Welcome to the Melbourne Goddess Festival!

Join us for this weekend extravaganza devoted to fun, dance, song, music, ritual and more. We’ll be celebrating and exploring our inner connection to Goddess—the Sacred Feminine within us.

For the festival organisers, Avril and Zahira, this event has been a long held dream. With a wealth of organisational experience between them, they aim to bring you an unforgettable weekend of sharing colourful ceremony, meaningful ritual and experiential workshops. There will also be a bustling market with fabulous performances to be enjoyed.

Most importantly, there will be the opportunity to meet up with like-minded women – to embrace and nourish yourself with the energy it creates. So bring your voices, your drums, your passion, your dancing shoes, your daughters / mothers / sisters and friends. Join us for an inspiring journey. No annoying touts, delayed transport or lost luggage - this is your journey to Goddess.

Eltham Community and Reception Centre

The Eltham Community and Reception Centre is the venue for the Melbourne Goddess Festival - 801 Main Road, Eltham, VIC 3095. Only a fifteen minute walk from the train station.
Meet the festival directors

**Avril Webb**

Avril Webb is very proud to have presented the very first Goddess Conferences in Australia, which began twelve years ago in Melbourne.

Avril currently co-runs her own business, 'Wee Woolly Wonders', a unique outlet for her creative inspirations.

With her theatrical background, Avril has missed the fun and excitement of creating events that bring women together to celebrate their Sacred Feminine.

The opportunity to work together with Zahira promises an extravaganza of dance, song, music and drama to excite the senses and create a truly memorable event.

**Zahira**

Zahira is a belly dance performer and teacher, specialising in the Egyptian styles. She has been belly dancing for over 20 years and is the organiser of the Tasmanian Middle Eastern Dance Festival.

She enjoys acting in amateur theatre and has written two Goddess plays.

In her own words, she’s an ‘applause junkie’.

Zahira also instructs Zumba classes and is a qualified Remedial Massage Therapist. She brings her passions for health and performing to the festival as well as extensive experience in event management.

Since January 2012, she has been running Goddess focused workshops in northern Tasmania and is very excited to be involved in the planning of the Melbourne Goddess Festival - a healing, honouring, celebration of SHE.
Timetable

*Entry to workshops is on a first-in basis. Max number of 50 for each one.

Saturday, June 20th 2015 - door opens 8:30am

9:30am – 10:45am Welcome Ritual
10:45 am – 11:00 Break
11:00am – 12:30pm Workshops
12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch. Some may set up their stalls.
1:30 – 3:00pm Workshops
3:00pm – 3:30pm Break
3:30pm – 5:00pm Workshops
5:00pm—5:30pm Group Gathering
5:30pm – 6:30pm Break

Market June 20th 2015

5:30pm – 7:00pm Workshop
6:00pm Bookings for tarot readers begin.
6:30pm – 10:00pm Market

Sunday, June 21st 2015— door opens 9:00am

Doors open 9:00am
9:20 am – 10:45am Group gathering
10:45am – 11:00am Break
11:00am – 12:30pm Workshops
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 3:00pm Workshops
3:00 – 4:15pm Winter Solstice Ritual
4:30pm Festival Closes. Safe travels home.

Goddess Bless!
Workshops 11:00am Saturday

In Your Own Skin by Charlotte Young

How fully do I inhabit my body? “In Your Own Skin” explores this question through meditation, movement, reflection and play. In a world where we ‘look’ at everything from the outside—“Does my bum look big in this?”—we have become obsessed by our own bodies, without actually inhabiting them. As women, it’s time to stop viewing our bodies through patriarchal eyes and start feeling them, breathing them, dancing them from the inside out.

About Charlotte: She is an educator and facilitator with 18 years’ experience in both classroom and workshop settings. She is also a writer, doula and shamanic midwife. It is out of this work—accompanied by her long-time love affair with dance—that her passion for body literacy has blossomed. Charlotte’s experience of being ‘with’ women, through birth, dance and transformation has offered her a unique understanding of what it means to be in a healthy relationship with the body.

