

SERPENT STAR

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



BELTANE 2021

Welcome to the Beltane issue of SerpentStar!

After six years and 25 issues, the time has come for me to bid farewell to SerpentStar. It's a wonderful role to hold, and it's been my privilege to serve the Order and all of you, but now is a great and much-needed moment for me to turn my focus more inward for a while. My Ovate studies need some love, and a little hedge on the edge of things beckons. I'll still be around, contactable and attending things when I can, and I also look forward to being just a reader/contributor for a while.

As I step away, I'd like to say a special thankyou to everyone who has sent me lovely messages the last couple of months, and especially to Philip Carr-Gomm, Eimear Burke, my beloved Macas, Elkie White, Chris Parker, Cherry Carroll and every one of my contributors over the years, you know who you are and I treasure you all.

Drumroll please.....please welcome the new Editor of SerpentStar and webperson for Druidry Australia - the lovely Samantha Travis! A long-time member of Macadamia Grove, talented bard and dear old friend, Sam has a wealth of skills and knowledge, and I know she will take this little magazine in some great new directions. Most importantly, she spotted the "attention to detail" bit in the ad in the Imbolc issue. Anyone curious to know what the reference to Brown M&Ms is about, click here: <https://www.safetydimensions.com.au/van-halen/> - just a bit of fun to attract someone with the same quirky attention to detail as me. Check out her intro and article about the recent Southern Hemisphere OBOD Assembly online/face-to-face blended event in this issue.

Also in this issue you'll find an article from Elkie White, a poem from Angela Wright, a couple of book reviews from me and check out the business listings at the back for some very cool new additions.

Peace of the Grove to each of you, many blessings, and THANKYOU
Mandy /|\



Two generations of SerpentStar Editors and two Macadamia Nuts go wild on the streets of Adelaide, August 2018. LtoR Carmen, Liz, Mandy and Sam, and yes we were hunting yarn.....

SerpentStar, Beltane 2021

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

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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

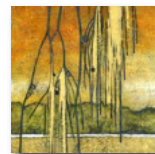
Perth Hills & members throughout the South West. Email: ghiancu@iinet.net.au

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

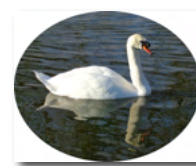
Druidenstein (German) www.druidry.info/das-magazin-druidenstein

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.



Children of the New Millennium by Elkie White

When referring to 'Millennium Children', I am not referring to Gen Y, aka 'Millennials'. They were born between 1981 and 1996, ie pre-the new millennium. This study was undertaken to note the difference in the astronerology between those people born from 1 January 2000, and those who came before them. And the differences were striking.

Firstly the introversion-extraversion ratio has changed dramatically. I'm using Carl Jung's guideline that extraverts seek out other people to meet their energy needs whereas introverts turn within to meet their energy needs: they retreat in order to rest and re-charge. Modern psychologists think of introversion-extraversion falling somewhere

on a scale. Introverts typically have some extraverted traits mixed with the introverted ones and vice versa.

The extensive research undertaken for Chapter 6 of Pan's Script uncovered a simple way of predicting extraversion, introversion, and ambiversion (middle of the scale). By placing the date of birth within a 3x3 grid (similar to the Magic Square), you can see how much of the grid is externalized and how much is internalized. (You can home in on the type of introversion or extraversion too but that's for another day).

The original samples that formed the basis of Pan's Script, the book, comprised of people who were born prior to the year 2000, when about 60% were extraverted, and about 10% of those extremely so, like Jimmy Barnes. The Millennium Children had a completely different pattern: only 10% are extraverted and none extremely so. In fact, 12% are extremely introverted, which is something rarely seen before. These are children that need regular quiet time to re-charge their batteries. This will change, again, when the zeros disappear from dates-of-birth in the year 2111 – several generations away. Meanwhile we must respect that these young people have gifts that the world is only now ready to receive.

An internet search brought up an article on the topic by Adam McHugh, himself an introvert. He makes the point that introversion is typically viewed as a negative condition defined in terms of what it lacks: outgoingness. Yet although introverts may appear to have less energy, I say that they use their energy in a different way. When an introvert paces their energy according to their needs, they can accomplish as much as anyone else; just in a different way. Some even achieve more than their outgoing counterparts. Like Adam, this introvert wants to shift the conversation by emphasizing the positive side of introversion.

