You can also apply for a half-price ticket with discount code: SHIRE15. The half-price tickets need to be purchased online via embracelifelivelife.com.au/services/events-workshop/sutherland-festival/
or the eventbrite page, www.embracesutherland.eventbrite.com.au
Book your early bird tickets at embracelifelivelife.com.au all pre bookings placed before 24 June also receive a complimentary pass into the festival
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Note from the Editor

Everything in life is in a constant state of flux. Thus the question is whether we accept change passively and are swept away by it or whether we take the lead and create positive changes on our own initiative.

I must admit that I have been in this strange state of transition for the past year and at the moment I feel like I am between a rock and a hard place. It appears that we are all living in between the old and the new. On one hand you may be in the process of dealing with past aspects of your life (finances, legal matters, relocation, relationships, etc.), and on the other, your new life is taking its time to come into view while the world is patiently waiting for you to make the full transition. Insights of new opportunities may be popping up in your mind and you may be feeling intense pressure to get a whole lot of things done; you know how it goes, "There is so much to do, and so little time to do it in".

At the moment I am heading towards a complete change in direction and the effects of these energies are propelling me forward to my ultimate goal at break neck speed. The Universe in the meantime is enticing me with minute glimpses of my new reality. This new life is what I have been working towards for years, and yes it will be an exciting phase but this integration won't be complete until I have finally cut loose all those encumbrances and then who knows what will happen.

The last 6 months of my life have been particularly challenging to say the least. There were so many things to sort out that I had to temporarily drop some of my projects and sadly Axis Mundi was placed in hibernation. The good news is Axis Mundi is back and I am looking forward to all your submissions.

"I seldom end up where I wanted to go, but almost always end up where I need to be."
~ Douglas Adams

Blessings

Janine
Winter solstice or Yule is the shortest day, and also the longest night of the year. It marks the return of the Sun’s warmth and light, and the promise once again of a productive Earth.

Pagans often celebrate these aspects with candles, fire, greenery and feasting. Traditionally, Yule logs are burned. The Yule log should be the root of a hardwood tree, and in Australia Mallee roots are ideal for this purpose, as are Tasmanian oaks and all types of Eucalyptus.

The Yule log is burned down until nothing but a small piece remains, which can be saved and kept to be used as a lighter for the following year’s Yule fire.

A Yule tree is often placed within the traditional Pagan home, with a pentagram (five pointed star) at the top, symbolizing the five elements. Presents are exchanged and many pagans stay up all night to welcome in the sun.

This is symbolic of the Goddess giving birth to the God and then resting after her ordeal.
At the dawn of pre-history, it is said, humanity worshiped a Goddess who often co-existed with a male Deity, sometimes depicted with horns. Such figures represent humanity’s elemental search for survival and meaning in mortality, a relentless quest for unity with the divine and the interdependent nature of the existential web.

The present text is intended to introduce students unfamiliar with the concept of the Horned God to an archetype which repeats itself in many ancient religions. Though later demonized by conquering Christian invaders from Rome and elsewhere, among the indigenous peoples of the European mainland, Britain and Ireland, the Horned God personified a manly affinity with the animal kingdom. His relevance in today’s society is also increasingly being recognized.

One of the earliest representations of a Horned God in a purely Celtic context, according to Morning Glory Zell (1991), is a rock carving from Val Camonica in northern Italy. The God is portrayed standing upright wearing a long garment and carrying a torc, the collar-shaped necklace of divine authority. As is common, he is accompanied by a horned serpent and a male worshiper. These symbols foreshadow a combination of identifying features—antlers, torc, horned serpent and other animals—recognizable in later period artwork. Subsequent images often show the Horned God seated in a half-lotus position familiar to yogis.

The name Cernunnos has come down to us through a stone relief carving from the Gallo-Roman period which was unearthed in Paris of a God with antlers, upon each of which hangs a torc. In the collection of the Cluny Museum in Paris, the stone bears the clearly legible inscription CERNUNNOS in Roman letters above the God’s face. But it would be a mistake to identify all horned gods as Cernunnos, or even all stag-antlered ones.

Cernunnos is the most common name used today for the deity called "Uindos" in Old Irish literature. He is also sometimes called "Finn," the name of a main hero in a cycle of ancient stories about the "Fianna" or warrior-bands of Old Ireland.

Undoubtedly the most famous image believed to represent Cernunnos is from an inner plate of a priceless silver-plated copper cauldron unearthed in the spring of 1891 in a Danish peat-bog near the hamlet of Gundestrup in Northern Jutland. Cauldrons or chalices (also called grails) were often used in ancient Pagan religious rites, symbolic of the cauldron of the goddess Cerridwen, the so-called cauldron of rebirth. But the Gundestrup cauldron was obviously very
special. After more than a century of debate, scholars seem to have reached consensus in dating its manufacture to the late Iron Age -- the second or first century BCE.

Vividly decorating the cauldron's plates are scenes of war and sacrifice, bearded deities wrestling ferocious beasts, a bare-breasted goddess standing flanked by elephants, and a commanding figure with stag's antlers brandishing a ram-headed snake in one hand and a twisted neck collar or torc in the other. Most scholars agree this figure is Cernunnos.

In their "lectures on Irish magick, cosmology and poetry," Darkstar & Bwca (1992) question whether the antlered deity on the cauldron plate is really Cernunnos at all. They offer the following observations:

"The figures on the Gundestrup cauldron, there are Goddess figures and there are God figures. The Goddess figures all have little teeny-weeny bumpy breasts hanging out on the front, and most of them have braids or other long hair. The God figures uniformly have beards. The antlered figure has neither of these characteristics, and so would apparently be an androgynous figure, something in between, the liminal state. Here is a person who is deliberately putting themselves into that in between state. They're in between genders, which is another one of those important turning points, magically speaking" (p. 26).

This theory is in stark contrast to Morning Glory Zell's deeply evocative, sensual and unequivocally male version of the illustration first published in 1983 in The Green Egg magazine and later by Rowan (1987) in his excellent book The Horned God.

Present space will not permit extensive discussion of the religious beliefs of the culture which brought the Gundestrup cauldron into existence. Additional readings are recommended at the conclusion of this article for those who are interested. But in prehistoric Pagan societies particularly that of the Celts, it is now understood that ethnicity, gender and mythology were much more complex than previously supposed. Firm cultural boundaries may not have existed, humanity and its gods seem to have been viewed as having more than simply male and female genders, and religious beliefs were flexible and multi-faceted. Applying such concepts in modern life has profound implications.

