

SERPENT STAR

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



IMBOLC 2019

Welcome to the Imbolc 2019 issue of SerpentStar!

Greetings Lovely Southern Hemisphere OBODies!

Anyone else feel like the Wheel is turning super-fast this year? I know I'm feeling it, almost like you could call this a 'wind year' - the wind is rushing past my ears as the Wheel turns!

We have a great selection of poetry this edition, some art from a brand new contributor and articles from three of our Northern guests about their travels DownUnder.

Speaking of DownUnder - over at the SerpentStar YouTube Channel (yes there is one now!) Julie Brett and I have begun uploading the series of DDUDE talks from the Druids DownUnder Facebook page. In addition to hosting those, the channel will also be linking to member channels and as it grows I'll even be calling for submissions to be uploaded in conjunction with the release of editions of the magazine. To get in early on our digital adventures just search "SerpentStar OBOD" on YouTube.

LAST CALL - Final bookings are now being taken for the Council of All Beings retreat being held in the Bunya Mountains in Queensland. See Pg5 for details - it's going to be a very profound weekend.

In peace
Mandy /\

SerpentStar, Imbolc 2019

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.



OBOD in the Southern Hemisphere

Groves & Seed Groups

The following are groups currently listed on OBOD's official Groves & Seed Groups List for 2018 and have consented to have their information included in this list. Other groups run by OBOD members are listed in the Advertising section.

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 three Bards 'in the making'. 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, all in solo as we are spread through South Africa – Johannesburg in Gauteng, Haenertsburg in Limpopo. Full moon meditations are conducted for peace and harmony. Email debby@triskel.co.za for details.



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: macademiagrove@hotmail.com

The Melbourne Grove

Welcomes all OBOD members (local, interstate and overseas) to its seasonal celebrations. Family and friends may also attend with a member and receive a warm welcome. In 2019 we will be celebrating the seasonal festivals on the following dates: Lughnasadh – Feb 3, Autumn Equinox - March 23, Samhuin – May 4, Winter Solstice - June 22, Imbolc - July 28, Spring Equinox - Sept 22, Beltane – Nov 3, and Summer Solstice – Dec 21. If you would like to join us please send an email to Elkie at elkiewhite@gmail.com or Khe-Ra, barbwitcombe@hotmail.com

Middle Earth Fellowship Seed Group

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

Silvereyes Seed Group

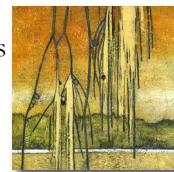
Perth Hills & members throughout the South West. Email: ghrianu@iinet.net.au

Song of the Eastern Sea Seed Group

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

The Windharp Seed Group

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



Wollemi Seed Group

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

Useful websites for SH OBODies:

www.druidryaustralia.org - A central online resource for druidry in Australia.

Druids DownUnder - Facebook group - a closed group for druids of any path, in the Southern Hemisphere and Australia 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) and *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

Druid (USA) www.druidmagazine.com

Druidenstein (German) www.feuersprung.de

Dryade (Dutch) www.obod.dds.nl

Il Calderone (Italian) issuu.com/ilcalderone

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

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

Pagan Transitions

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

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

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



Greetings from Up Over!

By Philip Carr-Gomm

Here in Lewes it's a day like those days we had at the SHOBODA gathering in January...sunny, but not too hot, and windy too - and it seems so long ago now...just six months, but it feels like a year or more. Since getting back, there have been similar OBOD Gatherings in Louisiana, Germany, Sweden, and Australia. Eimear was at the Gulf Coast Gathering, Damh & Cerri in Oz and Germany. I was at the first OBOD Scandinavia camp at the summer solstice.

Meanwhile the world cooks, the politicians get crazier, terrible things occur - as they did in Christchurch soon after we left NZ. We were so shocked to hear what happened, and then a little while later there was the Colombo attack, and meanwhile up here the wars in Syria and Yemen continue to kill children every day.

Life can seem so awful, so unfathomably odd and cruel, and we all - I am sure - feel despair at the state of the world...and yet somehow, despite the complexity, the tragedy and strangeness of it all, we still experience moments of joy and wonder, those synchronicities, those aha moments. The sky clears for a while and everything seems profoundly ok.

Our spirituality is predicated, built, around this sense that at bottom, at heart, everything is not just ok, but is in fact constructed out of pure joy, pure meaning, absolute potential and its fulfilment, despite all perceptions to the contrary, and whether we realise it or not.