The Power of Heart Centred Living with Jennifer Powell

As we grow we are so often dissuaded from following our hearts. The wisdom of the heart gets lost because we are not taught to discern the difference from its voice and those of need and desire. So this great power source that is the first to form in our embryotic bodies is never fully utilised. Perhaps the greatest sadness though comes from the fact that this profound and powerful energy is so devalued in our world. Yet right here right now, the world needs to find its heart more than any other time in history. Come and dance up a heart storm till your over blown with bliss and singing at the top of your lungs.

About Jennifer: I am an artist, arts Therapist, transpersonal Therapist, Reiki Master and Shamanic Healer and I have been facilitating Goddess workshop for both Men and Women for twenty five years. I have had numerous articles about the Goddess, creativity and Shamanic Practice published in both magazines and academic journals.

The Clay Goddesses with Ursula Dutkiewicz

Honouring the body of the earth mother and the goddess we dive deep into a guided meditation and our creative hearts. We are gifted her body in the form of a clay egg which we transform into the Goddess as she emerges through the gift of our touch and inner knowing. She who is created is yours to take home to form part of your own honouring ritual in sacred space.

About Ursula: Ursula was born in to an artistic family and one of her passions in life is sharing creative experiences with people of all ages and abilities. She has been making clay creations for over twenty five years and has developed a love for the medium, its diverse nature and the unlimited possibilities it offers as a source for creativity and connection to the Earth Mother.
Workshops 1:30pm Saturday

**Bring out the Goddess Within with Mikel Shang**

How can you, a real woman living in a modern world overflowing with pressure and demands, ever manage to get in touch with your inner Goddess? Invoke the presence of the goddesses each and every day! Using “Goddess for Life’s” 10 steps to living an authentic and satisfied life, not only will your life become more centred, but you will soon become the goddess that you've always wanted to be. Go, goddess . . . Grow!

**About Mikel:** Mikel Shang hails from the heart shaped isle of Tasmania where she has been living as, working towards and facilitating healings in the ways of the Goddess for almost 20 years. Mikel has experienced many incarnations throughout her fifty years on this planet and none so powerful as her willingness to be a conduit for the divine love and light of the Goddess.

**Sister Song with Star Woman**

Join your heart with ours as we sing, drum and share the women’s lineage songs, prayer cries and crying chants that have been passed down for countless generations and belong to all women. Learn the chants the Women sing to the Moon to control their menses and fertility cycles. We share the teachings on “Medicine Songs”, how and why they work. The “Sister Song” is the secret to the pure healing power of Women. We will be offering participants the chance to experience the healing offered by the Collective Soul Song.

**About Star Woman:** I am Mardi ‘Star Woman’: founder of the Rainbow Star Women’s Circles in Australia. I welcome you with all my heart and I look forward to meeting you. Like the Moon, and like all women, I have many faces. I am a mother, film maker, massage therapist and teacher of the women’s mysteries. Clairvoyant and healer, I am dedicated to empowering women, not only so they can help themselves, but to be the change that we all wish to see in the world.

**A Womynspirit Wave with Lynette Forest**

Invoking and dancing the five elements. A dance experience that is suitable for all ages and physical abilities. All that is required is willingness to experience women’s voices in music, to dance in a ritual and reverential experiential experience, within the sacred space of others of the Goddess community. Without talk we can move deeper into our bodies and our experience of the sacred within and around us.

**About Lynette:** Lynette Forrest has been a Priestess of the Goddess since the 1980’s. She has been Dancing, Facilitating and Creating with Earth Woman Workshops, Goddess Rising, the First Seven Sisters Festival 1990, Victorian WomynSpirit and finally Glastonbury 2013. Lynette is a Creative Arts Therapist who empowers others to be heard, seen create and to live their dreams.
Bring a preloved bra to the Melbourne Goddess Festival

As well as striving to provide a fun, educational, inspiring event, the Melbourne Goddess Festival wishes to provide an opportunity for attendees to help other women—and sometimes something very simple can make a huge difference in another person’s life.

The Melbourne Goddess Festival is proud to be assisting Uplift Project by collecting bras. Bring your bra (new or preloved) on the Saturday morning, to be included in the opening ritual collection. Items will be boxed up and donated to Uplift after the festival ends.

What is Uplift Project?

