



Isis Moon

Volume I

Mid Winter 2008

Special Dates

JUNE

19: Full Moon
21: Mid Winter Solstice

JULY

12: Workshop: WICCA: A
BEGINNER'S GUIDE
18: Full Moon at 5.30pm
19: Full Moon Gathering at
Botanic Park

AUGUST

1: Imbolg
7: Course: THE WYTCH'S
CIRCLE begins (6 weeks)
16: Full Moon Gathering at
Botanic Park
17: Full Moon at 6.49pm

SEPTEMBER

11: Course: THE WYTCH'S
CIRCLE ends
13: Full Moon Gathering at
Botanic Park
15: Full Moon at 6.45pm
22: Spring Equinox
27: Goddess workshop:
EMBRACING THE
GODDESS

OCTOBER

14: Full Moon Gathering at
Botanic Park
15: Full Moon at 6.33pm
31: Bealtaine

NOVEMBER

1: Bealtaine ritual (invite
only)

For more information and/or
registration for any of the above,
please contact:

Temple of the Dark Moon
PO Box 2451
Salisbury Downs SA 5108

Email: darkmoon@ace.net.au
www.templedarkmoon.com

Greetings and Welcome

Greetings everyone and welcome to this edition of "Isis Moon", an informational newsletter outlining what the **Temple of the Dark Moon** and **The Goddess House** will be offering for the remainder of this year. Yes, it is hard to believe that Mid Winter is upon us already. But despite a drop in temperature, the Temple seems to be a hive of activity.

To answer the increasing number of enquiries I have received from people curious about Wicca or those unsure whether they wish to commit themselves to the six week **Outer Court Training Circle** (which will commence at the beginning of August), I will be holding an **introductory workshop on Wicca** wherein not only the philosophies, religious observations, and history will be explained, but this workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants to have any other query or question answered. With over 15 years of practical experience, not to mention research, under my belt, I will be making myself available for people to "pick my brains" so to speak.

After a six month break I have decided to resume some public **Full Moon Gatherings**. Four gatherings will be held commencing July 2008 so if you are interested in celebrating

this special time of the month with like minded people, I hope to see you there.

Following on from the success of the **Dark Goddess** workshop held in May, in September I will be holding another Goddess workshop, this time entitled **Embracing the Goddess**. This workshop will commence by looking at the ancient images of the Ancient Goddess that our ancestors carved, before travelling through time to our modern age where the Goddess is still venerated around the world.

Details of all these events are covered in more detail inside. Please note that as vacancies are limited, any registrations must be accompanied with a minimum \$50.00 deposit to ensure your place. Registrations close one week prior to the commencement date. If this is not possible, then simply contact me to see if another arrangement can be agreed.

So, despite it being Winter, the **Temple of the Dark Moon** and **The Goddess House** are gearing up to a busy few months. I hope that amongst what we are offering, you may find something of interest.

Blessings – Frances

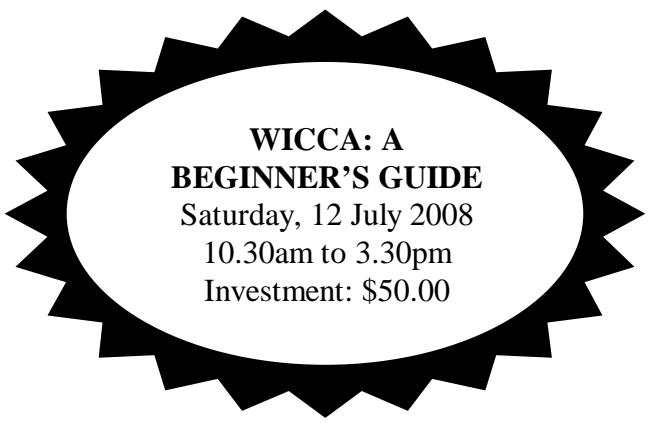
Understanding the Mysteries of Wicca

When Gerald Gardner published "Witchcraft Today" back in the 1950s, I doubt that he could have dreamed of how popular Wicca would become, especially in the last 10 years. With the increasing number of books as well as information from other spiritual practices available these days, it is little wonder people are getting confused as to what Wicca actually is. Added to this is the fact that most of this new information comes from the Northern Hemisphere and may not be entirely relevant for those of us residing south of the Equator.

