

Serpent Star

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



Beltane / Alban Hefin 2023



Welcome, welcome, welcome to the Beltane / Alban Hefin issue of Serpentstar!

Whoo, what an amazing few weeks! Where to start?

Beltane 2023 has been an absolute delight with the return of the Southern Hemisphere assembly in Newcastle, which was more than a welcome break from the mundane world for more than a few of us. I know I wasn't the only one to be ecstatic to see old friends and make new ones (including more than a few new Bards, Ovates, Druids, and a visit from our very own dragon!), and for this issue of SerpentStar you'll be treated to some of the photos and memories that some of the attendees managed to capture during our all-too-short weekend nestled in Awabakal Country in Newcastle.

In this issue you'll find contributions from brand-new bards Alyshia and Jasper, as well as a poem and Assembly photos from John Jasper (hopefully not the last!), as well as an article from Brenda Jean Rae from Aotearoa. Settle in out of the heat, and dive in to what promises to be a wonderful summer edition of SerpentStar.

With all the love and blessings I can give for the end of the year and well into the new,

- Sam /\



SerpentStar, Beltane/Alban Hefin 2023

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 Ceci Lee. Taken at Glenrock Scout Camp, Awabakal Country

Watermark images courtesy of Adobe Stock and <https://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 - <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 out 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

Macadamia Grove includes OBOD members from South-East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. 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 Grove

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 Down Under](#) - 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.



An Ogham / Oracle of New Zealand Native Trees

THE TREES SPEAK



Tēnā koe (*Hello*)
Nau mai (*Welcome*)

A few years ago I submitted to the Serpent Star, a synopsis of a New Zealand Tree Ogham that I had been working on and with, during my studies of the OBOD course. During my 9 year journey from Bard to Druid, it was 27 New Zealand Native Trees that spoke to me in many different ways until I created, with their help, a New Zealand Tree Ogham/Oracle.

Their words and messages became the Oracle.

During meditation with each of the 27 trees, the oracle was recorded and a sketch was done for each tree, which would later become their spirit painting. I then researched each tree's history, physical identity, its uses and relationships to the human world, and its medical usage.

It has been a long and interesting journey expanding my knowledge of my native flora and fauna, and now the book, spirit paintings, and accompanying oracle cards are completed and printed, ready to be shared with other like-minded people.

I appreciate that everyone relates differently to the natural world therefore, what is appropriate for me may not be for others. Be that as it may, I am very happy to share with others the knowledge and understanding that I have been given by the trees. Enjoy.

*May you find clarity in wisdom
May you find yourself
May you find peace
Kei te Pai
E noho ra*

Please feel free to contact me either by mail or email,
you are most welcome:

Brenda Rae
4 Alexander St,
Abbotsford,
Dunedin 9018,
New Zealand.

tamzin_nz@yahoo.com

Ngā mihi (*Thank you*)
Hei konei ra! (*Goodbye*)

Pale Owl / Ruru Tua tea
Brenda Jean Rae



└ Kāmahi



└ Pukatea



└ Houhere

Tahi te Papatūānuku, tahi te Rangi
Earth and Sky are One

The Trees Speak - An Ogham/Oracle of New Zealand Native Trees by Brenda Jean Rae, is a fully illustrated 124 page book and 27 card, Ogham/Oracle set, offering a unique insight into the individual voices and the wisdom of the natural world from a collection of New Zealand native trees.

For more information, and to purchase a copy of **The Trees Speak - An Ogham/Oracle of New Zealand Native Trees**, and prints of the **Tree Spirit paintings**, visit the website: thetreesspeak.co.nz



Three rays from the turning Sun

The vernal rain flexes her gentle fingers and
Takes the armour off the tired winter
Every moment is a crack of thunder
The druids watch under the southern moon
The dusty buckles taste like eucalyptus

His weathered bark falls to the limpid billabong
You don't have to come from where you've been,
She whispers to him under the yawning sky
Oh, I've been from end to end, says he, exhaustedly
And disappears into the grass by her feet

Their hands spread peace in every direction
She takes the mantle and skips across the tomb
Pared down to an almost empty whelk
Disappearing into the southern brume
Where basalt columns dispel the foamy spray

Giggling, they miss their cues on printed pages
Sea brushed, her dress fades to green, then gold
She turns and passes the coolamon, and he takes it
Quandong and Kakadu plum spill over
Water blankets earth and mountains blue

He creaks, and draws a salt crusted breath
Licks a finger and decides to quest, depending
On whether flying fox or file snakes are out
Kangaroo, cockatoo, snake and platypus
Take their stations on the sun drenched cross
Vents spume and mountains catch the beams
Fires start slowly, and crack the seeds
And like a shell inside a shell within a shell
The new mother wakes and opens the door
The circle's guardian dips her polearm's blade

To see him pass the line of rain-wet rocks
To find a precious baby, hidden among kelp roots
Guarded by the sea turtles and rays of a new dawn
And then they eat and drink and laugh and sing
Until their fire dies and sea fog chases them home.