And when we came together in those circles at SHOBODA, chanting the Awen or singing in Maori, the human family was a good family to belong to. And I thought of you all Down Under as I found myself at a similar gathering yesterday - at the White Horse Camp near Malvern in Worcestershire. We were celebrating the 25th anniversary since the first OBOD camp was held in a field near the White Horse in Wiltshire, back in 1994, when Ronald Hutton and I held a conversation in the centre of the circle focused on the similarities and differences between Druidry and Wicca. He was dressed in black, I in the virginal white of a druid robe.

This year Ronald gave a superb lecture on this same topic 25 years on, and then slipped into his black robe. I slipped into my white, and we held our shared discussion with the camp audience, but this time looking back on 25 years of druid camps. From that field in Wiltshire all those years ago we have ended up with the gatherings many of us will have experienced - like SHOBODA in New Zealand, like the camps in Scandinavia and Germany, Australia and the USA. What a way we have come! Good things thrive, take root and grow. Thank you all for the fabulous time we had in January with you. We miss you very much!

With love and blessings by star and by stone from across the oceans,

Philip / |
Lughnasadh 2019



Pic by Julie Brett

DATE CLAIMER

COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS



IN THE BEAUTIFUL BUNYA MOUNTAINS SOUTH BURNETT QUEENSLAND

Date 13th, 14th and 15th September 2019

**More than ever before we need to stand together to
mourn what is lost from our World , to speak for all that
is suffering and stand united in our love for the planet.**

**This will be a weekend of experiencing a deep
connection with the Earth and all its beings and receiving
joy, clarity and direction , which will empower us to act
on behalf of the Earth.**

For full details and bookings

Contact Cherry Carroll

E mail nimueart@bigpond.com

Feeling the Connection

A small write up of a huge experience in the land down under, by Cerri Lee

Travelling to Australia is an epic pilgrimage for a couple of Brits, we have been several times now since 2009. Every time we make the journey we find a closer bond with the land and with the pagan community this year was no exception to that, only this year we had the added bonus of bringing a friend with us, the very lovely Kristoffer Hughes.

Each time we set foot on the land at Adelaide airport and see the open arms and smiling faces of our friends it feels more like our second home. It was lovely re-experience that sense of curiosity and anticipation through Kristoffer's responses as we left the airport and headed for the hills, for Damh and I the landscape was now completely familiar, I thought to myself I could if pushed probably drive myself around by now, but the sense of wonder at it all was none the less for that.



Pic by Mandy Gibson

The three weeks of our visit was to be pretty packed with fabulous events and we were looking forward to the first of those the camp, The Windharp Seed Group Druid Gathering, happily none of us had any jet lag so managed to settle ourselves into the rhythm of life quickly.

The camp came and from the moment I stepped foot on the place I felt a wild connection to the land, it spoke to me in a way I had not been aware of before. It was ramshackle, sandy and dry and I loved it. Over the next couple of days we all shared in the company, the food, drink, rituals, workshops, music and so much magic and laughter. But for me it was the land that spoke the loudest.

As I was in the middle of a workshop attempting to stick to my script, something I had worked on for ages, I was assailed by an overwhelming need to abandon the written word, to put down the script and trust the pull of the land, letting it guide me in what to do and say. So I did just that, I put down my iPad and went with the Land, Water and Sky. I let them guide me, opening fully to their message of connection I gave them free rein over my mind and body.

I cannot remember a single word I said in that workshop. But, I can remember the sense of becoming the land, immense and powerful. I remember a silvery light that enveloped me as I opened my eyes. I felt and saw it running like a cable out behind me and on turning I saw it connecting to a large and beautiful gum tree. For a moment the tree and I were one, radiating with a silvery light, connected by an umbilical cord running between us. I remember becoming the wind, my body dissipating, taken like a dandelion's seed head bending in the breeze, slowly giving up its fluffy seeds one by one. And I remember feeling the need for water in the midst of the drought, then on opening my eyes from the meditation, seeing the colourful, joyful little parrots enjoying a drink from a dripping hose pipe by a tree.

Everything about that camp and the rest of our three week journey brought me to a closer connection and perhaps a deeper understanding of the land and all its inhabitants. Druidry does that for me and from the myths and legends of the ancients I can tell that was its purpose, we may have changed the rituals but the methods are universal transcending time and space. In fact any druid, shaman, magician or priest from anytime or place worth their salt, would understand that trust in ourselves and the universal narrative is what allows us to truly connect beyond the physical and the mundane.