This is why the **Temple of the Dark Moon** is offering a revamped version of its 1999 introductory workshop on Wicca as well as running its training circle.

Wicca is a beautiful, spiritually fulfilling nature-orientated religion. Despite its seemingly eclectic manner, there are still certain philosophies that people should adhere to if they wish to call themselves a "Wiccan", with the central philosophy being "the Rede".

In "**WICCA: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE**" we look at what standard philosophies make up the Wiccan religion, as well as its concept of Deity, sacred days, other religious practices and much more. I will also be dispelling the myths associated with what it really means to be a Wiccan. A bound 30-paged booklet will be provided to all participants.



**WICCA: A
BEGINNER'S GUIDE**
Saturday, 12 July 2008
10.30am to 3.30pm
Investment: \$50.00

Commencing on Thursday, 7 August 2008 and running for six weeks (from 7.30pm to 9.30pm), will be the **Temple of the Dark Moon's** popular outer court training course, "**THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE**".

This is course goes beyond 101 instruction, where the aim is to provide and set a solid foundation with respect to the practices of Wicca (modern day Wytchcraft), as well as providing invaluable personal experience in ritual workings.



THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE

Thursday, 7 August 2008
for 6 weeks
7.30pm to 9.30pm
Investment: \$200.00

"Behind the scenes" information is as to the "what", "why" and "how" when it comes to magickal operations - in particular ritual working and spellcrafting.

The extensive material provided within this course incorporates elements of Alexandrian Wicca, traditional Craft and ceremonial magick - the three traditions central to the standard practices of the **Temple of the Dark Moon**. A strong emphasis is placed on theory, balanced with practical application in a group format.

For anyone considering this i recommend it, even though i have been practicing for years, i have learned so many new and different things which has expanded my sense of who i am as a witch. the energy of working in group is amazing. it completely cracked open some barriers i had to the use of my own power. Frances, Thank you again for Sharing your wisdom and knowledge. - bb - Deb)O(

The Goddess and The Goddess House

Since the 1970s there has been an increasing awareness with respect of Goddess spirituality, and not before time! The Divine Feminine has been forgotten about for far too long, in particular in our Western culture. However, She remains available to those who seek Her.

Last year **The Goddess House** offered devotional services to honour the Divine Feminine. This year various workshops are being held to re-introduce the concept of the Goddess, the Divine Feminine, to people.

In May 2008 **The Goddess House** ran a workshop that explored six various guises of the Dark Goddess. To welcome Spring, in September, we will be **EMBRACING THE GODDESS**, journeying back in time, across the eons to when there was only one Divine Feminine, the Great Goddess.

During this fun, interactive one day workshop you will learn about the Ancient Goddess, the Divine Feminine, who was openly revered by most, if not all, ancient cultures. Even today we refer to Her as Mary, Isis, Diana, Sophia, Demeter, Kuan Yin ...

Just as our ancestors honoured Her by painting Her images on the walls of caves and carving statuettes of Her so that Her healing strength was carried everywhere with them, so too will we (re) learn how to open ourselves up to Her Mysteries.

In the **EMBRACING THE GODDESS** workshop not only will you learn about the origins of the Great Goddess and the many aspects of Her that appear around the world, but you will also discover how to choose your own personal Goddess.

You will be invited to experience the healing energies of the Divine Feminine, as well as being given the opportunity to partake in

Her Mysteries, and learn sacred dances and chants that once were performed in Her sacred temples and healing centres around the world.

After lunch (which is provided) you will be given the opportunity to make your own statuette of the Great Goddess so like our ancestors, you will be able to carry the essence of the Divine Feminine around with you. All participants will be presented with a 30-paged bound booklet to further assist them with their (re) connection with the Ancient Goddess.



MORE GODDESS INFORMATION

Over the next couple of months I will be writing a series of articles about various aspects of the Goddess for "INSIGHT" magazine. Previous articles can be found on **The Goddess House** page of the **Temple of the Dark Moon's** web site.



Join **The Goddess House** Yahoo group
http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/Goddess_House/join

Full Moon Gatherings in the Park

It started back in March 2004 when I mentioned to some friends that I was interested in holding an Esbat at the beach. On that night, some 12 people braved the cooling winds to attend. The **Full Moon Gatherings** continued until December 2007 when, due to personal commitments, I had to place the Gatherings on hold.

