

Southern Star

Member Newsletter

www.faasa.com.au

Cancer Edition 2013

Musings from the President's corner

It's lovely to get away, but it's lovely to come home again! I spent the first part of this month in Darwin where my husband and I had a great time doing 'top end' things - swimming in waterholes, watching crocodiles, catching mud crabs and barramundi (him, not me) and enjoying the markets, galleries and museums. The temperature was around 32 during the day and 23 at night. Quite delicious!

Your Committee Needs You!

We need people to help make our FAA happen! All we ask is 2 hours a month, before the members meeting on the first Saturday. You don't need to be a great astrologer, you just need a desire to help.

For more information contact Cate Whelan or any committee member - details on back page.

Back here in Adelaide, it's cold and wet, but I have my fire going and I've settled snugly back into winter. My main regret is missing Vivien Lowe's talk on Sedna and the evolving solar system, but her incredible notes are now up on the FAASA website, so, although I missed the presentation I can access all the information.

I'm really looking forward to Alice Portman's Workshop on July 6. Genetic Astrology – what could be more fascinating! We all want to know where we've come from and what we've passed on to our descendants, and Alice's research over many years has revealed some reliable ways of determining this. So dig out your family charts and come along! The workshop starts at 10 am, and morning and afternoon tea are supplied. Your investment of \$65 is worth every penny. (*cont. page 2*)

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What's On

...

6 July Saturday Full Day Workshop
Genetic Astrology
ALICE PORTMAN

3 August, Saturday
The Nodes
KRIS SVENDSON

7 September, Saturday
The Missing Link – Chinese and Western Astrology
PETER WHITEWOOD

5 October, Saturday
AGM - Speaker TBA



Enjoy the rain, avoid the wind and delight in
the winter sunshine.

May love and laughter light your days

Cate



Editor's Note

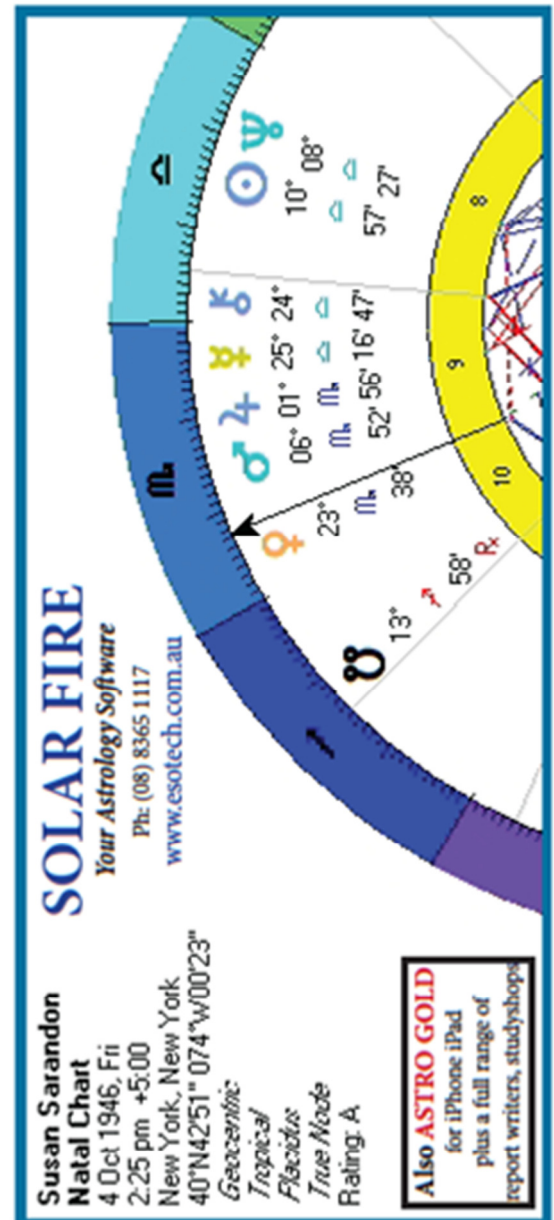
Wow, we're already halfway through the year and already my third edition of the newsletter as the new Editor. Where does the time go? Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and stellar contribution of Cherrie Barron, the outgoing Editor. I have really enjoyed the high quality, professional look of the newsletter produced by Cherrie. Secondly, thank you to those who have extended me a warm welcome.

