



Isis Moon

Volume 2

Imbolg 2008

Special Dates

AUGUST

- 1: Imbolg
- 2: Northern Adelaide Pagans and Witches Meet Up
- 7: Course: THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE begins (6 weeks)
- 16: Full Moon Gathering at Botanic Park
- 17: Full Moon at 6.49pm

SEPTEMBER

- 6: Northern Adelaide Pagans and Witches Meet Up
- 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

- 4: Northern Adelaide Pagans and Witches Meet Up
- 14: Full Moon Gathering at Botanic Park
- 15: Full Moon at 6.33pm
- 31: Bealtaine

NOVEMBER

- 1: Northern Adelaide Pagans and Witches Meet Up
- 8: Bealtaine Ritual and Feast (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 the Imbolg edition of "Isis Moon".

Despite Imbolg marking the official arrival of Spring, the weather usually tends to deteriorate around this time of the year – as if Winter is trying to give us one last show of strength and power before the warmer weather sits in. With climate change and/or global warming, my garden is currently providing me already with a wonderful Spring beautiful display of purple irises and yellow daffodils.

It is in the "Tochmarc Emire", a 10th or 11th century tale making up the Irish Ulster Cycle, that the word Imbolg first appears, as "Imbolc". When the hero CuChulainn seeks to woo Emer she sets him various tasks, one of which is to go sleepless for a year. This yearly cycle is not denoted by the cardinal points of the Sun nor by Christian festivals. It is denoted by the opening of the four seasons. Imbolc (pronounced *imolk* with a silent "b") is when the ewes are milked at the beginning of Spring. Alexei Kondratiev, in "*The Apple Branch*", further points out that Imbolc coincided with the first flowing of milk from the udders of ewes, which occurred about a month prior to the lambing season.

Imbolc is an inconspicuous sign of returning fertility to the earth. An

awakening of life in the land and urged the tribe to engage in a new cycle of activities. Also said to mean "in the belly", Imbolc is the time of the first real stirrings of life and the seeds, who have been lying in the belly of Mother Earth during their gestation, gather momentum to break the chains of Winter.

In traditional Wiccan lore, at Imbolc the Goddess awakes from her slumber in the Underground and emerges youthful, bright eyed and virginal again. While there is an air of innocence about her, this is coupled with a degree of knowing, similar to retaining knowledge of a past life. She is innocent, yet not naïve. It is the young God who tends to be the naïve one.

As the light and the strength of the Sun grows, we reflect inward, on what needs to be vitalised within ourselves. What should take root and what we should we remove and send off with the last of the Winter winds?

What will you make room for in your life?

Blessings – Frances

Understanding the Mysteries of Wicca

While there are many positives about making information about Wicca so widely available, there are also as many negatives. What was once considered to be "basic foundation material" has often been discarded in favour for more materialistic needs – ie, spells tend to be focused upon instead of developing an understanding of the Wiccan Mysteries which, in themselves, can be life changing.

Anyone can perform a spell by rote from a book - not everyone experiences a life-changing event, or even notices such events when they do occur.

Wicca, "the Craft of the Wise", is not a passively received religion where the practitioners are merely spectators. It is an active one, where each individual is ultimately responsible for the development of their own spiritual journey.

The training offered by the **Temple of the Dark Moon** in "THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE" is focused along the lines that once formed part of training of traditional Wicca, ie Gardnerian and Alexandrian Wicca. In doing this, a solid foundation is provided upon which you, the student, can either build your own "inner temple" in order to obtain profound experiences from your own work, or continue your study under the direction of the Temple of the Dark Moon.

"THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE" is an intensive six week course where the aim is to go beyond 101 instruction, and 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 extensive material provided within this course incorporates elements of Alexandrian Wicca, traditional Craft and ceremonial magick - the three main traditions that are 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.

Places are strictly limited as the **Temple of the Dark Moon** focuses more on quality as opposed to quantity – smaller classes ensure that all students obtain as close to individual instruction as possible.

