

Serpent Star

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



Samhain 2024



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

Hope everyone's doing well! Welcome to the Samhain/Samhuinn 2024 issue of SerpentStar!

Samhain has always been a strange time of the year for me in a couple of ways. On the surface, it's a time of transition into darker mornings and early sunsets, a time of reflection of the year (or even years) before, and anticipation for the year ahead. Going deeper it's definitely been a time of reflection on family, having recently experienced my last living grandparent pass from this world to the next (nearly five years after my grandfather *to the day*. Wherever they end up, Grandpa is definitely back onto cooking the Sunday roast for the two of them). Long story short, the weeks around Samhain are definitely a strange time of the year, not mentioning the astrological turbulence of the past few weeks. It's been a rollercoaster over here, that's for sure.

For this issue, there'll be some fun to keep us company through the cold months to come; we have a post-Assembly article by Sandra, a new poem by John, an observational article by Brenda Rae, a reflective piece from James and a new role playing game from Tamara Buckland! As an avid tabletop roleplayer myself, I know I'll be keen to give her game a try! We also have a very special announcement for a couple of upcoming events that I know we're all looking forward to!

But enough from me for now. Bundle up with a cuppa, enjoy the read, and I'll see you all at Imbolc!

Bright blessings

- Sam /\



Taking a break on a farm in Wurrundjeri country, VIC - Sam

SerpentStar, Samhain 2024

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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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.

Assembly 2023 for SerpentStar

Sandra Greenhalgh

It started with a plane trip. Embarking with other members of Macadamia Grove felt wonderful, with fond memories of previous Southern Hemisphere Assemblies at the forefront of my mind. Arriving at the Newcastle airport was delightful, in comparison to the crazy-busy Brisbane domestic airport, and Samantha swiftly whisked Maria and I off to our final destination at the Scout camp. First impressions of the camp were positive – look, there is the sea! And, look at those beautiful trees, and sweeping green fields! The air felt so clean and fresh. The venue itself was lovely – big halls and a veranda which took in the magnificent ocean views.

It was a delight to be able to greet old friends and meet new ones – some of whom had been facebook friends for many years. But there is no rest for the wicked (or Druid Grade members), for within a short time of arrival, Elkie swept me up – with Julie driving – to share a space that she thought would work well for the Druid Grade initiations, and maybe could be suitable for Ouate initiations as well? It was a resounding ‘yes’ from me – and I was grateful to learn of this beautiful location. One key focus of the weekend was initiations. On Saturday morning, we split into three different groups, and between us initiated eighteen (18) new Bards. Was this a record? We certainly felt it was! And well done to Trudy to facilitating the Bardic initiations, across so many people.

I had the pleasure of being in Rafael’s group, and being present for some Macadamia Grove members who underwent their initiation in the peaceful open air chapel. This space was another semi-hidden treasure, a short walk up the hill from the buildings. As well as the lovely location (with the words ‘this is sacred space’ on the rockface behind us), we were also grateful for the stone wall which was a very convenient resting place during the ritual. My key role at the Assembly was to facilitate the Ouate initiations. While I can’t speak of the rites, I will share that we all appreciated the ‘leg work’ of Adrienne and Chris. If you know, you know. And also, there may have been a well earned, au-naturelle swimming adventure by some of the participants afterwards, but that cannot be conclusively verified. And fortunately, no photographic evidence exists. The Druid initiations, facilitated by Elkie in the same breathtaking location, were also meaningful and lovely. Congratulations to our two Druid Grade members!

But the Assembly was not just about initiations! We also participated in lovely opening and closing rituals, as well as a Beltane celebration, facilitated by Wollemi Seed Group and Blue Mountains Seed Group, who did an amazing job of planning, preparing and hosting the 2023 Assembly. The level of detail and care was evident prior to and throughout so many aspects of the event. Well done to all of you!

There were Bardic Circles, Grade-level workshops, an Eisteddfod – I confess the ‘retelling of the Blodeuwedd myth’ was my favourite – and workshops galore. Unfortunately (due to some recent health issues), I didn’t attend all of the night activities, but that was OK. In between events, it was a sheer delight to speak with dear OBODies whom I hadn’t seen for many years. I am in awe that of the fifty one (51) attendees, seventeen (17) had never been to an Assembly before, and there were twenty seven (27) Bards. Wow! Once again, this is something never previously experienced in an Australian OBOD gathering. I confess feeling slightly selfish as I prioritised spending more time with ‘the older folk’ than with newer / less well known members, but I am hopeful that I will see many attendees again in the near future, now that Covid restrictions have eased.