- John Jordan

Memories from Assembly 2023 - John (Macadamia Grove)



Small Clump of an Island

I sit in the shade but around me all is dusted with light. Walking the streets of the city below, the heat would be wounding, but somehow, here, it is just. It settles on the wall, on the table, on the grass, as if it were painted to appear just this way. Light that gathers on your skin and becomes part of you. Light that is the air and all it touches. Enhancing its colours, embodying each sense. Clean and complex and all that was once dreamt of. Here is the conception of Light.

I sit in the eye of a storm; a storm unseen and tumbling and bathing the landscape. A grain on the shore, I look out beyond my refuge, to coastlines, and city, and sea that stretches on and on as if it is still growing. And the echos of all that these places have been, carry on waves and arrive back to my lone hill. Salt from the sea foam, churning the sand and settling onto the breeze. Water that coils under the thumb of the wind, humming a tune like a crowd all aligned. It sounds like the rain, like a page turn, or grain falling, another warm pattern that nature repeats.

I sit on the grass and it moves like a blanket, resting, content, on the hillside, as if they're in love. I gaze at this scene, of the scatter-brush, and the sand, and the single blooming tree. They weave together and commune by merely existing in each other's presence, they interlace in a way that needs a shared past. The grass is touched brown, rough like a doormat, and it's speckled with green, like flecks from a paintbrush, where its edges meet the low walls. It protects the soft earth from the view of the sun, who doesn't quite realise that its gaze can do harm. But as much as the grass guards the cool earth, the brown too marks where it meets the sunlight, their connection so strong that it changed what we see.

I see, as I sit, all the people walk up to my lone little hilltop up above the great sea. A part of me worries that they won't see its beauty, that they'll feel the heat, curse the sound, shoo the flies. I sit for hours, here in the shade, watching the birds, and the beetles, and the waves. Poems and stories embrace me like they were already here, waiting to be seen. I breathe in this space like I'm part of the scene, and I worry that visitors don't see it too.

But I'm surprised every time I arrive, because every time I find someone new looking beyond the wall. And they do it all day, these people from elsewhere, they'll come and they'll pause and they'll look at the view. Travellers, business men, mothers, and students. If just for a moment, they turn and they see out beyond the lone hilltop they've found themselves on. I wonder if they're truly seeing the intricacy built into the landscape, or whether they just look and see only the words that represent the things, not the things for what they are. But I think of the walk, of the heat, of impatience, and I marvel that anyone comes here at all. And they do. Many do. Perhaps I'm not special to hear the land calling, the words of this place that are speaking so clear. How beautiful it is to be one of the masses and see that they recognise what I do, that through all the fanatical rushing we've created, we're, all of us, able to see beauty and to join it.

- Alyshia Barnes, Wollemi Seed Group

A note from Alyshia:

I work at the art gallery up at Whibayganba (Nobby's Lighthouse) and spend many hours each weekend looking out at the view, and the poem was my attempt to capture what I saw and experienced. I find it so hopeful how many people take the time to soak up the landscape, and I'm always reassured to be shown that spirituality and appreciation of nature is an inherent aspect of humanity. Thought you might be interested to know, but the poem is called 'Small Clump of an Island' because when I researched the history of the lighthouse, Captain Cook was quoted describing it like that in almost every document I found. I just found it funny that everyone seemed so excited that he even mentioned it, and that what he said wasn't anything profound, and if anything, was ignorant and rude. He really missed how beautiful the place is. It's an ironic title.

Memories from Assembly 2023 - Jasper (Macadamia Grove)





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

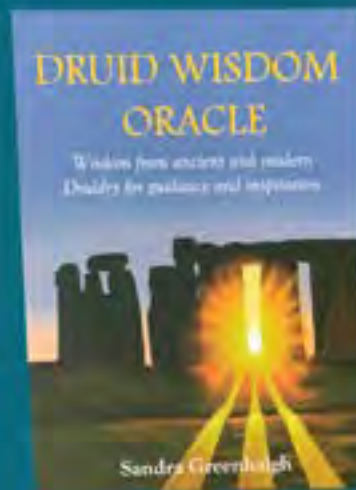
With this book and accompanying cards I have incorporated family stories, autobiographical aspects, my spiritual experiences and scientific information for each animal. My hope is that this will help you to incorporate both the Apparent and Otherworldly aspects to aid you on your journey through life.



