



Christine's update

What a year! The trials and tribulations of running a busy forum and team and now we are at the end of another busy year already planning events for 2008! Where does the time go?

Our [Spookspotters film preview](#) is now up on Youtube. For those of you who haven't seen it, here is the link for you to have a peek. We'll let you know the progression of the sale to a network when it happens. The book project is going well! Jazza has finished VCE and looking to get into IT Security at Deakin. I can't wait, finally foolproof security for those who continue to come to the site after being banned etc.

Finally I will be away with Jazza for January as we backpack our way around the world and through the snow dusted countries of Europe. We have planned lots of visits to haunted places and we can't wait to tell you what we found! The moderators will be in charge and GaryTheDemon and Lotsakids will be appointed as Administrators in our absence, approving all accounts etc.

Have a wonderful festive season and we will bring you all our wonderful spooky experiences when we are back in February.

Christine

DECEMBER 2007

In this issue:

Walhalla weekend away	2
Trading Post & Site news	3
Chat Schedule & team update	4
Article by Lord Daemon	5 & 6
What happened at Aradale?	7

Special points of interest:

- * Forum terms and conditions p2
- * Join in our psychometry experiment p3
- * Ongoing Tree of Life series starts p5
- * Register for the psychometry experiment p3

TEAM UPDATE

The past few months have kept Spookspotters very busy indeed. We've been to old mining towns, an abandoned psychiatric hospital, an old school, a few private residences and had a few social get-togethers as well. We were called into a private home to do a clearing/cleansing for a lady who had been harassed by something pretty nasty for quite a while. We have been invited to investigate a couple of other well known haunted private locations which we are thrilled about. We had a silent auction in Walhalla to raise money for new equipment and raised \$281! Thanks to everyone who participated and organised it. Our next 12 month calendar is nearly full already with a host of wonderful new places to investigate. Most of which have never ever been investigated before. So 2008 is shaping up to **Cont p4**

SITE NEWS:

Update your email account!

We are no longer approving free email accounts for site memberships and we require all people currently with free email accounts listed on their site membership to change them to avoid login problems.

Voice Broadcasts

Yes we are PC people not Apple people and thus have elected not to call our broadcasts PODcasts!

Check out our VB's at <http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?board=44.0>

Suggestions or Comments?

We'd love to hear your ideas and feedback. Please email your thoughts to contact@paranormal.com.au

Multiple Accounts

Please be reminded that users can only have one account per person. All duplicate accounts will be deleted without notice.

WALHALLA WEEKEND

By Lotsakids

The last weekend of September had arrived and with it the much anticipated and well planned weekend getaway to Walhalla, a tiny and very beautiful old gold mining town, hidden away in the hills a couple of hours drive eastish of Melbourne.

This little town has for the most part been beautifully restored as it must have been back in the 1850's gold rush, and is a popular place for visitors. Walhalla has a population of somewhere between 10 and 20 people living permanently in the town and surrounds...and with its colourful gold mining history, its not really surprising that there are a number of past residents who still make their presences felt from time to time. There are many stories of encounters with the past residents from both locals and visitors. This made the town the perfect choice for our weekend away. Christine, Jazza, Darren, Catseyes, Tomkat, Lotsakids, Mr Lotsakids, Sas, Mr and Mrs Sas, Lord Daemon and Mrs Daemon, Julie, Mr Julie and Ms Julie plus friend, Chainz and Mary, all descended on the little town, some of us on the friday, where we got to explore, catch up, chat, explore, chat, catch up and generally soak in the atmosphere of the place, before wandering down to the pub for a HUGE meal, one of the best pub meals I think I have ever had.

After tea, a few of us decided a trek up the hill to the cemetery was in order, while the others made their way back to the main place of accommodation, Windsor House.

Saturday saw another nice day, with a cooked breakfast to die for put on by the crew at Windsor House..all you could eat and more...the remainder of the crew arrived at varying times during the day, another visit to the cemetery...[looks much different in daylight], a train ride on the tourist train, the scenery was gorgeous, more exploring and an off road trek of about 8km along a goat track looking for the

elusive ruins of a little town said to be haunted. Christines poor car [and Christines nerves] will never be the same again...

Most of the blokes had by lunch time, headed off to the pub to gather for that yearly ritual they call the Grand Final...