Other ‘high points’ in no particular order:

- A giant dragon who tried to visit the dining area, requiring bold OBODies to come to the rescue and veer the beast from its path.
- Generous portions of robust food – and the delicious elderflower cordial in the large glass vessel.
- Laughing at Tamsin’s stories.
- Informal singing on the veranda prior to dinner, surrounded by good people and (as I may have said previously), magnificent views.
- The Chief Bard of Australia (AKA Michael) workshop topic switcheroo!
- Hanging out with Druid Grade members, talking about potential future events and just chatting.
- The wonderful lightning display.

But Assemblies, like life cycles, come to an end. Tamsin sang the Parting Cup, as some of us travelled by shuttle bus away from our home of the past few days. After a few hours of conviviality at the airport, our party gradually became smaller as people departed on their flights... it felt like the parting of the Fellowship of the Rings.

At least we have the next Assembly to look forward to, as well as other events in the meantime.

Ponderings on our home, Planet Earth

Brenda Rae

*As the oceans warm, the great currents change,
the climate changes and environments change,
and sentient beings are faced with extinction.
We NEED to change if we want our Planet to live!*

I have often wondered what other OBOD's think of our current world situation.

When I was a child, lots of things were recycled; the wax wrapper around the bread was used as lunch wrap, glass bottles were refundable and newspapers were sold to the green grocer to wrap vegetables. Very little went into the tin rubbish bin in our household. Combustibles were burned in the incinerator and the ash put on the vegetable garden along with home-made compost. Purchases from the butcher and grocers were wrapped in paper not plastic. Appliances lasted for years (my first fridge lasted 30 years!). Things were made to last and could be repaired.

When did people become insecure and seek gratification through consumerism? Material gratification increased pollution and quantity gained precedence over quality. The advance in communication technology has increased isolation and insecurity through the need for the acknowledgement of self worth. People have lost the art of civility; the ritual of communication – looking someone in the face whilst talking with them; sharing time, food and drink while conversing honestly. I treasure my friends that I can have a sincere conversation with.

When out walking my dog, I make a point of looking at people and saying “good morning”. Many is the time I have seen faces go from glum to a smile; someone has acknowledged their existence. Many people are also isolated from the natural world. I have all my life felt a strong connection to the natural world.

We are subjecting our home, our planet to many forms of pollution, some are obvious like the carbon in the atmosphere, plastic all over the world especially the oceans; some are less obvious like smell and noise pollution from machines to ship's propellers affecting whale communication especially in their breeding areas causing distress to mothers and calves and disrupting their courtship songs.

I often wonder at the madness of humans: the senseless wars, the lack of sharing resources or food, the ignorance that causes so much misery. We are capable of amazing acts of compassion and fortitude. I am glad I can contribute to organisations that are making a difference. Through donations and petition signing, the organisations I belong to have improved human and animal welfare, created land and ocean sanctuaries, brought animals and birds back from the brink of extinction, brought aid to the suffering and help communities establish sustainable living.

Planting trees to create a micro-climate on my section, growing my food, recycling and only buying what I really need, plus sincerely acknowledging my student's progress in my Tai Chi Chuan class are ways I try to do my bit.

Covid was a back-handed blessing forcing people into lock-down (in NZ) to face who they really were and their family relationships – it was a hard and challenging time for a great many people. Now, unfortunately even though Covid is still claiming lives and making people repetitively unwell, many people have reversed back to their old habits.

What will it take to make people “see” and acknowledge the truth of what is happening to our world. We can save it, there are ways and the technology to reduce our impact on the climate, save the oceans, the lungs of the planet and all the land environments. Everything on this planet is necessary to the circle of life except us! We are the chaos factor, we NEED to change our preception of ourselves; change our thinking; there is no ‘them and us’, we are ALL in it together if we wish the planet and all sentient beings to survive.

What are your thoughts? How do you feel about our planet?

Grant, O Spirit, thy protection,
In protection, strength,
and in strength, understanding,
and in understanding, knowledge,
and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice,
and in the knowledge of justice, the love of it,
and the love of it, the love of all existences,
and in the love of all existences,
the love of Spirit and all goodness
Awen.

