

Serpent Star

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



Samhain 2023



Welcome, welcome, welcome to the Samhain issue of Serpentstar!

Hello, hello, hello!

Samhain is one of my favourite times of the year (the two weeks of Spring we get in Brisbane is a very close second). The heat of summer gives way to a gentle coolness. Some flowers are still blooming, sure, but the sun sets much earlier now and the mornings are a little bit darker than before.

It's also a time when people seem to reflect, quieten down from the high energy of summer and just... take a moment to harvest what they've cultivated during the warmer months and discard the things they no longer need.

In this issue, we've got some upcoming events, a new poem by John, and also a re-release of part four of Tina's short story, along with a readalong video that's already up on the SerpentStar Youtube channel!

Until next time, with all the hugs and bright blessings that I can give,
- Sam /||

SerpentStar, Samhain 2023

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 - <https://www.facebook.com/SerpentStarOBOD>

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 2020's DDUDE talk series from Druids DownUnder. I'd like to see other videos from OBODies on there as well - they can either be linked to ones already on other channels, or we can arrange for you to send them to serpentstar.obod@gmail.com 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

At present we are full to capacity for our seasonal celebrations, but we still delight in meeting and chatting with new members of the Order. Contact: Elkie: elkiwhite@gmail.com, Trudy: moondancer@outlook.com.au, 0409 186 316

Facebook: [Friends of The Melbourne Grove](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheMelbourneGrove)

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: ghriancu@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) <http://www.obod.nl/dryade/>

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.

The background of the page is a soft, artistic illustration of autumn foliage. It features large, overlapping leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and light brown, some with detailed vein patterns. In the lower-left corner, there are a few acorns with their caps. The overall style is delicate and painterly, creating a warm, seasonal atmosphere.

The Funeral Jig

You're already dancing a jig at your funeral

In a crystal, in a minute, infinitesimal dust enwraps the sky.

Summer's clean and yellow light resumes

Come, drink the wine, remove the scales from off your mind

Take a deep breath and dive, and then you'll soar

Within free fall, that kingdom claimed by the brave

Wild rivers proclaim, the echo of the heroes' call

Sun on the cliffs o'er wild and foamy seas

No time to think, no where to be, steal a moment.

Take your time, take my time, from oceans' heaving breath

Three things remain after all is washed away, your life's a gift

Given to your memories that you make, given to those around

Your love and given back to mother earth, your elements at the last

Back to the four winds, scattered love and scattered thoughts

Your life, a long slow smear like a worm, stretched out on shallow smoky glass

Without a care, as if a wave can judge a bold or tender deed

And every other living creature, from Luca down to you

Shares a mind except yourself. You seem to think you are apart

They knock at the door of your heart, the dog or cat that pass you by

The bird on the wire, the cicada, the snake, the ant on your shoe

Are all one mind but one, your own, and if you let them in

You'd know the joy that comes from being the one

You already think you are.

- John Jordan

Mistress Munchkin and the Plutonium Dragon - Part 4

Written by Tina Merrybard

Mistress Elfrida Munchkin has been living in a small cottage on the top of a cliff, sent there by her Druid Order to magically babysit a nuclear reactor, known to her as Lumpy Bum. Despite her supposedly living alone, Elfrida's cottage is rather full, what with the twinned spirits of place, Maelgwyn and Gaelgwyn, and her somewhat awakened helpful household implements, Fussier, Stewart, Bowly and Cassie the Cauldron.

Using her prodigious Druidic power, Mistress Munchkin has managed to avert a nuclear meltdown by channelling off all the toxic energy as Lumpy Bum began to blow. Somehow, that energy has coalesced into a being, a scintillating, flowing, floating being of purple and silver that nobody has ever seen the like of before. A being she has named Dragon. A being made from dangerous radiation...

Dragon had heard her, despite her mumbling. It stretched its head back down to her again, while its body yet flitted about like some giant glistening hummingbird. "Poison?" it asked. "I am made of poison?" "Yes," Elfrida said. "Your body is made of something that does not sustain life. Not life as this planet knows it anyway."

"That is not good," said Dragon, bringing its body down to earth once more, light and colours dimming. "I don't want to poison you, Mother." Large eyes peered into her face in worried enquiry. "Am I making you ill?" "I am safe, my child," she said. "I am protected. It is others who might be made unwell by you."