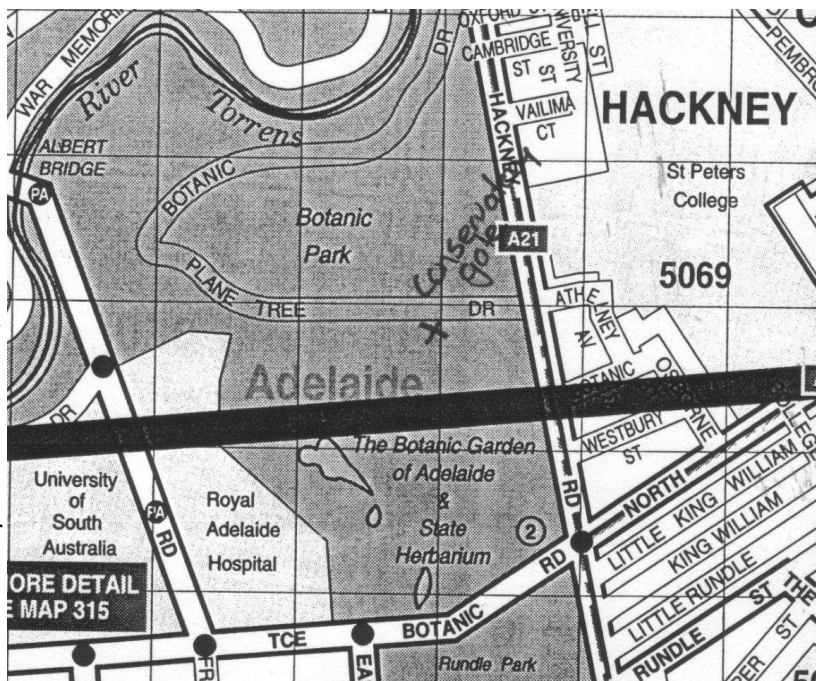
But they have been missed – just as I have missed not only the magickal air of the Botanic Park but also seeing the expressions and hearing about the experiences of those attending. So I have decided to hold some of them again.

The **Full Moon Gatherings** will be held at Botanic Park (where Womadelaide is held). The meeting place is by the Conservatory Gates – about 400 metres up Plane Tree Drive from Hackney Road (see map right). Plane Tree Drive is the one way road that goes around the park.

We meet around 7.30pm and move into the park around 7.45pm to set up the circle. Unlike previous years where the Esbat rituals have been rather casual, the **Temple of the Dark Moon's** inner court has decided this time to lead a ritual that is based on the Temple's own Esbat ritual. The object is to provide those attending with an insight into how the Temple operates as a coven and what can actually be achieved in group workings.

Basic ritual etiquette is expected from all attendees of the **Full Moon Gatherings**. This will be explained prior to the start of the ritual.

As the ritual will take approximately an hour, an 8.00pm start will be aimed for. If



you arrive after the ritual has started, please wait quietly and patiently for you to be “cut into” the circle. This is to avoid disruption to the ritual and disturbance to the other attendees.

FULL MOON GATHERING DATES 2008

Thursday, 17 July at 7.45pm
 Saturday, 16 August at 7.45pm
 Saturday, 13 September at 7.45pm

As this is a public service provided by the **Temple of the Dark Moon**, no charge will be asked – donations (tee lights, incense etc) however are always appreciated.

For more information about these Gatherings, please visit the **Temple of the Dark Moon's** web site:

www.templedarkmoon.com.

Course/Workshop Registration

All courses and workshops mentioned in this newsletter are held the **Temple of the Dark Moon's** covenstead which is located at Parafield Gardens (within walking distance from Bus Stop 37, Salisbury Highway). As the covenstead is located at the rear of a private residence, details are provided upon registration.

All registrations must include a minimum \$50.00 deposit and be received at least one week prior to the commencement date. Any outstanding moneys are due and payable before or at the commencement date of the course or workshop. A payment plan for **THE WYTCHE'S CIRCLE** may be arranged upon prior agreement.

Future Temple Events

Proposed Meet-Ups at the covenstead on the first Saturday of each month commencing July.
A chance for discussion, craft making, etc.

Bealtaine ritual – Saturday, 1 November 2008
(invite only).

In 2009 the Temple is planning camps at Mt Crawford for Samhain, Imbolg and Bealtaine.