*Note from Tamzin: PS recommended viewing: Planet Earth 1,11,111 with David Attenborough
I look forward to reading your thoughts via Serpent Star or you may email me at tamzin_nz@yahoo.com. Thank you :-)*

Where you left it

John Jordan

Sit still, for a moment at your table or desk
And imagine that an old friend has just sat down beside you
With a map that was given to them by an angel
Written on a parchment made from the skin of the north wind

And they show it to you and you immediately recognise the path
As a way to get to the Silver Sphere of Wisdom,
Which you have been searching for all these years.
You pick up your crane-skin bag and put into it the seven holy biscuits that you baked

When you were hiding from the second full moon in the west, and take your staff
And stride out the door with your friend and his llama behind you
You whistle for your flamingo, Phyllis, who has three blue wings
And was last seen singing drunk on the roof, who brings the cargo net and biltong.

Climbing a small rise, you all come to a serene lake covered in swans and lilies
And a small cabin overlooking the lake is filled with a cozy birthday party
Where people are singing songs around a fire and eating some kind of honey cake

So, you join in, and they hand you what looks like a lamp made from a gourd
And they all say – keep it, it's yours – and so you thank them
And give them a length of silk rope, as a gift.

One of their bantam chickens seems to be following you around.
So you go inside, and everything reminds you of when you were young
The stove, the carpet, the curtains, it's all a replica of your childhood home,
And the sun starts to set and shine across the party on the lawn
And they start to get quiet, hum lullabies, drink port and play bocce

A bear dressed like a priest in a bear suit ushers you out the back door to a pier
Where a boat awaits your retinue, and you board and cast off
Steaming across the lake towards a waterfall, the animals on board start to play

The lizards and lambs, the cassowaries and seals, do a dance by the moonlight
And the waterfall shimmers like a wedding dress at a bowling alley
And there you see it, the silver sphere of wisdom, gleaming in the dawn
On the sand, next to a field of black horses.

Exactly where you left it, when you were a child on the beach.



Immersive Druidry: Exploring druidry through the art of role playing

Tamara Buckland

Creating and running a role-playing game in Aotearoa, New Zealand for my druid grove was a remarkable experience and a highlight of my journey with the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids. My interest in druidry sparked a few years ago, largely due to playing Dungeons and Dragons. I was intrigued by the concept of druids and wondered what it would be like to embody one in real life. This curiosity led me to search for "druidry" online, where I discovered OBOD and promptly joined.

Joining OBOD and journeying along this path has been motivated by various reasons, but the connection to role-playing has always held a special place for me. Druids in role playing games are guardians of nature, are sought after for their wisdom and get to perform some pretty cool magic. These are qualities that I admire in the other druids I'm connected with and are an absolute inspiration for my own journey.

When the chance to lead a workshop at our Grove of the Summer Stars' summer camp arose, I eagerly took it to introduce my fellow druids to the world of role-playing. I created the world of Verdora, crafting an adventure to rescue it from a menacing, wild corruption that threatened its existence. "The Quest for Verdora" immerses players into the role of special druids from the Wildsong Grove, tasked with Verdora's salvation. This game delves into elemental magic, the corruption of nature, and the symbiotic relationship between druids and their environment. Designed to be open and flexible, it encourages players to explore and shape the game in their unique ways.

Intended for brief playtimes (around 90 minutes), it's an invitation to you and your groves to embark on this journey. A facilitator's guide and all necessary files are available via the link below (facilitators should refer to the guide, while players should avoid it to maintain the game's surprise element).

Game resources can be downloaded here: <https://www.tamarabuckland.co.nz/rpg>. Check out the feedback from a couple of our grove members:

"Tamara has created a wonderful interactive and imaginative game with a lot of detailed options for character development and events to overcome as a team. This was my first experience of this kind of game and I found it a lot of fun and got to know myself and others in a different way. I'd highly recommend it!"

- Sara

"I have never played a role playing game before, though I am very aware of Dungeons and Dragons. I was therefore curious to experience this game that was designed specifically to appeal to followers of Druidry. As a newbie, I did not realise I'd have such help in creating my character. Rolling the dice to select my magical item, my description, my magical gifts and my personality quirk gave me a great structure to apply my imagination to.

I was surprised at how much fun this game was. Fun was there from the very start, from the creation of the roles to creating the world around our group to addressing the problem. I can also see scope in the game to get personal insights into one's own druidic path, and to identify new areas that could be explored safely in this game."

