Needless to say, you must be a member of OBOD currently living in the Southern Hemisphere (ie able to contribute to SerpentStar per the current guidelines) to serve as Editor, but you could be a Bard, Ovate, or Druid.

The ideal person will also benefit from the following (trust me on this):

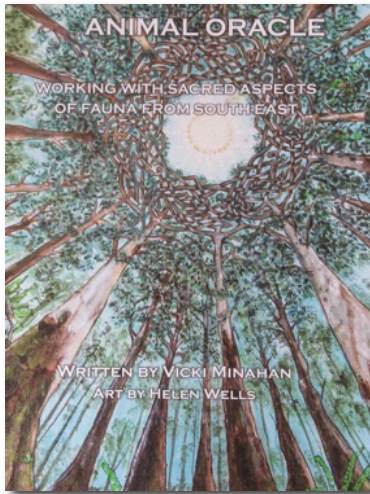
- Intermediate to advanced skills in the Wordpress platform
- Experience in magazine publication, particularly in an online format
- Strong written communication - editing and proofreading skills or training will really help
- Skills necessary to lay out and edit a magazine to be distributed in printable pdf format
- A reliable computer with appropriate layout/design software, plenty of storage and a strong internet connection. I currently lay out in iStudio on a Mac, so someone with the same setup could be provided with the current template
- Familiarity with running a Facebook page and YouTube channel (or the ability to self-train) will really help
- A long enough time as an active member of the local OBOD community to know heaps of people, and have attended a few different types of event, is something I found very helpful when starting out

Although the new Editor will be free to consider new directions, I can provide all the templates, working documents, graphic elements and checklists used to produce the current SerpentStar to help get you started.

If you're interested, or have any questions, please message me ONLY via the SerpentStar email account (so I can keep track of interest in one place). No need to write a long letter - so long as you've read, and are comfortable with, the information above then a few dot points would be plenty. For your application to be considered however you must mention the phrase "brown M&Ms" - I will explain that bit of fun when the new Editor is announced. Please also take the time to read through all the sections of <http://serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org>, if you've never had the chance to do so, before deciding whether to apply.

I'll take messages from interested folks until Sunday 19 September. I look forward to hearing from you.

Member Businesses, Groups & Retreats in Australia/New Zealand

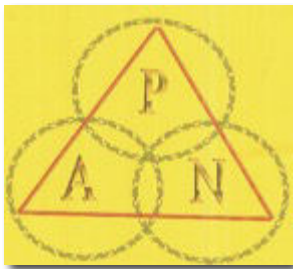


Animal Oracle by Vicki Minahan

After nearly eight years I am pleased to announce a project close to my heart has arrived with art by Helen Wells. Mountain Ash Animal Oracle is here.

I grew up in The Strathbogie Ranges, Victoria, Australia and have been greatly influenced by both the environment and the lifestyle espoused by my parents and extended family. I currently live in Cockatoo, Australia, Victoria

With this book and accompanying cards I have incorporated family stories, autobiographical aspects, my spiritual experiences and scientific information for each animal. My hope is that this will help you to incorporate both the Apparent and Otherworldly aspects to aid you on your journey through life.



Pan's Script by Elkie White

Pan's Script, the book, was written over a period of sixteen years with the goal of providing people with accurate information about their birth data. The book is huge – over 400 pages – but costs only \$50, including postage within Australia. Limited copies left, there will be no further re-runs.

Pan's Script, the report: Over the years the book has spawned individualised reports further designed to help people understand and appreciate themselves. These 20+-page reports are based on your personal Astronumerology. Whilst the book teaches people how to analyse birth data in general, your individual report does all the work for you: entirely personalized and excellent value at \$125.

Pan's Script, the research project: Would you be willing to contribute your birth data to research about druids? I already have data based on writers, musicians, artists, actors, scientists, politicians, sports people, and spiritual people in general, that I have compared with each other and a random sample. To do us justice, I need at least 100 druids. Write to me if you would like to be included: I'd love to hear from you.