In my first edition as Editor, you will have noticed a somewhat simpler look to the newsletter – this is due purely to a lack of publishing software on my behalf. I do however hope you are enjoying the new layout. As this is the third edition, hopefully by now you have all adapted to the new way the newsletter is circulated. Don't forget the newsletter is always available for direct download from the [FAA-SA website](http://www.faa-sa.com.au).

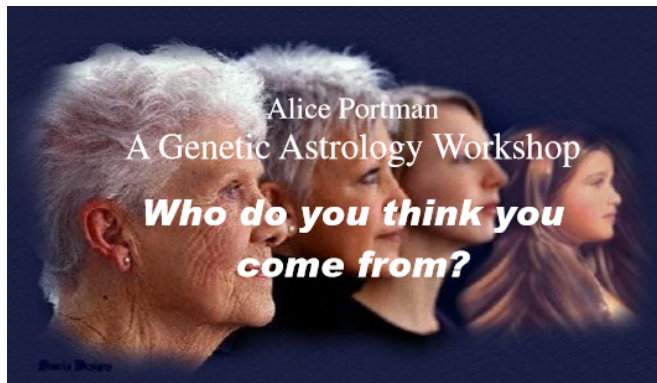
Finally, I would like to put out a shout for contributions from our members. Never written an article before? Why not give it a go. It doesn't need to be complex. Simply pick a topic you are passionate about and see where it takes you!

Ann Collins

Editor



Next Meeting: July Workshop



It is both enthralling and enlightening to discover what your children have inherited from you and what you have inherited from your parents and grandparents. You can trace connections to your ancestors back for several generations and see why certain ancestors have a bigger impact on you than others.

Alice has discovered techniques that are amazingly accurate in showing



Alice Portman

I started officially studying astrology with Bonnie Matthes in late 1970, but had taught myself to calculate and read charts in early 1970.

Over the years my clients have asked me to cover just about everything! Fertility, Conception, Birth, multiple births, Life, Health, Sexuality, Death, Love, Hate, Relationships of all kinds, Marriage, Migration and relocation, Pets, Business and work, Spiritual, Magical etc. I have specialised in all these areas at different times in my astrological life and have had clients from almost every country in the world. Even though I am now semi-retired, I still have clients in a number of countries.

You can see articles on areas of special interest to me at my website: <http://aliceportman.com>

astrologically what genetic material you have inherited from which ancestor, and what material you have passed on.

Amongst other techniques she will cover: Planet-sign-house connections in the generations of a family Duad charts and duad degree connections. Age Harmonics and how effective these are in determining times of conception and birth as well as inter-family connections. Alice will use the British Royal Family as examples, but to make this personally interesting it would be lovely to have the charts of three generations of a family belonging to participants in this workshop. She will need to know if the births were natural or medically assisted.

Saturday July 6, 10 am – 4 pm
TS Rooms, 310 South Tce Adelaide
Morning and afternoon tea provided

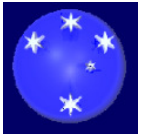
Earlybird bookings by 6 June:	\$55	members after 6 June:	\$65
	\$50 concession		\$60
	\$65 non-members		\$75

For more information, contact Cate Whelan, phone 0407 184474, email president@faasa.com.au, www.faasa.com.au

To book, send cheque made out to FAASA Inc to PO Box 7443, Hutt Street Adelaide, 5000

or

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The Solstices

By
Mari Garcia

Twice a year, the Earth experiences the phenomenon of the shortest and the longest days as the Sun passes at the extreme northern and southerly points. These periods have been the subject of celebrations, rituals and folklore for millennia: Candles are lit, bonfires tended, feasts held and special foods eaten. Sometimes the origins of many of the rituals and celebrations have been lost in the mists of time but regardless of culture, civilisation or era, what is continuously celebrated, even in our post-modern age, is the celestial panorama that activates the seasons and which has set the pace of life on Earth for millions of years.

