



CAULDRONS

Quality Pagan Supplies

www.cauldrons.co.nz February 2011

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011 which will hopefully be a great year for all. The newsletter has been on a bit of a break for a number of reasons. The festival organising made us a little too busy and when I came back to Tonga – life, well death, got in the way. Due to the loss of my mother I've not really been with it and have just sort of come out of hiding, so to speak. Cauldrons has been going on under the more than capable hands of the ever talented Debbie. Seeing as I'm more or less back onto things I've decided that the newsletter was the first place to start. I apologise for slacking off last year and will endeavour to remedy this. I'm in the process of shifting once again – Tonga isn't the best place for me, and right now it holds too many memories of my mother, so I'm off to Sydney, a place I don't associate with her. A completely new start. So if anyone knows of any law firms in Sydney looking to hire one highly capable witch.... lol. Anyway, here's to a new year, and with luck it'll be a good 'un.



Cauldron's 2010 Paganfest

If you didn't happen to hear, we had an awesome festival. The new site is indeed the best place for it. Photos have been put up on Facebook and from our feedback everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. A big thanks to all who helped out.

PaganFest 2011 wont be able to be on Labour Weekend like it was last year, because of the clash with the Rugby World Cup final. Travel over that time (even just domestically) will be financially prohibitive so we're looking at moving it into November – just for this year. As soon as we confirm dates with our venue we'll get back into the organising swing once again. I'm definitely looking forward to the next one.

More details to come...

Holistic Expo – February 19th at the Burwood Scout Hall – New Brighton Road.

The Holistic Expo, organised by Cathy, formerly of Guiding Light Connexions is back for 2011. These are monthly events, where you will find more than capable healers, readers and purveyors of spiritual gifts. Debbie will be there with the Cauldrons stall, as well as having her table set for readings. Pop along if you're free. Entry is \$2 per person and it runs from 10am to 2pm.

Body Mind Spirit Festival – February 26-27 – Addington Convention Centre.

As usual Cauldrons will have a stall at the BMS. We're in our normal spot on the back wall. Debbie will be there with a couple of helpers and in addition to being able to purchase or view our products you'll be able to get a reading from Debbie.



February Coffee Meet

Where: The Coffee House

Montreal Street opposite the Dux de Lux

When: 12pm on **Sunday** 20 February

Look for: Peacock feather on the table.

Coffee Meets

I know Debbie has been a bit busy with family and work commitments so these have fallen to the side a little. I'm in Christchurch for a week before I move over to Sydney so I've decided on a coffee meet on the weekend I'm there. It's going to be on a Sunday due to the Holistic Expo on the Saturday – as mentioned above. So come along, have a big bowl of coffee (or a

hot chocolate) and chat with us ☺

Samhain Calendar

We expected that our Samhain Calendar (running from Samhain 2010 to Samhain 2011) would be a bit confuddling for everyone. However many people have purchased it and love the concept. This year's calendar is in the process of being made – the photographer is hard at work snapping the pictures we want, so fingers crossed this will be an awesome calendar, like the last. Debbie did an awesome job on it – don't you agree? We'll keep you updated closer to the release date with details.



– Blessings Luana

Spoon Feeding

There is a saying that I'm sure everyone knows. *Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime.* While that maxim has probably been overused in its time, it just so happens to be true. It is a testament or maybe an indictment to the way the world is these days, but I find that with the wealth of information at one's fingertips people are able to type a few keywords into a search engine and get all the information they need on any given topic. The accuracy of said information or the authenticity of it can be called into question, but you should be able to find the most innocuous of information readily available.

While I'm an academic at heart and deplore some of the websites and articles available on the internet, as many are merely pandering to the masses with often misquoted, and sometimes completely ripped off information from someone else who has mangled the truth, I do believe there is a wealth of good information if you know where to look. I also believe that the internet is a great source of mundane information, like finding someone who sells X or the recipe for Y.