The conscious process of letting go all that confines me to my physical and emotional body all my history, my perceived positives and negatives, all the loves and losses, hopes and dreams is a process of learning to be free, to open to a new language in order to converse fully with the universe. For me druidry is a language it gives a new voice to express ourselves as the land, as the wind, the rain, a bird on the wing or a storm cloud on the horizon. When we trust, when we open fully we truly allow ourselves to fall away and become part it all and in that sense there is a homecoming so profound and an acceptance beyond anything my words could fully express.

To paraphrase the words of Terry Pratchett spoken through the lips of Granny Weatherwax, first we open our eyes, then we open them again, only then do we see with our true sight.

Thank you Australia, land, people, spirit and all I feel truly accepted, welcomed and loved, until we meet again I will hold and treasure the vision of that silver umbilical cord.

Cerri Lee, Lughnasadh 2019



Poetry by Julie Brett

Water

*I am the waters
I meld with the flow
I lay in the river
The rain I face and know
I am the ripple and
I am the wave
Brave like the breakers
And peaceful like the lake
I am the fish and
I am the seal
The selkie and mermaid
The seaweed that heals
I am the mists and
I am the flood
I am the holy waters
I am the blood
The water within
Dead we are without
Waters are the life force
There's death in the drought
The water enlivens
The water brings peace
I am the waters
The waters release
I am the oceans
I am the seas
I am the waters
That bring everything to be*

Plant Trees

*Heart sunk with the weight
Of a thousand disappointments
Heart sunk with realising
They really just don't care
Heart sunk for the ones I love
The earth, the seas, the sky
Heart sunk
I place my hand upon her
I place my hand on the earth
And through tears of despair
I collect seeds of promise
A handful of hope
I plant them in the soil
I collect fresh water and feed them
I let the sun kiss them
And rouse them
From their beds
The tiniest of forests
Collected in pots
As I tend them
I see the cleared land
I see the dying coral reefs
I see the poisoned skies
A knot of sadness
Sits on my chest
I want to turn those tides
Counting all the losses
A heart wrenching loss
I could never replace
But I do what I can
With my two small hands
I plant trees
I plant trees
I plant trees
And helped by
The earth, the rain, the sky
Working together
We do what we can
Please help us too
Imagine how much four hands could do*

Trust

*Trust in the wind to clear dust away
Trust in the sun to bring a new day
Trust in the stones to hold you here
Trust in the songs that touch your ear
Trust in the moonlight that lights your path
Trust in the knowing that lights the dark
Trust in the knowledge that brings you peace
Trust in life that stirs your heartbeats
Trust in the trees, the flowers, and the earth
Trust in the seasons of growth, harvest and rebirth
Trust in the kindness of the stars up above
Trust in the eyes that look to you with love
Trust in wisdom and trust in the care
Trust in risk and adventure and dare
Trust in the moment I know you know how
Trust in the peace that you find in the now.*

A Song of Two Lands

By Kristoffer Hughes

I stand near the ancient chamber of Bryn Celli Ddu, 6,000 years of whispers, ancient and familiar sing from the stone sentinels that stand at this place. I can taste the baking of the earth rise to kiss my lips; the sun's rays have turned the grasses golden and wheat-stalks bob their heads in the blue skies of Wales. Everything here is familiar, and the songs of this place are a part of the fabric of my being. A few years ago, I stood here with friends from Australia, I am looking at them now, on the glowing surface of my smartphone, they are frolicking in the autumn sunshine, posing atop the chamber, sharing in the love I have for this lands.

However, this year, the tables would turn, and I would get to experience life, and the songs of their land. Distant. So far removed from the little island I occupy. I had suffered a fair bit of anxiety thinking about the trip to the southern hemisphere, having never engaged with a journey overseas of such magnitude, and I had no real idea what to expect. Damn the Bard and Cerri Lee, my amazing travelling companions had several trips to Australia under their belts, and this time I was fortunate to be invited to speak and teach at various events in Adelaide and the surrounding areas.

What I found was a community whose warmth, and bonds of friendship, love and companionship seeped into my very being, warming my heart in return. It is sometimes a difficult concept for a writer, who spends so much time alone, in contemplation, silence, reflection and writing, to be among people who actually want to hear what one has to say. It is both a humbling, gracious and terrifying paradox, but one that I am so grateful to get to experience as part of the song of my life.