- Loyalty: My favourite quote from Adam is "Introverts treasure the relationships they have stretched so much to make."
- Peacefulness: Because introverts need peace in order to function, they learn ways to create it around them. This is helpful in a crisis, and even in tense conversations.
- Perceptiveness: Again out of need, introverts tend to sit on the sidelines and observe people closely. They notice patterns of behaviour.
- Listening: Introverts can listen without speaking and with genuine interest in the other person's story. With training and encouragement, this can become a skill of enormous benefit to people that need to be heard. It can foster compassion.
- Self-awareness: Listening and perceptiveness develop into self-awareness when reflection and self-honesty become everyday things that you do.
- A rich inner-life: Especially those who embark on a spiritual path that is well grounded in daily life, can develop a rich and imaginative inner-life that supports daily life.
- Creativity: Their perceptiveness and self-awareness can lead to some remarkably original work (although they may be unwilling to promote it, disliking the amount of energy it will rob them of for further creativity).
- Consideration: Because of the need to maintain a harmonious environment, introverts can mature into adults who consider the needs of others in tandem with, or even over their own, in an honest and self-aware way.
- Remembering things, solving problems, and planning ahead: Modern researchers have found that introverts have a higher blood flow to their frontal lobe than extraverts do, and this part of the brain supports these cognitive functions.

As the above qualities become more common and more appreciated, so they will mature into their full potential. To develop the self-confidence of the introverted child, parents and teachers can respond with messages of affirmation when such behaviours are demonstrated. Introverts need honest but compassionate feedback. The people who give it to them typically become role models for them. They can then learn by observing such people.

Introverts may feel tired after being in a crowd or even after a long conversation on the phone. They may prefer writing to talking. They may take their time to make decisions. They may use their imaginations to solve problems rather than relying solely on logic. But that doesn't mean that they are unfriendly or difficult to get to know. It also doesn't mean that they can't be leaders. When they learn how to listen to other people's perspectives and stay focused on long-term goals - qualities that come naturally to them - they can excel at taking the lead when it becomes necessary and supporting another leader when it is not.

Introversion is here for a reason: the world needs these qualities right now. Next time, I will consider the dominant Astro-Number Signature of the new millennium and how these introverted 'children' (some already 21), may choose to apply it.

(See the 'Member Businesses' section for more information about Elkie and Pan's Script)

The Fool and the Beltane Fire

*With my great passion
I leap*

*As a sudden spring eddy
gathers up the dead
dry moth leaves
of unrealised dreams
and flings them to the fire.*