"That is bad," Dragon said. "How will I be able to see this world if I will make the beings here unwell?"

"Let's go have a cup of tea," Elfrida said decidedly. "I'm cold and I need tea. Tea helps me think."

She made her way across the frosty grass, with Dragon floating along behind her like the most spectacular parade balloon ever. At the door to the cottage, she turned to size up her child, and said, "Even if you pull in all your beautiful fins you will still be too big to fit in my cottage, too big to sit on my cushions by my fire. I will put the kettle on and then bring tea outside. Let's see if you like tea."

"Leave the door open, Mother," Dragon beseeched her. "I will be lonely out here."

A being the size of a large house who has separation anxiety, that's going to be convenient, Elfrida thought to herself as she went to the fireplace to fill Fussier full and pop it into the centre of the fire, which she stirred up to get flames jumping. Then she hunted for her biggest teapot, known as Cassie the Cauldron, and put ten tea-spoons of tea into her. If Dragon drank tea at all, it would need a lot.

Dragon had poked its vasty frilled head as far into the cottage as it could, and the room was filled with a purple and silver light that competed strangely with the flickering orange firelight. It watched her now with intense interest.

"I like your house," it said. "I like the cushions and the fire. I would like to sit in there and drink tea with you, Mother."

"Well, I would like that too," Elfrida said, "But as you can see, this is a small space and you are very big."

Dragon grumphed a bit in an amusingly similar way to Elfrida's own, and subsided its head down until its short, frilly chin was resting on the back of the couch nearest the door. It sighed a long sigh that caught the tablecloth, which flapped up and nearly blew right off, until caught by the weight of Cassie the Cauldron. Elfrida hefted Fussier up and poured a river of boiling water into the giant teapot.

"Well, you're a sight for sore eyes!" exclaimed Maelgwyn from her armchair, where she had suddenly materialised, with Gaelgwyn in his chair beside her. The pair of old spirits were smiling wickedly, and Elfrida knew they were enjoying this unusual development very much.

"I know you missed having a pet, but really, wouldn't a rat or white rabbit have done?" said Gaelgwyn with mock grumpiness. His old eyes were twinkling as he reached forward to stir up the fire with a fire-poker as misty and half-there as he himself was. The fire responded anyway.

"What is a pet?" asked Dragon.

"A pet is an animal that humans keep beside them for company," Elfrida said. "You are not a pet. You are a person, I'm just not sure what sort of person yet. These two are a different sort of person too. The annoying sort who poke their noses into things," she added, glaring at the two house spirits, who both chuckled unashamedly. Suddenly the cottage seemed way too small for all the large personalities in it.

"I am a person, and persons sit in cottages and drink tea," said Dragon decidedly, and it began to come into the doorway more and more, until its shoulders were stuck. Long glowing frills of silver and mauve drifted

about the room, and Elfrida carefully pulled one away from the hot teapot and set it drifting in another direction. Dust filtered down from the ceiling, and the walls creaked as the huge being continued to push.

“Dragon!” Elfrida snapped. “You’ll knock the cottage right over! You’re too big to come in!”

The creature stopped, still pressing up against the door, gazing covetously at the couch and fire and the two chuckling old spirits in the corner. “I will be smaller,” it said, and with that, it began to shrink and shrink, until suddenly its shoulders fit through the door, and still it shrank, until it was the size of a Great Dane, and now the whole body was inside, though there wasn’t much room any more, and then it was small as a cat.

Dragon floated up onto the couch-back where it had so recently rested its enormous chin. Ribbons of silver and purple spread out around it. It curled up, catlike, and looked very, very unlike a cat, apart from the smugness.

“There,” it said. “I am now a person who can fit in a cottage and have tea by the fire.”

“Well, that’s handy!” Elfrida said. “But now we have too much tea!”

“Maybe,” said Dragon, “But maybe I still have a very big stomach inside my smaller body. We will see.”

Elfrida grumped comfortably and poured tea into Bowly for Dragon and into an ordinary cup for her. She filled cups for Maelgwyn and Gaelgwyn too, and placed them carefully beside the spirits. They couldn’t drink the extant tea, but they enjoyed the ritual, and they said they drank the spirit of the tea. Elfrida didn’t know how that worked, but it felt cosy to include them in the many-times-daily practice.