What then is this celestial phenomena that is so intrinsic to our life here on Earth? The first thing to understand is that there are two periods, known as solstices. The word solstice is from the Latin *sol*, meaning Sun and *sister*, meaning still. Hence the solstice is the point at which the Sun seems to 'stand still'.

Last month we experienced the June solstice which is known as the *summer solstice* in the northern hemisphere, and we know it as the *winter solstice* in the southern hemisphere. The date varies between 20th and 22nd June, depending on the year. The reason for this variation is mainly due to the calendar system – most western countries use the Gregorian calendar, which has 365 days in a year, or 366 days in a leap year. As

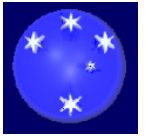
for the tropical year, it is approximately 365.242199 days, but varies from year to year because of the influence of other planets.¹ This is the length of time that the Sun takes to return to the same position in the cycle of seasons, as seen from Earth. The orbit the Earth around the Sun as well as its rotation on its axis, such as the “wobble” in the Earth's axis (precession), also contributes to the changing solstice dates.

A solstice on 22nd June will not occur until 22nd June 2203 and the last time we had one was 22nd June 1971. This year the June solstice occurred on 21st June 2013 at 5:04 am GMT (2:34 pm ACST).

The June solstice occurs when the Sun is furthest point from the equator when it reaches its northernmost point. It is also known as the northern solstice because it occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer in the northern hemisphere. The June solstice has the longest hours of daylight for those living north of the equator. People living or travelling north of the Arctic Circle can see the “midnight sun”, as the Sun remains visible throughout the night.

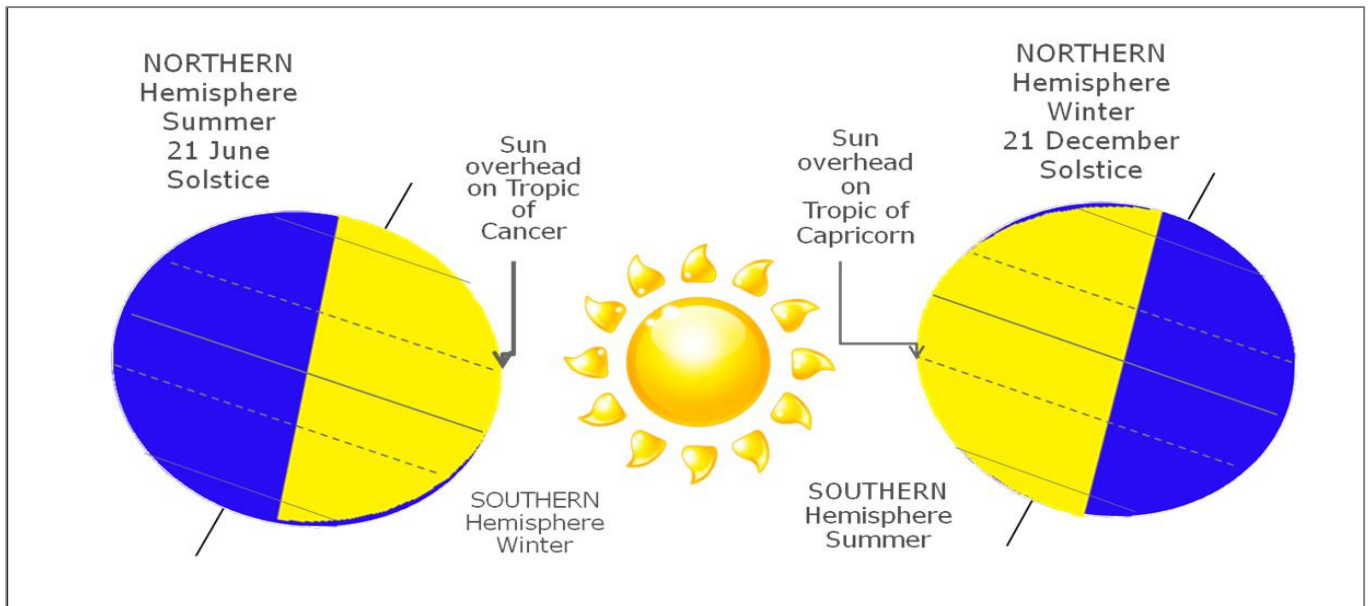
In the southern hemisphere, the June solstice marks the shortest day of the year, as the Sun sits at its furthest point and for those living or

