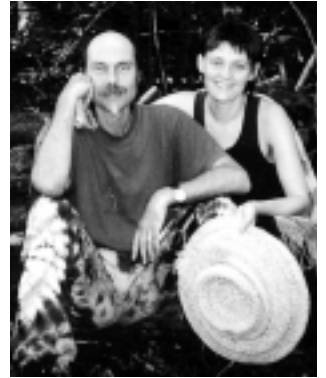




The Celtic Medicine Wheel

From the
Australian College Of Druidry



Corin & Naomi

Aside from the obvious environmental problems of severing our ties to nature, we as modern day people also cut ourselves off from our ancestral roots and traditions as well as the spiritual and nurturing influence of our Mother the Earth.

This has caused many people today to feel lost, rootless & without purpose. We become ungrounded, disorganised with low moral & self esteem, eventually leading to destructive behavioural patterns.

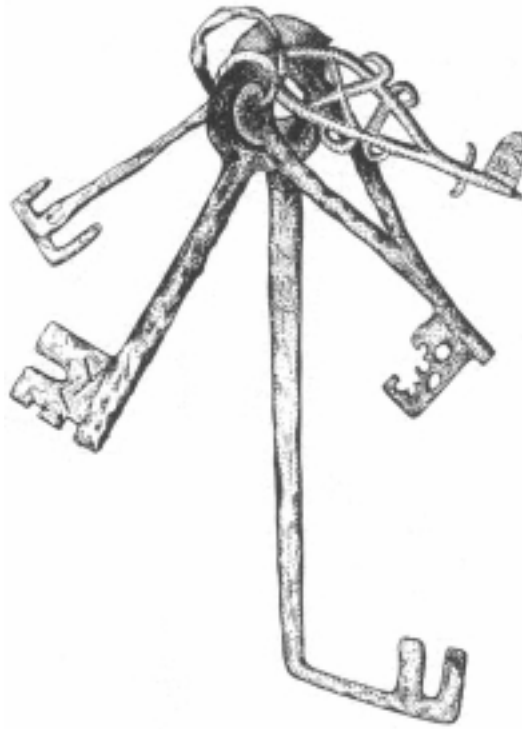
Druidry is about re-connecting to the Earth and our ancestral roots. It is from walking a path such as this that we may empower Ourselves & rediscover our native heritage and our place amongst the cosmos.

Modern day Druidry is peopled by Bards both men and woman, the Shaman & Shamanka, the Druidess and Druid. Today much of the attraction of this path is that it is inspired by the wisdom of the ancient Celt who saw men & woman as equally powerful and relevant, and that we 'human kind' needed to work within the web of nature, & had an important roll to play in the welfare and maintenance of Our Earth.

The Australian College Of Druidry (ACOD) is an ambitious project designed to bring some of the perceived features & structures used by the early Celtic Druid Colleges into the present day, and perhaps more specifically into Australia. Our aim is to create a balanced mystical & esoteric educational program, based on Celtic spiritual-

ity, utilising knowledge and teachings gleaned from Our Celtic ancestors, modern Druidry & Celtic shamanic practices.

In Our workshops we often concern ourselves with the study of the earth's natural healing energies, as well as those of our own bodies. We also work with the Irish Ogham & the Celtic Medicine Wheel, two of the Celtic Shaman's most powerful tools. The Ogham is



an ancient divination system sometimes called the Celtic tree oracle and contains the keys that can enable us to unlock the secrets of our subconscious, which help us to understand why we behave in the way we do and the hidden meanings behind synchronistic events in our lives.

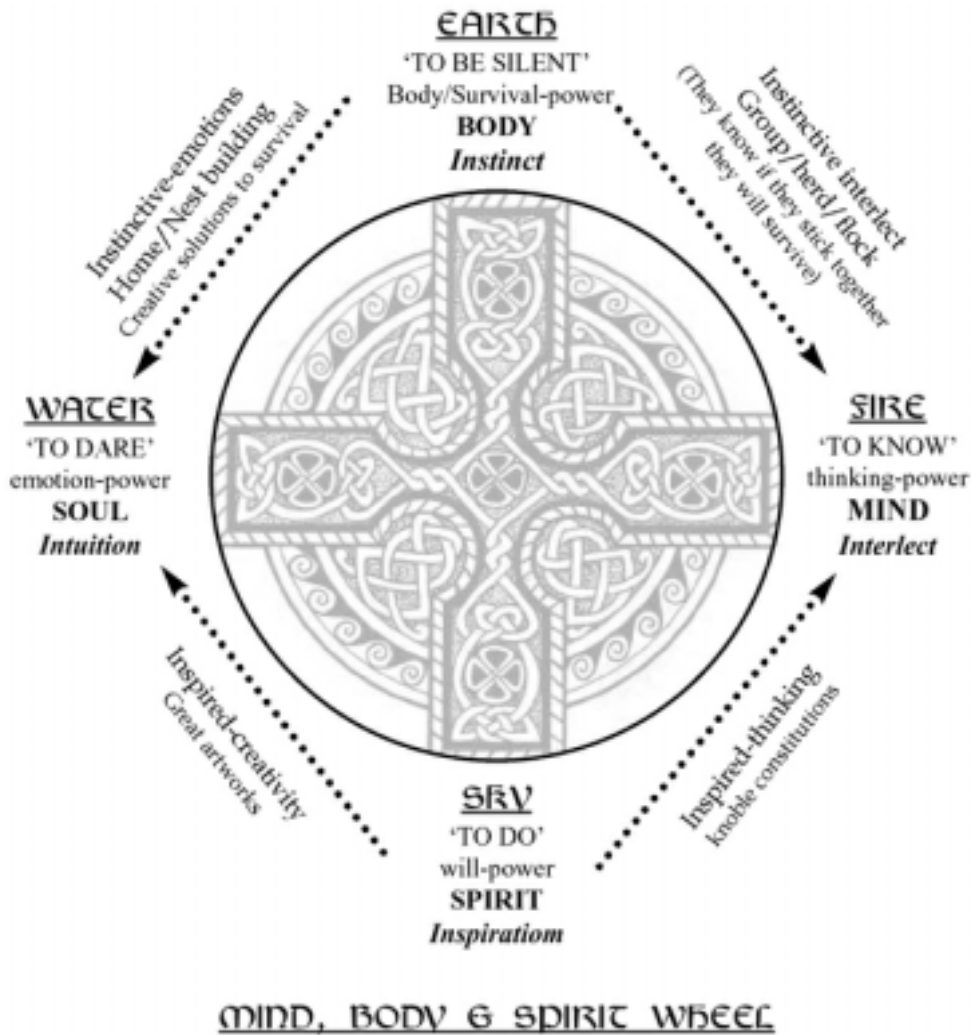
Along with acquiring knowledge, Shamanism is a very practical

