



The VAHAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE DUNEDIN THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2008

Issue 3

Welcome to Vahan Three for 2008.

Mid Winter Celebrations

Yule is the Norse solstice festival, the season of the sun's rebirth, as assimilated to Christmas in the Middle Ages, along with its pagan trappings: holly, ivy, pine boughs, lighted trees, wassail bowls, suckling pigs, Yule logs, carols, gifts and feasting. Some said the god of Yule was Kris Kringle, i.e. a Christ of the Orb, a new solar king. But most northern folk remember the reborn god as Frey. They said, 'Yule is celebrated in honour of Frey.'

Saturnalia was the Roman seven-day festival and celebration of mid-winter in honour of Saturn, God of Corn and Harvest. Masters feasted with slaves, who were free to do and say what they liked amongst the merrymaking and drinking. Houses were decorated, presents were given and greetings sent. In Saturnalia we can see the beginning of so many of the present Christmas customs.

Christ Mass is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The name Christmas first appeared in the 11th century in Early English as Cristes Maesse, the feast or festival of Christ. It is almost certain that Jesus Christ was born in the month of September but his birth was celebrated alongside the pagan midwinter festivals that celebrated the birth of the new sun/son - Mid winter solstice.

Matariki is the New Year celebration for Maori which begins on the first new moon after the rising of the constellation Pleiades in the eastern sky at dawn. Matariki may be read as 'eyes of god', mata meaning 'eyes' and ariki 'god'. The stars are seen as homes of the gods, a place where souls returned after death. This is an important new year festival, that generally falls in mid to late June, of feasting and celebration, the food being offered to Matariki with invocations and chanting often in lament for the dead

So it is then that we are celebrating the birth of the new seasonal year, the birth of the new sun, the birth of the new king. As such the Theosophical Society is celebrating and we have a time of feasting, a time of gift giving, a time of celebrating and greeting the new seasonal year on the eve of the 22nd of June.

May we emerge with renewed energy into the light of the New Year,
May we gather strength and fullness under the high sun,
May that which no-longer serves our need fall anyway with the fading of the sun,
May we have the time to rest securely within to contemplate our future self,

Before giving birth again to the New Year.
We wish you to be well in both body and spirit throughout this seasonal year.
Blessings to you all.

MEDITATION GROUP

Mondays 7-8pm society rooms
Margaret Van der Vis and Victor MacGill are running the meditation practice group this year. Please let Margaret or Victor know of you are interested.
Phone 477 2942 for more information.

Programme 2008

JUNE

Sunday 1st – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Sunday 1st – Merry Meet and Merry Part. Pagan Pot Luck Tea. A meeting place for those who identify with the Wiccan, Shamanic or Magic(k)al paths. Come and share a meal and company with other kindred spirits. Those wishing to learn more are welcome. And Merry Meet again

Monday 2nd – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 4th – 7.30pm Glamoury - Magic of the Celtic Green World. Glamoury is a life-affirming, holistic, magical system that will break down the barriers between you and the natural world. This system is deeply connected to natural cycles- the "Green World" of the ancient Celts and is based on truths embedded in the rich archetypes of Celtic myths.
Presentation by Phil Philpot

Friday 6th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm
Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 6th– 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 8th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 9th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Friday 13th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm
Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 13th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 15th– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 16th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 18th– 7.30pm – “**Fields of Joy**” *Every atom has a frequency, every spirit has a song, awaiting the season of the illuminated heart* charlottemarie

It has been proven that classical music has a positive effect on improving intelligence and learning capabilities.

The Ancient Spiritual practices of Sound, Chant, Music and Mantra are highly effective means of healing, elevating consciousness and activating spiritual awareness and they have been forgotten in this modern world.

I have experienced these ancient teachings and practices in vibration, healing and sound and realized they are vital components for our conscious evolution in these times of rapid change. Workshop presentation with Charlottemarie info@charlottemarie.com

Friday 20th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm

Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 20th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 22nd– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 23rd – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Friday 27th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm

Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 27th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 29th– Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 30th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

JULY

Wednesday 2nd – 7.30pm – “Being Pagan” - What does it mean to live a Pagan Spirituality and walk a Pagan path. Presentation with Tracey Crampton-Smith and Phil Philpot

Friday 4th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm

Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 4th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 6th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Sunday 6th– Merry Meet and Merry Part. Pagan Pot Luck Tea. A meeting place for those who identify with the Wiccan, Shamanic or Magic(k)al paths. Come and share a meal and company with other kindred spirits. Those wishing to learn more are welcome. And Merry Meet again.

Monday 7th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Friday 11th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm

Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 11th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 13th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 14th– 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 16th– 7.30pm – “High Magic(k), What does it mean to walk the path of the Magic(K)ian—an evening with Frater Azaka

Friday 18th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm
Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 18th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

Sunday 20th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 21st – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Friday 25th – Library Open – 11am – 5pm
Yoga – 5—6pm

Friday 25th – 7.30pm -Spiritual Cinema

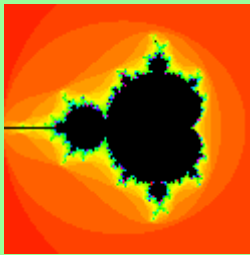
Sunday 27th – Library Open Midday – 4pm

Monday 28th – 7.00pm – 8pm Meditation

Wednesday 30th– 7.30pm – “What Witches Do” An evening with a Priestess and Priest of the Craft looking at Wiccan practice from a solitary and group perspective.

WORKSHOP SERIES

Chaos Theory and Complexity Theory



A six evening series giving a non-technical introduction to this new science, set to revolutionise how we see our world and link the worlds of science and spirituality. Prof. Stephen Hawking has said,



"The next century will be the century of complexity".

Life is the balance between order and chaos. If it is too ordered everything just becomes the same, nothing is new. If there is too much chaos nothing lasts, but when we get the balance just right, magic happens. Chaos Theory is about the hidden patterns in the chaos of life, that we can use to understand and cope with our modern world.



Complexity looks at complex systems that co-ordinate themselves to function as simple units. A human body has trillions of parts that all work together to make one human being. Science has traditionally worked by dividing what is being studied into the parts that make it up and studying them. To understand a rat you take it apart and look at all the pieces, but when we do this we cannot fully understand live rats. Complexity Theory looks at complex systems that organise themselves, from an individual person to whole societies, transport and postal systems, from clouds to flocks of birds.

Learn what tipping points, six degrees of separation and the butterfly effect are really about.

This is a whole new way of looking at life and the increasingly complex world we live in. It also links the world of science and the world of spirituality in a new dynamic way.

The first three sessions will cover Chaos Theory and the last three will cover Complexity Theory. The two can be attended separately, but within the two sections each session will build on the previous sessions. they are designed to be as interactive as possible with discussions and exercises rather than just a talk.

Wednesday Evenings at 7.30pm every two weeks at the Theosophical Society 469 Moray Place. The dates are:

25 June

9 July

23 July

6 August

20 August

3 Sept

17 Sept

For more information on Chaos and Complexity see <http://complexity.orcon.net.nz/> , phone Victor MacGill at 4565068, or email victor@vmacgill.net