¹ Time and Date sourced at <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/december-solstice.html>



travelling south of the Antarctic Circle, the Sun is not seen during this time of the year.

for weddings, when food was abundant, the weather was fair for travelling and the length of the days ensured that both work and socialising



The Importance of the June Solstice

The June solstice marks the first day of the summer season in the northern hemisphere. In Australia, apart from the indigenous people, most of us are migrants from the northern hemisphere and have brought along with us the customs as well as the collective memory of this period. Our ancestors would have noticed that during this time of the year, the Sun will have appeared to rise and set, and then stop and reverse direction after this day. On this day, the Sun does not rise precisely in the east, but rises to the north of east and sets to the north of west allowing it to be in the sky for a longer period of time.

In the southern hemisphere, we experience the June solstice as the shortest day of the year when the sun has reached its furthest point from the equator and marks the first day of winter.

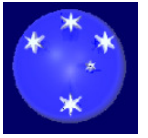
In ancient times, the June solstice was an important point as it was a point of reference in the management of calendars which in turn served as the schedule for the planting and harvesting crops. It was also a traditional month

could be done with relative ease and safety.

The importance of being able to calculate and forecast the length of the year was something many societies invested heavily in. The calibration of the calendar with the seasons was also important in determining propitious times for ritual and sacred observances to the gods.



Stonehenge, the Neolithic megalith on the Salisbury plain in England, was built around 3100 BCE. It seems to have had multi-purposes, one of



them it seems was to establish when the summer solstice occurred. Interestingly, the sun rises at a particular point on the horizon as viewed from the centre of the stone circle on day of the June solstice. This may have been the point at which the counting the days of the year occurred. There are many other megalith structures in Europe which experts believe may have been built for similar purposes.

In ancient China, the summer solstice was observed by a ceremony to celebrate the Earth, femininity, and the “yin” forces. It complemented the winter solstice that celebrated the heavens, masculinity and “yang” forces. According to Chinese tradition, the shortest shadow is found on the day of summer solstice because this is when the Sun is at its highest elevation in the northern hemisphere.

Midsummer festivals and celebrations were held at this time and they varied in many ways but the most central theme in all of them was that of fertility and growth. In ancient Gaul, the Midsummer celebration was called Feast of Epona, named after a mare goddess who personified fertility and protected horses while the ancient Germanic, Slav and Celtic tribes celebrated Midsummer with bonfires. Many of these customs were absorbed after Christianity spread in Europe and other parts of the world. In many parts of Scandinavia, and eventually with the spread of Christianity to the New World, the Midsummer celebration continued but observation was moved to 24th June, St John's Day, in honour of St John the Baptist instead of the pagan gods.

Native American tribes in North America held ritual dances to honour the Sun with the Sioux holding one of the most spectacular. Preparations for the dance included which cutting and raising

a tree that would be considered a visible connection between the heavens and Earth. Around it, tepees were set up in a circle to represent the cosmos. A ritual dance was performed where all participants abstained from food and drink and their bodies were decorated in the symbolic colours of red (sunset), blue (sky), yellow (lightning), white (light), and black (night).