Druid Wisdom Oracle cards

Available on ETSY

<https://www.etsy.com/au/listing/687481261/druid-wisdom-oracle>



Byrningtyger@gmail.com

Druid Alchemy

Hand Crafted Incense, Essential Oils & Blends for Transforming Ceremonial Space

Ceremonial Incense

Incense Censers & Burners
Bosques, Candles & Fire Bowls
Essential Oils & Absolutes

Essential Oil Blends

Oil Burners & Diffusers
Singing Bowls, Bells & Chimes
Herbs, Resins & Sacred Powders

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



Forest Spirit Jewelry

Magical and spiritual amulets
inspired by the beauty of nature, the spirit of the forest.

www.forestspiritjewelry.com
www.facebook.com/ForestSpiritJewelry
www.instagram.com/ForestSpiritJulie



The TREES SPEAK

An Ogham / Oracle of New Zealand Native Trees

- **Cardboard Slipcase Box**
- **124 page, full colour book** containing the wisdom & spirit-paintings of each tree.
- **27 fully illustrated Oracle Cards**
80 x 140mm

A beautifully illustrated 124 page book & 27 card, set -
THE TREES SPEAK Ogham/Oracle offers a unique insight into the individual voices and the wisdom of the natural world from a collection of NZ native trees.



Spirit Paintings



Oracle Cards Set

For more information and to purchase a copy of 'The Trees Speak', and prints of the tree spirit paintings, visit the website: ***thetreespeak.co.nz***

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

Soul's Gateway

King Orfeo

Dark Days and Heys / Tampered Twilight

Elen of the Ways

Mallee My Mother

A Piggott

A Piggott

A Piggott / P Gooding

A Piggott

A Piggott / P Gooding

A Piggott

M Adamson

Traditional

A Miller / P Gooding

A Piggott

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 Schuman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

TUATHA DEA
WENDY RULE
SJ TUCKER
BEKAH KELSO
GINGER DOSS
KELLIANNA
DAVE THE BARD
SPIRAL DANCE
SHARON KNIGHT/
WINTER S

CELIA FARRAN
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

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.

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
Cleanings – Coronings
Divorce – Funerals
Transition & Initiation Rituals

www.WiseCrafting.com.au
welcomes@WiseCrafting.com.au
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@thenewzealand.com
Tel: 06 334 4444



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.

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.siddhahomeworks.com



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

 Member of the Order of Dynamic Spirits and Druids  Member Celebrant's Assoc. of New Zealand

Creating meaningful ceremonies and lasting memories

House of Cu'
Vicki Minahan
Authorised Civil Marriage Celebrant



MARRIAGE CEREMONIES AND LIFE CELEBRATIONS

OFFERING A RANGE OF CEREMONY STYLES TO SUIT YOUR WISHES

Based in Dandenong Ranges, Victoria, Australia

TRADITIONAL

PAGAN

DRUID

PERSONALLY WRITTEN

TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

CHILDREN AND PETS WELCOME

0467688565

houseofcuoracle@gmail.com

And finally, the Wheel turns...



One last picture! I wanted to show off a picture I had taken while on an all-too-brief trip to Aotearoa this September. This photo was taken from the top of a hill in Matamata as I was waiting for a friend (to head further up the road to Hobbiton, of course). I had stopped for a quick breakfast in the campervan I was living in for the week and watched the morning mist oh-so-slowly lift away from the countryside below, like a shimmering veil. The weather up to that point had been a pleasant drizzle for the entire time, and the land had become what my travelling companion called a 'recovering' kind of green. My visit was only a week, but I already wanted to come back before I returned home!

- Sam /\



Artwork by wyverne ogma vynyán

At Beltane, we open to the God and Goddess of Youth. However old we are, Spring makes us feel young again, and at Beltane we jump over the fires of vitality and youth and allow that vitality to enliven and heal us. When young we might use this time as an opportunity to connect to our sensuality in a positive creative way, and when older the mating that we seek might well be one of the feminine and masculine sides of our nature.

Integration of the male and female aspects of the Self has long been seen as one of the prime goals of spiritual and psychotherapeutic work, and Beltane represents the time when we can open to this work fully, allowing the natural union of polarities that occurs in nature at this time the opportunity to help us in our work – a work that is essentially alchemical.

Text sourced from www.druidry.org

The deadline for contributing to the Lughnasadh issue of SerpentStar is Sunday 28th January 2024

The Beltane issue will be released in the week of 1st February 2024.

Bright blessings, and see you next time!