We all gathered again for tea at the Miners Cafe, and again had another beautiful meal with great company, After which some of us lined up to go on the saturday evening ghost tour. Lead by a very knowledgeable guide who entwined some local history with stories both fact and legend, we walked through the town, hearing stories relating to some of the buildings and people who lived in them, then up the hill and into the mine where we were told the ghost of Fred may make himself known. He liked to touch people and push occasionally. Unfortunately it seemed Fred had a prior engagement the night we were there..and was a bit of a no show..but the mine was interesting none the less.

The tour concluded after a walk around the tram track high up on the hill overlooking the town, and we wandered back to Windsor House, so that those of us not familiar with some of the equipment that the team uses could have a look and see how things were done. The DVR and associated cameras had been set up earlier, and once everyone was organised, the rest of the evening was spent doing a few small vigils in the attic and tunnel in the house.

Sunday morning saw us all crawl out of bed bright and early....well earlyish, maybe skip the bright part...and we were again served another wonderful cooked breakfast with all the trimmings and more. It was during this breakfast when we were for the most part chatting, socialising and enjoying each others company that most of us acknowledged some loud banging and thumping coming from upstairs,...but duly ignored it when Christine said something along the lines of ..'Oh don't worry, thats just Jazza.'

DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Our Amazon Shop!

Check out the fantastic range of stuff we have in our Amazon Shop. A small percentage of all sales goes to help pay for the forum and equipment.

[Here is the link](#)

Choose from a selection of paranormal books, tarot cards, oracle cards, ghost hunting, runes, voice recorders and even night vision equipment!

PSYCHOMETRY EXPERIMENT

Following the recent success of Salt Breeze's psychometry experiment we have decided to conduct another one. 3 of our team are traveling around the world in January and will be bringing back little stones etc from various historic sites. [Read the thread](#) and let us know if you would like a parcel of stones in February when we return. We really had some wonderful results!

WALHALLA WEEKEND

An hour later, a very disgruntled Jazza emerged from upstairs claiming that he had been locked in one of the rooms and had been jumping up and down in morse code to let us know he was stuck and why hadn't we heard him?..in fact we all did, but it didn't twig with any of us that something was amiss until he was let out by Mrs Sas who happened to be passing and heard his yells for help.

We eventually composed ourselves long enough to be able to breathe again..and discovered that the door had indeed been locked, and when Christine later looked, the lock was still in place with the door open..making it impossible to close again.

Apparently doors locking and being hard to open are not unusual occurrences in Windsor house..it was just unfortunate that Jazza was on the wrong side of it, but he did provide us with some wonderful morning entertainment.

Not long after that it was time to pack up and say our goodbyes, and head off our separate ways taking with us some memories of a wonderful weekend..hopefully one of many still to come.

A big thank you to Christine for organising the weekend and to the folks at Walhalla for being such wonderful hosts during our stay.

TRADING POST

Tarot Card Bags!

We have a limited supply of embroidered tarot card bags in stock left over from find raising at Walhalla. Prices start from \$5.00...

Choose from triquetras, pentacles, dragons, fairies, phoenixes, owls plus much more.



Hand knitted homespun beanies!

Adults and kids sizes and various bargain prices.



Bracelets!

We have a variety of bracelets for sale in the trading portal from \$6 inc postage.



TEAM UPDATE CONT.

Be a very busy year for us as well with many exciting projects in the pipeline. Our calendar is already booked through until November 2008. Next year is a year of firsts once again. Most of the investigations we are conducting are in places that haven't been investigated before. Spookspotters is also working with 2 commercial entities to help develop ghost tours for their businesses! Who knows you might even get to be part of the inaugural group to test out the tour! Some of our team are going overseas and some overseas teams are coming here and we are all very excited! Stay tuned for more...

Spookspotters Team

COME CHAT!



COME CHAT!

Chat is held every Thursday night from 9.30pm. It goes for at least one hour and often longer than that! Here is the chat roster and guest chattist for the next few months. We'd love your ideas for topics and guest chattists. So please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer yourself! Here is the link

<http://www.paranormal.com.au/public/index.php?topic=1413.0>

14th December- More on Demons and just plain nasty ghosts lead by His Lordship Daemon.

21st December- The Pagan Origins of holidays. Lead by Sas

28th December- One card reading night in time for the new year. See what 2008 has in store for you. All readers welcome to read and practice!!

3rd January- Ghost Stories Night! Come along and share your favourite scary Ghost Story. Real or not! Just like being around the camp fire!