For women in disadvantaged communities a bra is often unobtainable or unaffordable. Uplift Project collects new and second hand bras and sends them wherever they receive requests. Donations of new underwear are also accepted. Find out more via www.upliftbras.org
Workshops 3:30pm Saturday

Maiden, Mother, Crone—Moving in her Light with Shekhinah
Do you know that in many cultures everyone dances - that it would be ridiculous to think that someone wouldn’t dance because they were of certain age, shape or size etc. Dance expresses us, frees us and bonds us with the energies of our souls. Shekhinah will encourage you to find your own authentic movement and physical expression. Then an exploration of how your body prefers to move to music. Shekhinah will also teach some Egyptian dance moves which are simple and accessible no matter what your age, shape or size. We will focus on how you can use these simple techniques to enhance your connection with, and appreciation of your own body. Bring something beautiful to tie around your hips and any other things (as many as you can carry) with which you would like to adorn your body. Wear loose comfortable clothing.

About Shekhinah: Shekhinah is principal of the Awalim School of Middle Eastern Dance and Percussion. She teaches Middle Eastern dance and percussion classes and conducts workshops at her studio and at festivals. ‘My work is about fanning the flames of the sacred feminine. When we honour this, we enable ourselves to take up the values of diversity, spontaneity, compassion, beauty and self-empowerment.’

Waters of her Living Womb with Lindy Spanger
The Waters of her living womb is a sanctuary for woman to gather and tell their stories and to sing their songs of their first menarche. As the woman before us used to gather in the Red Tent to honour their moon cycle. This is a story not often told yet a story that needs to be heard. Come break the taboos and connect with the feminine in a nurturing replenishing environment. Do you hear her calling, can you hear the beating of her heart. Come sit, recline and dance as you tell your story.

About Lindy: Lindy has extensive experience running women’s groups such as The Natural Parenting group St. Kilda and Ritual groups for women. As a Soul Centred Psychotherapist Lindy draws on the rich terrain of myth and ritual, as well as dream work and energy psychology to inform her in her work. This allows for a deep and rich experience for the client. Lindy is currently working in private practice and running Red Tent workshops, supporting women through their different rites of passage.

Creating Drama in Ritual with Clare Tucker and Zahira
Come and explore the use of drama in ritual. No acting experience necessary—just a desire to develop your relationship with fundamental aspects of ritual, leading to a richer, magickal experience. We’ll experiment with voice, movement, use of props, expressing the elements and more. Suitable for those who lead group rituals and for solitary practitioners.

About Zahira and Clare: Zahira is one of the Melbourne Goddess Festival organisers and her info can be seen on page 2. Clare is a Transpersonal Counsellor with a background and foreground in Drama. She is passionate about the use drama for the purpose of personal growth, spiritual development and also for social change. Clare is dedicated to filling the present and future with joy and play.
Goddess Singer Lindie–Lila

You’ll hear Lindie-Lila’s CDs at the Melbourne Goddess Festival and Goddess Market as they will be played for background music.

To find out more about her, go to www.lindielila.com
Sacred Music and Dance: An Herstory with Chris Sitka
Many thousands of years ago people began performing sacred dance, music and song in honour of the Ancient Mother Goddess. Let's look at some surviving archaeological images of these traditional ceremonial practices. I will present from my own European Indigenous culture and also what I have learned, in practice, from the Indigenous women elders of Australia about how their long lasting traditions relate to my ancestral origins. Applying this knowledge to our current practices can deepen their resonance.

About Chris: Chris has been researching, writing about and presenting workshops, slide shows and talks on the Ancient European Goddess Cultures since the early 1990s. She enjoys demonstrating that traditions from her own European ancestry are based on authentic archaeological evidence of long lived sacred practices. She has also worked closely with Aboriginal women Elders from the Western Desert and participated, by invitation, in many women's traditional ceremonies with them.

Shakti Dance- Embodying the Divine Feminine with Sarah
We will explore our relationship to our bodies, our self and the Feminine. We will draw on the sacred elements, the chakras and our own lived experience to play, explore and express our embodied selves. We will connect with the intelligence of the body, awakening to the “love in the body” through conscious movement and dance, reflection and sharing.

About Sarah: Sarah Miller is founder of Embodiments Dance, a Shamanic Midwife and frame drummer. She creates safe and sacred spaces for women to reconnect to their bodies and the body of this earth through movement, dance and drumming. She is a community activist, storyteller, eco poet and gardener.

