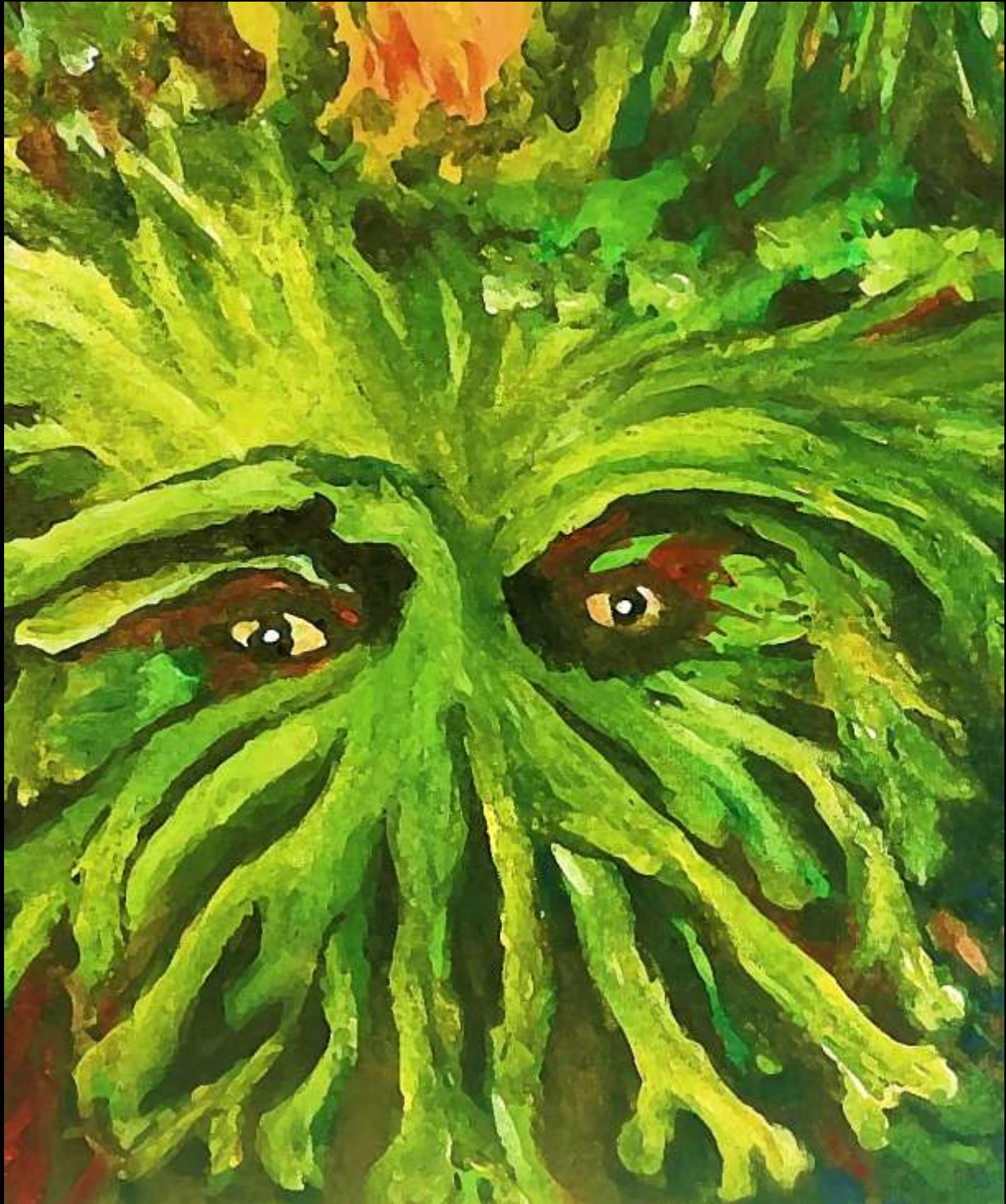


AXIS MUNDI

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Greenman by Janine Donnellan

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Cover –The Greenman by Janine Donnellan

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

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Welcome Back to Axis Mundi!

Wow what an incredible couple of chaotic years we have all gone through! Although, we are still not out of the woods yet, hopefully this pandemic will come to an end soon. The past couple of years have both carried painful challenges and a re-evaluation on how to survive in this crazy world. Even though we have had a shaky beginning to 2022 I am now looking forward to the rest of the year in anticipation on what positive aspects of life is yet to materialise!