To illustrate the permeability of cultural boundaries, the ancient Celts appear to have been influenced by traditions from as far away as India, as evidenced by the position of the legs of the antlered god depicted on the Gundestrup cauldron and elsewhere. Students of ancient religions have commented on the similarity of Cernunnos as depicted on the cauldron and a prototypical image of Shiva Pashupati, from a Mohenjodaro seal impression dated around 1500 BCE as seen below.

Cernunnos is understood as a complex and powerful god, though he may not have been the head of the Celtic pantheon. Since his earliest origins as Lord of Hunt, he has been associated with animals, abundance, good fortune and virile fertility. But since the object of the hunt is the death of the prey, and the hunter is sometimes even killed in this life-sustaining pursuit, Cernunnos is recognized as both the God of Death and guardian of the underworld. In this sense, as well as being a giver of earthly riches, Cernunnos could perhaps be compared to the Plutos (though it is more often Pan, god of music, who is generally pictured in Greek art as having horns).

Irish stories describe Cernunnos (Uindos) as the son of the high god Lugh. He is called a wild hunter, a warrior, and a poet. Similarities between the Celtic and Germanic pantheons explain why the Romans identified both Lugh and Wodan with Mercury (Hermes). Lugh and Odin share many attributes, suggesting a common mythological descent. Analysis of Cernunnos shows some of the same traits and symbols in common with the patron God of physicians, healers and magicians. The Greeks called Hermes Psychopomp (conductor of souls), the very same title given to the Lord of Death (whom the Celts recognized as Cernunnos) in his union with the Lady of Life.
Though no known ancient examples have been uncovered where Cernunnos is clearly depicted with a consort, he is portrayed in the company of many Goddesses on the Gundestrup cauldron. This fits with what is generally known about social relations between the sexes among ancient Celts, as well as aspects of that which has been reconstructed of Druid religion.

In our present age, various representations of the Horned God as a gentle, masculine figure strike a resonant chords for many in the neo-Pagan movement. Some Wiccan alters provide a place of reverence for his noble visage alongside a worthy representation of a manifestation of an ancient Goddess. Meditation on such images, research and study of the old ways, and other Pagan spiritual practices provide meaning and depth to growing numbers of Americans today.

References


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Spheres Of Light is an association of individuals from a variety of Pagan paths who seek to share experiences, understandings and teachings and who come together to celebrate and to connect with the cycles of the Earth through Lunar and Solar gatherings.

We meet in Sylvania, Sydney & Nowra, NSW, Australia. Spheres Of Light's gatherings include open Full Moon circles (meaning all are welcome to attend), Dark Moon circles (by invitation only), plus workshops, classes, meditations & healing circles, with a strong emphasis on modern shamanic practices & eclectic witchcraft.

Spheres of Light enjoys an ongoing association with PAN - the Pagan Awareness Network Inc Australia. PAN tirelessly works to create networks and support systems for pagans of all descriptions across Australia. Spheres Of Light is proud to be an Affiliate Subcommittee of the Pagan Awareness Network Inc.

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Janine Donnellan can conduct a private space clearing in your home or business, clearing away negative or stagnant energetic 'imprints' built up over the years from the accumulation of day to day living and replacing them with calm, balanced energy.

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‘I bow down to your names,
Sobek and Harwer.
May they be my physician,
May they drive away pain from me’
*Statue inscription of Montemhet, Third Intermediate Period*

Sobek is one of the oldest of the Egyptian gods. He was worshipped in the Fayum, as well as at Kom Ombos, and there, in the sacred lake of his temple, were numbers of holy crocodiles, which Strabo tells us were decorated with jewels like pretty women.

The temple of Kom Ombos is located in the ancient city of Pa-Sobek, ‘Domain of Sobek’ and stands on a headland at a bend on the River Nile providing one of the most spectacular settings of any of Egypt’s river temples.
Kom Ombos Temple is not just unusual, it is unique. The ground plan is the result of the unification of two adjacent temples, each dedicated to a different divinity: the crocodile-headed Sobek ‘He who finds’ and an ancient falcon-headed Neter and solar war god, Harwer.

This is the reason why the temple was called both Pr’ Sobek, ‘House of the Crocodile’ and Pr’ Heru ‘House of the Falcon’.

An imaginary line divides the temple longitudinally into two parts, each with its own entrance, hypostyle halls, chapels and shrines.

The right part of the temple was consecrated to Sobek, and the left to Harwer, whose winged disk is depicted over all the entrance portals protecting those who enter from all evils.

This temple was the work of the Ptolemies who built it on the site of a much older and smaller double sanctuary of which little remains, but never the less echoes the dual aspect of the first temple. It was the intent of the original builders to create not just a house to be shared by two gods, but a vessel whereby we mortals could actually enter our own brain. The dual aspect represents the left and right of the brain; Sobek is given the right chamber that signifies the ‘animal brain’ and analyzes the environment for the sights and sounds useful for survival. In essence, animals are almost 100% ‘right-brained’.

Animals must be very concerned about their visual environment, both for food and danger. Therefore, this area is one of the oldest and best-developed areas of the brain. Most animals can see shapes, colour, motion, and perception of depth.

Humans have kept the animal talents on the right side, but have adapted the left-brain for language and tool use.

Vision in the human left-brain is specialized for reading. The left-brain learns to see arrangements of lines we call alphabet letters.

The ancient Egyptians first noticed that the right-brain tended to control the left side of the body and the left-brain tends to control the right side of the body.

Although each hemisphere is almost identical in terms of structure, each operates in an entirely different way and is associated with very different activities. This is known as specialization or lateralization.

The Path to Sobek and Harwer is one of the most important as it leads you through an imprint of the human brain. When we experience a magickal journey we become excited, our pulse rate increases and our blood pressure drops. Our breathing is altered and we take in large volumes of oxygen and life-force into the bloodstream and, because of its excellent blood supply, the pineal gland receives much stimulation from the oxygen drenched blood causing it to vibrate thereby stimulating the release of our body’s own psychedelic chemical. The ancients regarded the pineal gland as the ‘holy of holies’; the gateway into the soul, an energy vortex and a meeting place between soul and body.