It's not just the internet where information is easily accessible. A multitude of books available on any subject you can think of can be obtained in most libraries. A person can look online or grab a book from a store or library and find the information. Whether it is accurate or not can be determined by checking a variety of sources.

My rant, oh yes this is a rant, today is not about the mass availability of information, nor is it on the accuracy of said resources. What I'm most disappointed with is the sheer laziness of some people. I have no problem with someone coming to me to ask a question when they cannot find the answer themselves. What I do not like is someone making the effort to ring me, when they could just as easily have looked up the information on their own. At least try first, please.

Perhaps it's the teacher in me. Perhaps it harks back to those days in a classroom where kids would ask me how to spell something and I would ask them what they thought it started with and direct them to a dictionary to try to find out for themselves. You see, it's the process of finding that information that they needed to learn. It meant that in future they were savvy in the ways of the dictionary and instead of knowing how to spell that single word, they were armed with the tools to spell several. Giving a fish; teaching to fish.

Paganism can be a bit like this too. There are some people who would rather just ask questions instead of searching for truths. I'm not saying that questions are bad – I believe the right ones need to be encouraged. However, there is a lot to be said for sitting back and expecting someone to spoon feed you the answers. If you haven't had the initiative to look for the answers to start with, to do a little research, then how

can being told the answer, completely out of context, help?

Example. Someone asked me once, what was the Witches Pyramid? I could have given the answer. *To know, to will, to dare and to keep silent.* In my mind, this answer would be inadequate. There is no explanation of the concepts. No context. The answer is readily available online or in pagan books and is usually explained in some degree. Some more adequately than others, but even a brief explanation would be better than none. I told this person that they really should research it themselves. Even if I explained the concept, they would only be getting my interpretation. One person's take on the topic. If you research an answer, you'll find many explanations and while some are not going to be helpful, the majority will lead you to an explanation that you can understand.

It's not just those kinds of questions that irk me. Many people these days are looking for the quick fix. The question type I deplore the most is, can you give me a spell to do X and Y? How is a spell, straight from a book or from someone else going to help? I could easily give a spell or the name of a book that would no doubt hold said spell (a certain tome called *The Element Encyclopaedia of 5000 Spells* comes to mind) but does this help anyone?

There are more than enough people out there, and writers who are all too eager to write and publish books that will tell you exactly how to do X, Y and Z. I'm not having a go at beginners books. These are fine, they have a place. When you're a beginner. But if you don't learn to think for yourself and do for yourself, then you'll never move beyond that beginning stage. It's something that applies to the mundane world as well as the magical one.

In a religion/tradition like Paganism, where we're all individuals, this is especially important. There is no great book or overarching set of rules that tells us how we're supposed to walk our path. It's rare that two Pagans will have the exact same beliefs, therefore the answers that may work for one practitioner may not work for another.

I don't consider it withholding some great truth from people. It's that I feel a person needs to look for the information themselves, it's a much better learning technique. I'm more than happy to help by suggesting ideas that could be formed more fully by another person, or by helping someone else write their own. I'll even help with pointing someone in the right direction to finding the answers. However, spoon feeding is not an option that I'm comfortable with.

The fun is in finding the answers out for yourself. It brings a confidence and self awareness that can never be found in a spoon. After all, *there is no spoon.*

- Blessings Luana

Clearing Out

Over the past year, I've noticed a trend of clearing out in my life. That which is no longer needed has been trimmed and that which is toxic in my life is being removed.

I first noticed it a few months ago, when I returned 2 keys that were on my key ring but that I hadn't required for a few years. One was to my ex-husband's house, and I haven't lived there for nearly 7 years, and he bought me out of it 5 years ago. The other was the staff room key for a place I stopped working at 3 years ago. Both keys had remained on my key ring, and every so often I'd look at them and think 'I really should give that back.'