You probably have noticed that I haven't produced an issue of Axis Mundi for quite a while, to be honest, I needed time out from the magazine. Trying to write or find articles for Axis Mundi became the bane of my life. However, after some considerable soul searching, I decided that Axis Mundi should return perhaps focusing on Spheres Of Light's upcoming circles and events. It will also include articles about our circle experiences, insights on our rituals as well as Sabbats and seasonal information and some thought provoking articles.

I am truly thankful that this time has allowed me to see what was happening around me with my eyes fully wide open. It was an opportunity to heal, refresh and refocus.

So, what is done is done and every end marks a new beginning. Keep your spirits and determination unshaken, and with courage, faith, and great effort, you shall achieve everything you desire. ("Rang De Zindagi - Keep your spirits and determination...")

Blessings

Janine

GREENMAN DOWN UNDER



Janine Donnellan

I own a large staghorn that I inherited from my parents when they died. It now coexists in harmony in my bush garden, which has an abundance of native flora and wildlife.

Staghorn (Platycerium) is a genus of about eighteen fern species in the polypod family. Ferns in this genus are widely known as staghorn or elkhorn ferns due to their uniquely shaped fronds.



To hazard a guess I would say that this staghorn must be over seventy years old. It has now outgrown the wooden board that it was originally placed on and soon it will have to be separated as it has many off shoots called pups and they all need a new base.

The staghorn has that strange otherworldly aspect to it, and when I am looking at it, I see the Greenman staring back at me. So, I decided to paint my own interpretation of the Greenman from a down under perspective.

So, who is the Greenman? The Greenman is a god or a nature spirit of vegetation and plant life. He is depicted with green foliage over his face.

The Green Man is often seen as a carved stone architectural symbol. You can see it as a foliate-faced gargoyle and there are many variations of them decorating old pubs, churches and meeting places throughout UK and Europe.



The above photo is of the Green Man in the presbytery of St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney, ca. twelfth-thirteenth centuries, Norman and Romanesque
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Green_Man_-_St._Magnus_Cathedral_-_Kirkwall.jpg



This photo is the Green Man of the Rosslyn Chapel by Aprawa, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



The above photo is a plaque of the Greenman I purchased in a gift shop at Westminster Abbey.

The term "Green Man" was originally given to this type of architectural feature in Lady Raglan's 1939 article "The Green Man in Church Architecture" in *The Folklore Journal*.

The Green Man is a prime example of how images from folkloric and pagan belief systems were portrayed in Christian churches. Perhaps they are a reflection of the ancients' origins of nature worship. One wonders if Christians in the Middle Ages incorporated these images deliberately to ensure the continuation of their long association with the "old ways."

The most common interpretation of the Green Man is that of an ancient nature or woodland spirit. Some see him as a symbol of our own connection and reliance on nature. He is also seen as a representation of the earth's underlying life-force, and the ongoing cycle of birth, death, and renewal.

As far as my beliefs are concerned, I don't see the Green Man as just a mythic being, but as a three-dimensional creation that humans have given life to over the centuries.

He is real, and substantive, we have breathed life into him and now he exists in the bushlands around us and in those spaces between the worlds.

I have felt his presence on numerous occasions when I have been in nature. For many years I have been going to the Royal National Park to meditate with a group of friends. We have our special place, as seen below, a place that is very elemental in nature. A sacred place where the veil is thin, and where we can experience his presence in reverence and in solitude.



"The Green Man has returned as the living face of the whole earth so that through his mouth we may say to the universe: 'We are one'." (*"Green Man Quotes (27 quotes) - goodreads.com"*)

— ***Sharon Brubaker, The Blossoming***

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<https://www.learnreligions.com/the-green-man-spirit-of-the-forest-2561659>
<https://spiritofthegreenman.co.uk/green-man-legend-mythology/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Man
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Green_Man_-_St._Magnus_Cathedral_-_Kirkwall.jpg
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Rune Reading

Nordic paganism this year we are learning about the runes. The word 'rune' simply means mystery, whisper or secret and it's a form of divination or oracle reading system that's used to help gain insight into our questions on life's issues. Runes can be made of various materials but are mostly made of stone or wood.