Song.....what a concept, and one that has been concreted even further into my Druidry by visiting the 'Singing Land'. Song, singing, Bardism, in all its splendour and variety is a concept close and dear to the hearts of the Welsh. It is in the very fabric of our genes, it sings from our ancestry and the memories of those who have gone before us. It connects us to tradition and to these lands. I thought I was familiar with how the land itself sings; and on one level I am. But the land of Australia sang in a way that was unfamiliar and profound.

The Druid Camp that we were guests at, a fair distance beyond the reaches of the city was in full swing. And as Spiral Dance finished their routine, I felt something stir beyond the confines of the building itself. The air had changed, and a current could be tangibly felt that emanated from the earth itself. I felt that something was about to happen, whilst being perplexed by the response of the earth and its inhabitants. There was a sense of profound expectation. "There is a storm coming!" someone uttered beside me. This was the promise of rain to a sun-burnt land. I stood away from the crowds, in the shadows and beneath the trees, the breeze increased to a steady wind, and yet the wind was perfumed and fragrant. It felt like a narcotic, I could not get enough of its intoxicating nature. Never in my life had I smelled the air in such a way. Every hair on my body rose in response to the static that buzzed about the place. The trees were responding, releasing their volatile oils into the night sky, anticipating the promise of rain.

The drops fell, heavy, engorged with life, and the land responded immediately. There was an immediacy and urgency of response from nature that I had never felt in Wales. Here the seasons are barely dramatic, in fact it is often said that we do not have seasons, we only have weather. The great Oaks, wax and wane, but they do so quite slowly, nothing here is rushing, nothing is anticipating the coming of life-giving rain in the way that I felt in South Australia.

As a Druid, I am in relationship with the trees around me, and yet here, 11,000 miles from home, I felt the trees, alien trees (to me), react and respond in a manner that I had never felt before. I had never in my life felt the urgency of nature's response to relief and release, to the song of the trees, the plants, the earth and its creatures. The sense of anticipation rose to a crescendo as the raindrops fell heavier, and I felt what I could only describe as a 'Song', bursting forth from the land itself.



Land, and Sea and Sky sang in unison, to the same music but with different lyrics. I stood, and haplessly wept at the beauty and wonder of it all, too much for my Welsh spirit to handle all in one go. And as my heart felt to be breaking, I realised that it in fact it opened. It opened to fall in love with another land, one so unfamiliar, so distant, and yet its message was clear and resounding – you are a part of all of this, we are all in this together.

Human nature is nature, and even as a Druid, I sometimes need reminding of that. I give my thanks to another land, whose resplendent song taught me a lesson that burst open the doors of my complacency. I occupy a land that sings, and have now fallen in love with the singing land, and whilst my heart is torn in two, and located at opposite ends of our planet, I am grateful. I am Grateful to have felt the living spirit of an unfamiliar land rise up in all its majestic sovereignty.

Kristoffer Hughes
Isle of Anglesey, North Wales.

Queensland Ogham Poem (Pt 2)

Holly = Camphor Laurel

*Camphor laurel now a pest but tough and spreads
Like a weed from east to west. Camphor smell as menthol cut.
If all could be breadboards that would be best.*

Hazel = Palm tree

*Palm tree lazing in the sun, gives tropics shade
So tall and thin, no use to climb unless as treat
You want a date or coconut to eat*

Apple = Mango

*Mango fruits with copious crop in jungle's heat
Stringy fruits that bats and people love to eat
Lovely wood keeps moving after it is cut*

Vine = Blackberry

*Blackberry with tangled thorn will still defend
From plucky raiders taking sweet black fruits small pips
Grows on borders of the woods, snacking gives you purple lips*

Ivy = Cactus

*Cactus thriving on neglect, flowers in hot desert spaces
Storing water under thorny hide, grows in most demanding places
Takes sun with stoic grit, if careful you can eat the prickly fruit*

Reed = Bamboo

*Bamboo everywhere, the most versatile of jointed grass
Makes almost anything you need, grows very fast
All size and shape of tubes, makes houses, flutes and drinking glass*

Blackthorn = Liquid Amber

*Liquid amber is autumns pride, with flaming leaf
With fair wood and seeds like small morning stars
Like maple, sweet and with colourful changing vest*

John Jordan

(stay tuned for Pt 3 in the Beltane edition...)