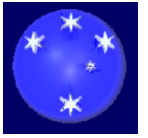
The Importance of the december solstice

The December solstice is also known as the "summer solstice" in the southern hemisphere and the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere.

The December solstice occurs when the sun reaches its most southerly declination of -23.5 degrees. Again depending on the year, the December solstice occurs annually on a day between December 20 and December 23. On this date, all places below the equator, in the southern hemisphere will have the Sun directly overhead on the Tropic of Capricorn during the December solstice. We experience the longest day of the year in terms of daylight hours.

On the contrary, in the northern hemisphere, the December solstice marks the day of the year with the least hours of daylight. For those living or travelling north of the Arctic Circle towards the North Pole, the Sun will not be visible during this time of the year.

The December solstice in the calendar occurs less frequently on 20th or 23rd December and more often on 21st December or 22nd December. Again, this is due to the constricts of the Gregorian calendar. The last solstice which occurred on the 23rd December was in 1903 and will not occur again until the year 2303. A 20th December



solstice date has occurred very rarely, with the next one occurring in the year 2080.²

Again the need for observation of the December solstice can be seen in the megaliths like Stonehenge and Newgrange but over the course of history, many different schemes have been devised to determine the start of the year. Some of these involved the heliacal³ rising of certain stars like Sirius, which the ancient Egyptians used as the marker for the beginning of their civil and religious year.

The December solstice Customs and Traditions

The influence of the December solstice has touched many civilizations and cultures over the centuries, and has been recorded in art, literature, mythology and religion. In the northern hemisphere, the December solstice occurs during the coldest season of the year. Although winter is a period of dormancy, darkness and cold, it is also the point at which the 'turning of the Sun' at the winter solstice signalled the return of the light. As a result, the December solstice has enshrined in a sense of hope and faith in the coming of lighter days and hence the more festive mood. The return of the light was the primary reason to celebrate that nature's cycle was continuing and that there was both life and light after the darkness. One of the enduring themes of the December solstice celebrations was one of hope.

This theme is continued in the modern tradition of Christmas celebrations, especially for Christians. Associating the birth of Jesus Christ with such a significant time became very important in being able to convince the early

Christian converts that the December solstice celebrated the birth of the "*true light of the world*".

The December solstice is also seen as the reversal of the [Sun's](#) ebbing presence in the sky, and so concepts of the birth or rebirth of [sun gods](#) was a common theme. The theme of rebirth has been a cornerstone of celebrations with regard to [life-death-rebirth deities](#). Also, the concept of *new beginnings* such as the ritual of *redding* (readying) performed during the period of the Scottish new year celebration of [Hogmanay](#). The *redding* is a ritual in which houses are thoroughly cleaned and bills are paid in order to meet the New Year with a clean slate.

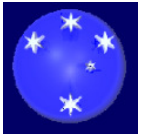
The feast of Christmas is also referred to as Yule, which may have its origins from the Norse word *jól*, referring to the pre-Christian winter solstice festival. The Feast of Juul was a pre-Christian festival observed in Scandinavia at the time of the December solstice. Fires were lit to symbolize the heat, light and life-giving properties of the returning Sun. A Yule or Juul log was brought in and burned on the hearth in honour of the Scandinavian god Thor. A piece of the log was kept as both a token of good luck and as kindling for the following year's log.

In England, Germany, France and other European countries, the Yule log was burned until nothing but ash remained. The ashes were then collected and either strewn on the fields as fertilizer every night until Twelfth Night or kept as a charm and or as medicine. French peasants believed that if the ashes were kept under the bed, they would protect the house against thunder and lightning.

Reversal is yet another theme of this period and this was the centerpiece of the Ancient Roman festival of [Saturnalia](#) where slave and master reversed roles for the period. The festival began

² Ibid.