- Germana

I'm eager to hear your experiences with the game, if you do end up playing it and am open to suggestions for future adventures in Verdora or other universes. If you'd like to get a hold of me, you can email me at tamara.buckland@gmail.com





If I knew then what I know now

James Howell

If I had known in my youth the fact that I now see in my age,
I would consider the study of every topic secondary to mastering
the skill of being consciously aware in the present moment
the joys that the moment offers.

Without disparaging the wisdom of prudent forethought,
I would learn to discipline myself,
not to let the future concerns of my mind starve out the happiness
my heart could enjoy right now.

I would delight in the golden leaves of autumn
rather than wishing for the flowers of spring.
I would enjoy the fireworks of Independence Day
rather than wishing it was Christmas.
I would enjoy the Roman ruins at York
rather than mentally rehearsing the next day's drive to Edinburgh.
I would enjoy the dinner my wages buy tonight,
rather than dwelling on tomorrow's tax return.
I would experience the love of my family today
rather than worry overmuch about how to fund the grandsons' university.

The future is the todays that are yet to come; if we cannot enjoy today, we will be unable to enjoy the future.

If I knew then what I know now,
I would have taken to heart my father's advice not to 'wish my life away'.

Southern Hemisphere OBOD Assembly (SHOBODA)

Date claimer 13-16 March 2025

Bookings open 1 July 2024

Mark your calendars now!

Members of Macadamia Grove are delighted to host the SHOBODA on Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 March 2025 (3 nights).

The venue is on Bribie Island, north of Brisbane, Queensland. We will be a couple of blocks away from the ocean and the nearby sea-side town of Woorim, though the venue feels like a private sanctuary.

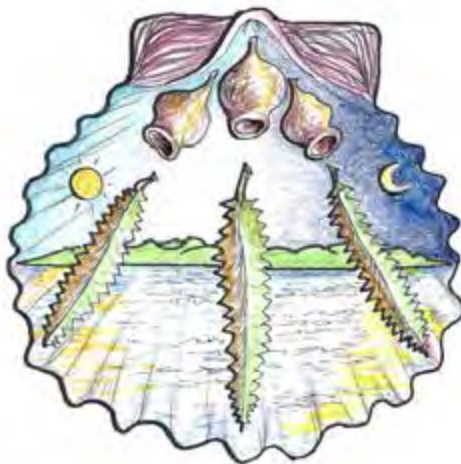
Initiations, rituals, workshops and explorations of the Bardic Arts will be included in the program. SHOBODA is fully catered.

Accommodation is in shared dormitory cabins (4-6 people per room, with each room having its own toilet and shower), with camping also available on site. There are a range of nearby options (including cabins in the caravan park next door) if you'd prefer not to stay onsite or have medical reasons precluding dormitory accommodation. You will need to arrange any alternative accommodation yourself.

This event is for OBOD members only, due to limited numbers.

More information regarding the price, program and other information will be available soon, via <https://www.druidryaustralia.org>, Serpentstar and Facebook.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please email or pop up a question in the Southern Hemisphere OBOD Facebook or Druid Hearth site or email OBODSHA@gmail.com



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

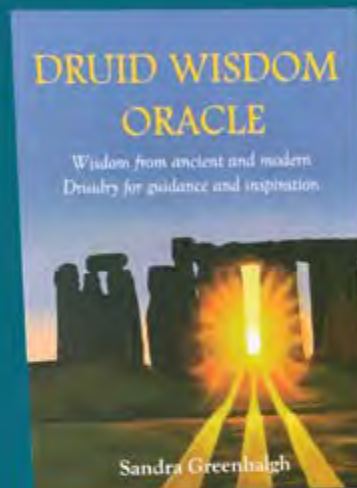
With this book and accompanying cards I have incorporated family stories, autobiographical aspects, my spiritual experiences and scientific information for each animal. My hope is that this will help you to incorporate both the Apparent and Otherworldly aspects to aid you on your journey through life.



Druid Wisdom Oracle cards

Available on ETSY

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



Byrningtyger@gmail.com

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Music, Mayhem
& More...

**All day & evening
festival of music, dance,
procession, bonfire
& burning of the
Wickerman**

Saturday 18th May 2024
Mylor Oval & Sherry Park - from 12pm

Dressing up is just one of the reasons for joining us at the English Ale. Release your inner Greenman, Fae, Viking, Warrior or Wizard. Paint your face to reveal the creature within!!!