The left side of the temple is dedicated to Harwer, god of victory and also known as ‘the good doctor’. Kom Ombos became famous for its healing power and was a major pilgrimage site where a healing cult was developed. The temple was a sanctuary for many patients who were seeking help and treatment by the priests. On these occasions the priests would gather in the temple precinct and spend many days and nights fasting and in prayer. The fasting consisted in abstaining from all pleasures of the table, eating of no living thing, and drinking no wine. This would alter the chemistry in their brain, and in so doing produce a trance like state.

In a side chapel is a festival calendar, which would have been used by the ancient Egyptians to diarise all religious events occurring throughout the year.

As in the ancient land of Khemit, it has been found that the great religious holy days of all faiths tended to cluster around the times of the solstices and equinoxes. It is possible that the human pineal gland responds to the changes in the length of daylight, and by changing the balance of what is termed; neurohumors in the brain, perhaps affects a great incidence of
psychedelic states of mind in vulnerable individuals just at these crucial times. Incidentally, the festival day for Sobek falls on the 21st day of Koiak, which also happens to be the Autumn Equinox.

Without light, there would be no life on Earth. Light is received by the Sun, and is also the greatest heat source and energy provider in our solar system. All the ancient cultures knew about the sun’s healing power. The Egyptians, for example, used dyed cloth to cover wounds and coloured crystals charged by the sun’s rays, for healing purposes.

The priests of Kom Ombos knew that as light and colour enters our bodies through the eyes, skin and food we eat, even the clothes we wore had a profound effect on our wellbeing. They knew that looking and focussing on colours stimulated the whole body.

Scientific tests have been able to verify what ancient cultures have known for centuries that colours like red, orange and yellow have a stimulating, energising and vibrant effect on us, whilst green and blue have a soothing, calming and relaxing effect; and looking at grey, has a suppressing effect.

The path of Sobek and Harwer is the path of balance, where you, the initiate will demonstrate your ability to balance the polarities of left and right brain. You will travel from the pit of darkness into the light of awareness. Here you will learn to master your emotions through love from the heart. Let us proceed with our pathworking.

**NOTE:**
It is suggested that if you are working alone, the pathworking could be pre-recorded.

**Path to Sobek and Harwer**

**Journey to Kom Ombos**

Don your white robe and tie purple and yellow cords around your waist. These will be in respect of the Neters you will be working with. Build your pylons and make the sign of the ankh in the air above your head. On the lintel of the portal hieroglyphs of Sobek and Harwer appear:

Commit them to memory. These symbols are charged, look at each mark and take it within. As you utter your secret name your journey takes you to the realm of Sobek and Harwer; Horus the Elder. You will learn how to focus on their energy as you are drawn in.

A shower of golden light greets you, full and voluptuous in its beauty; it swirls and eddies around and through you. Embedded within that light is a multitude of sounds that sharpen to become voices. Voices calling, but who are they calling? The voices disappear into the depths of the magnificent double entenced temple that has appeared before you, and as you make your way in, Djehuty hurries towards you saying:

‘Come let us go first to the holy lake. I have wondrous sights to show you.’

You walk with your guardian along the banks of the river Nile until you reach a smaller temple bordering a lake where a group of priests are feeding and lovingly coaxing the sacred crocodiles to emerge from the water. The melodious voices of the priests ring out in the clear morning light, hypnotic and strangely soothing as you hear them saying:

‘Come my beauty’s, come and let us scrub clean your scaly bodies.’

These sounds sink deep within your mind and reverberate throughout its labyrinthine tunnels, stirring ancient memories. Awakening from your reverie you marvel at the sight of these creatures that slowly and elegantly slither from their watery depths. You marvel at the fact that they allow such intimate contact with the priests. Djehuty says quietly:

‘In life the children of Sobek are worshipped by the people of Kom Ombos and even unto death these reptiles are considered sacred. Before they are embalmed, the oil of Messeh is taken from their bodies, refined, and then used for anointing the forehead’s of kings of Egypt at the time of their coronation. This oil, and only this oil, confers the mark of true kingship. Priests and other royal monarchs right up to your present day will adopt the practice of anointing.’

Your guardian lifts his head and appears transfixed as if a message is being
communicated to him. He looks down at you and nods.

'Come let us not tarry here I must get you to the main temple for your working.'

You both enter the temple precinct from the eastern side through an ancient gate passing another small temple on the way that is dedicated to the Neter Hathor. The sound of a reed flute offers up an ancient tune, a rhythm that is then taken up by the chanting of women’s voices, so simple, yet so powerful in its effect. You want to linger but cannot, as you are mindful of the importance of the experience that is to come.

Soon the temple appears within your sight, going through the forecourt you approach the two gateways you previously noticed; each leads to one half of the temple dedicated to the twin deities Sobek and Harwer. The theme of duality is as always echoed in the many aspects of Khemit. Is this an indication of what is to come? Reconciliation of the Two into One; light with dark, past with present, and being with non-being? We shall see…

Djehuty leads you to the second hypostyle hall that also has twin entrances and fifteen columns, five of them are incorporated in the front wall showing Ptolemy VII holding hymnal texts before Sobek and Harwer.

You look at the tall columns above shaped like palm trees that terminate in capitals in the form of leaves girdled with lapis lazuli and gold, topped with bas-reliefs of geese. Marble, alabaster and granite of different colours clad the walls, and the aroma of lotus, frankincense and amber incense permeates through the air and filling the halls.

You continue walking through the temple and come to three double entrance vestibules, each one a different colour. The atmosphere in each of these vestibules pulses to a particular vibratory rate, difficult to express but felt profoundly on a cellular level. Their walls sparkle with jewel brightness. You are curious to know what it is that makes them gleam so, but are interrupted by men and women who are now approaching. They come in multitudes to this temple, seeking special healing. They range from all ages, and all levels of society, yet unified by one desire. Djehuty suggests that you join these pilgrims as they are about to be attended by specially trained priests; each one has a rare and particular gift of healing.

Several pilgrims have remained to be treated individually, but you join rest of the group who are ushered by a priest who leads you to the perimeter corridor directly at the back of the double shrines.

A faceted crystal is given to each pilgrim, and as you take yours, you wonder why? Your guardian Djehuty murmurs:

'All will be clear soon'.