WomynSpirit Sacred Dance with Pauline and Bev
This workshop is an opportunity to come together to celebrate movement and the Sacred Feminine in a safe sacred space. We will learn dances specifically created to honour Goddess. The dances are simple, yet deeply symbolic. With one dance, we set sacred space and honour the ancient Sumerian Goddess Inanna in her aspects of Love Goddess, Warrior Goddess, Wise One, Nurturing Mother, That from which we emerge and That to which we return. Our second dance will be a celebration of Demeter The Mother, and through our relationship to Her, enter into deeper relationship with the Seasonal Cycles of the Year.

About Pauline and Bev: Pauline and Bev have been doing WomynSpirit Dances together for about 20 years, and are both regular participants in the monthly WomynSpirit Dances held in inner Melbourne. Bev calls herself a Priestess of the Mysteries and is a student of the Kabala with Evelynne Joffe. Pauline has been involved in community pagan retreats, and more recently with Reclaiming WitchCamps. They both deeply value the experience of Sacred that participation in the dances gives.
Workshops 1:30pm Sunday

Discover your Divine Voice with Denise Davis
Join Denise for an intro to sound healing and its benefits. Learn easy vocal techniques to uncover your own unique divine sound. Harmonic singing has been used for centuries to balance the body and calm the mind. The human voice is the most effective instrument for self transformation and healing. You’ will also be immersed in a sound journey with voice and an Egyptian Crystal Bowl.

About Denise: Denise has been a power of sound practitioner for the past 17 years. Denise has run harmonic singing workshops privately and at Adult Education and is passionate about sharing the healing and transformational qualities in discovering our natural voice. Denise also conducts sound meditations with voice and her Egyptian crystal singing bowl and individual sound journeys on a monochord sound bed.

Create Thy Altar with Diana Mattea
Create thy Garden is an interactive learning space about garden basics. Some topics we’ll discuss are garden maintenance, plant cycles, creating an altar or personal space and acknowledging the importance of caring for Gaia. All participants are encouraged to ask questions. We will interact as a group, sharing ideas and current environmental concerns. Bring a pen.

About Diana: Diana is a qualified horticulturist. All her life she’s been connected to plants, nature and the belief in elemental presence. We are all connected to the one life source. Diana delivers presentations to garden groups, primarily on the topics of companion planting and garden basics. Diana’s work is complemented with published garden articles in the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. She is available for workshop facilitation.

Wild Woman Within with Sequoia Krop
Who is the Wild Woman? Do you know her? Do you dance with her? Do you allow her into your life? Join in a circle with your sisters and explore your feelings and ideas about wildness and how that looks in your life. Together we will create ritual, dance the wildness through our bodies and create ecstatic poetry with each other as we see our wildness and our beauty through the eyes of our sisters.

About Sequoia: Sequoia is a Shamanic midwife, a witch, a healer, a doula and a mother. She works with women in all of their life stages running workshops, women’s circles, rituals, personal healing sessions and supports women in their births. She is an apprentice with the School of Shamanic Midwifery and a Blood Sister of Red Tent Dreaming.
Creating Magickal Body Pamper Products with Felicity Chapman

Enjoy a fun presentation on discovering how to use the gentle, nourishing body care ingredients masquerading as food in the kitchen pantry and fridge. We will re-awaken to the forgotten wisdom of our goddess ancestors through creating safe body pampering products for soaking, cleansing and massaging your skin. Pampering your skin is one of the most ancient and reverent ways of acknowledging and honouring your body whilst connecting with the sacred feminine within.

About Felicity: Felicity is a hereditary alchemist who has honed her gift through formal study, extensive reading and many years of practical experience and draws upon her affinity with the natural world around her. Felicity is happiest creating vibrational essences to incorporate into healing homeopathic drops and sprays and making beautiful Rainbow Goddess body pampering products to nurture body, soul and mind.

Timetable for Goddess Market

5:30pm - 7:00pm Creating Magickal Body Pamper Products workshop (see above).

6:00 pm- Tarot Readers open. Festival attendees can make their bookings during the day.