There are several types of runic alphabets, one of the oldest ones being the old Germanic runic alphabet known as 'Elder Futhark'. The Elder Futhark contains 24 runes, the first six of which spell out the word 'futhark'.

I picked out the following rune that relates to what is important to everyone in the present moment.



Mannaz symbolizes all of humanity, joined together for the purposes of attaining a common goal. On a more personal scale, Mannaz may represent our circle of family and friends -- and the common goals which unite us.

On a philosophical level -- Mannaz reminds us that we are one. All purposes and goals ultimately flow into a greater purpose which is shared by all mankind.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Futhorc_Rune_Chart.png

<https://www.ifate.com/rune-reading.html>



Spheres Of Light

A Journey into Norse Mythology

This year the members of Spheres Of Light will be practising the system of Norse Paganism and connecting to their Gods and other beings through their journey into the nine worlds.

Norse mythology is the body of mythology practised in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark including Iceland and encompasses deity and stories from numerous sources, medieval manuscripts, archaeological evidence, and folk tradition, from before and after the pagan era.

Norse texts were recorded in manuscripts from oral tradition in Iceland during the thirteenth century. Poems and Sagas have given the best insight of beliefs and deities worshipped amongst the Norse people. Objects from archaeological finds have been

(“Norse Mythology Facts and Information - English History”)

interpreted as depicting Norse mythology, such as amulets with Thor’s hammer found amongst pagan burial sites, and small female figures interpreted as Valkyries.

This religion was animistic (the attribution of a soul to flora, fauna and inanimate objects), polytheistic (the worship of multiple Gods), pantheistic (the universe is a manifestation of the deities) and held a cyclical view of time. Like many other early religions, the mythology has clear myths about the creation of the universe and humanity as well as having divine explanations for day and night, weather, and natural phenomenon.

Most of the surviving mythology we know of today centres around the plight of the gods

and the tales surrounding their world. Norse mythology consists of nine worlds that all surround a central cosmological tree, Yggdrasil. All beings inhabit these nine circles - the Viking Gods reside in the heavenly realm of Asgard, humanity inhabits Midgard, and the other worlds are inhabited by beings such as elves, giants and dwarves. Travel between the worlds was very common in myths and legends, where Gods, humans and other beings would interact directly. (Sourced from various internet sites).



What we will be doing?

The Full Moon rituals will consist of Blóts that members can host during the year. The Blót is quite different to our usual rituals and can be quite flexible, so the ritual can be as simple or as complex according to what purpose required for that full moon.

Runes

We will include a rune reading at each full moon circle. We will be working with the Elder Futhark runes and hopefully by the end of the year we will have a good understanding of the meaning of each individual rune.

Sabbats

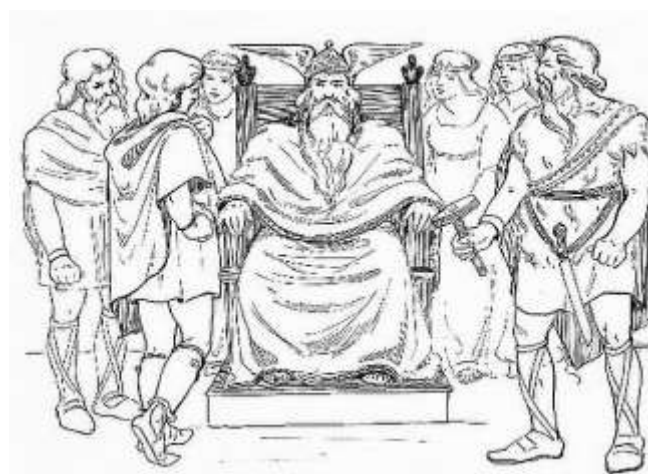
We will also be including the celebration of the Sabbats which was an important part of Norse life. The Full Moon Circles between the Sabbats will be designed to take in the energy of the moon sign and the season as our previous rituals.

Altar Set Up:

This year our altar setup will be kept simple and will include:

- Thor's Hammer - A Hammer or hammer symbol
- A wooden Blessing/Offering Bowl
- Runes
- A Sprig or Branch
- A drinking Horn or drinking vessel

Gods



We will be working with a multitude of Gods and beings this year. The God that will be the host of our Blóts will be Thor. Thor was the defender of Asgard, realm of the gods, and Midgard, the human realm, and is primarily associated with protection through great feats of arms in slaying giants.

References:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/16/Thor%2C_Loki_and_Another_God.jpg

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/The_Ash_Yggdrasil_by_Friedrich_Wilhelm_Heine.jpg

Photo of Altar by Janine Donnellan

Spheres Of Light Moon Circles



Sydney - Nowra - Canberra

**News Flash - Spheres Of Light's Moon Circles
are coming to Bangor, Sutherland Shire!
First Full Moon Circle on Friday 18th March.**

A moon circle is exactly what it sounds like; a group of likeminded people gathering in the evening to harness the potent energy of the moon. If this is something that you are interested in, Spheres Of Light conducts regular Full moon and Dark Moon Circles in the Sutherland Shire, Nowra and Canberra.

Spheres of Light is an eclectic pagan organisation whose members come together to share experiences, understandings, and teachings. We have been most fortunate over the years to experience different rituals utilising the energies from a wide variety of

pantheons and magical systems and we have all benefited and grown from these experiences.

I am pleased to advise that in 2022 we will be working with the Nordic system of paganism.

Our Full Moon are Open Circles, meaning that you are welcome to come along any time and experience a Full Moon circle with us.

Our Dark Moon Circles are more in-depth and requires commitment. To become a member of the Dark Moon Group you will be

required to regularly attend both full moon and dark moon circles.

Spheres Of Light holds regular Full & Dark Moon Circles in the Sutherland Shire, Nowra & Canberra on a Friday night closest to the date of the Full or Dark Moon.

Spheres Of Light will also be continuing our regular Full Moon zoom circles for those people who are not able to attend our normal circles.

If you would like more details about attending a full moon gathering, please send email to:

Sydney

spheresoflight.sydney@gmail.com

or phone Janine on 0408 025 268

Nowra

spheresoflight.nowra@gmail.com

Canberra

spheresoflight.canberra@gmail.com

Website:

<https://spheresoflight.com.au/SOL/>

Month	Dates for SYDNEY, NOWRA & CANBERRA
JANUARY	—
FEBRUARY	Fri 18th
MARCH	Fri 18th
APRIL	Fri 15th
MAY	Fri 13th
JUNE	Fri 10th
JULY	Fri 15th
AUGUST	Fri 12th
SEPTEMBER	Fri 9th
OCTOBER	Fri 7th
NOVEMBER	Fri 4th
DECEMBER	Fri 9th



What is a Dark Moon Circle?

The Dark Moon circle consists of a group of dedicated seekers from Spheres Of Light who are embarking upon a journey of discovery to know themselves and to experience new realities. The Dark Moon circle is held during the dark moon of each month which is a time when one can walk between the worlds, a time when one can face their shadow to find their hidden potential.

The focus of our activities is on integrating and adapting ancient teachings and shamanic techniques into our own perspective of evolutionary Witchcraft. Each member brings to this Circle their own unique skills, knowledge, and qualities, which helps to make the experience of the Circle a valuable resource of learning. It is the core Circle where we develop our Group Mind by working strongly and regularly together. The development of the Group Mind takes time, challenging work and practice to achieve, thus dedication, commitment and regular attendance is critical to the Circle's long term spiritual growth and development.

Membership

To apply for membership of the dark moon circle you will also need to be a regular attendee of our full moon circles. Since Covid there is now an option to become either a member of our face-to-face circle or a member of our Zoom circle. This year we will be studying the Norse Nine Worlds.

Further information - <https://spheresoflight.com.au/SOL/dark-moon>

Email – spheresoflight.sydney@gmail.com

The Importance of Ritual

By Janine Donnellan

Ritual has been an integral part of human life in every civilization and the rituals performed throughout time all seem to share common elements and structure. From the beginning of humankind there has existed an ancient and ongoing tradition of acknowledging sacredness which is often performed with the intent of connecting to a higher divine being in the hope of improving not only our condition in the universe, but sometimes the condition of the universe itself.

There lies within each of us a primal part that calls out to ritual, an innate programming that is equivalent to our basic vital functions like eating and breathing. For eons human beings articulated this innate awareness through art, and expression in all its forms. Ritual represents our relation to that which is infinitely larger than ourselves.

In today's environment a ritual can be many things, it can be just lighting a special candle or simply saying a mantra or a prayer to the divine in its multifarious embodiments.