As you are about to leave you notice another group of priests who have begun a monotone chant as they process solemnly into the middle chamber; a special chamber that is reserved for the initiated and Pharaoh.

Their chanting has a strange effect on the crystal you hold in your hand; it pulsates and draws in the sacred essence flowing through the temple. The essence is channelled into your inner core, charging notions that symbolize the duality of your higher and lower natures, all to be balanced in perfect harmony. A remarkable scene on the inner side of the back wall of the temple captures your attention; priests are presenting medical and surgical tools to a seated god.

The moment is brief, and soon you are summoned to link up with the group and together you slowly walk in single file along the inner side of the back wall of the temple, you are aware that the crystals held by those around you are simultaneously charging and pulsating.

The corridor before you is long and narrow and cleverly lit by white gauze covered lanterns giving one the allusion of being inside a long opalescent shell.

Suddenly with each step you take, you begin to feel lighter as layer upon layer of your very being, notion of self-hood, identity, is being shed. All is re-absorbed into the matrix of the temple.
A priest stands before you; in his hands are coloured strips of linen to tie around your forehead: red, yellow, blue, purple or white. Listen to what your body tells you, it knows what is needed; and choose that colour.

As you tie the strip of linen around your forehead the vibration of the colour impacts on your inner being linking to your deeper self. Light and colour is entering your body.

The priests begin chanting at different rhythms causing you to drift high above the corridor, the different frequencies impacting indelibly upon your brain, and you hear yourself saying:

Pa-na au-a temt-kua em bah-k
May I fly, May I gather myself together like a hawk
neper en nub; an-na
Ab-a em tu
Beautiful of gold; may come to me my heart from the land
Abtet; an-na-a er amitu neteru!
Of Beginnings; may it come to me among the gods!

Your consciousness undergoes a process of transformation. From the material world you are projected through an immense gateway into a space that is filled with darkness, this gradually clears to reveal the temple in plan, but it is not the temple you see, it is your brain.

There on the right is Sobek invoking special awareness, the magnificence of colour, your imagination and the ability to daydream. Whilst on the left side of your brain sits Harwer who is responsible for the power of your speech and use of words, he is imparting your ability to analyse and use logic and numbers. Time has no meaning within this space, minutes or æons could have passed and you would not care. So much knowledge to absorb; once lost to an un-awakened humanity. The tragedy of it!

You hear yourself saying: 'I want more! I want the key that opens up my back brain; I want all the knowledge I once knew to pour forth. I want to free that part of my brain that has shut down. I have waited an eternity to come to this point. Do not take it away from me now, please!'

All are looking up at you in silence as your body makes its journey down, but it is not the corridor you are earthed to, it is the point midway between the two shrines. This is a place where god and human meet face to face. Djehuty is there, standing in front of you holding your two hands. And still nestled in the palms of your hands, rests the crystal glowing through your skin, showing every vein, bone and mark. The guardian closes his eyes and speaks in a language lost even to the ancients. Incantations glide from his tongue.

Nuk ari sapu en
I am the keeper of the my Akashic Records,
All of which is,
Enti unen; er neheh pu hen-eh
And which shall be, Eternity it is and
T'etta ar. Auksh sep kshemt,
Everlastingness, three Paths and
T'eb-eh sen; eh-ba-k, ter-k!
Two Pillars; open your portals

Thoughts are transformed into sounds. Your molecules rearrange themselves in response to the energetic shift within the crystal. Regeneration and rejuvenation of Self occurs. All this soon fades into the background as Sobek and Harwer speak in unison behind you, but it is not their voices you hear it is the sound within your brain. It is saying:

'When our brother Lord Anpu readies you for the realm beyond, he takes from your mortal body the many organs that are prepared then stored in the sacred canopic jars, and guarded by the sons of Heru. But we touch not your brain as it is the Holy of Holies and it rests for always within your temple. To disturb the brain, would be to disturb every Neter who rests in each location both on the left and the right. There are actually places within your living brain where the priesthood travel to be taught by us. You have no need of a key, when you are ready to receive the sacred knowledge, we are always there to teach you and guide you. Enter favoured and leave beloved'.

Your guardian escorts you through the temple where you construct your pylons and walk through the portal to your world of familiar regions. Utter your secret name and close the gate behind you.
Judith Page was born in Sydney, Australia and went to the UK in the 1970's where she attended Chelsea School of Art specialising in mural decoration, knowing full well that she was destined to become a painter.

Her field of study is occult art, and she is now well known in this circle for producing fine examples of Egyptian pantheon groups with a strong emphasis on astronomy. Her canvases literally vibrate with aspects of distant galaxies.

Her understanding and use of colour is profound. These powerhouses on canvas contain an energy and vibration that is infectious to the onlooker. They are geared to energize and relate very much to the future and beyond, taking the viewer with them. She has an almost innate knowledge of the cosmos, and states that this is due to the fact that we are all made of star-dust, and she is merely painting our ancient bodies.

Her work has featured on the covers of countless UK magazines, books and illustrations. She states that often her work is sold before the paint is dry, hence her code of secrecy when she worked on a Kabbalistic series of paintings, 'The Tree of Life', taking almost two years in the painting.

Judith’s paintings and fine art prints can be found in both sanctuaries and private collections worldwide.

Although she packs her day with work, she is always keen to take on commissions of any size.

http://www.judith-page.com/

Delve into the powerful undercurrents of Egyptian magick and be forever changed. These books presents authentic rituals to invoke the gods. Step into their hidden realm, where true gnosis and healing are found.
As the great wheel turns day after day, month after month, year after year we tune into the rhythm of the constantly moving planets, the signs and symbols reflected in our heavens. It was at the end of 2006 that a few conscious Agents of change began writing about this turning mandala, with the idea of emphasising important turning points in the year that would work towards setting our collective intentions with the emerging astrological signifiers.