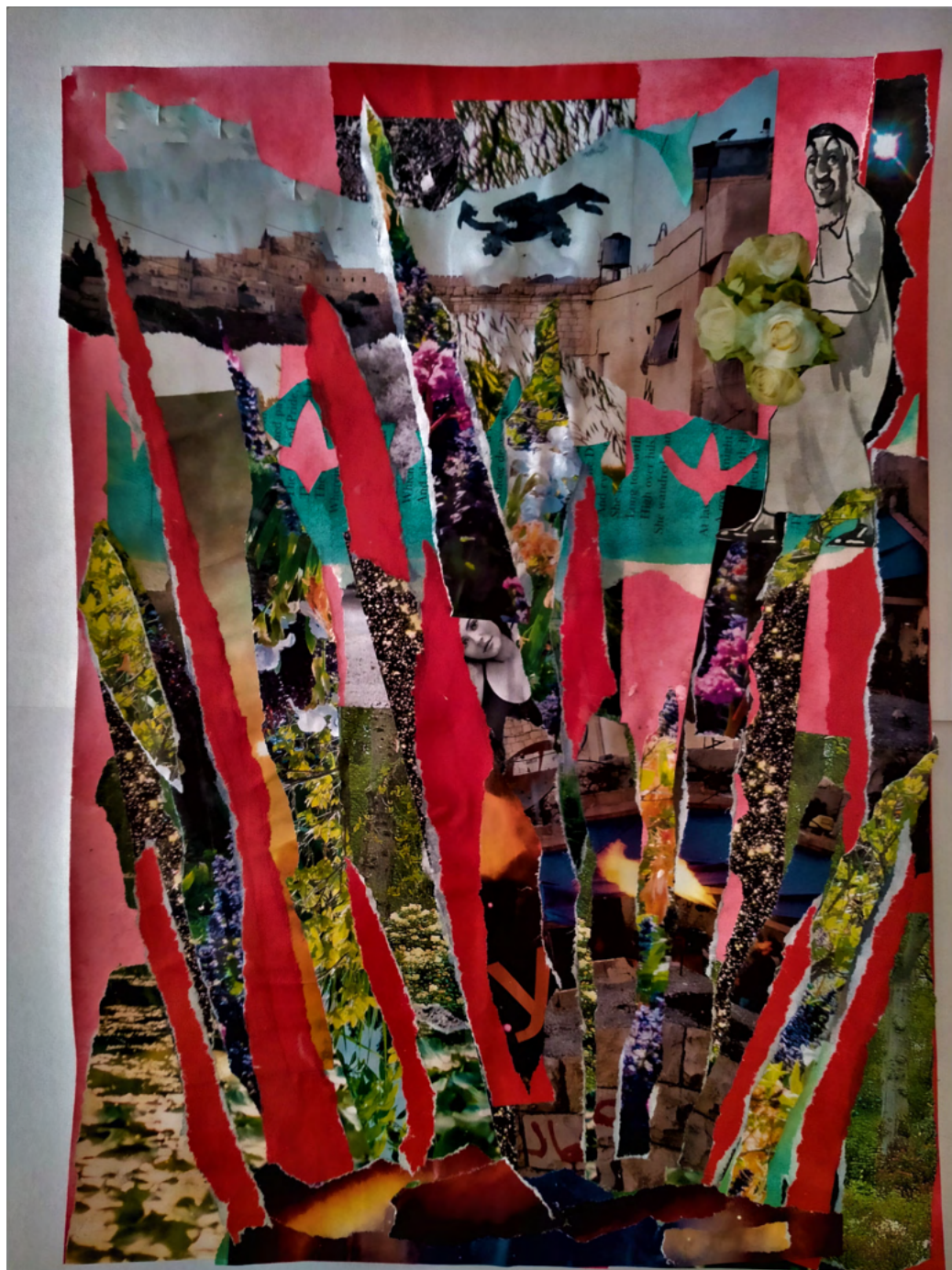
*The sound of the wind
briefly but beautifully amplifies
as the flames consummate
the sacrifice.*

*Release tears sizzle and spit
dancing wildly
with the rings and spirals
of the Tree of Life
now split asunder
in a final glorious blaze
of colour and heat.*

*I commit in this moment
full of love for the Sun ahead
and empty of fear
of the darkness behind*

*Fragrant flowers in hand
I close my eyes
Breathe deep
and step into the future now
trusting the eternal process
of one season
transforming
into another.*

Angela Wright



Memories of SHOBODO Assembly 2021

by Samantha Travis



Alban Eilir has always been a special time for me, personally. I was initiated into the Bardic grade at Alban Eilir when the air isn't as cold, and it feels more like a refreshing breeze that blows away the still air of winter. Alban Eilir always feels like a new start, and it was the first time I had really felt the changing of the seasons.



It had been a long while since the Macadamia Grove had set foot in the Bribie Island Recreational Centre. The last time the Macadamia Grove had gathered together on Bribie Island was Beltane 2016, and this weekend had its fair share of memories and tales from the last time we had been here. Friday was spent not only settling in and getting ourselves ready for the weekend ahead, but also reminiscing and marveling at how much the place had changed, and yet hadn't at all. It was on Friday night that a special candle was lit in the communal altar (left), which burned throughout the Assembly until Monday morning.



We started Saturday off with a beautiful meditation by Cecily based on the spiral of the Nautilus (top), followed by a talk by Mandy about contemplative practice and how it relates to the way we practice Druidry. After a crafty chat hosted by Carmel, Chris Parker treated us to an incense making tutorial!

After lunch, Liz took us through herbal preparations, complete with handouts! After a quick break, Julie Brett took us through her process of nature journalling and her amazing work (which, to be



honest, I was both awed by and immensely missing the art supplies at home!). After a quick break, Scarlet took us through a lesson on mask making, and quite a few of us were rushing around in the background trying not to hot-glue ourselves to the tables. On second thought, it might've just been me. I'd forgotten that unattended hot glue guns and glitter are *treacherous*.