path, ACOD encourages stu-

dents to develop their creativity in many ways. The druid retreats are an experiential & practical way of grounding & contacting the earth for the weekend. Imagine Making your own Medicine shield or Shamanic drum with others of like mind, in a rainforest grove, up in the fresh air & mountains of the Gold Coast Hinterland. You could be staying overnight in a Tipi, Drumming & chanting about the campfire, starlight, the smell of sweet incense - awake to morning light & rainforest bird-song. There is ample opportunity for Deeper work exploring Shamanic psychology & the Celtic Medicine Wheel.

You may be interested to learn that the Myth & legend of Celtic spirituality is the inspiration and source material for many of Our traditional fairy stories as well as the Tolkien - 'Lord Of The Rings' & 'The Hobbit', 'Harry Potter books', 'The Mists Of Avalon' & the Authorian sagas, C.S Lewis's - 'The Witch The Lion & The Wardrobe' and many others.

Much of the ancient druid wisdom has been lost but in recent years researchers such as John Matthew's, Robert Blyth and Kathy Jones, together with my own researches have shown us that many of the old poems, folk tales, ancient myths & legends, can teach us much information, which when looked at in conjunction with the Ogham and the Celtic medicine wheel, reveal many of



'western world culture' of the 21st century, a critical time in the history of the human race. It gives each of us a unique opportunity to make a difference to human development and of the planet as a whole. Humans are blessed with choice. We can sit back and enjoy the many benefits of Our consumer society, growing apathetic, bored and fat while famine and war rages across third world countries (growing ever closer to Our borders). Or we may choose to open Our eyes for a moment, soar like the hawk and see the 'big picture'. See that we can claim our personal power and live with integrity, honour and truth in our hearts

Celtic shamanism was, and still is, a living thing. It teaches us respect for the rest of creation - a theme which, in our destructive age, is of the utmost importance and it shows us new approaches to living: ways beyond the linear timelines with which we bind ourselves. Shamanism can teach us many things but above all it restores a quality to our lives which many of us have missed for a long time. This is the sense of wonder, and of an ability to pass beyond this three-dimensional world into a fourth dimension: the Otherworld, of which the Celts knew so much and of which they have left so eloquent a testimony.

By Corin Thistlewood

the pieces of the ancient jig-saw puzzle.

The emerging system is quite complex - the embodiment of the Celtic culture, including Gods, Goddesses, Herb & tree Lore, Totem animals, the year wheel of rituals, the seasons, myths and legends, an oracle and divination system. In short the ancient Irish & Welsh Druids in their wisdom

have bequeathed us a nature based psychology system woven into the foundation & fabric of western consciousness.

This is why I feel that the aforementioned films & books resonate so strongly with us because they speak to us of our ancestral roots, our heritage & our native spirituality.

It is Our Karma, Our good fortune to be born this time around in the

<p><i>Corin Thistlewood has studied Druidry & Celtic Shamanism for over 20 yrs. Member of OBOD, founder of the 'Earth Spirit Fellowship' UK (an organization dedicated to networking people on an Earth-based spiritual path), member of the Hibernian Order Of Druids, editor to two magazines, 'Earth Spirit', & the Irish mag. 'Sheela-na-Gig'. In England he formed his own Grove the 'Cat</i></p>	<p><i>Tribe,' which allowed him to experiment with Shamanic ritual, which formed the basis of Thistlewood's courses, for many years. His particular interests are working with trees, wood carving and tribal rites of passage. Thistlewood's profound interest in Earth-based spirituality took him to Ireland to study with the Druid Clan of Danu for many years, undertaking an apprenticeship in the</i></p>	<p><i>traditional way, at a Grove in the west of Ireland. "Working at Irish sacred sites such as Newgrange & Tara, I was deeply moved by the magic of this ancient land. During this time I learnt to wood carve and work with the ancient Ogham to cut talismans of power, for central to the Druidic path is the study of tree lore. Gradually I became procurer of magical tools, supplying Ireland,</i></p>	<p><i>America and Europe with hand-carved wooden staffs and other magical goods." "One day I had a vision to bring this heritage to Australia... so here I am. I hope I am worthy of the task set before me. I shall do my best" - Blessed be, Corin is now living in Australia with his family, where he has founded the Australian College of Druidry.</i></p>
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