We find ourselves at another meaningful Solstice, the time in the year when the Sun stands still at the peak of its northern journey, reaching 23 degrees northern declination over the tropic of Cancer. It is this apparent standstill of the Sun, the 3 days of stillness before the Sun moves south again that has been celebrated for millennia. As astrologers we call this, the Cancer Ingress. This moment, the Cancer Ingress (as all other astrological moments) happens at the same point in time all over the world and is therefore a great and potent time to align our thoughts and collective intentions. It is at this time of the year that the dark begins to return to the north and the light slowly begins to return to the south, we celebrate this shift in the Sun’s journey as our guiding light and universal symbol of consciousness.
At this solstice an excitable and buzzing energy surrounds us. A just perfected 3rd trine between Jupiter and Uranus opens doors and opportunities, the Sun at zero Cancer is near Mars at 28° Gemini, with Mars in a fresh new cycle recently separated from the Sun in sextile to the playful and young Leo Moon. The Moon in the last degree of Leo is square to the hard and harsh Saturn, as Jupiter and Venus shine bright for us all.

Uranus in Aries and Jupiter in Leo, create the last trine of this series in fire having opened up the possibilities of believing in the change in our lives, our drive for progressing and moving on with a reinvented mindset and inner belief. The fire energy between the two, is so creative it almost bursts at the seams. From their last 2 exact trines back in September 25, 2014 and March 3 this last one completes the picture, signalling the movement and growth in our lives over the past few months, in our attitudes, in our movements forward. The potential is now clear as we move onto the next phase of tending to that which rings clear in our heads and in our hearts.

The Laws of attraction are emphasised here and continue into July as Jupiter and Venus approach an exact conjunction at 21° Leo and Venus her brightest phase. The rewards and consequences of our beliefs, our attitude to what the world promises to us and what we expect from it, come to us with all their blessings, or make us realize a few truths as to how and why things could be better.

Positiveness has many rewards, and negativeness has even more consequences. The benefits in Leo, Venus and Jupiter remind us to take a good look at what we are attracting to ourselves and into our lives, good or bad. Tune into attracting the life you want. The laws of attraction, the Law of Love, the Law that flows from the heart is the one we must follow.

Jupiter represents natural Law, the law of the universe, the one we believe in and Saturn the Law implemented down here on Earth, the Laws that then work to implement our beliefs. As Saturn is squared by the Moon at this Solstice and inconjunct 150° to Mars, consider the limits and restrictions you put on yourself, perhaps as to why some are there, perhaps why some need to be changed, perhaps some need a review, try a different approach to help get what you desire, forge a new set of updated rules that respond to the renewed you, if only the world would catch up with this too. Remember the inventiveness of Jupiter and Uranus right now and the power of Jupiter and Venus and their law of attraction coming together, infusing our future commitments. Through master Saturn and the loving Moon, the mantra” Energy flows where attention goes”, is wise to comprehend, our emotions are energy too. Think of the consequences of living in fear, self-doubt or anger, to living with joy, adventure and love in your heart. Saturn will work to implement either, which law will you follow?

With all the troubles in the world we can only rise above, do good and radiate our own positiveness out into it! It is not through being ignorant to what is happening, but is about not partaking in the negativity that can easily engulf us, especially if we are switched to mainstream media and news channels. Switch onto what is helpful and what can guide you to do your best, to help you thrive and the others around you. Together we work on healing the rifts, shaping good energy fields, protecting and guiding ourselves in positive directions, or we can easily get sucked into negativity, negative fields, negative people that only breed more negativity. Where and how can you utilize working with and adding your positivity into all the fields around you? Start at home, start alone and notice the difference radiate around you.
Rational Mercury taps into this too, as he squares Neptune during this Solstice. It is hard to know what is real, what is imagined, what to think about what I am writing, what is an energy field? The big questions to life, truth, and what is real, never stop, but again I emphasise, living in doubt or living with belief, which one do you think will get you where you want to be? The journey ahead needs constant doses of creative input and a deep trust in the way ahead. From a collective standpoint this is ever so important for us all, believe in the outcomes and where we are heading, for if we have no faith in the future, then surely it will not be good for us. Keep the spirits high.

Chiron and Black Moon Lilith still opposite each other, remind us of the pain of life and living, the wounded and darker sides of life that continue to put us off track and make it hard to believe in positive outcomes or rosy futures. Acceptance to our lot, our own lot of fortune and how we have been blessed so far, is all around us, take a moment to look, to see, to notice. Sit in nature for a bit to reflect on the beauty of all that is around. Heal thyself first, and then you can venture forth to help and heal others. Healer be healed is the Chiron story. At this Cancer Ingress we tend to the foundations of our wounds, conscious or unconscious, partake in a ritual cleansing and purifying of our sacred waters. Join Agent 129’s lovely Cancer ritual here:

Be a creator, not a negator, lap up the blessings and focus on the positive for nothing will ever be perfect. As the wheel of life turns again with this Solstice, take part in the turning, turn your life around if need be, turn it into what you’ve always dreamed about, turn it into reality as the Laws of attraction are in your capable hands. On a collective note, the same goes “the Laws of Attraction” are in our capable hands, fields and energy centres. Cleanse, clean, clear up your energy source and centre at this Solstice, and radiate them outward from deep within and through your heart centre, it’s a cosmic mission to warm up the heart of the world.

Happy Solstice from all us at the C*I*A!
AUSTRALIAN PARANORMAL & SPIRITUAL EXPO

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2015

CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE
1 POWERHOUSE ROAD, CASULA, NSW
Fluorite is found in many hues from clear (Colourless), purple, green, yellow, blue and pink or a mixture of colours. It is relatively a soft stone with a hardness of 4, making it a stone that is easily scratched. Care should be taken if placing with other stones of a higher hardness i.e. Quartz.

Most of us identify fluorite by its most common clear, green and purple banding. Solid colours in this crystal are not uncommon but a bit harder to find.

Fluorite’s crystal internal geometric formation is classified as Cubic/Isometric, where three axis meet at 90 degree angles and are all the same length. This crystal is in total symmetry and harmony, therefore it assists with getting one’s life back in order by focussing on self-improvement, physically and mentally. It is a good one to use to establish equilibrium.

Its other noticeable formation is an octahedron. A shape that looks like two four sided pyramids lying base to base. Here you have a ‘what is above is so below’ concept. In the mathematics of this crystal structure you have 6 points, 8 faces and 12 edges. In some instances it has been noted that this crystal vibrates to the number 2, 7, and 9.

Another interesting quality of fluorite is its ability to fluoresce although not all specimens do. ‘Fluorescence is when a crystal has the
ability to temporarily absorb light and then through darkness that the light is emitted.

Here we have a crystal that we can draw on its internal structure, fluorescence and formations to assist us in our development. Through the darkness we illuminate, through the structure we find balance and through its emitting energies we find the power within to transform.