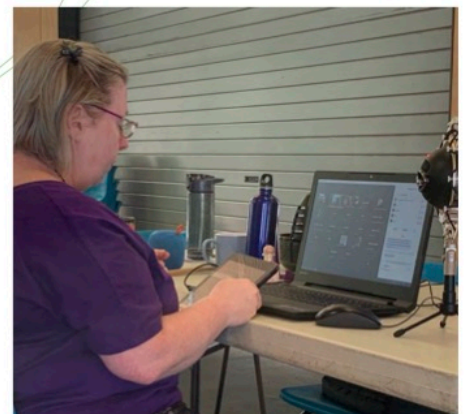
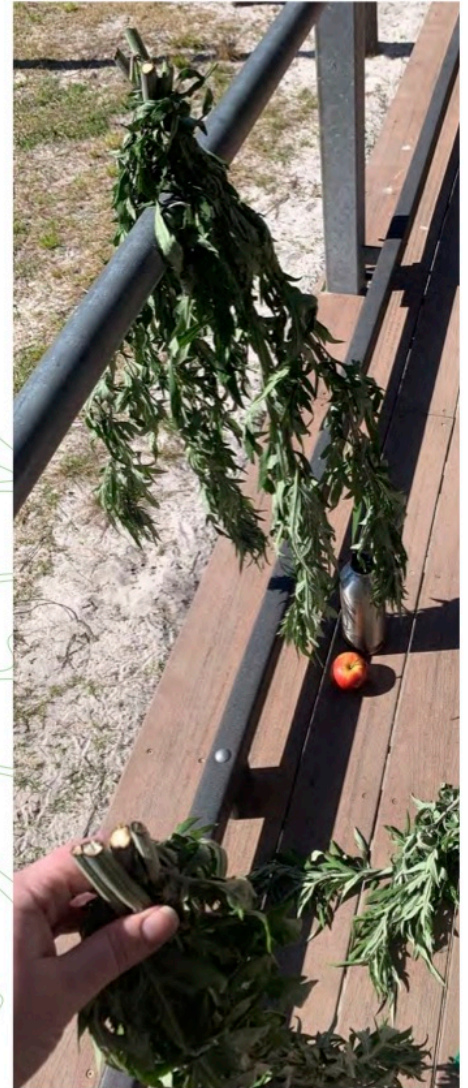


The sun sank down behind the trees, and we dressed up and gathered together for the Alban Eilir ritual. It was a beautiful ceremony, and we hope everyone watching at home joined in! The night ended not long after that, but sleep knocked us all out pretty quickly.

Bright and early on Sunday, we were treated to a continuation of Saturday's meditation by Cecily, followed by a quick break before we all broke out into our Bardic, Ovate and Druidic circles. Strange coincidences and inspiration abounded,



For the afternoon session, Pamela re-introduced us to the Wheel of Segais, delving into the system and how others have used it to 'live treefully'. After lunch was the group breakouts where the Ovates and Druids were off being mysterious, then a quick dinner while everyone gathered up their mead and their courage for the Eisteddfod!



The night slowed down during the evening as it's wont to do, and a few of us lit up the firepit to have a bit more of a drink, a dance and an impromptu jam session as the rest of us slowly vanished off to bed.

Monday was all too short, but we gathered together to say farewell to the assembly and to extinguish the candle in our altar, which had been burning nonstop, day and night, throughout the Assembly. The Zoom room, open for the majority of the Assembly, was kept open for a little while afterward as we fluttered about to very slowly pack our things. Some of us took a moment to take in the ocean air, take in some sun and capture some last-minute photos before closing the virtual room for the final time.

Some of us travelled back to the city, some travelled back to the mountains and the countryside and some even moved on to more secluded places for a time, but we all carried a little spark with us back into the mundane world.

We hope you all took a little bit of that spark with you as well. I know I did! But with that spark of Awen in mind...

Hello! ([click here](#))



Left to right, our hardworking hosts: Liz, Jenni, Nadia, Cecily, Mandy, Nina, Scarlet, Carmen and Sandra.