She took down the biscuit tin and brought out two biscuits for each of them, a pair for each of the old house spirits too. She carefully placed them on each saucer beside the tea cups. Dragon growled excitedly at the sight, big pug eyes popping out, streamers flowing around extra fast with the emotion.

Ahhh, what an odd and long night, Elfrida thought to herself as she eased her substantial self down into her battered favourite armchair.

Pulling her tea towards her to cradle it against her breast, still-cold hands cupped around it, Elfrida settled at last with a sigh of contentment.

Dragon reached a long, stretchable neck to lap at its tea without leaving the couch back, a sight which made Elfrida snort with amusement, as Maelgwyn and Gaelgwyn leaned forward with happy but totally unnecessary old-people groans to pick up the spirit-cups of their own drinks, biscuits and all. Elfrida sipped hot tea like it was some magical healing elixir, and of course that is exactly what it is.

Dragon drank up its tea in one snuffling, sucking, smacking rush, flat face jammed into Bowly, then snapped up its biscuits and, still crunching, turned that odd, puggy, fishy face around to look at Elfrida. “Tea is very good, Mother, and I like person-food.”

It settled back onto the couch-back with its odd, finny hand-feet tucked neatly under its chest. It blinked a few times and its head drooped for a moment. “I think I’m very tired now. Being born was hard work.”

“I hear you!” Elfrida said nibbling at her second biscuit. “Birthing you was hard work too.”

Dragon stared at her with those slightly protuberant, glowing purple eyes, looking more hungry than tired and for a moment as she nibbled there, Elfrida idly wondered if it might like to eat her for dessert even though her heart knew that it wouldn’t.

Instead, the being crept forward until it was at the closest corner of the couch back, then, “Could I?” it pleaded, and without waiting for an answer, it floated from the couch to her armchair, living fins of silver and purple drifting about as it came. It was suddenly on her lap, snuggled under where she still cradled her tea cup. Warm, soft, and only slightly radioactive at this size, her new and very strange child began to snore gently, its silvery streamers slowing, sinking, drifting down to rest on her knees, and to trail down her legs to the floor. Elfrida grumped a little, just to keep in practice, then sipped tea carefully so as not to disturb her sleeping Dragon. She smiled a secret, contented smile.

Thankyou for reading! Click [here](#) to listen to Tina read the fourth and final part, hosted on the SerpentStar Youtube channel. You can see more of her amazing work on <http://www.tlmerrybard.com>



2023 Gathering

Hosted by
Wollemi pine seed group and
Western Sydney/Blue mountains seed groups

November 10 - 13 2023

Location: Glenrock Lagoon Scout Camp in Newcastle
NSW

For more information, contact Baden
0423 626 290
bonsaidruid@yahoo.com.au

-Photo credit: [Glenrock Scout Camp FB Page](#)



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Saturday 20th May 2023

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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 – nearly 400 pages – but costs only \$50, including postage within Australia. Only four copies left.

Pan's Script, the report: over the years, the book has spawned individualized 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 analyze birth data in general, your individualized report does all of the work for you: entirely personalized and excellent value at \$125.



Pan's Script, the research project: a huge thank-you to the druids who have already participated, but to do us justice, we need more of you. To formulate a comparison with the other sample-groups that I have on file, I need at least 100 druids. In the future, I will write an article based on the findings, but no names will be mentioned. For those of you who send me your date of birth, place of birth, time of birth, and name given to you at birth, I will calculate and inform you of your Astro-Number Signature.

All enquires: elkiewhite@gmail.com

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The advertisement features a woman with long blonde hair wearing a necklace with a large, heart-shaped green stone pendant. To her left is a collection of jewelry, including rings and pendants, set against a background of natural elements like stones and leaves. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Phone Chris on 0405 969 533 or visit:-
www.oruidalchemy.com.au

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



Goddess of the Southern Land

Serpent Energy

Wickerman / Landlord's Daughter

Song of the Trees

The Sheringham Mermaid / Bay of Soles

The Children of Lir

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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 Sichel Schmidt, 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 Schuman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

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BRIAN HENKE
MAMA GINA
MURPH'S
MIDNIGHT
ROUNDERS
SPIRAL RHYTHM





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

CREATIVE CRONIES

Astrological Moon Calendar & Diary



Our 2022 Theme is Spiritual Renewal & Our Collective Purpose

The Creative Cronies have been consulting the planets, creating and producing the moon calendar and astrological diary for over 30 years. Based near Kaitia, in the Far North of Aotearoa, they have a Southern Hemisphere focus, with inspiring art from women across the country.