6:30 pm - Stalls open. Check out the many Goddess treasures for sale. If you would like to book a stall, only $45, email Zahira through melbournegoddessfestival@yahoo.com.au

7:30pm - Performances start. The Melbourne Goddess Festival encourages you to share your talents. Poetry, singing, dancing, whatever it is you do, we would be honoured to have you share it. A programme of performances will be available closer to the weekend.

10:00pm—Market ends.
Goddess Market - Saturday June 20, 2015
6:30pm to 10:00pm

Entry: Adult - $10 / 17 years and under - gold coin donation
Performers are invited to share their dances / singing / poetry etc. Whatever it is you do, we would be honoured to have you share your projects with us. Goddess businesses / hobbyists are also invited to sell their treasures. Items can be preloved or new.

Bohorainbo / A&K Embroideryart: Crystals, jewellery, beads, handcrafted wands, and dream catchers. Beautiful Goddess treasures and clothing.

Mikel Shang: Card readings, oils, personal sprays, vibrational essences, books, jewellery, pendulums, crystals and healings.

Rainbow Goddess: Rainbow Goddess body pampering products including body sprays, body creams, pulse point oils, skin cleansing powders and bath salts etc

Ursula Dutkiewicz Ceramic Artist
Unique clay creations. Goddesses, intention stones and ceremonial plates.

Gaia’s Garden
Books, handmade jewellery, felted creations and information on Gaia’s Garden events.

Miranda Rudegeair: Flash tats.

Roxanne Bodsworth: Readings and books.

Clementina McCrae: Tarot Readings.
**Wee Woolly Wonders:** All things woolly. From needle felted wool sculpture Goddess figures to wonderful, colourful Winter knitwear!

**Jasmine Shanti:** Fifth Avenue Collection. Fashion jewellery in dazzling styles. Ask Jasmine about a jewellery demonstration in your home.

**Living Goddess:**
Assorted gifts and treasures—jewellery, hip scarves, head dresses and more.

**Gardens Aquilani**
Beautiful plants and handmade items created with love. Ask Diana about a horticulture talk for your interest group.

**Art of Sharon McLeod**
Prints, cards and pendants. Tarot and oracle cards illustrated by Sharon.

**Louise Humphreys:** Goddess Spirit Dolls and Goddess related products.

**Bliss and Harmony**
Crystals, Goddess sprays, wish bags, angel essences, sculptures and hand made jewellery.

**To enquire about performing or selling at the market** contact Zahira via melbournegoddessfestival@yahoo.com.au Stalls are only $45. A programme listing all sellers and performers will be available closer to the festival.
The Red Tent Gathering is a sanctuary for women, a place of nurturing and nourishment for the soul.

The Red Tent is a resting place for women of all ages. Come sit, rest and be heard as you tell your story. Being in the Red Tent offers you a time and a place to re connect to yourself in a gentle yet deep way.

Join us as we honour our cycles and keep the deep feminine wisdom alive!!

Lindy Spanger: Soul Centred Psychotherapist and counsellor. Member of red tent in every neighbourhood.

Contact Lindy Spanger: 0413054378
Email: lindy@dreamengine.com.au
www.facebook.com/RedTentMelbourne
What to bring to the festival

- Bottle of water—there is a kitchen where you will be able to fill it up during the day.
- Cushion (optional).
- Drum / rattle / finger cymbals etc for the rituals (optional)
- Mug—there will be a self serve coffee/tea station. So that we can avoid using styrofoam cups and creating waste, please bring your own mug.
- Lunch—or you can walk to the shops which are close by. If you’re attending on the Saturday and plan to stay on for the Goddess Market, you may also like to bring something for your dinner.
- Suitable footwear if you plan on attending any of the dance classes.
- An old bra you no longer need, to donate to Upliftbras on Saturday morning (optional).
- A small gift for the Sunday ritual (no more than $10 value). Can be handmade.
- Your enthusiasm and a sense of adventure.

The School of Shamanic Midwifery and the Red Tent will be at the Melbourne Goddess Festival all weekend.

Yoga

Strength  Flexibility  Balance  Relaxation

Saturday 9am
75min $15
Robinia Natural Health
28 Albion St, Essendon

Contact Pauline 0421 828 742
yoga@oportetvivere.com

Suitable for people of all levels of fitness and flexibility

Wear comfortable clothes that you can move in. Please refrain from eating in the hour before class.
Getting to the Festival

**Train:** the Eltham Community and Reception centre is less than a kilometre from the Eltham train station. For train times, visit [ptv.vic.gov.au/stop/view/19987](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/stop/view/19987)

**Car:** if you plan on driving to the festival, there is off-street parking at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre for up to eighty cars.