Book Review: Living Witchery: Beginner Witch Guide

Edited by Alexandra Tanet, Kim Fairminer & Sandra Greenhalgh

Review by Mandy Gibson

Note: As I came towards the end of my time as Editor of SerpentStar, I received several invitations to review books for the magazine. This was wonderful as I love to read, but I also found myself so immersed in things that I wasn't able to actually read them properly, so I ended up needing to space them out. This is the second of the three, and you'll find the third in the Lughnasadh issue.

From patrons to practice, sacred space to spell bottles, intuition to indigenous astronomy, this is one detailed book! *Living Witchery: Beginner Witch Guide* is exactly that - a comprehensive guide to witchcraft as practiced by the The Circle Coven, based in Queensland Australia. It covers literally everything you could possibly want to get you started on this path - elements, herbs, correspondences, basic rituals and a comprehensive explanation of the Wheel of the Year that can be easily tied to the seasons of the Southern Hemisphere. The book also goes into some elements of joining and working within a coven, making it a great companion to the first book in the series (*Living Witchery: Coven*).

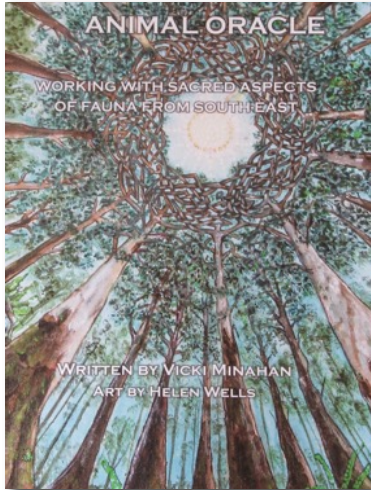
For someone just starting their exploration of witchcraft, or in fact any nature-based spirituality, the authors give a grounding that is both detailed and inspiring. After reading the whole thing I bought a second copy and gave it to my niece for her 17th birthday, as the language is clear and easy to read without being "for dummies" - it truly is an intelligent and thoughtful guide for a beginner.

I was lucky enough to attend the launch of the book, held under a marquee at an afternoon witch market in the northern suburbs of Brisbane, and got to hear a number of the contributors read from their sections and speak to the areas on which they focus. You can tell these are women who live their Craft every day, and who will have even more to share in future publications either under the Living Witchery banner or maybe under their own names. I look forward to sharing more of their wonderful work in the future.

If you purchase a copy of *Living Witchery: Beginner Witch Guide* via publisher byrningtyger's Etsy store, you receive a free Wheel of the Year postcard with artwork by Sandra Greenhalgh - [Click here to go to the Etsy store](#)



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. I might write an article about my findings, but no names will be mentioned. As a thank-you, I will inform you of your Astro-Number Signature and give you my findings about it.