They include in depth astrological guidance, moon phases, mayan calendar guidance, daily oracles in the diary, and gardening & fishing by the moon in the calendar.

This year explores each Zodiac sign's unique skills and talents and how each might contribute to humanity's collective purpose through these times.

You can purchase a 2022 Moon Calendar, Moon Diary (**LIMITED STOCK**) or a Companion Pack at:

<https://www.creativecronies.co.nz>

Instagram: @creativecronies



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.



THE WHEEL OF SEGAI'S

The Wheel of Segais is a simple but profound template for understanding the nature of change, the innate nature of the universe and our place within it. It allows us to perceive all that we are and all that we need as we experience the turning of the wheel of the year - the Four Seasons, the 12 streams or stages and the Well of the Salmon of Wisdom, the Well of Segais itself, in the centre.

Over the last few years the Salmon has certainly been busy and a number of products from The Wheel of Segais are now available for 'treeful' living, life coaching and divination: the Personal Reader Kit and Way-Showing Cards for divination; Reader Training and Life Coaching online; and the latest offering, my book Living Treefully.



Living Treefully is a book 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 ways 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. I received this great review from Mandy Gibson:

Some months ago I received a review copy of this wonderful book - not only a companion to Pamela's ground-breaking Wheel of Segais divination method, but also a stand-alone system that can be used by a single person or group to really get at the heart of starting and working through a new project or life change. Living Treefully is a great metaphor for the ideas presented, being as it is a representation of the pure cycle of life – it also gives something to aim for, the energy and promise of new growth, the strength and stability of knowing your purpose, and the trust involved in allowing things to decay knowing they will feed the next cycle. It's a beautifully resented book too – soft and attractive illustrations, a fold-out Wheel of Segais diagram in the back and even the choice of paper is soft and comforting to the touch! So much love and care has gone into every page.

The Book is becoming really popular in the UK and I have just sent off my last books of the last printing and am about to receive the next delivery from the printer this week. So if you have been waiting for a copy, Living Treefully it is now available again.

For prices and how to order the book, The Wheel of Segais – Living Treefully or any of the other products go to the Wheel of Segais website www.wheelofsegais.com or send me an email at pamela@thewoolshed.com.

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.

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0415 158 941

  



Pamela Meekings-Stewart
Registered Marriage and Civil Union Celebrant
New Zealand

I offer Druid, pagan and alternative spirituality marriages, civil unions 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 choose 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 in New Zealand 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:

Naming (children and change of name), Birth Blessings, Vows of Commitment, Entering The Wisdom Years - Crossing (woman) and **Leaving** (man), House Blessings, Blessings and Dedications 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@thenorthern.com
Telephone: 06 338 4444
Web: www.thenorthern.com



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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.

Mentoring is my passion as it's about relationships and all things in life to do with relationships. I assist you in moving in the direction that helps you. I'm into Self Care and know that this is the foundation for all aspects of moving through life in a harmonious way and being your best self.

Mentoring & Wise Guide Services

+61 (0)493 043892
dekhvict111@gmail.com

www.celebrant.com.au



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 humor.

www.ritualcelebrant.co.nz
Ph: 021 781 873
E: anne@ritualcelebrant.co.nz

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*And finally...
The Wheel turns...*



It is said that at this special time of **Samhain** the veil that separates the worlds is at its thinnest. So our world, the world of Faerie, and that of the dead, blend as one. It is no wonder then that this night has become so wrapped in superstition. It is a night of wonder and magic. On this night the Cailleach (the Crone) comes to strip the leaves from the trees, to quicken the decay of the flesh of the year, so that it may feed the new life to come.

We can also ask Her to take the unwanted aspects of our personal year away, so that these too might be transformed. Yet even on the darkest night of Samhain, whilst our minds ponder our mortality, if we listen carefully, we can hear the sound of a new-born child crying for its Mother's breast, for soon it will be Alban Arthan, the Winter solstice, and the Wheel will turn once more.

Text sourced from www.druidry.org



Artwork by wyverne ogma vyvyan

**The deadline for contributing to the Imbolc issue of SerpentStar is Sunday 24th July.
The Imbolc issue will be released in the week of 1st August 2023.**