Accommodation

- Eltham Gateway enquiries@elthamgateway.com.au
- Eltham Motor Inn www.elthammotorinn.com.au
- The Eltham Garden Retreat (03) 9439 9010
- Cantala Bed and Breakfast www.cantalabedandbreakfast.com.au
- Eltham South Lodge (03) 9439 4933
- Diamond Creek B&B (6km from Eltham) joanne@accommodationdiamondcreek.com.au
- Crystal Brook Tourist Park (Doncaster East) info@cbtp.com.au

Looking for someone to car pool with or share accommodation? Visit the Melbourne Goddess Festival Facebook page to connect with other festival goers and participate in festival conversations. [www.facebook.com/melbournegoddessfestival](http://www.facebook.com/melbournegoddessfestival)
Mikel Shang - Angel Psychic/Medium

Mikel Shang is a creator and teacher, a conjurer of alchemy, a gifted psychic and renovator and rejuvenator of life experiences. She strives to assist those who are seeking greater clarity and purpose.

Mikel is available for private sessions, festivals, expos, group talks and women’s events.

She embraces many forms of energy to facilitate a sacred space where you can release, surrender and let go of blocks, fears and obstacles that are impeding your life.

Ph 0407 846 306 and ask about Goddess for Life products.

Embrace the power that is you! Embrace the Goddess that is you! Learn how to incorporate these qualities into your life right now and watch yourself transform from the inside out!

www.facebook.com/mikelshangangelspsychicmedium
Registration Form, MGF 2015 — Only 150 spots available!

Name: 
Address: 

Email: 
Phone: 

Festival fees are non-refundable. If you sell your spot to someone else, please let us know to avoid confusion at the festival. Tick applicable:

Both days (June 20 /21 2015) - adult: $225 □  or  $190 if paid by Mar 28th, 2015 □ 
Free entry to the market is included.

Both days (June 20 /21 2015) - teenager: $170 □  
No earlybird discount. Free entry to the market is included.

Saturday only (June 20 2015): $160 □  or  $145 if paid by Mar 28th, 2015 □ 
Enter to market included.

Sunday only (June 21 2015): $130 □  or  $115 if paid by Mar 28th, 2015 □

Goddess Market Entry (June 20 2015): $10 □  x ___ (qty)

I would like to perform at the Goddess Market. Please contact me. □

I would like to sell at the Goddess Market. Please send me the Vendors Kit. □

I would like to pay by: Paypal □  Bank Transfer □  Cheque / Money Order □
An email with payment details will be sent to those choosing to pay by Paypal or Bank Transfer.

Email the form to: melbournegoddessfestival@yahoo.com.au
Or post to Melbourne Goddess Festival, PO Box 239, Exeter, Tas 7275
Please make cheque / money order out to Zahira’s Belly Dance Bazaar.

All payments must be received by May 21st, 2015.
Gaia’s Garden offers celebration of the eight sabbats of the Wheel of the Year, comprising three activities for women: Attend the Knowing Goddess Forum to share in deep discussion of key spiritual themes; then in Introduction to Ritual, held in the hour prior to the sabbat ritual, learn about various aspects of ritual; and finally share in a ritual event in the evening. Attend all or any of the three parts of the day.

Gaia’s Garden offers Goddess Tours both overseas to Turkey, cradle of Neolithic Goddess belief; and within Australia. We are developing Australian Goddess tours, focusing on key natural sites of significant sacred interest to Australian women, where we can experience Goddess in the land.

Also in development – a seminar series based on the thea Gaia Reading Room resources, a comprehensive library of Goddess literature available for consultation and loan.

Sacred Drama - Explore mask-work; embodiment; the ritual/drama nexus; script work and improvisation. Fun, creative – if you are a women who has ever harboured an interest in acting, or are experienced and want to explore a new dimension, contact us.

To express interest or to follow developments visit: www.gaiasgarden.com.au email: tricia.gaiasgarden@gmail.com or call: 0407336373