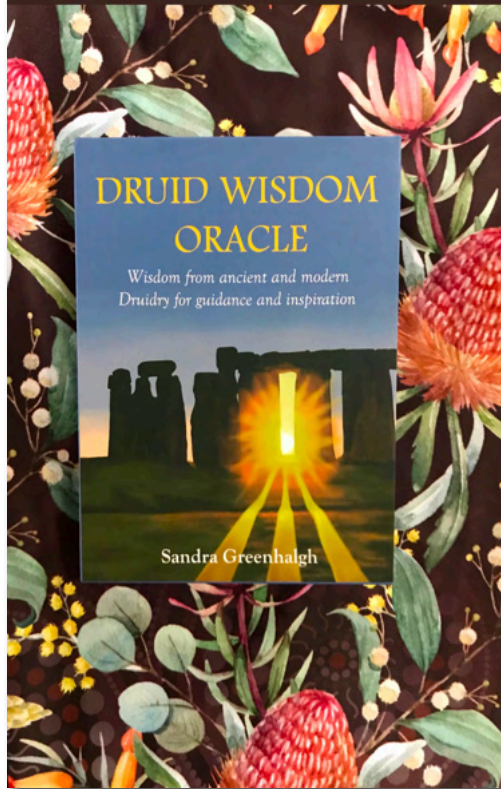


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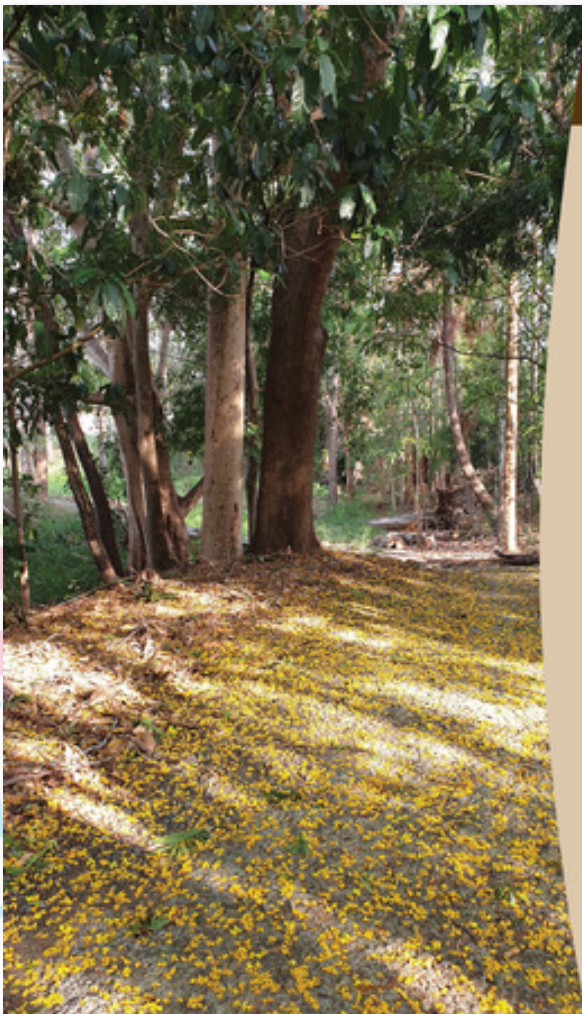
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Spiral Dance's latest album 'Land and Legend' is now available.



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Serpent Energy	A Piggott
Wickerman / Landlord's Daughter	A Piggott / P Gooding
Song of the Trees	A Piggott
The Sheringham Mermaid / Bay of Soles	A Piggott / P Gooding
The Children of Lir	A Piggott
Soul's Gateway	M Adamson
King Orfeo	Traditional
Dark Days and Heys / Tampered Twilight	A Miller / P Gooding
Elen of the Ways	A Piggott
Mallee My Mother	Wyverne Ogma Vyvyan

Featuring:

Damh the Bard on Track 1 & 11
Wyverne Ogma Vyvyan Track 11

To order go to :

<http://www.spiraldance.com.au>

or for more information :

info@spiraldance.com.au

THE GREEN ALBUM

Tuatha Dea and Nightsong Studios Presents:

THE GREEN ALBUM is a collaborative concept album featuring Tuatha Dea, Wendy Elizabeth Rule, SJ Tucker, Sharon Knight, Winter Jp Sichelschmidt, Celia Farran, Bekah Kelso, Ginger Doss, Damh The Bard, Kellianna Girouard, Spiral Dance, Spiral Rhythm, Murphey's Midnight Rounders, Brian Henke and Mama Gina LaMonte.

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>

<https://www.facebook.com/greenalbum/?ref=hl>

Direct downloads available from <http://www.thegreenalbum.net/home.html>

or you can buy a physical album via

http://www.spiraldance.com.au/?CDs_and_Downloads___Ordering_Spiral_Dance_CDs



RAINFOREST TRUST® *Hero*

The Green Album

donated a gift to protect

**1,817 Acres of Balanga Forest Reserve
in the Congo**

This gift assists Rainforest Trust and our local Congolese partner to establish Balanga Forest Reserve, safeguarding crucial habitat and providing a future safe from poachers for the Congo's magnificent and threatened wildlife, including the African Forest Elephant, Okapi, and Bonobo.

Issued June 20, 2016

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



RAINFOREST TRUST®

Paul Salaman
Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

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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

OBOD Member Celebrants Australia & New Zealand



JENNETH GRAHAM
Priestess Celebrant Bard Witch

As a registered Marriage Celebrant & passionate creator of ceremonies, I craft unique & beautiful rituals to help you celebrate the important times in your life.