If you wish to be notified when more details come to hand, please contact the Temple to be added to our notification list.

Temple Vacancies

From time to time vacancies become available within the Inner Court of the Temple of the Dark Moon. If you believe that you are able to work within our structure and adhere to our objectives then contact us to discuss your personal objectives and to see if they meet those of the Temple's.

All participants are provided with either a bound booklet or extensive notes.

Discounts are available if more than one course or workshop is booked and paid for at the same time.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to:
Temple of the Dark Moon
PO Box 2451, SALISBURY DOWNS
SA 5108

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... P/Code:

Contact Phone:.....

Email:.....

- Wicca: A Beginner's Guide:** \$50.00 enclosed.
- The Wytch's Circle:** \$50.00 deposit/\$200.00 full payment.
- Embracing the Goddess:** \$50.00 deposit/\$120.00 full payment.
- Please send me information on further workshops or courses.

Cheques/money orders to be made payable to
"F. Billingham".

Temple of the Dark Moon

The Temple of the Dark Moon was established in 1999 in **Adelaide, South Australia** in order to provide accurate information on Paganism (in particular Wicca and Wytchcraft), and magick, as well as occultic arts and metaphysical practices. This is done through a variety of workshops and courses, all of which have been the result of substantial research and experience from many years dedicated to these practices. What sets the Temple of the Dark Moon aside from other groups is that wherever appropriate, the information contained in all workshops and courses has been specifically adapted with the **Southern Hemisphere** perspective in mind.

The tuition offered by the Temple of the Dark Moon is a combination of Alexandrian-based Wicca, traditional Craft and ceremonial magick. The Temple's Inner Circle also explores other Pagan and occult workings with the view of providing each member with as much personal experience as possible.

The Temple of the Dark Moon's founder and High Priestess is **Frances**, who has studied various aspects of Paganism, metaphysics and the occult. She has been initiated as a Wytch and Priestess as well as being trained in ceremonial magick. While she still acknowledges the foundation provided by both these traditions, her current drawing is towards a more "traditional" element of the Craft, ie non-Gardnerian, as well as fulfilling her role as a Priestess of the Goddess.

Frances has been contributing articles to various publications since 1998. In March 2002 she was asked to regularly contribute articles for Australia's No.1 spiritual lifestyle magazine, "**Insight**" magazine and has appeared as guest editor on two separate occasions, October 2002 and August 2004. An article on the Southern Sabbats can be found in the 2008 "**Llewellyn Witches Calender**" with other articles having appeared in a range of other publications including "**Witchcraft Magazine**" (Australia), "**Rainbow News**" (NZ), and "**The Cauldron**" (UK), "**The New Witch**" (USA) and "**Traditions Magazine**" (USA).

In addition to her writing, Frances appeared in the local Adelaide newspaper, "**Sunday Mail**" in July 2002, with respect to an article on Wytchcraft and Paganism following the release of the Australian 2001 census results, and in January 2005 she appeared in "**The Age**", a Melbourne-based newspaper, as well as local paper, "**The Messenger**". In March 2003 she was invited to speak at the **New Zealand Pagan Festival** as well as leading the opening ritual with Chief Druid, Philip Carr-Gomm.

Frances has been actively involved in the Adelaide Pagan community since 2000 when she took on the role as secretary for the **Pagan Alliance Inc (South Australia)**. At the 2006 AGM, she resigned from the Pagan Alliance Inc, however she remains an active member within the Community, focusing on her teaching, writing and inter-faith communication.

The Temple of the Dark Moon believes ...

- ⌋ We are all heading towards the same goal (that being spiritual enlightenment) although on different paths, and therefore respect and tolerance for all religious practices should be given.
- ⌋ Everyone has the right of free will and therefore we are responsible for our own actions.
- ⌋ That respect and love of nature as Divine makes ecological awareness and activity an important factor.
- ⌋ That with the proper training and intent our minds and hearts are capable of performing all magick and miracles we are ever likely to need.



Temple of the Dark Moon
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A percentage of all moneys received by the Temple of the Dark Moon goes towards supporting various ecological and animal protection organisations such as the Australian Conservation Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund, as well as child sponsorship through World Vision.

The Temple of the Dark Moon also supports Trees Please! by planting trees each year and in August 2004 became a sponsor of Witches Voice, an international networking organisation for Pagans that offers invaluable information and resources free of charge.