10th January- Remote Viewing experiment.

17th January- Tracing your family tree. Lead by Gremlin and Lotsakids! Ever thought about tracing your family history. Get some tips to get you started!!

24th January- Spirit Guides. Find out what they do.

31st January- Christine and Jazza return from around the world and share their ghostly and haunted experiences with you!

7th February- Sex and the paranormal lead by Christine and Catseyes

WE WANT YOU!

We want new chat topics and new guest chattists! Do you have a favourite topic you would like to lead a chat session on? You pick the topic! Let us know...

Contact us

contact@paranormal.com.au

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TREE OF LIFE

By His Lordship Daemon

This will be an introductory series to the Tree of Life and its fundamentals; starting from the basic parts of the Tree of Life into further explanations of each individual part. If anyone has any questions along the way I would encourage you to contact me via the forum and I will address them in future articles.

Part I: The Anatomy of a Tree

Kabbalah is one of the most ancient of mystical traditions, coming from Judaism. It has however grown and changed over the millennia becoming a popular Western concept for self development. Regardless of one perspective of Kabbalah they all use the same central theme, the Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life can be used or seen in several different ways. It can be seen as a tool for meditative focus, a tool representing different planes of existence, a representation of different mind sets/emotional states, a representation of the human psyche or a representation of the Universe. How it is seen depends on the observer. The one thing which does not alter is the definitions of the parts of the tree.

The Tree of Life can be broken up into 2 basic parts the spheres and the rods that connect them. The spheres are called Sephiroth (plural) or Sephirah (singular) form. These are the emanations of the divine/universe/God, and represent the different characteristics of the divine and humanity. Another view is they represent the higher mental states of a human being. The rods are simply known as paths. There are 10, or 11, Sephiroth and 22 or 24 Paths. Each Sephiroth has a name and a meaning, as does each Path.

I will in this first article concentrate on the Sephiroth and the Tree itself, not the paths. The Sephiroth are:

Kether – The Crown
Chockmah – Wisdom
Binah – Understanding
Chessed – Mercy
Geburah – Strength
Tiphareth – Beauty

Netzach – Victory
Hod – Splendour
Yesod – The Foundation
Malkuth – The Kingdom

There is also one other Sephiroth, which does and does not belong to the Tree of Life, it is sometimes called the False Sephirah. It's actual name is Da'ath, the Sephirah of Knowledge. Da'ath can be considered to be the wind in the Branches of the Tree, the sunlight which ripens the Fruit. It is that which feeds and nourishes, but is not truly part of.

The Tree of Life is divided then into four segments, known as Worlds. Important to remember is that when we look at the image of the Tree of Life we need to think of it was a tree which is growing downwards, as if suspended from the heavens (which by the mystical teachings it is). These Worlds represent different parts of the Tree of Life itself. The Worlds of the Tree of Life are different states of reality or manifestation.

The first of these which we come into is Assiah, the World of Action which is the Fruit of the Tree of life. Assiah is made up of only one Sephirah, Malkuth. This all people experience because it is the manifested world and universe. It is all we see, touch, taste, smell, hear and experience with our senses beyond the five basic. This is also the first place from which our spiritual journeys begin. For those who follow the elements, Assiah is of the element of Earth.

The second is the World of Formation, Yetzirah, which is the Branches of the Tree of Life, from which the Fruit grows. This is the step beyond the purely manifest and into the realm of the higher spirit. Yetzirah is made up from six Sephiroth, Yesod, Hod, Netzach, Tiphareth, Geburah and Chessed. When we reach beyond what we experience here and look for understanding, it is into Yetzirah that we delve. Yetzirah is of the element of Air.

The branches lead us then to the Tree itself, Briah, World of Creation. This is the firmament from where the energies flow, but not their source. Cont next page

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE TREE OF LIFE CONT.

This is the place of the highest order of spirits. Briah is made from two Sephiroth, Binah and Chokmah. Briah is of the element of Water.

At the highest point of the Tree lies the place from which all things flow, Atziluth, the Root of the Tree of Life. Atziluth is the World of Emanation, the place from where the energies flow. This is the place where reality can be seen for what it is and is the highest point of attainment on the Tree of Life. It is represented by the element of Fire.

There is a fifth World, but it does not exist as part of the Tree of Life, as it is seen as being pre-existing and is viewed as being greater than the sum of the parts. This World has no Sephirah making it, as it is the place where reality becomes what it truly is, not the illusion we accept as real.