Fluorite is a crystal that allows the flow of energy, assists in clearing our thoughts thus allows higher connections to filter through. Green fluorite is associated with the heart chakra, our centre, it links our bottom chakras to our top chakras, hence “as above so below” octahedron formation.

It is a stone of protective nature. Physically it protects against the electromagnetic interferences, place one on your computer or other electric devices to minimise its effects. It also draws off negativity because of this it will require regularly cleansing. Spiritually it protects by shielding negative influences that may be causing an emotional imbalance.

Fluorite is an ideal stone for meditation; it brings and enhances focus and clarity. When searching for answers, meditate with a piece of fluorite to receive insight into your questions. This stone is great for study clearing the way to assimilate information.

This is a calming stone, relieves stress, tension, anxiety and allowing peace to intrude in our lives. It surrounds us with light to see clearer and focus on what is important in our lives, what brings us joy, what opens our hearts to the higher connection of spirit.

Now its physical properties are just as impressive because of its chemical composition of Calcium Fluoride benefits our bones, teeth, and cells, rejuvenating our overall system. It relieves pain within our skeleton, due to arthritis, rheumatism and bone injuries where calcium is deficient. Not only does our skeleton benefit from this wonderful stone it is beneficial for colds, flu’s, sinus, our respiratory tract too benefits from this powerful healing stone. It boosts the immune system strengthening the body’s natural resistance to illness.

It is astrological associated with Capricorn, and Pisces, not surprising that Capricorn rules the skeleton and knees and Pisces the feet, which relates to our stability, movement and grounding. Pisces, the water sign, looks at intuition and emotional experiences and that at times we need to look deep within to find that emotional stability.

Fluorite with its many colours, its internal structure, its external formation, and its mineral composition, its fluorescence, added to the metaphysical properties make it a versatile stone for healing.

References:
geology.com/articles/fluorescent-minerals/
crystalsgems.com/fluorite/the-refreshing-properties-of-flourite/
Ivy in Winter, is a beautiful evergreen that offers a message of fortitude, hope and growth through its evergreen energy.

Ivy reminds us that when we walk through the sometimes stark winter landscape; if we take the time to really look, there is life, there is colour, and there is growth.

Many legends and myths are associated with the plant which was widely used for the celebrations of the Winter solstice.

For our Celtic ancestors, ivy was the name of the Goddess who kept life going through the harsh months of winter, and Holly was her God.

They associated it with the symbolism of Resurrection and Eternity.

Ivy is often seen climbing on holly and these two plants end up completely intertwined. Celts always used these plants together as the prickly rigid holly also symbolized men while the gentle, elegant creeper represented women!

Many believe that the pagan wreaths of holly and ivy symbolized the battle of the sexes…

A romantic and sad legend originated from Cornwall.

The beautiful Isolde and the brave knight Tristan were so much in love that when Tristan got killed Isolde died of grief. The King was also in love with Isolde and became jealous of Tristan’s’ hold on the love of Isolde.

He ordered for the young lovers’ graves to be placed far apart from each other.
An ivy plant started to grow on each grave, and the two plants eventually met and got intertwined in a love knot.

Wagner found inspiration in the legend of Tristan and Isolde’s everlasting love for the creation of his opera Tristan and Isolde.

In Greek mythology ivy was associated with fidelity and newlyweds were given a wreath by the priest to ensure an everlasting marriage as the plant was also associated with fertility and good luck.

The Greek name for ivy is Kissos and is associated with a sad legend where Kissos, the son of Bacchus died while playing with his father. Full of grief Bacchus tried in vain to revive his son.

Gaia the Mother Goddess took pity on Bacchus and changed his son into ivy. Bacchus held the plant sacred and started to wear a crown of ivy.

Holly and mistletoe are two plants associated with the celebrations of the Pagan Winter Solstice. Their use (including that of the poinsettia since the 17th century) has been transposed to the Yule celebration when they are traditionally used in the making of wreaths and house decorations.
Raven has historically been seen as an Omen; a bird of death, of mysticism and of magic. Raven is the messenger of magic from the great void where all knowledge waits for us. He is also the symbol of changes in consciousness, of levels of awareness and of perception. He carries the mark of the shape-shifter, and carries healing energy from great distances.

Raven medicine can give you the ability to get inside another’s head and heart, to feel true empathy, and to understand these people from the inside out, so to speak. Spiritual healers and counsellors use Raven power for they have a depth of understanding and empathy not shared by all. Because of this powerful medicine, they can often actually change another’s behaviour and perception, to work real magic in bringing insight, peace, healing and understanding to others; to at least offer others a different and positive perspective of things, circumstances and people in life. This medicine must always be used in the Light for the highest good and best interests of others; and never for personal gain or dark reasons.

Ravens are great at vocalization, and can be taught to speak. They incorporate and mimic the calls of other species. Raven can teach you how to articulate your messages, understand others, and use the spoken word as a tool to convey messages and to manifest what you need in your life.
Like the Hawk, he is also the Messenger of the Great Spiritual Realm. With Raven as your Totem human and animal spirits mingle and become as one to help you shape-shift your life or your very being. Raven has the knowledge of how to become other animals and how to speak and understand their language.

Ravens are very playful; however, they are also dexterous users of tools, using stones or anything available to crack open nuts and such. They are very fast and wary, so they are not easily intimidated by others, and as such seldom fall prey to other animals or birds. This suggests discernment and the ability to teach you how to make magic in life without fear. They are also known for their amorous behaviour reflecting the strong creative forces they can access.

This creative life force can and should be used to work the magic of spiritual law on this physical earth plane, to create the ethereal link between Body and Soul and God and the One-ness of the Universe. This is your Path with Raven Medicine: to always work your own magic in the Light, to co-create with God, and to enlighten all those around you to True Magic in life.
The Development Circle is a creative, healing space where you can come on a regular basis to experience meditation and a variety of exercises which are designed to develop your psychic and mediumship abilities.

The Development Circle will support you in understanding how your intuition communicates with you as well as the opportunity to practice giving and receiving Spiritual Messages.

Over the course of time you will experience a wide variety of techniques: Mediumship, psychometry, channelling, intuitive skill building, automatic writing, remote viewing, sensing murder and missing persons, healing methods, meditation, aura clearing and psychic protection techniques are just some of the many topics covered within this circle.