³ The heliacal rising is when a star or planet rises 'with' the Sun. From the Greek *helios*, meaning Sun.



on the 17th December and lasted for seven days. It was held to honour Saturn, the father of the gods. During the celebration discipline was suspended there was a reversal of the usual order. Quarrels were forgotten while businesses, courts and schools were closed. Wars were interrupted or postponed and slaves were served by their masters. Gifts were offered in the shape of imitation fruit which was a symbol of fertility), dolls, symbolic of the custom of human sacrifice, and candles reminiscent of the bonfires associated with the return of the light). A pretend king was chosen, usually from a group of slaves or

criminals, and although he was permitted to behave in an unrestrained manner for seven days of the festival, he was usually killed at the end. Over time and paralleling the decline of the Roman civilisation, this festival degenerated into a week-long spree of debauchery and crime. This has given rise to the modern use of the term *saturnalia*, meaning a period of unrestrained license and revelry.

The Romans also celebrated the solstice with the feast of *Sol Invictus*, 'the feast of the unconquered Sun', to honour the return of the light.

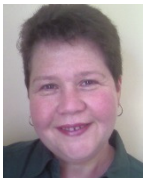
this is like the aperture in any megalith: the slit through which we experience the themes of the solstices – the hope and the return of light and the sense of fertility and growth.

Mari Garcia

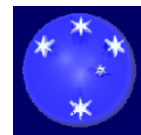
19th June 2013

The Solstices and Astrology

As astrologers, we see the solstices as the points where the Sun ingresses into the sign of Cancer at the June solstice, and into Capricorn at the December solstice. As we have seen, these are two *power points* which in a chart will straddle a house axis. So, think in your chart where Cancer and Capricorn fall in your chart and consider that



Copyright Mari Garcia 2013. Mari Garcia is a consulting astrologer who has been involved with astrology since 1990. She has lectured widely both in Australia and the USA and has published articles in Australia and overseas and writes for several local and national publications. She runs a consulting practice in Adelaide and is co-principal of ASTRO MUNDI, which offers a four year course in astrology, a Traditional Astrology course as well as special interest workshops and Master Classes. Mari can be contacted on 08 8563 9182 or check out the website at www.astromundi.com. Keep abreast of developments at Astro Mundi on Facebook.



Firdaria Research Appeal

Dear Friends, Students and Fellow Astrologers,

I am currently knee-deep in charts - famous and infamous - as part of my research for the current book I am writing on traditional predictive methods. At the moment, I am applying the technique known as Firdaria and am finding some very interesting correlations between Planetary Time Lords and certain events in an individual's life. These are fascinating, but what I would really like is some real life experiences from Joe (and Josephine) Blow - that is, your average everyday human being.

You don't need to know anything about Firdaria, just help me with some dates and events in your life and I will do the rest. If you are interested in knowing more, or would like to help an astro-buddy (me), please send an email to joydusher@yahoo.com.au and I can let you know what I need to further my research. I promise I won't take up too much of your time, and we can communicate via email, Skype, or phone.

I will be truly grateful and assure you that all information will be dealt with in total confidence.

Thank you, and wishing you the best for the Winter Solstice,

Joy Usher
AstroMundi



MASTER CLASSES 2013

The Third in the Master Class Series of 2013 will be held on **SATURDAY 27th July** from 1:00–4:00pm at the Astro Mundi offices, 310 South Terrace, Adelaide. Please note the office is at the rear of the building. On-line attendance via the Internet is available but places are limited.

Cannot attend a Master Class? Ask about download option with handouts. Cost for all options is \$60.

Neptune's Trident: Victim, Saviour, Persecutor



"There really is no difference between the bully and the victim."
Lady Gaga

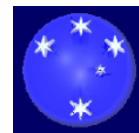
The planet Neptune is never an easy one for astrologers to get their heads around. We have descriptive lists, but they seem to be as nebulous as the planet itself. This Master Class examines the mythology behind Neptune and explores the archetypes of Victim, Saviour and Perpetrator in a way that helps to describe Neptune's role in our charts, through the planet's placement and aspects, and looks at the significance of Neptune transits to our natal planets. If you grapple with Neptune yourself, or find it perplexing to understand its purpose in your chart, then this is the Master Class for you!