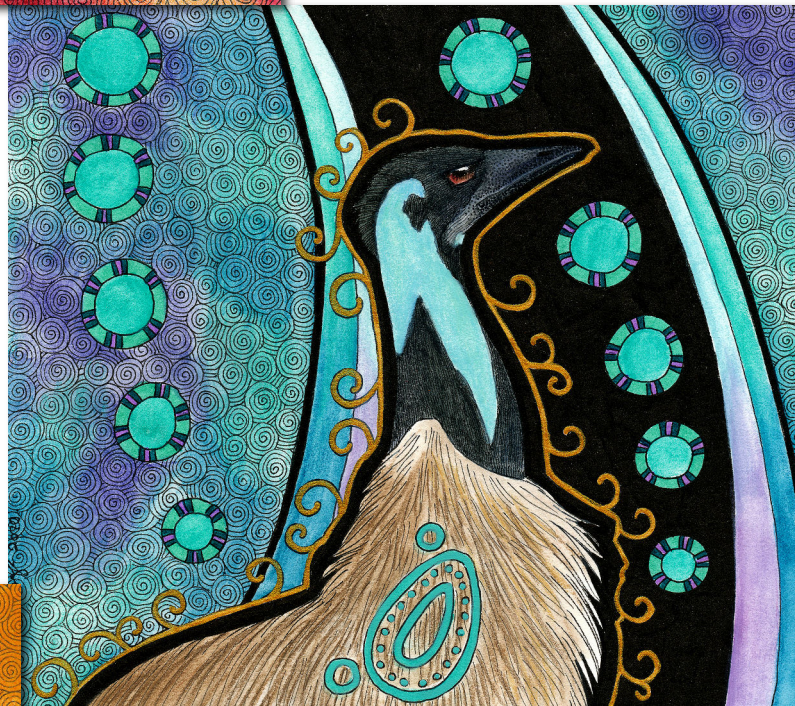
Artwork by Pia Ravenari

I love the explosion of energy that happens at the beginning of Djilba, the Noongar season of – among many other things – transition. It coincides beautifully with Imbolc, themes wrapping together, two paths turning out a graceful dance. I walk across soft silvery sands, looking for orchids and watched by yonga (kangaroos), who experience their peak of births at this time of year, pouches filled or filling with young ones, the males protective and strong.

Koolbardi (Australian magpies) guard their territories, the swooping they're famous for occurs depending on where you are. Ours locally are quieter and less aggressive in the spaces of bush I wander.

Djidi djidi (Willie wagtails) are louder, yelling and chattering, occasionally breaking into fluting, lilting song. Our jarrah and marri rush to put on new growth, to harden up before bushfire season, and the firewood banksia is putting away its blossoms after months of providing nectar for the birds, other banksias generously pick up the load.

The quickening of Djilba and Imbolc is in my blood, I feel it most in the way the sun pulls at my skin, drawing me into new projects, reminding me to recommit to those not yet completed. I've lost count of how many stories I've finished writing in August, or how many pieces of art I've started.



The ink flows, the words spill, sunsets grow bolder and brighter. Orchids reveal themselves with careful watching, except for the donkey and cowslip orchids, so cheerful they are impossible to miss. Creative workings are everywhere, within and without, making the most of this gentler warming sun that comes after our intermittent rainy season.



Spiritual Hermitage

A Triad

*Three truths that unfold upon the apprentice:
To know when solitude will replenish,
To know when hermitage seeks within,
To know when the grove needs loving care.*

*Replenish the spiritual journey with regular solace
from the obligations of the mind,
Listen to the small voice within when you are called
to camp in nature, alone with the divine.
Tend your inner and outer sanctuary always;
Clear water and fresh air are a healthy spirit and
joyous mind and revitalised body.
Nature is the sacred temple where the worn traveler
will find respite, healing and revitalisation - always.*

Pic by Julie Brett

*The divine is the pulsing, life breathing emanation and animation of all nature.
On the one hand, we are all seeds blown on the wind called time and our destination?
That is yet to be determined.*

*Our source is the home of all spiritual travellers over the threshold of space and time, the sunflower or birch catkin
laden Mother of us all; she calls us home by sending us away. Because she knows well and truly that the spirit of
time will meet with the spirit of the journey and so wherever there is life and there is journeying, there she will
always be.*

*Bare footed traveler, where are your shoes? you left them behind in a previous incarnation, a memory of who you
were was only but a few moments ago.
With every shedding away, you feel that you are closer still; the sacred well of the infinite and infinitesimal spirit is
deep within you, so you travel on to find your song spoken through crystal clear water.*