There is something magical in creating your own personal ritual. It can give you a unique sense of connection to those around you as well giving you a sense of how you as an individual fit into the inter-connectiveness of the cosmos.

In times of change rituals are vital to the spiritual wellbeing of the individual and the group. The ritual prepares us to be spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically in the moment and that makes the moment sacred.

When a ritual is performed, we should all share in the process. We all have an obligation to share in the creativity and the intent of the ritual. We all have an obligation to flow with the energy and when that energy is flowing and connecting then magic happens.

The ritual being prepared should be a process in partnership with spirit. The concept of the ritual should never be based on competition or on who creates the most impressive ritual is the most enlightened. Ritual is not about the person, or its entertainment value, nor is it about complexity; the simplest ritual can be as extremely powerful when everyone is united for its highest purpose.

Ritual gives meaning to all that we do in life. When we conduct ritual regularly, we become in sync with the flow and the rhythms of the universe, including all of nature. We become aware of the divine presence within ourselves and the interplay of all the universal forces around us.

Any ritual is an opportunity for transformation. To do a ritual, you must be willing to be transformed in some way. The inner willingness is what makes the ritual come alive and have power. If you aren't willing to be changed by the ritual, don't do it."

— Starhawk

Spheres Of Light's Full Moon Circle in Leo



Photo by Janine Donnellan

Full Moon in Leo was conducted on Friday 18th February via zoom. This was the first time we conducted our first Full Moon Blót.

This was a remarkably interesting full moon that served as a bridge between the dominant energetics of the first month of 2022, and the upcoming months. The energy of this Leo moon gave us an opportunity to clean up loose ends, and to work on resolving any inherent tensions we may have been experiencing.

We commenced the Blót by honouring the directions with Thor's hammer and making the sign of the hammer in each direction, above and below.

Thor was then invoked

*Thor, Lord of the Hammer!
Lord of the Storm!
We ask for protection and removal of all evil
and unwanted entities from this ritual space!
Hail!*

On this night we called upon the Goddess Sól (Old Norse: ['so:l], "Sun or Sunna (Old High German. In Norse mythology, Sol was born

specifically to give light to the world and allow men to mark the passage of time.

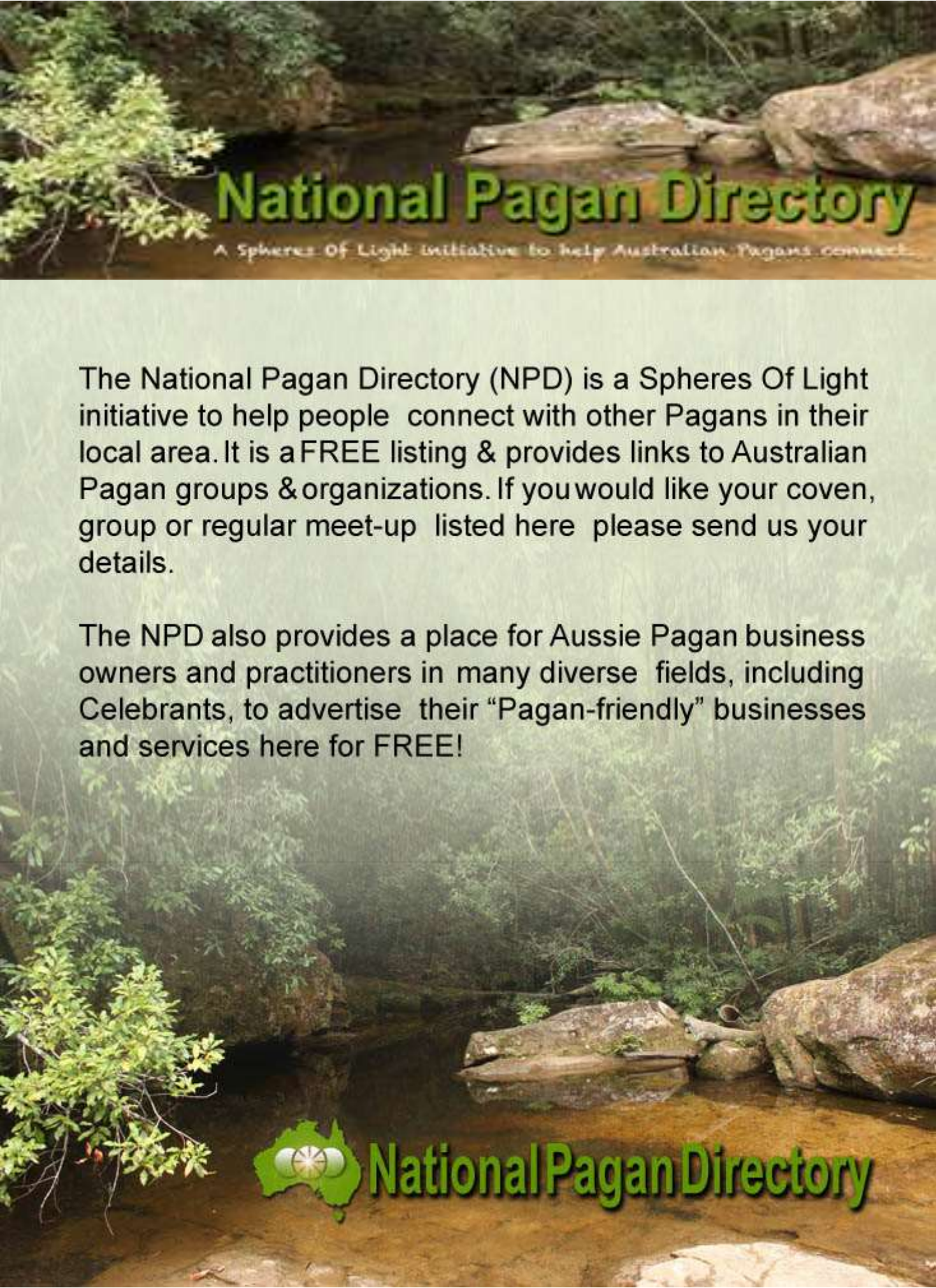
According to Norse mythology the Goddess Sól would drive her chariot of the sun across the sky from dawn each day. At night, her brother Máni who was the moon god took the same route with the moon.