These classes will be facilitated by Janine Donnellan from SOL Illumination (formerly Soul Searchers Spiritual Centre)

Classes are conducted on a fortnightly basis (5 nights a term).

Where: Hazelhurst Gallery, Gymea  
When: Fortnightly on Tuesday nights (14th July, 28th July, 11th August, 25th August, 8th September)  
Time: 7:00pm – 9:00pm.  
Cost: $180

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL ~ A non-refundable deposit of $50.00 is required for all bookings and can be paid HERE. The final payment can be made at the workshop.

If preferred, full payment can be made up front via a PayPal invoice which Janine will send when you contact her to arrange your booking. You can contact Janine on 0408 025 268.
Registrations are open!

Registrations to EarthSong 2015 are now open. Registering early will secure you the most affordable rate, and will also help organisers to put on this magical event!

Visit EarthSong Registration for this year's pricing, as well as to register. We look forward to seeing you at EarthSong 2015 :)

About EarthSong

EarthSong is a growing community of Pagans and Witches who come together in many creative ways - one of these being an annual gathering called 'WitchCamp'.

WitchCamps are intensives that focus on the teaching of magical skills, community building and ritual. Together we celebrate the sacred mysteries and practice magic and ritual in the Reclaiming Tradition. EarthSong is now in its fourth year. For more information about WitchCamps, please see our FAQs.

Regular updates will be posted on the website, on Facebook and Twitter.

Register Now
1 orange
4 whole cloves
500ml (2 cups) apple juice
1 cinnamon stick
3cm-piece fresh ginger, peeled, thinly sliced
6 cardamom pods, crushed
Pinch of ground allspice
Pinch of ground nutmeg
750ml (3 cups) apple cider
180ml brandy
1 red apple, cored, thinly sliced

Stud the orange with cloves. Place in a large saucepan. Add apple juice, cinnamon, ginger, cardamom, allspice and nutmeg. Bring to the boil over medium-high heat. Set aside for 30 minutes to infuse. Strain into a jug. Discard spices.

Return the apple juice mixture to the pan. Add the cider and cook over medium-low heat for 5 minutes or until it just starts to simmer. Divide the brandy and apple among heatproof serving glasses. Top with the cider mixture.

Eight of Swords

At the moment there are issues in your life that have not been revealed to you and the resolution is well beyond your control. The Eight of Swords suggests that you are being actively held back by some of them. Uncertainty is a situation that everyone experiencing at the moment. In any case, you are likely finding your options restricted at every turn, and you may be experiencing rising frustration and anxiety. Your best course of action lies with the only thing you can control: You. Don’t stress yourself out, just take time to reflect. Approach this situation with patience, and be ready to move when the situation changes.

This is an excellent time to do some mindfulness meditation and DE clutter your life.
What is PAN Inc?

The Pagan Awareness Network Incorporated (PAN Inc) is a not-for-profit educational association with members Australia-wide. It is run by a management committee whose members are drawn from a broad cross-section of the Pagan community. The Association is incorporated in the state of New South Wales, with sub-committees in other states of Australia. It has no formal ties with any religious body, but works in a proactive fashion, both within the Pagan community and as a point of contact for the public, including government and media organisations.

PAN Inc aims to continue as the Australian Pagan community's most effective networking and educational body.

Our Mission

The Pagan Awareness Network Inc (PAN Inc) aims to:

- Correct misinformation, raise awareness and educate the general public about Paganism and associated beliefs and practices in order to achieve religious tolerance
- Foster the growth of the Pagan community through service

Brief History

The Pagan Awareness Network began in January 1997 when the Witches League for Public Awareness (Salem Mass. USA) withdrew their regional controllers. David Garland was the Australian representative and with the support of the coven he worked with, had already embarked upon the task of making the WLPA a registered organisation here in Australia when this happened. Rather than waste all the work that had already been done David decided to start a new group here in Australia and so came up with the Pagan Awareness Network (PAN).

Join PAN

When you join PAN you are helping us to continue to provide help and services to the Pagan community. You will receive:

- a regular newsletter mailed to you.
- a membership card entitling you to discounts at selected PAN friendly businesses.
- discounts on selected PAN run events
- occasional giveaways and special deals.

Your membership goes towards helping us advocate for the Pagan community in the media and support events, groups and initiatives around the country.

Applying to join

To join PAN, first obtain a membership application form from our site. Applicants must be 18 years or older unless they have prior approval of the committee. Then fill out the membership form and send it back to us with payment. If you have any questions about joining please email us via our contact form here.
Please email us the details of any pagan or community events, classes, workshops or regular meetings that you'd like to see promoted here in this free listing.

**NSW**

**PAN Full Moon Public Circle**  
on the actual date of the full moon each month will be held at Seven Hills, Sydney 8:30pm  
**PAN Inc. full moon ritual.** PAN runs a public full moon ritual each month at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills.  
The circle is held on the top of Rotaract Hill on Terminus Road Seven Hills NSW, just next to the train station. Getting there is easy. If you take the train, the hill is less than five minutes’ walk (and easily visible from the station). If you drive, there is plenty of parking available both at the base of the hill and across Terminus Road.  

**HollyFrost**  
When: From 3pm on Saturday 25th July 2015  
Where: Liverpool Girl Guides Hall, Whitlam Leisure Centre, 90a Memorial Ave, Liverpool NSW 2170  
Cost: $10 for Non PAN Members, $5 for PAN members. Ticket includes a BBQ item and a drink of choice.  
Contact: Email: info@hollyfrost.org.au  
Facebook: Like this Facebook page to get updates on this event via Facebook!