Registrations will be closing shortly – so please contact me if you are interested in attending this course. Payment plans can be arranged by prior arrangement and discounts given to those who have undertaken "WICCA: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE" workshop

THE WYTCH'S CIRCLE
Thursday, 7 August 2008 for 6
weeks
7.30pm to 9.30pm
Investment: \$200.00

Bealtaine Ritual and Feast

On Saturday, 8 November 2008, the Temple of the Dark Moon will be holding a Bealtaine Ritual and Feast – complete with May Pole dancing, drumming, traditional chants and cauldron jumping. Following the festivities will be a two course feast.

Cost: \$5.00 (for feast) and donation to the Animal Welfare League

Limited tickets available – first preference given to members and students.

Embracing the Eternal Goddess

She stared out at us from cave walls for over 30,000 years. She can be found within each cultures around the world. Today Her names are too numerous to mention but we have all heard of Her

Mary, Isis, Diana, Sophia, Al-lat, Demeter,
Kuan Yin ...

While it may be common practice to refer to the Divine Feminine, the Great Goddess, as merely an archetype, those of us who work with Her, know that She is more than that – She is a living, breathing powerful entity that embraces ALL those who come unto Her.

Our ancient ancestors believed in such a Deity and in the **“EMBRACING THE GODDESS”** workshop you will discover this for yourself.

- Feel Her loving embrace.
- Observer Her strength and passion.
- Open your heart and mind to Her ageless wisdom.

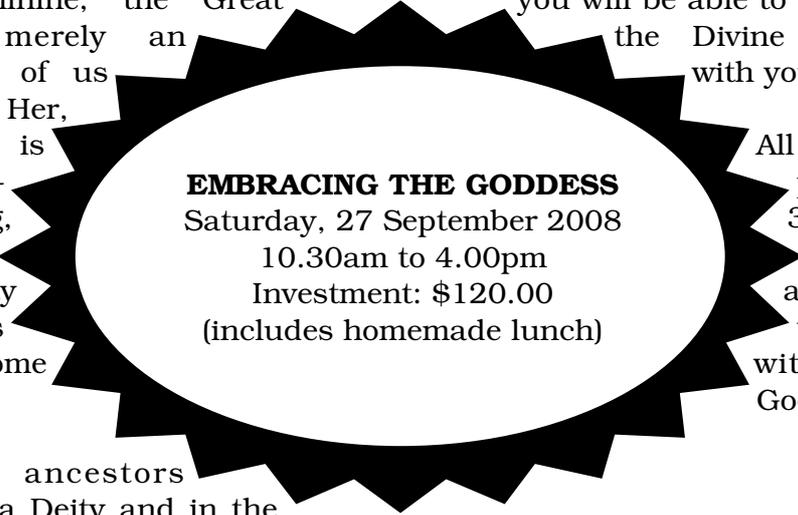
Just as our ancestors honoured Her by painting Her images on the walls of caves and carving statuettes of Her so that Her healing strength was carried everywhere with them, so too will we (re) learn how to open ourselves up to Her Mysteries.

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.

Experience the powerful 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 a homemade lunch, 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.



EMBRACING THE GODDESS
Saturday, 27 September 2008
10.30am to 4.00pm
Investment: \$120.00
(includes homemade lunch)

MORE GODDESS INFORMATION

My article **“RECONNECTING WITH THE GODDESS”** can be found in the August edition of **“INSIGHT”** magazine. Further articles can be found on **The Goddess House** page of the **Temple of the Dark Moon’s** web site.

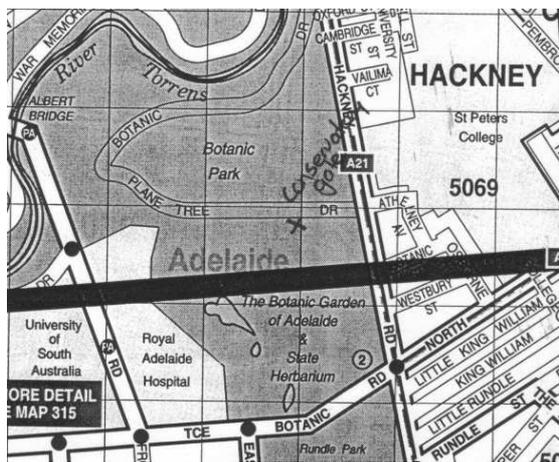
In October 2008 GAIA (Goddess Association in Australia) will be hosting the **Australian Goddess Conference**. Guest speakers include Adelaide artist and writer Lynne Sinclair Wood, and Lucy Cavandish (from “Witchcraft” magazine”), as well as Goddess singer, Anque Radiant Heart. For more information, visit their web site:

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

Full Moon Gatherings and Meet Ups

July saw the commencement of the **Full Moon Gatherings** back at Botanic Park and many thanks to those courageous souls who braved the uncertain weather and chilly night's air to attend.

The Full Moon is often used as a time to give extra energy to magical workings, including sending healing to those in need. It is also a time however for giving thanks for what we have in our lives, and for what we have achieved and gained over the last lunar cycle – including challenges. I feel a few moments of reflection and thanks given can be a humbling experience and one often overlooked, especially in our consumer driven society.



The meeting place for the **Full Moon Gatherings** is by the Conservatory Gates – about 400 metres up Plane Tree Drive from Hackney Road (see map). Plane Tree Drive is the one way road that goes around the park.

We meet around 7.30 pm and move into the park around 7.45 pm for a 8.00 pm start.

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

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

www.templedarkmoon.com.

FULL MOON GATHERING DATES 2008

Saturday, 16 August at 7.45pm
Saturday, 13 September at 7.45pm

NORTHERN PAGAN MEET UPS

The **Northern Adelaide Pagan and Witches Meet Ups** are occurring at the Temple of the Dark Moon's covenstead on the first Saturday of each month. July saw about 10 people gather to share ideas with Fred and Liz donating a number of magazines to be shared.

Future dates and themes are:

- **2 August 2008 – IMBOLG:** Bring along a poem, passage from a book, suitable craft or even a meditation to share that reflects this Sabbat or time of the year.
- **6 September 2008 – MOONS:** How does the Moon effect your life? Planting by the Moon, suitable "folklore" names for the different Moons, favourite luna Deities.
- **4 October 2008 – TBA**
- **1 November 2008 – BEALTAINE:** Share a poem, passage from a book, craft or even a meditation to share that reflects this Sabbat or time of the year
- **6 December 2008 – TBA**

Instead of nibbles, a gold coin donation to go towards the purchase of crafts for future Meet Ups will be asked for.

Other Temple News

The Temple of the Dark Moon has just received a small selection of **Lucky Black Cat Condition Oils**. These oils are made from authentic Hoodoo recipes and made by a qualified practitioner residing in Australia (who has studied with Catherine Yronwode, founder of the Lucky Mojo Company).

Each 15ml bottle of oil, made from imported roots and resins, comes with detailed instructions of how it should be used for the greatest success and stored for long life.

What is a "Condition Oil"?

A Condition Oil is a specially prepared blend of herbal essences and pure essential oils used for dressing candles or dabbing on mojo bags, charms, etc or yourself to help change or bring about desired conditions in one's life, or to remedy an unwanted condition.

The range includes:

- **Heart's Desire:** Bring to you whatever your heart's desire is.
- **Success:** To bring all kinds of success into your life including employment opportunities.
- **Money:** For prosperity and wealth.
- **Psychic Eye:** For developing psychic abilities.
- **Magickal Protection:** For protection from all forces.
- **Invocation:** For ritual and meditation work when invoking spirit, deity or entities.

Have you read ...

"Inventing Witchcraft: A Case Study in the Creation of a New Religion" by Aidan A Kelly (Thoth Publications).

This is an expanded edition of Kelly's 1991 controversial book *"Crafting the Art of Magic, Book 1"*. A must for anyone interested in the possible truth of how Wicca came about.

- **Fire of Inspiration:** For examinations or where new ideas are needed ... use for your work.

Revenge and **Bend to my Will** oils sold with caution.

Bottles are \$12.00 each – buy two and get a third for half price.

Please contact the Temple if you wish to purchase any of these oils – stocks are limited.

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:.....

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. Billinghamurst".

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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Web Site: www.templedarkmoon.com
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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.