



Christine's update

The forum has been running for more than four years now. We have tried to keep abreast of changes within the industry. We have attempted to evolve and adjust as required. Ideas change and part of that means learning to adapt both as a paranormal investigator and as a person. The universe continues to send people to the forum as teachers with something valuable to offer, as people willing to share their experiences and as people with a yearning to know more and to learn. Along the way people come and go, life takes them on their personal journeys but often they come back because this place feels like home. The people on the forum like family. How lucky we all are to be a part of this process. There are no strangers, just friends and family we have not yet met.

Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again.

Thanks everyone

Christine

MARCH 2008

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TEAM UPDATE

Gosh what a year. The team is winding down for summer break and preparing for next year already. It never seems to end and we wouldn't have it any other way. We have added two extra team members to the team. Both young and enthusiastic. So we are thrilled to bits to welcome Sam and Liam. They will start investigating with us next year although they are familiar with us and our work having had some involvement with our investigations in the past 2 years. We have also upgraded some of our remote camera monitoring equipment to reduce the number of cables we need to carry around with us each investigation. We have plans to add some better voice recording equipment to our arsenal in 2009 along with some night vision equipment. Cont. page 4



**NOVEMBER 2008
NEWSLETTER**

SITE NEWS:

**Top Paranormal.
Sites list**

Please drop in and vote
for your forum at

<http://paranormal.top-site-list.com/vote297.html>

Lets see if we can get to
Number 1! We have al-
ready climbed to number
12! Thanks for your help.

**Suggestions or
Comments?**

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

**15th January
8.30pm in
FLASHCHAT**

**Online Auction
to raise money for
team equipment.
See forum for de-
tails.**



On the Bookshelf

Book Review

Title: There's Something in the Woods
Author: Nick Redfern.

An Original Publication of ANOMALIST
BOOKS.

By Catseyes



Nick Redfern is the author of many books on the paranormal, including On the Trail of Saucer Spies, Strange Secrets, and Body Snatchers in the Desert. He is a regular contributor to numerous publication including Fortean Times, Fate, UFO Magazine, Alien Worlds, and the British Newspaper, Daily Express. He currently lives in Dallas Texas and has a wbsite www.nickredfern.com.

So what is in the woods around the English country side, you ask.....well you would be surprised!

Bigfoot.....Phantom Black Dogs.....Werewolves.....giant mystery birds.

Don't forget spooky cemeteries, crop circles and UFO's. All these combine to make Nick Redfern's English road trip an exciting, interesting and often very funny read. In this book Redfern defies all the laws of self-preservation and offers himself up as bait in the face of the unknown - to learn, if indeed, there really is something in the woods.

With chapters like The devil-Monkey....Confessions of a crop circle maker....Creatures of the crop....Terror in the Trailer....The Wolfman of paradise...Winged terrors....The rise of the Black Dogs...you are bound to be fascinated and frightened all at the same time.

I love the subject matter of this book and Redfern has a style of witting which keeps you entertained and chuckling as you are being intrigued and scared.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in cryptozoology or the paranormal.

I give it 10/10...Great Book!

Life with Julie

I scanned my pass and wheeled through the security turnstile into the factory driveway. Standing outside the maintenance department, I see Frank, the Senior Engineer a few feet away. Wordlessly, we both outstretch our arms in the style of Julie Andrews, at the top of the mountain in "The Sound of Music" and we quicken our pace towards each other. We embrace in a huge bear hug, rocking from side to side. I can't remember the start to our hugs, one day there were just there.

Behind me I hear a small "what about me", as the painter steps out of his cubby hole, work shed. With a face like a little boy, he nods when I ask "do you want one too?". During our big happy hug I hear an indignant Road

Runner, Meep Meep behind me.

I turn and see Crazy Charlie on the forklift. Everyone calls him Crazy Charlie, but I don't fall for that, I have seen the quick intelligence in his eyes and am awake up to his plan to keep people at a distance. I respect his secret and he respects my tacit knowing. "Do you want a hug too Charlie?" I ask him. He nods, another little boy. Over I go and leaning against the forklift give him a big hug. Everyone is smiling.

My work for the day is done.



Team update continued.