Ceremonies are available on the Central Coast, Sydney & Newcastle Areas. Nationally & Internationally upon request.

Handfastings ~ Weddings
Civil Ceremonies ~ Vow Renewals
Maidenhood ~ Motherhood
Blessings ~ Baby Namings
Cleansings ~ Cronings
Divorce ~ Funerals
Transition & Initiation Rituals

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WITCHCRAFT
MEMBER & TEACHER IN TRAINING

Pagan Awareness
Network Member

Pamela Meekings-Stewart

Registered Marriage and
Civil Union Celebrant
New Zealand

I offer Druid, pagan and alternative spirituality marriages, hand fasting and civil union ceremonies working with couples to create their own unique ceremony.

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

Binding our futures together



Contact: pamela@thewoolshed.com

TheWoolshedretreats.co.nz

Tel: ++64-4 2399234

Anne Conroy

REGISTERED CELEBRANT

My celebrancy is heart centred for those looking for someone who can genuinely support individuals and families when the need arises, in a relaxed and caring manner, in the Celtic tradition.

Regardless of the type of ceremony and its level of complexity, you can be assured of respect, empathy, deep listening, compassion, and creativity, along with a healthy dose of humour.



www.ritualcelebrant.co.nz

Ph: 021 781 873

E: anne@ritualcelebrant.co.nz



Member of the Order of
Ovates Bards and Druids



Member Celebrant's
Assn. of New Zealand

Creating meaningful ceremonies and lasting memories



Celebrant Services

Trained by OBOD School of Celebrancy
Offering OBOD Members and their families
Celebrating Life & Farewell Services
for a donation to charity.

Serving Sydney and surrounding areas

It would be great for us to work together, as I am here in your service to make the ceremony unique to you, so don't delay, get in touch today.

+61 (0)493 040692
debhutch111@gmail.com

Mentoring & Wise Guide Services

Mentoring is my passion as it's about relationship and all things in life is about relationship, I assist you in moving in the direction that helps you. I'm BIG on Self Care and found that this is the foundation to all aspects of moving through life in a harmonious way and being your best Self.

I am trained to perform Ho'oponopono which is an ancient and traditional Hawaiian healing process that has been orally handed down by the generations.

www.deborahrosehalani.com

I am a lifelong student of Hawaiian Spirituality, a Wise Guide and Affiliate to the School of Spirituality, Healing and Development (SoHAD).

www.selfaction.org



Need some time out from your day to day life?

**Want to escape the city and experience the Outback Heart of
our ancient land?**

**Interested in helping with a permaculture self-sufficiency project
and learning new skills?**

Experienced WWOOF host, and OBODie Ngatina, and her family, would like to invite members seeking a time of retreat to consider their home in the Northern Flinders Ranges (SA).

- The stunning ancient landscape and vast starry or moonlit nights are perfect for contemplation and fostering a connection with Spirit of Place.
- Experience living in an heritage listed small town (pop. 20) in a remote location
- Private accommodation in an historic inn first built in the 1870s
- Visit places of significance in the deeply powerful Flinders Ranges
- Help with an arid lands permaculture project – learn skills for self-sufficiency
- Flexible arrangements – either WWOOF for full food and board or be more autonomous as suits your needs.

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...

*There will I meet you
In waves of green and blue
In hands of calm and kind
There will we live
There are rooftops that bear our names
and hollows too
And there will I find you
Still and waiting
Still but for the sound of breathing
Still but for the kiss of a breeze
Eyes the first burst of blue
Green like the Spring to come
Dark as the warm night
and Summer's song within you*

Mandy Gibson



The Wheel turns...



Beltane...marks the time of our adolescence and early wo/manhood. Spring is in full bloom, and twin fires would be lit at this time, through which would be passed the cattle after their long winter confinement, or over which those hoping for a child or good fortune would jump.

We see traces of the Beltane celebrations on May Day (in the Northern Hemisphere), when dancing round the maypole celebrates the fertility of the land and creates an echo of the ritual circle dances that must have been enacted in stone circles throughout the country.

Text sourced from Druidry.org

The deadline for contributing to the Lughnasadh issue of SerpentStar is Tuesday, 25 January.
The Lughnasadh issue will be released in the week of 1 February 2022.