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BOOKINGS events.humanitix.com/the-2024-english-ale

theenglishale.org



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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

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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®

Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer



Okapi

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





Anam Cara Soul Space

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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).

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- Experience living in an heritage listed small town (pop. 20) in a remote location
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- 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.

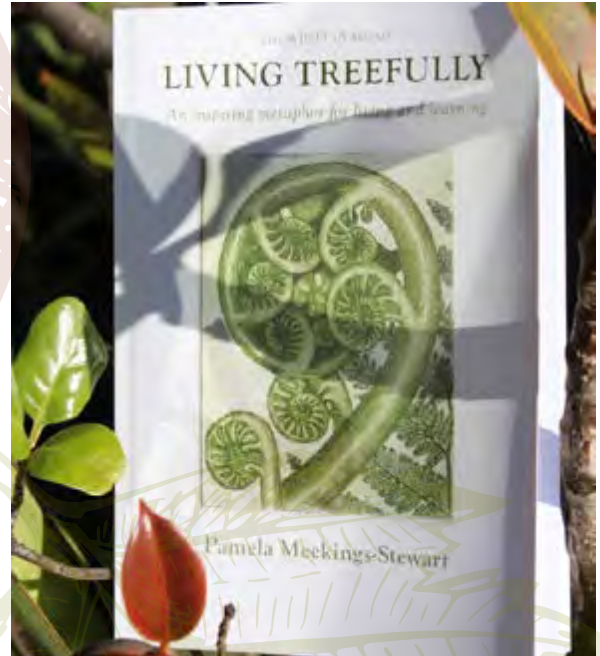
For more details about our home and project visit <http://casaindomitus.wordpress.com> or contact Ngatina on wwoof@sylvanius.net or 0429795002 to discuss options.



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.

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Australia & New Zealand

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:

Naming (children and change of name); Birth Blessings; Vows of Recommitment; Entering The Wisdom Years - **Crowning** (women) and **Sealing** (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
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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 its 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 a lifelong student of Hawaiian Spirituality, a Wise Guide and affiliate to the School of Spirituality, Healing and Development (SoSHD).

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.

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And finally, the Wheel turns...

Dear Druid Olwyn;

My neighbouring tribe, the Ctubrini have taken to poaching the deer and stags from off our lands. Their chief has said he would pay tribute by letting us marry one of their daughters, but none of our strapping young lads find them suitable - what should we do?
- Ahearn

Dear Ahearn - wait until the gathering of the tribes and challenge their best to a wrestling match. Set the stakes to be that if you win, they stop poaching. If you lose, they can take one stag or hind per moon, and if one of your best men marries one of their best ladies, then you are even.



Outside of Cockatoo, Wurrundjeri country, VIC - Sam

On or around the 31st October in the northern hemisphere, 1st May in the southern, Samhain is the festival of the dead, a festival of remembrance and honouring of our dear departed friends and relations.

To the ancient Celts, the year had two “hinges”. These were Beltaine (the first of May) and Samhain, or Samhuinn, (the first of November), which is also the traditional Celtic New Year. And these two days were the most magical, and often frightening times of the whole year. The Celtic people were in superstitious awe of times and places “in between”. Holy sites were any border places – the shore between land and water (seas, lakes, and rivers), bridges, boundaries between territories (especially when marked by bodies of water), crossroads, thresholds, etc. Holy times were also border times – twilight and dawn marking the transitions of night and day; Beltaine and Samhain marking the transitions of summer and winter. Read your myths and fairytales – many of the stories occur in such places, and at such times.



Artwork by wyverne ogma vyvyan

At Samhain (which corresponds to modern Halloween), time lost all meaning and the past, present, and future were one. The dead, and the denizens of the Other World, walked among the living. It was a time of fairies, ghosts, demons, and witches. Winter itself was the Season of Ghosts, and Samhain is the night of their release from the Underworld. Many people lit bonfires to keep the evil spirits at bay. Often a torch was lit and carried around the boundaries of the home and farm, to protect the property and residents against the spirits throughout the winter.

Text sourced from www.druidry.org

The deadline for contributing to the Imbolc issue of SerpentStar is Thursday 25th July 2024

The Imbolc issue will be released in the week of 1st August 2024.

Bright blessings, and see you next time!