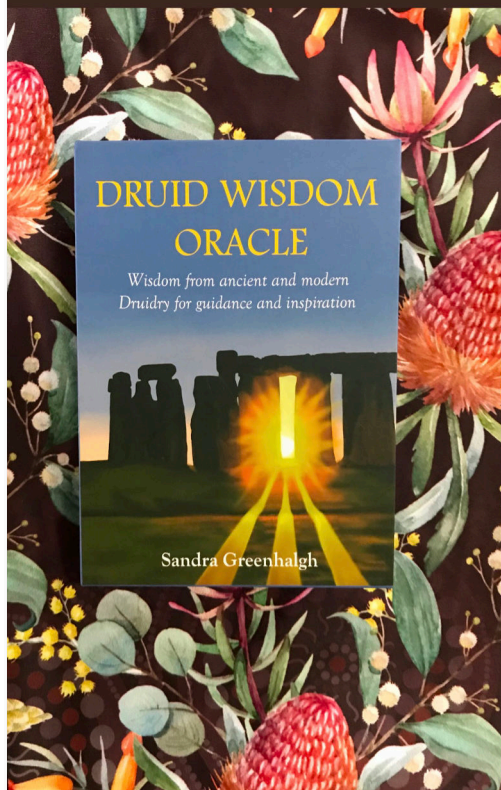
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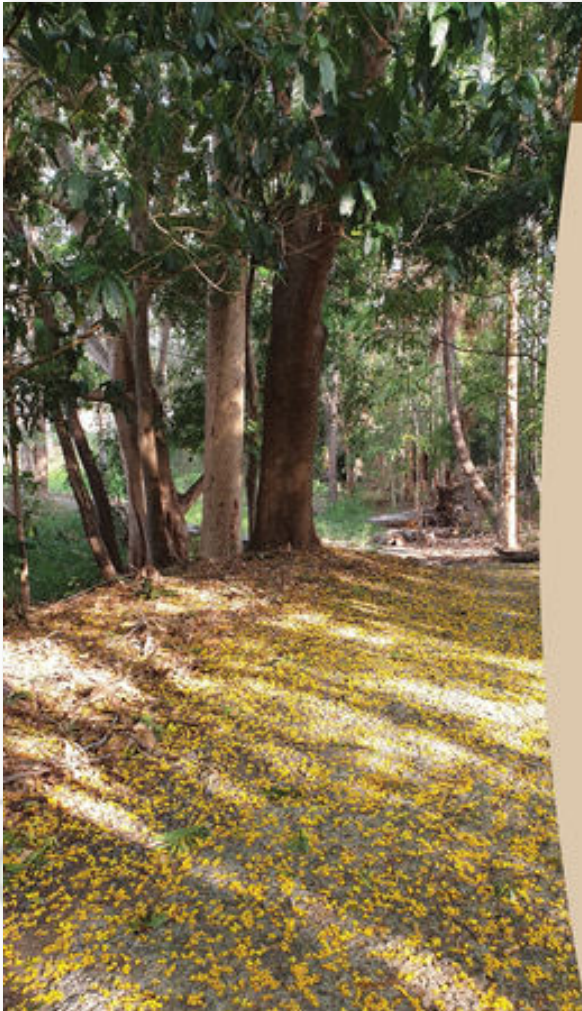
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THE GREEN ALBUM

Tuatha Dea and Nightsong Studios Presents:

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It's a musical plan of action. An Independent musical compilation created by a consortium of like minded Muses, Musicians and Songbirds from all over uniting as a global Tribe to raise awareness, celebrate and give something back to Mother Earth! All these amazing artists will be offering one gift of song, either NEW or never before released specifically for this Album, and themed toward the universal concept of 'Green!' All of the Artists have banded together, and partial proceeds from every album sold by the collaborators will be donated to Rainforest Trust, a Global Green Charity doing amazing work around the world!

THE GREEN ALBUM and all the artists on this compilation project are proud and honored to announce our association and partnership with this wonderful organisation. 25% of all (That's ALL 14 artists) sales proceeds from this project will be donated to Rainforest Trust! This amazing group so profoundly echoes the sentiments of this project, and has been putting them into action for 27 years. PLEASE spread the word and get involved!

<http://www.thegreenalbum.net/about.html>

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Issued June 20, 2016

*Thank you for your commitment to biodiversity.
Together we are saving rainforest acres, forever!*



RAINFOREST TRUST®

Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

TUATHA DEA	CELIA FARRAN
WENDY RULE	BRIAN HENKE
SJ TUCKER	MAMA GINA
BEKAH KELSO	MURPH'S
GINGER DOSS	MIDNIGHT
KELLIANNA	ROUNDERS
DAVE THE BARD	SPIRAL RHYTHM
SPIRAL DANCE	
SHARON KNIGHT/ WINTER S	





Anam Cara Soul Space

Readings, Tarot, Astrology, and Sacred Plant
Essences with Fleur Grant



Greetings and Kia ora, my name is Fleur Grant and I am a student of OBOD and a practising tarot reader, astrologer, and sacred plant essence practitioner.