It is the World Ain Soph Aur or Adam Kadmon, and it is the Source or Seed of the Tree of Life. Its element is Spirit. To explain this, the creation story says about how the universe and all it contains was created by the divine being. Well the divine being is the Ain Soph Aur, for it is the source of all things.

The Tree can also be divided again into three separate parts. These are known as the Three Pillars. The left hand pillar, made up of Hod, Geburah and Binah, is the Pillar of Severity and is ascribed the Female aspect. It is viewed and the power of inertia and non-action; the pause before and the rest after doing. The word Severity can be better explained as being a cessation of movement and a stopping of action. The right hand is the Pillar of Mercy and is ascribed as being the Male pillar and is the pillar of action. The Pillar of Mercy is made of the Sephiroth of Netzach, Chessed and Chokmah. A way to look at these pillars is as Yin and Yang, except that these two pillars do not oppose each other, but represent the different aspects of human nature in each of us. The unification of these pillars is the middle. The middle pillar is known as the Pillar of Harmony, the balancing force between the two others, and also representative of the unifying of each. The Pillar of Harmony (or Pillar of Balance) is made of Malkuth, Yesod, Tiphareth, and Kether.

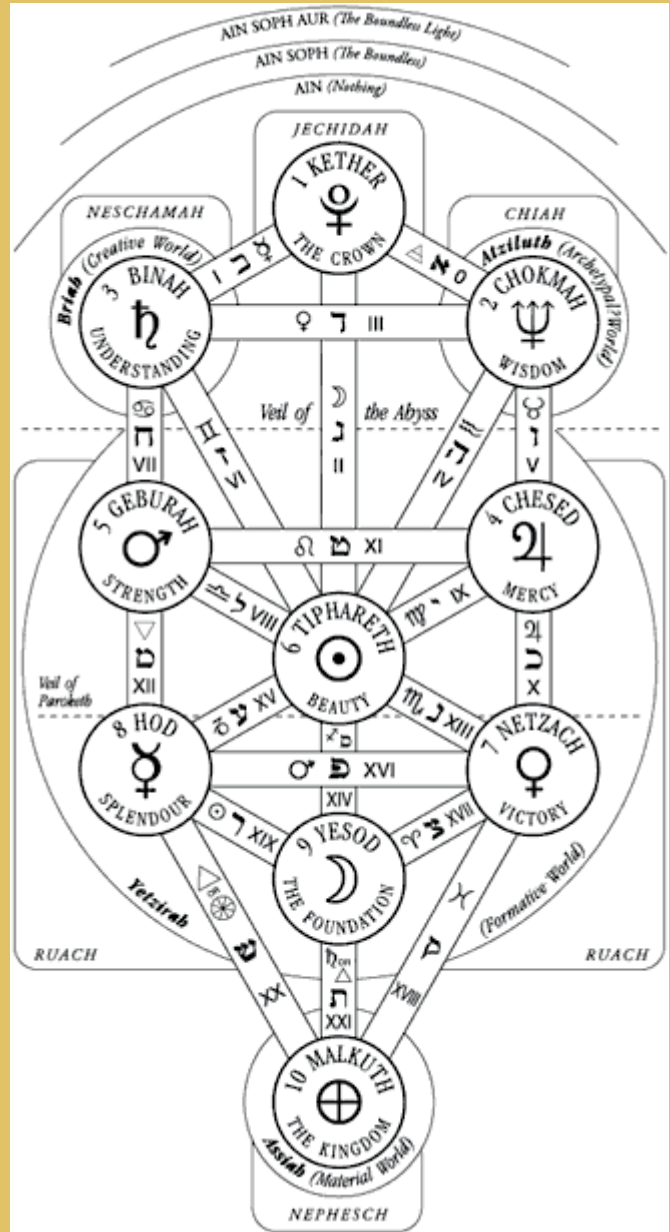


Image from Thelmapedia. www.thelmapedia.org

PART 2- NEXT NEWSLETTER

Visit our friends at: The Spell Box

Level 1 387 Little Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000

Phone 03 9670 2668 - Fax 03 9670 2308

www.spellbox.com.au



Spell Box - Witch's House

WHAT HAPPENED AT ARADALE?