The work on the book progresses well and we hope it will be finished in the first half of 2009. We will let you know the details when the time comes. We wanted to thank Mary, the author writing the book for her invaluable help in writing our team reports. She has truly made life so much easier and does a wonderful job as well.

We have another online auction fund raiser coming up before the end of the year. Stay tuned for more information.



Walhalla Getaway Weekend by Merrick

It was that time of year again and this year I was determined to get my act together! So, when the first opportunity arose I booked my plane tickets. The last week of September came around rather quickly and I was off!!

This was my first real holiday away from the family in 15 years. I must say that even though I missed everyone at home, I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of my adventure!

Driving up to Walhalla, I felt a real sense of anticipation and excitement at meeting everyone for the first time, being able to put names to faces. Walhalla is such a beautiful, picturesque place. Full of history, nestled in the Baw Baw ranges in Victoria, it had 5000 residents at its peak and was the centre pioneer goldfield. Walhalla and the Mountain River region is located on the southern edge of the Victorian Alps.

I almost expected to see Heidi or hear yodelling in the distance, definitely reminiscent of that small central European country!!

Christine warned me that I might need to take extra clothing as it gets rather chilly there. So, I prepared for the worst, being a woman from the hotter state, I wasn't quite sure what to expect! Once we arrived I'm sure the Powers That Be took pity on me because everyone said it was unusually warm that weekend!

We all decided to have dinner at the pub that night as everyone was arriving at different times. Angelite, Mr Angelite and the little Angelites found us at the pub, Angelite walking right up to our table (not hard to miss with such a large group ;)) and proceeded to name each of us in turn!

Mr and Mrs Nodoubt were the envy of the table with their "Chicken Walhalla" and it looked so good I thought everyone who opted for the "Chicken Parmigiana" might have had second thoughts! There was a round of "Happy Birthday" sung and a golden opportunity for Darren to get Jazza back for having it sung to him, much to his embarrassment!!

After dinner we retired back at Tisdale Lodge and had a bit of a chin wag while we waited for JulieD to arrive. Everyone was feeling the effects of the long drive and after consuming a few beverages, only a handful made the distance when she arrived!

The next morning a few decided to try the Walhalla Goldfields Railway and others were off for an explore. I decided to stay behind and enjoy the peace and scenery and await Whispers arrival.

Once everyone returned the girls got down to business and started preparations for the night's meal. The girls in charge of the side dishes, while the boys had the manly task of cooking the meat (grunt grunt grunt!).

Tom Cat did a superb job with the cooking, making sure that everything was done perfectly, I wanted to take him home with me!! Perhaps he could give Mr Merrick barbeque tips?!

Mr Nodoubt's strawberry "Lemonade" accompanied the meal a treat plus we were honoured with the company of a local, Jim, who delighted us with a few old tunes on his harmonica and a couple of poems. He was such a lovely man, he brought tears to my eyes with all his tales.

We then settled in for the night sitting with Christine, CE, Julie and our author around the fire. The night had an unexpected twist with some very high winds which died down as soon as they arrived and a few other worldly visitors! Christine and CE started picking up some information and our author ran off to get a notepad so that she could research the information coming through.

Well I must say it was like meeting long lost family. I had a great weekend and felt sad that I had to leave you all behind. Nodoubt refused to say goodbye to me instead saying, "See you in a month's time!"

Thanks to Christine and family and to everyone else for making me feel at home. It truly was a pleasure to meet all of you.

Until next time, au revoir!

Merrick

NOVEMBER 2008
NEWSLETTER

NEWS LETTER

Back Issues
Available
for download
on the forum

Spellbox

Royal Arcade &
Little Bourke St

Now stocking

Glass by Christine

Dichroic Amulets
& pagan jewellery

spellbox.com.au



Dichroic
Wiccan
Jewellery

See Trading Portal
for details

Summer BBQ at Ballarat

The Annual Summer BBQ time is rolling around again. The last few years we've had it in October/November. This time I thought we would have it in January because by that time all those people relocating to Ballarat will be here!! So here it is:

Where? Christine's house. PM her for the address if you don't know or have it

Time? Afternoon sometime, say from 5pm or so

Date? Sat 31st January 09

BYO meat and drinks, salads provided

If you need a bed we can arrange something for you so you don't have to drive.



