

ARIADNE'S THREAD GODDESS CONFERENCE

Caroline Tully reports on the Womenspirit conference at the Mount Waverley Community Centre in outer Melbourne.

A women's only, annual conference, held over the Autumn Equinox weekend, Ariadne's Thread focused upon rituals and workshops pertinent to Womanspirit, and presented a fabulous line-up of well known Goddess experts such as Thea Gaia, Red Catherine, Spider Redgold and many others, all of whom gave interesting talks and workshops.

The conference, which is organised by Avril Webb, began with an opening ritual hosted by Goddess Priestess, Anique Radiant Heart, and then led into a ceremony facilitated by Dianic Priestess, Ffiona Morgan, which also included a spiral dance led by Kim Shakti Williams.

This year's guest speaker was Dr. Patricia Rose who gave an interesting talk entitled "Grounding the Goddess in Australia", where she explained how she had discovered for herself the names of the Australian Goddesses of Fire, Water, Air and Earth, and how coming to know them could lead us closer to the Goddess in her Australian manifestation.

After lunch the workshops began: Bringing the Goddess into everyday life; Tarot of the Goddess; The Wild and Wise; with the day concluding with a candlelight Labyrinth ritual.

Sunday had more fabulous workshops, such as The Goddess Migrates to Australia; Walking with the Animals; Dianic Witchcraft; Singing with the Goddess; and Dance with the Goddess. Another highlight was the market which showcased lots of interesting art, including the work of Sharon McLeod who's work is regularly featured in *Witchcraft*, along with jewellery, herbal teas and oils, posters and books.



Leading ladies at the conference, clockwise from top, Red Catherine, Anique Radiant Heart, and Thea Gaia. Left: Sharon McLeod with some of her stunning art. Centre: The opening ritual's spiral dance.