

Druidry as we use the word today is an umbrella term which incorporates several esoteric paths or branches that utilise Celtic Spirituality as their well-spring of inspiration.

We liken it to a tree with many branches. The first branch is that of the Bard, who works with words: poetry, music, drama, songs & story telling.

Another branch is the Celtic Shaman – a healer who may utilise herbalism, tree or Bach Flower essences, shamanic journey work, or the many forms of divination i.e. Runes or the Irish Ogham. The Celtic Shaman is also traveller of the spirit realms, caller of power animals & guardian of the knowledge & psychology behind the Celtic Medicine Wheel.

On the Druid branch are the Druid-Tutors who may utilise some or all of the above into their teachings to help others activate and nurture their own individual power & creativity. A Druid-Priest may want to create ritual-drama to inspire others & activate transformation & change. He/she may also be working to create a tribe or community within their home area. A Druid-Warrior may be drawn to the study & perfection of martial arts, these individuals thrive in Celtic & medieval re-enactment groups or eco-activism.

For every branch, there are many side shoots and on those side shoots, 'the individuals', let's call them 'the leaves', are as different as the leaves on any tree, yet they are all leaves on the tree of Druidry and we can recognise them as such.

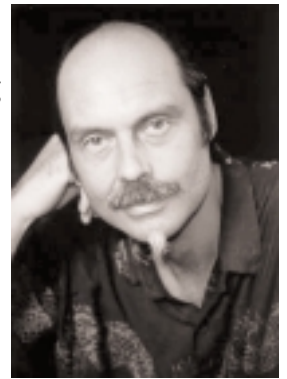
The Bards are musicians

By **Corin Thistlewood,**
founding principle of the Australian College of Druidry (ACOD)

who play from the heart, evoking the Celtic Spirit in their words; Sinead O'Connor & Luka Bloom are surely among them. We know Shakespeare was a true Celtic Bard, however you may be interested to learn that Celtic myth & legend is the inspiration and source material for many modern films & books: 'Lord Of The Rings', the 'Harry Potter books', 'The Mists Of Avalon' and 'The Lion the Witch & the Wardrobe', to name just a few.

The work of the Celtic Shaman is about re-awakening & nurturing our senses & reunification of our mind, body, soul & spirit selves. Reunification is the whole & healthy

in the traditional way. While working at Irish sacred sites such as Newgrange & Tara I was deeply moved by the magic of that ancient land. One day I had a vision to bring this Celtic heritage to Australia... so here I am.



My founding of the Australian College Of Druidry (ACOD) was the fulfillment of a vision quest. ACOD is an ambitious project designed to bring some of the perceived features & structures used by the early Celtic Druid Colleges into the present

The Way Of The Druid - ancient wisdom for today -

state; it is the gathering of the real being from beneath the layers of protective complexes.

Modern Druidry is a path embraced by both men women., who are seen as equally powerful and that we 'human kind' need to work within the web of nature, we all have an important roll to play in the welfare and maintenance of Our Earth.

Over the past 20 yrs my personal Druid path has taken me to many places, Glastonbury Tor, Stonehenge, and to a Grove in the west of Ireland.

Here I studied with the Druid Clan of Danu for many years, undertaking a Druid apprenticeship

day, creating a balanced metaphysical educational program, based on Celtic Spirituality. Students are encouraged to develop their creativity in many ways. Our workshops are interactive and practical, involving study of the earth's natural healing energies, as well as those of our own bodies. We also work with two powerful tools, the Irish Ogham & the Celtic Medicine Wheel. The Ogham is an ancient tree-based divination system which contains keys that can enable us to unlock the secrets of our subconscious.

The way of the Druid? The Australian College of Druidry encourages you to embark on a voyage of discovery. It is from walking a path such as this that we may empower Ourselves & rediscover both our native heritage and our place in today's world.

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