HELP WANTED

Spookspotters Team Vacancy Victoria

The ideal person:

Is based in Victoria/Melbourne. You are easy going, can drive to locations, willing to work as part of a team, will sign a non-disclosure agreements. You should also have technical skills either with video, audio, film editing etc.

To apply:

We want your application on video! Either video camera or webcam is fine. We want you to make it and edit it (if required) and tell us why we need you on our team. Sound difficult? Maybe...but as part of our team you will need to have some technical skills. So you'll either know how to do this or be able to work it out. Please email us the link to your video to contact@paranormal.com.au

For more information on Spookspotters Paranormal Research go to www.spookspotters.com.au

CHANGES TO CHAT!



Chat took a holiday for the months of October and November. It will resume in December on a fortnightly basis for the time being.

A lot of time and effort goes into preparing a chat session. Coming up with interesting topics, material and guest chattists isn't always easy. We have been doing chat nights successfully for more than 3 years now. So that is an enormous commitment.

It is however, an often thankless task with people arriving later than the scheduled time or a complete lack of attendance over the past few months.

The return of chat will herald some changes.

Official chat will last for one hour and will **commence at 8.30pm SHARP** and stop at 9.30pm. This relieves some of the burden on the chattist to be going all night and for the attendees to stay last their bedtime.

Please arrive prior to 8.30pm if you wish to say hello and be social with other attendees as this will no longer be taking place during the official 60 minute chat time. This makes it easier for the chat transcript to be prepared and placed up on the forum. So if you arrive after 8.30pm please don't be offended when people don't say hello and goodbye.

We are simply trying to eliminate pages of chatter that make transcripts too time consuming to prepare and post.

We have now got a faster server so flashchat should operate better.

Chat will now be held fortnightly until winter when we will review the roster and assess whether we continue fortnightly or weekly.

4th December 8.30pm Welcome back to chat, general chat with open topics

18th December 8.30pm Online one card reading night, readers welcome to pitch in. First in first read so be early.

No official chat session on New Years

15th January 8.30pm Online Auction to raise money for team, see forum for details of how to donate and how to bid.

29th January 8.30pm Ghosts lead by Christine and Catseyes

12th February 8.30pm Spirit contact techniques lead by Christine and Catseyes

26th February 8.30pm Stone tape theory lead by Merrick

GOT GHOSTS?

**SPOOKSPOTTERS
PARANORMAL RESEARCH
WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

contact@spookspotters.com.au

HEADSTONE MEANINGS PART 2

Anchor

Early Christians used the anchor as a disguised cross, and as a marker to guide the way to secret meeting places. A Christian symbol of hope, it is found as funerary symbolism in the art of the catacombs. Often set amongst rocks. It can also be an occupational symbol in sea-faring areas or the attribute of Saint Nicholas, patron saint of seamen, symbolised hope and steadfastness. An anchor with a broken chain stands for the cessation of life.

Dove

The little bird appears in both Christian (usually Catholic) and Jewish cemeteries, representing some of the same things and some different things in each. Catholics usually see the dove (which makes its first Biblical appearance in Genesis carrying an olive branch for Noah) as the Holy Spirit. Jews interpret the dove as a peace symbol. The biblical allusion to the dove also suggests a connectedness with the earth and its color, white, represents for Europeans, purity and spirituality.

Wheat

Wheat, like barley, was associated with the Egyptian cult of Osiris. The death of a grain crop is followed, after a period of stillness, by the re-sowing and germination of the seeds. Though no corpses have produced new people, tombstone carvers still employ the ear of wheat as a symbol of rebirth. Convent bakers use wheat flour to make communion wafers, making it a holy plant, of sorts, fit to grace the tombstone of a priest.



Lily

Chastity, innocence and purity. A favored funeral flower of the Victorians. Joseph is often depicted holding a lily branch to indicate that his wife Mary was a virgin. In tradition, the first lily sprang forth from the repentant tears of Eve as she went forth from Paradise. The use of lilies at funerals symbolises the restored innocence of the soul at death.

Palm

Spiritual victory, success, eternal peace, a symbol of Christ's victory of death as associated with Easter.