**Newtown Tarot Meet-up**  
When: 1st Sunday of the month @ 2-3.30pm  
Level 1, 333 King Street, Newtown  
Cost: $10  
Email: allison_winter@live.com.au  
Contact Phone: 0481 437 764  

**Witches of Eastern Sydney**  
When: first and third Saturday or the month  
Where: cafe on parade - 765A Anzac Parade, Maroubra NSW 2035  
Cost: cost of own coffee and food at Cafe on Parade  
Email: phoebe.lorelei@gmail.com  
Contact Phone: 0459710464  
Child Friendly: No  
Beginner Friendly: Yes

**Western Sydney Pagan/Wiccan Study Group**  
When: 3rd Sunday Of Each Month 1pm to 4pm  
Where: Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall St, Parramatta, New South Wales 2150  
Cost: Free  
Email: westernsydeypagans@gmail.com  
Contact Phone: 0429800012

**Pangenta’s Cauldron Workshops**  
When: First Thursday of every month  
Where: JoPo’s feng shui & crystal shop, 1-3 Revesby Place, Revesby  
Contact: Kylie Allerton on 0421 553 821  
Email: kylieallerton@yahoo.com.au

**Spheres Of Light (SOL) Full Moons in Sydney & Nowra**  
When: The Friday before each Full Moon (see our website for dates) arrive 7:45pm for an 8:00pm start.  
Where: Sylvania Waters (southern Sydney) and Nowra. If you would like to attend a circle please contact us for further details.  

**Western Sydney Full Moon Ritual**  
on the actual date of the full moon each month will be held at Seven Hills, Sydney 8:30pm  
**PAN Inc. full moon ritual.** PAN runs a public full moon ritual each month at Rotaract Hill, Seven Hills.  
The circle is held on the top of Rotaract Hill on Terminus Road Seven Hills NSW, just next to the train station. Getting there is easy. If you take the train, the hill is less than five minutes’ walk (and easily visible from the station). If you drive, there is plenty of parking available both at the base of the hill and across Terminus Road.  

**SA**

**SA Full Moon Gatherings**  
When: Just prior to each full moon during the winter months  
Where: Botanic Park, Adelaide  
Cost: Free  
Contact Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

**VIC**

**Introducing Monday Night Meditations**  
When: Every Monday evening (except public holidays)  
Where: The Goddess House  
Cost: $10.00  
Email: frances@templedarkmoon.com  
Contact Phone: 0401 967754  
Web: thegoddesshouse.blogspot.com.au/  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheGoddessHouse

**Dandenong Ranges Monthly Pagan Coffee Meet**  
When: Second Sunday of each month, 12pm onwards.  
Where: Magpie Cafe, 48 Main Street, Upwey.  
Cost: Free, but please consider supporting the lovely local business that is supporting us, and buying their coffee/meals/delicious cake.  
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1404137999880444/
Parapsychology Certificate Course

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th July 2015

This comprehensive course is ideal for those who would like an in-depth knowledge of the paranormal and would like to learn the necessary skills to become a Professional Paranormal Investigator.

All of the classes are highly interactive and experiential, focusing on participation and engagement of the students. There will be practical exercises throughout the course and also interaction with the SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigations (SOuL.S.P.I.) team. This course will be facilitated by Janine Donnellan who is the founder of SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigations (SOuL.S.P.I.).

We are most fortunate to be able to conduct this workshop at Hazlehurst Regional Gallery which has a history of paranormal activity.

Location: Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW 2227

Course Duration: 2 modules run over a weekend or you can select to attend individual modules separately.
9.30am – 4:00pm each day

Certificate Course: 25th & 26th July 2015
Course Payment: $250 per weekend or $125 per module – this includes manual and morning tea.

Please CLICK HERE TO ENROL then PAY HERE.

A $50 deposit is required at the point of booking via our Paypal gateway. Final payment can be made on the day of the course. If preferred, full payment can be made up front via a PayPal invoice which Janine will send when you contact her to arrange your booking.

Should you have any difficulties with payment please contact Janine on Mobile 0408 025 268
Would you like to help sponsor our free online magazine and advertise your pagan-friendly business or your pagan website in Axis Mundi? If you do not have a suitable advertising banner we can make one for you, based on graphics from your own website or from photos and logos you email to us (jpg or png formats preferred).

Attention Advertisers!!

Did you know that SOL Magazines has now received over 100,000 visits? If you advertise in the Axis Mundi Magazine your ad will also be advertised for free in Soul Searchers and vice versa! Our advertising costs are the lowest in our industry. If you write an article for our magazines then your advertising is free.

Contact Janine Donnellan (Editor) at: axismundi@spheresofflight.com.au for further information and payment details.

Advertisement Sizes and Costs

“Business card”........$10 per issue or $30 for 4 issues
“Quarter page”........$20 per issue or $70 for 4 issues
“Half page”........$35 per issue or $120 for 4 issues
“Full page”........$50 per issue or $150 for 4 issues

(Advertisement sizes are based on an A4 page)
About Soul Searchers Paranormal Magazine

This free quarterly online magazine was developed from SOuL Searchers Paranormal Investigations (SOuL.S.P.I.) as a way of communicating our experiences and to further our explorations into the realms of the supernatural and the unexplained. It has since grown to include information and articles from a variety of different paranormal investigation groups and individuals and caters to the wider paranormal community.

Our magazine is produced 4 times per year and provides topical information to keep you up to date on news and the latest developments happening in the Australian paranormal community. In addition to our announcements on upcoming activities and events, Soul Searchers Paranormal Magazine contains articles, photos and information about the paranormal, parapsychology, ghost tours, mysterious locations, psychics and mediums etc.

Your suggestions, comments and contributions are welcome. Please send them to: soulsearchers@spheresoflight.com.au

SSPM Submissions Guide

Let us showcase your articles and photos or advertise your paranormal events (either help to sponsor our online magazine by paying for an ad – details here – or take advantage of our free event listing. Submitting your articles for consideration is easy. Just send an inquiry or the completed work to us at soulsearchers@spheresoflight.com.au. We give every submission careful consideration. See below for preferred formats for submission.

If you would like your photo and profile information included on our Contributors page please send a head and shoulder photo (which we will resize to suit the page) plus a short description of yourself and your interests when you submit your articles.

Submission Deadlines for Soul Searchers Paranormal Magazine

All articles and advertising submitted for publication in any issue of the magazine must be received no later than the dates shown below. Late submissions will be held over until the following issue.

Quarterly Deadline Dates
Issue.........Deadline
January.........12 December
April.........12 March
July.........12 June
October.......12 September
Welcome to SOL Illumination

Offering Holistic Services and Personal Development Workshops:

- Reiki Healing
- Chakra Balancing
- Energetic Healing
- Shamanic Healing
- Tarot Reading
- Mediumship & Psychic Development
- Paranormal Investigations
- Parapsychology
- Space Clearing
- and much more...

Contact:
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Illumination.spheresoflight.com.au
0408025268