For details on 'virtual attendance' or to enrol, contact us on **1800 003 517** or email astromundi@internode.on.net.

Payments can be made by Cash, Electronic Transfer, PayPal, VISA, Mastercard, cheque or money order. EFT Details: BSB 065 520, Account 1006 7976, Commonwealth Bank. Please advise payment via email and put your name in the space provided by your bank. Check out other Master Class topics for 2013 at <http://www.astromundi.com/workshops.html> or buy

previous Master Classes on CD at <http://www.astromundi.com/bookshop.html>





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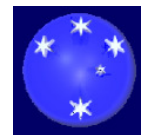


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Lecture Notes

Part 1: Our Evolving Solar System – Vivien Lowe

This is a summary of a talk given at the FAASA on 1st June, 2013. The full notes are available as a download from the FAASA website - . [Click here to access](#)

Following the discovery of Eris in 2005 there has been a major reorganisation and renaming of the bodies in our Solar System - very appropriate since Eris was named for the Goddess of strife who loves to upset the status quo.

As Astrologers we do not need to be concerned with the fine detail of these new classifications. However, the broad classification structure does give us a way to organise all of the newly discovered bodies into discrete groups, and this may help with further study. Fortunately little has changed inside Neptune's orbit, other than Ceres being renamed a dwarf planet. (Neptune is now the furthest *planet* from the Sun and has become something of a dividing line between the better known inner Solar System bodies and the newer discoveries.)

Several astrologers have discussed how we might integrate these new bodies into our charts, with a common suggestion being that we look at the groupings of the newer bodies. Kuiper Belt Objects, for example, tend to be named for Gods and Goddesses of the Underworld and may involve unconscious issues. The bodies that travel beyond the Kuiper Belt are named for Gods and Goddesses of creation and may describe issues of nature and the Earth as Gaia.

Before looking out past Neptune, here are the current **planets** and **dwarf planets**:

Once we pass Neptune's orbit we are into the realm of the Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs)

which are composed mostly of ice. This is where the greatest change in nomenclature has occurred, with the following categories currently in use:

Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs)

The Kuiper Belt is a ring of Solar System bodies that is similar to the Asteroid Belt, except that the bodies are made of ice. KBOs have been divided into two groups:

■ Classical KBO

The orbits of these bodies are not linked to the orbit of Neptune. Makemake is the largest known Classical KBO.

■ Resonant KBO

A resonant KBO with a 3:2 resonance describes a body that orbits twice for every 3 orbits of Neptune; the best known of these is Pluto. Other bodies have other resonances, for example Haumea has a 7:12 resonance.

Scattered disk objects (SDO)

Most of the SDOs have their perihelia within the Kuiper Belt but then travel further out into the Solar System. Eris is the largest of the SDOs.

Detached Objects

This group of bodies have perihelia so far out that they are unaffected by Neptune's orbit. The largest discovered so far is Sedna.

Oört Cloud

This is another ring of Solar System bodies composed mostly of ice. Sedna was originally thought to be part of the Oört Cloud.

Planets	Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
Dwarf planets	Ceres, Pluto, Haumea, Makemake and Eris. (Mike Brown, one of the team that discovered Eris and Sedna, believes that Orcus, Quaoar, 2007OR10 (not yet named) and Sedna should also be classed as dwarf planets.)



Part 2: Sedna – Vivien Lowe

This is a summary of a talk given at the FAASA on 1st June, 2013. The full notes are available as a download from the FAASA website - . [Click here to access](#) .

Astronomy

Sedna was discovered by a team of astronomers in 2003, and was originally thought to be located in the Oört Cloud. As a result of further research, Sedna is now thought to be a Detached Object.