Sol Invocation

*Hail the rising of the Sun,
Great Goddess Sol, Bestower of all good
things,
Help us to follow your daily rhythms,
For You are wise and Your presence blesses
us all.
Hail!*

Our activity was a discussion and a meditation on how we can harness the power of the sun to motivate and empower us to achieve our goals and ambitions.

Our offering to Sol was orange juice which was poured into the drinking horn. Some of the juice was drunk to metaphorically take in the blessings of the divine. The remaining liquid was poured into the blessing bowl and taken outside and given to the earth.



National Pagan Directory

A Spheres Of Light initiative to help Australian Pagans connect.

The National Pagan Directory (NPD) is a Spheres Of Light initiative to help people connect with other Pagans in their local area. It is a FREE listing & provides links to Australian Pagan groups & organizations. If you would like your coven, group or regular meet-up listed here please send us your details.

The NPD also provides a place for Aussie Pagan business owners and practitioners in many diverse fields, including Celebrants, to advertise their "Pagan-friendly" businesses and services here for FREE!



National Pagan Directory

Pagan Awareness Network Inc *Australia*



PAN Inc is a not-for-profit educational association with members Australia-wide. The management committee are drawn from a broad cross-section of the Pagan community.

The Association is incorporated in the state of New South Wales. It has no formal ties with any religious body. We work proactively, both within the Pagan community and as a point of contact for the general public, government, and media organisations.

PAN Inc is the Australian Pagan community's most effective networking and educational body.

Full Moon Sydney

Whether you're new to Paganism and would like to get an idea of how a circle casting works, or a long time Pagan wanting to work with others, these circles are a perfect place to meet people, get involved with your local community, learn, and have a good time.

The Pagan Awareness Network Public Full Moon Ritual is PAN's keystone event. It was

started by David Garland in March 1997, shortly before PAN was officially formed, and has been running continuously since. The rituals are simple and family friendly. Beginners are welcome.

Arrive at 8:15pm for an 8:30pm start.

Come and meet us on the Hill at Seven Hills, right near the train station.

Please see our [events page](#) for the calendar of dates. Here is a summary of dates for 2022

18 Jan
17 Feb
18 March
17 April
16 May
14 Jun
14 Jul
12 Aug
10 Sep
10 Oct
8 Nov
8 Dec

There is so much more to the Spheres Of Light's website!





SOL Illumination

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...
- 