*Skin after skin the old gives way to the new and with the seasons of the sacred sun wheel, you turn, you drop
autumnal leaves and from your newly born Midwinter bud, sparks flash anew; a fresh perspective from deep in the
southern belly of night.*

*O child of light born from the splendored cave of the mother.
See before you the Imbolc gate that thou hath opened and newly forth from Annwn, come hither into your new
horizon as Og your father rises; and Modron keeps her house not from you as long as you always remember: "For
I am Mabon, first born of space my mother and fathered by time".*

The Wheel of Segais

The Wisdom of the Four Seasons as a Divination Tool

A big thank you to all of you for your patience while we did our second production run for the Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit. The reprinting took somewhat longer than we had anticipated but the good news is (trumpet sounds)...

The Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit is now available again! The printing has been checked, the fabric Wheels, hazelnuts and pens tested, the boxes packed and we are all ready to receive your orders once again.

If the **Wheel of Segais Personal Reader Kit** is unfamiliar to you, there is lots more information on my website - <http://www.wheelofsegais.com/> - and you might like to check out this wonderful divination tool by having an online reading with me to get you started.

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

THE WHEEL OF SEGAIS READER TRAINING

The Wheel of Segais Reader Training already has a number of students and Graduates in America, Australia, the UK and New Zealand.

If you are interested in taking the **Wheel of Segais Online Reader Training** you will first need to purchase a Personal Reader Kit.

If you already have a Personal Reader Kit then you can purchase the Reader Training course straight away and start your Reader journey. Videos and more information about the Reader Training and its content can be found at:

<https://www.wheelofsegais.com/be-a-reader/>

You can sign up for the Training through Global Spiritual Studies – <https://globalspiritualstudies.com/product/the-wheel-of-segais/> . **Prices are in \$USD.**

- Download seven recordings to your device: **\$279**
- Seven recordings stored on a USB flash drive: **\$290** (includes postage worldwide)

If you are a New Zealand resident, the good news is that you can save on international currency transfer fees by paying in \$NZD. Email me for \$NZ prices and bank account details – pamela@thewoolshed.com

As the seed is nurtured and the Wheel of Segais unfurls its tendrils around the world, I hope you will consider taking the next step with me to becoming a Wheel of Segais Reader. Let us use the wisdom of Nature to grow our dreams and the dreams of others from Seed to Harvest.

WHEEL OF SEGAI'S COURSES

In New Zealand I run one-day facilitated workshops for up to 20 people and also run ongoing monthly courses following the 12 streams that flow from the Well of Segais: Transformation, Openness, Affinity, Passion, Commitment, Alignment, Identity, Discrimination, Ripening, Healing, Harvest and Reflection.

The next one-day (10-4) workshop will be on Sunday 2nd June 2019 here at The Woolshed and from there I will ascertain when is the best time to begin another series of monthly workshops. These will be in addition to the Reader training although they will use much of the same material. I am also exploring the possibility of making these monthly workshops available online for those of you in other countries or out of town.

In the meantime, I will be travelling to Australia in April 2020 and the UK and Europe in May/June 2020 and I am keen to run one-day Wheel of Segais workshops while I'm away. If you would be interested in attending one of these please register your interest. If you would like to organise a one-day workshop for me (promotion, venue, admin, etc) then I would be happy to offer you a place for free.

I look forward to hearing from some of you very soon.

Yours on behalf of the Salmon of Wisdom.
Pamela

*The **Wheel of Segais** is a simple but profound template for understanding 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.*

If you would like a reading or a life coaching session in person, you can contact me at pamela@thewoolshed.com, 0272068876 or 2399234.

Cost: \$40

Out of town or in another country?

Book an online reading or Life Coaching Session through my website – www.wheelofsegais.com



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



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

Featuring:

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

To order go to :

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

or for more information :

info@spiraldance.com.au

THE GREEN ALBUM

Tuatha Dea and Nightsong Studios Presents:

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

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

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

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

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

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

or you can buy a physical album via

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



RAINFOREST TRUST® *Hero*

The Green Album

donated a gift to protect

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

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

Issued June 20, 2016

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



RAINFOREST TRUST®

Dr. Paul Salaman
Chief Executive Officer



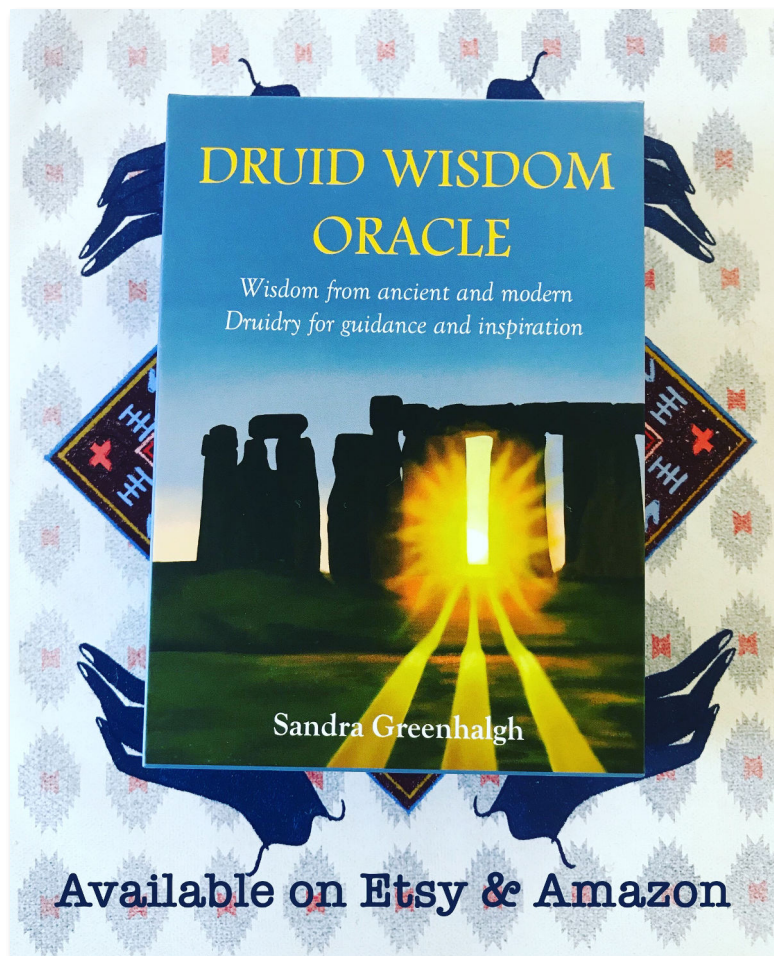
Okapi

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	



© T12/Lukuru

Member Businesses, Groups & Retreats in Australia/New Zealand



Advertising in SerpentStar is free for all OBOD members in the Southern Hemisphere. If your business, event or club is related to our druidry practice, you can advertise on these pages for as long as you require. Submission guidelines are available from serpentstar.druidryaustralia.org/about

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inspired by the beauty of nature, the spirit of the forest.

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Anam Cara Soul Space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Readings are available in person in Auckland, New Zealand, or from anywhere in the world using Skype or Messenger.

Please visit my website anamcarareadings.com and follow my Facebook www.facebook.com/anamcarareadings





OBOD Member
Celebrants

Australia & New Zealand

Celebrancy Services available in Melbourne
Legal weddings, handfastings, commitment
ceremonies

Contact Elkie - whitelk@bigpond.com



I am a marriage celebrant living on the beautiful Sunshine Coast in Queensland. I have studied with OBOD for the last six years and will soon complete my Ovale studies. My aim is to help make your ceremony meaningful and memorable....



Fully qualified civil/funeral celebrant, and authorised marriage celebrant, with a professional background in customer service and publications writing/editing, and a personal background in performance and community education. If there is any skill needed to write, deliver and make your ceremony special, you can be assured that I have it...or can make it happen.

My gift as a celebrant is a passion for creating a beautiful experience – each ceremony will be individual to your needs and personality, including research into special moments and traditions that you and your loved ones will remember for years to come.

Based in Tamborine, QLD but willing to negotiate travel. If you'd like to know more please don't hesitate to get in touch.

ajgcelebrant@optusnet.com.au

0413 593 609

ajgcelebrant.wordpress.com

www.facebook.com/ajgcelebrant



Amanda Gibson

Qualified Civil Celebrant

Weddings, Commitment Ceremonies, Vow Renewals, Baby Namings/Blessings, Funerals and Life Celebrations, Home and Business Blessings, Life Transitions and Women's Circles





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
Blessingways ~ Baby Namings
Cleansings ~ Cronings
Divorce ~ Funerals
Transition & Initiation Rituals

www.WiseCrafting.com.au
welcome@WiseCrafting.com.au
0415 158 941





Anne Conroy

REGISTERED CELEBRANT

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

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



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



Member of the Order of
Ovates Bards and Druids



Member Celebrant's
Assn. of New Zealand

Creating meaningful ceremonies and lasting memories

Pamela Meekings-Stewart

Registered Marriage and
Civil Union Celebrant
New Zealand

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

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

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

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

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



Tying the knot

Two lives entwine

Tying the knot

Two families entwine

Binding our futures together



Contact: pamela@thewoolshed.com

TheWoolshedretreats.co.nz

Tel: ++64-4 2399234



Need some time out from your day to day life?