My connection to Spirit has been active for as long as I can remember. I have always been blessed to receive messages, and this ability has been passed down my family line from my Anglo-Irish grandmother, who possessed second sight. I have good reason to believe my Irish ancestors, who left Ireland after one of the large famines, were descended from ancient Druids.

The land of my birth, Aotearoa New Zealand, has provided me with a deep appreciation of the native forest here, and my communion with nature has been further developed through training as a plant essence practitioner. Plant essences contain specific healing properties that shift emotional and traumatic patterns. There are even essences that can shift DNA patterns that have travelled down family lines. This is an exciting area of work, as it ties into the scientific discovery of epigenetics, which is confirming what ancient cultures have always known, that trauma can be hereditary. For instance, there may be a pattern of betrayal and heartbreak in relationships that have travelled down the ancestral bloodline. As Druids, we work with our ancestral inheritance, and it is now possible for us to clear negative hereditary patterns and receive our divine inheritance.

Astrology is an ancient tool which allows us to map the potential of a soul and look at key strengths and challenges. Most people are familiar with Sun Signs, but you are more than just your star-sign! Based on your time, date and place of birth, natal astrology explains the map of the Zodiac for your individual birth, and the position and relationship of all the planets and signs that make up your personality and potential. I also provide updates of full moon and other major astrological patterns for New Zealand and Australia on my Facebook page.

Tarot (I use Rider Waite and the Druidic Tarot) is an amazing tool for Divination. Tarot is my first port of call for questions about relationship insight and decisions.

Anam Cara is an old Gaelic term which means 'soul friend'. Here, at Anam Cara, I work with you in integrity, openness and non-judgement, using the ancient tools of tarot, astrology and sacred plant essences to help you make decisions, clear emotional and hereditary blocks, and move forward with confidence.

Readings are available in person in Auckland, New Zealand, or from anywhere in the world using Skype or Messenger. Please visit my website anamcarareadings.com, and follow my Facebook www.facebook.com/anamcarareadings

Advertising in SerpentStar is free for all OBOD members in the Southern Hemisphere. If your business, event or club is related to our druidry practice, you can advertise on these pages for as long as you require.

Submission guidelines are available from serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org/about

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Pamela Meekings-Stewart

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As a Druid and committed to a spiritual life, the work is important to me. Couples continue to ask for my services and very much appreciate the gentle spiritual aspect of the ceremonies I help them put together.

I am also able to arrange contact for weddings and civil unions at Stonehenge Aotearoa in the Wairarapa with myself as Celebrant.

Marriage and Civil Unions are the only ceremonies that require a legal, registered Celebrant. However, I also craft and perform many other forms of ceremony and blessing:

Namings (children and change of name); Birth Blessings; Vows of Recommitment; Entering The Wisdom Years - Croning (women) and Sageing (men); House Blessings; Blessings and Invocations For Passing Over, Funerals and Burial Blessings



Tying the knot

Two lives entwine

Tying the knot

Two families entwine

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For more details about our home and project visit <http://casaindomitus.wordpress.com> or contact Ngatina on wwoof@sylvanius.net or 0429795002 to discuss options.



And finally...

A snippet from the OBOD Inspiration for Life series - to receive more of these simply sign up for the Order's newsletter, at druidry.org



'Trust life and it will teach you, in joy and sorrow, all you need to know.'

~ James A. Baldwin

The Wheel turns...



Artwork by nyverne ogma vryjan

Text sourced from Druidry.org

.Although we would think of **Imbolc** as being in the midst of Winter, it represents in fact the first of a trio of Spring celebrations, since it is the time of the first appearance of the snowdrop, and of the melting of the snows and the clearing of the debris of Winter. It is a time when we sense the first glimmer of Spring, and when the lambs are born. In the Druid tradition it is a gentle, beautiful festival in which the Mother Goddess is honoured with eight candles rising out of the water at the centre of the ceremonial circle.

The Goddess that ruled Samhuinn was the Cailleach, the Grey Hag, the Mountain Mother, the Dark Woman of Knowledge. But by Imbolc the Goddess has become Brighid, the Goddess of poets, healers and midwives.

And so we often use Imbolc as a time for an Eisteddfod dedicated to poetry and song praising the Goddess in her many forms. The Christian development of this festival is Candlemas – the time of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. For years successive Popes had tried to stop parades of lit candles in the streets of Rome at this time, until seeing that it was impossible to put a stop to this pagan custom, they suggested that everyone enter the churches so that the priests could bless the candles.

The deadline for contributing to the Beltane issue of SerpentStar is 26 October 2021.

The Beltane issue will be released in the week of 31 October 2021.