I think there was some emotional attachment that the keys represented. Attachments that I no longer really have, but was unwilling on some deeper level to completely let go of. Giving up those keys was symbolic of more than finally returning something I had no more use for, it was my cutting of those ties, removing those emotional attachments that had become stagnant and were no longer achieving anything positive in my life. I returned both keys within days of each other, and I spent a few minutes looking at my key ring suddenly looking so big and empty, but feeling lighter and freer than I had for some time.

Ending friendships when they become unhealthy has been a theme for the past 10 years for me. I've never really had the knack of making friends easily, and so I tended to hold onto the ones that I did have, even when they weren't balanced or good for me. The first one took me 15 years to end, after it became unhealthy, the second was about a year, and then the third, I recognised fairly quickly and ended within months of turning bad. I thought I'd learned this one, I thought I got it quite a few years ago, but was tested on it again recently.

The big thing that has surprised me with the most recent one is the lack of sadness on my part. Normally, I would have shed a few tears and had a few regrets for the friendship that has ended, but not this time. I think the thing that changed in our friendship was me, my 'friend' didn't do anything different from what she'd been doing for years, except this time it was at my expense and I found that I wasn't willing to tolerate it. This has also been removing attachments and I've found that again I feel lighter and freer as a result.

I've been speaking to a few people, and it appears that it's not just my life that this is happening in. Many people are experiencing a purge of the unhealthy, a breaking down of illusions and a big 'dung out' of their lives.

New boundaries are being laid down, and there is a new strength in reinforcing their own personal – 'this is what I will accept and this is where I draw the line.' One friend has made the decision that she will not get back with her husband. Watching the growth as she slowly cleanses her house of all that was his and makes it over to hers has been wonderful. Another has finally been honest with herself about why she hadn't followed up on a career path that she'd always wanted, and is studying for it.

When I think about this, I see the Tower card from the Tarot. The Tower is being struck by lightning and is falling down. It represents a sudden major painful event, but one that is necessary for growth and healing – like lancing a boil to release all the poison trapped within. I feel that this fits what has been going on for at least the last few months, if not the entire year.

This makes me wonder what is coming in 2011 that I need all this space for.

- Blessings Debbie

New Stock online

www.cauldrons.co.nz

Before I left NZ I finally got to update the website with some new stock we have – making use of the fact that I was on hand to take photos. If you haven't been to the site in a while the new stock is there – here are some teasers:



Incense Burners

Though we've had these in stock and locals may have seen them already – these are new to the website. There are a number of brass burners, boats, incense boxes and towers. Many are one offs so it's always first in first served.

Books

We have a number of new book titles as well as oracles and tarot decks. While we try to keep a fairly eclectic mix of books we realise that we can't stock every book that people might want. However it doesn't mean we can't source it for you. If you've got a book in mind that we don't have – then just email us and we'll see if we can get it for you and at a decent price.



More Brass Bells

We ran out of these but we have more in stock. We also have a new spiral one which is particularly cute as well as having the triple moon bells back in stock. When I uploaded the site last we didn't have any wadjet bells in as the ones we ordered turned out to be triquetras. However Debbie has found some mixed into the other boxes so I'll get a picture of them for the website as soon as possible.

Jewellery

I've updated the Jewellery page to show what we actually have in stock. We got a lot of new brass cuffs in a pentacle and triquetra design. We have nearly sold out on these completely – with only a single pentacle cuff available. Debbie has also been working on some jewellery beading necklace and bracelet sets. When I get these photographed I'll add them for people to see.



Wall Plaques

Debbie has been working with wood and designing some new wall plaques burnt onto recycled pine. There are a number of varnished wall plaques as well as some more rough outdoor signs. I believe the Blessed Be sign might have been sold – I'll check this with Debbie and update the website accordingly.

Bags

We've got some new cute beaded tarot bags. Again these are one offs, and will generally be in a design that tickles Debbie's fancy when she's inspired. However if you have something specific you're interested in, then just email us and we'll see if we can accommodate.



If you have any questions or comments – cauldrons@cauldrons.co.nz