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

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

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

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

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



And finally...

The 19th OBOD Southern Hemisphere Assembly UPDATE

By Elkie

The Melbourne Grove is hosting the 19th OBOD Southern Hemisphere Assembly, from Friday April 24 to Tuesday April 28, 2020, at Gilwell Park, Gembrook.

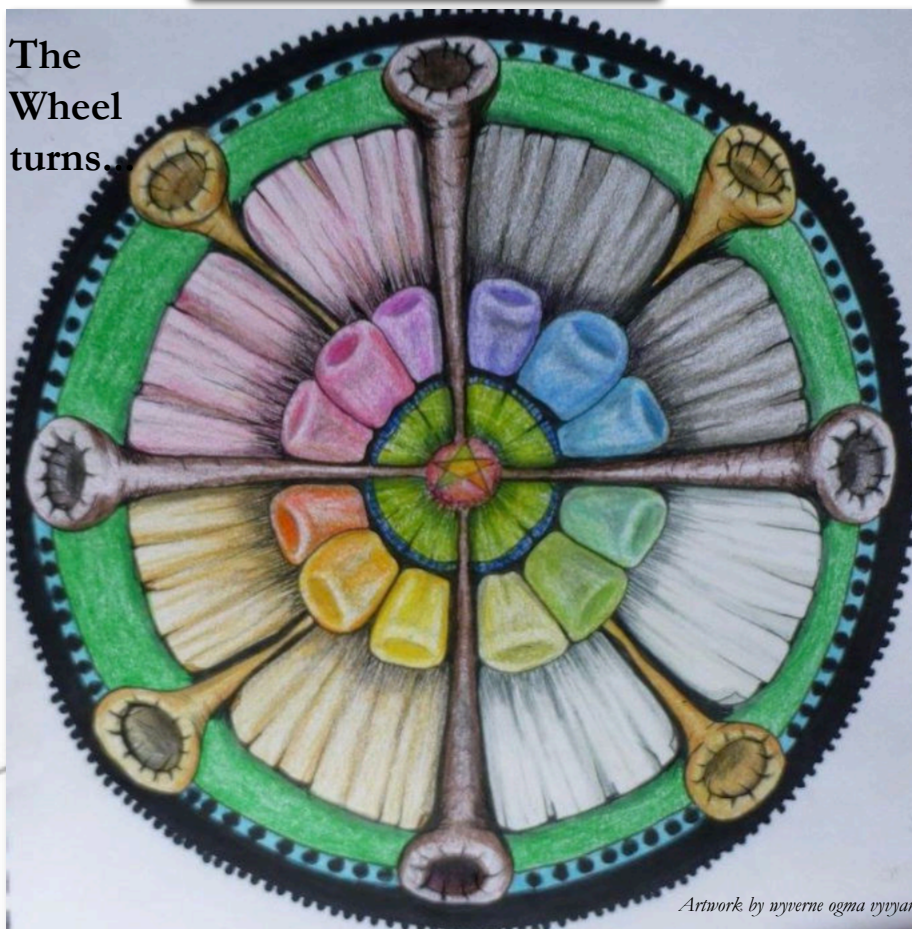
So far 54 people have booked in, and since we are only going up to 60, you need to get a serious wriggle along if you want to join in.

Please go to the Druidry Australia website and follow the prompts to the booking form.



Pic by Julie Brett

The
Wheel
turns.



Artwork by nyverne ogma vryjan

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

The Goddess that ruled Samhuinn was the Cailleach, the Grey Hag, the Mountain Mother, the Dark Woman of Knowledge. But by Imbolc the Goddess has become Brigid, the Goddess of poets, healers and midwives. And so we often use Imbolc as a time for an Eisteddfod dedicated to poetry and song praising the Goddess in her many forms.

Text sourced from Druidry.org

**The deadline for contributing to the Beltane issue of SerpentStar is 26 October 2019.
The Beltane issue will be released on 31 October 2019.**