By JulieD

During a late afternoon rainstorm, I drove into Ararat looking for the abandoned Aradale mental institution, I was meeting SpookSpotters, a team of paranormal investigators for an over night investigation.

I hadn't bothered with directions, I smugly thought I would find it easily as most asylums are built on hills and loom menacingly over the nearby town. Quickly realizing I had no idea where it was, I rang Christine for directions and made my way up the hill towards the enormous building, through the massive grounds of 100-odd hectares, containing around 68 buildings and parked the car.

Seeing Tomkat, he directed me to the safe room, that had been set up using an incantation of psychic protection, in the large dining area attached to the old industrial kitchen. Everyone else was exploring or setting up the DVR camera system in the men's wing.

One end of the cavernous safe room had tables, chairs and bench tops, the other had eight single beds set up dormitory style. I chose a bed, dumped my bags and headed towards a door at the end of the hall with the female toilet symbol on it.

In the alcove behind the door there were two doorways, one leading to a spiral staircase climbing to one of the Victorian towers and one to the bathroom. Every corner was full of dust and debris that had accumulated from broken windows and the wind rattling its way in.

I weaved my way around gaping holes in the rotten floorboards to the single cubicle. Lime and rust stains oozed down the inside of the toilet bowl like something had been slaughtered in it. Bursting, I quickly did what I had to do, before the creature that obviously lurked there attacked me and then went to wash my hands. Turning the tap, rusty water flowed out like blood and the pipes groaned and vibrated, as the water started to run clear, I was about to put my hands under when there was a huge bang and air in the pipe burst from the tap and sprayed dirty water all over the walls. I tentatively reached over, turned off the tap and made my retreat to the lawn outside wiping my hands in the wet grass.

The team was making their way back so we ate our picnic dinner and then took torches to explore other areas of the grounds to decide the best areas to investigate.

After exploring the forensic unit and the nurses' quarters we made our way past the swimming pool with its shallow, seething black water and through the long grass to an isolated area that had an old house style building.

In this building I was surprised at the size of the rat droppings in the empty rooms and when we found the rotting corpse of a rat as big as a large cat, I understood these were not normal city rats. Standing in the kitchen with HLD I heard a screechy noise like a demented rat behind me and having already seen the insulation from the oven dragged out and made into an eagle sized rats nest, I turned round ready for a confrontation but was relieved to find it was HLD's digital camera making the noise. After finding another rat corpse and admiring an antique desk in the otherwise empty rooms we made our way out into the rickety building next door.

It had a rotten verandah and was surrounded by cyclone safety

fencing with a sign saying 'Maintenance'. On entry, the sign did not fit the interior of the building. Although there was an area at the back where industrial cleaners had been stored, a toilet with an Aids sign hinted at another purpose. On the way back to the safe room we explored the high security female cells.

The team broke up into three groups. One team to investigate the women's hospital, the men's ward and the chapel, the other team monitored the DVR.

My team had to investigate the female ward, the administration building and the high security female cells, the only area that gave me the creeps and I couldn't wait to go back!

During the vigil in the female ward, Catseyes and HLD communicated with two entities, a male sexual attacker and a female victim. The sense of menace experienced was explained on return to the safe room, where we noticed raised red welts over one side of HLD'S face and then later I found Ararat was closed in the 90's due to sexual and physical abuse of the inmates.

The next vigil was in the administration building where most of the time was spent exploring the warren of rooms. After admiring the arched leadlight window and the antique sideboard with etched glass boasting Mental Health Australia, we set up in the reception area for a short uneventful period.

Next we went to the high security female cells. We chose to sit in the open area surrounded by the cells, rather than the common room with the peeling, molding wallpaper. Using the divining rods, Catseyes asked a few questions and the rods kept pointing to Chainz, the rods reacted in the affirmative to her question "do you like Chainz". CE passed the rods to me, the main response to my questions was for them to turn right round and point at me or to Chainz. CE quickly realized that my buttons seemed to be the point of interest. Too soon we had to return to the safe room, taking the shiny buttons and pretty boy with us.

For the next four hours I watched the DVR cameras with Tomcat. Wrapping our selves in blankets against the cold, the time passed quickly. Suddenly, out of the corner of our eye, we both caught a strobe type flash through the narrow pane of glass in the door. Using the walkie-talkie, Tomcat checked the location of everyone and no one was nearby. Strange.

Around 5 am we all headed back to the safe room and one by one, fell asleep composing a symphony of snores.