Myth

Sedna is an Inuit Goddess, with a powerful and evocative myth that describes her betrayal and mutilation by her father. The sea mammals and fish, on which the Inuit depend, were born out of this mutilation, so, when the Inuit do not respect nature or each other, Sedna can make the sea creatures scarce and raise great storms. The Inuits have an oral tradition, so slight variations of the myth are told in different parts of the Arctic. There is an excellent telling of the full myth at

<http://www.inuitgallery.com/legends/sedna.shtm>.

Astrology

Sedna is a recent discovery, so any discussion of Her Astrology must be viewed as initial suggestions only. (The situation can best be compared to how Astrologers in 1946 must

have felt about Pluto (discovered in 1930) as they had only the earliest suggestions of what He would finally mean to us.) Initial work suggests that environmental concerns (personal charts) and storms and natural disasters (mundane charts) are often seen when Sedna is prominent in a chart.

The natal house of Sedna in a person's chart shows where that person is required to express Sedna's teachings, for example a first house Sedna asks us to live a life respectful to the environment and all animals. Because Sedna moves slowly, and is therefore in orb for so long, specific events are rarely linked to a Sedna transit or progression, rather there tends to be an evolution towards a more environmental awareness. People born with Sedna conjunct a major chart point will tend to have an inbuilt environmental sensibility, however only a few will be chosen by Sedna to dedicate their lives to Her work.

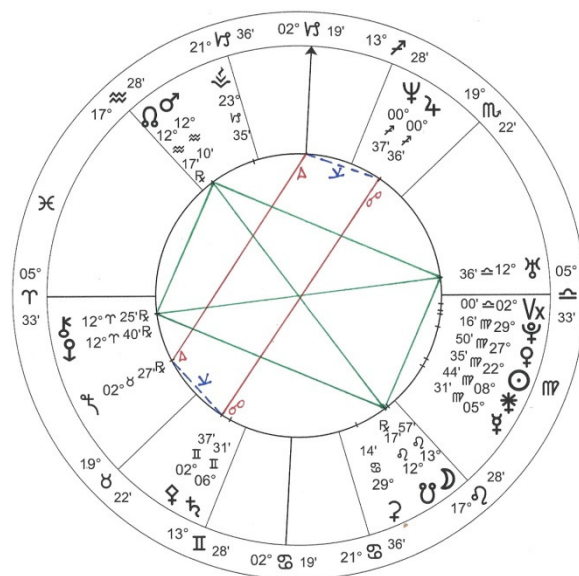
In mundane astrology Sedna has been linked to major environmental disasters including tsunamis, major tropical storms and flooding.

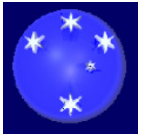
First Greenpeace Sailing.

15/9/1971, 19:45 pm (Rating X: Time unknown)

Vancouver, Canada.

Chart erected using Solar Fire v.7.





Greenpeace

There is no clear birth time (or even founders), but the Greenpeace website states that the sailing of the *Phyllis Cormack* was “the beginning”. Although there is no time stated for the boat’s departure, it would appear to be around 7:45pm, based on the memory of a journalist who was part of the crew.

The mystic rectangle and the Jupiter/Neptune opposite Saturn/Pallas make this a fascinating chart. Clearly we have an organisation that was formed with a purpose (Jupiter/Neptune in Sagittarius) and an organisation that will seek conflict as a way to heal a situation (Chiron/Eris opposite Uranus which is part of an air/fire

mystic rectangle). But it is Sedna, almost certainly trine the MC and definitely quincunx the Jupiter/Neptune conjunction, that makes this an organisation committed to Sedna’s demands for respect towards the environment.

Conclusion

Despite only being discovered in 2003, Sedna is already giving clear indications of Her importance. At a time when the effects of climate change are becoming more and more apparent, the synchronicity of Sedna’s emergence may be seen as a warning to humanity to show respect for Gaia and the creatures of this planet.





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