



# Southern Star

Member Newsletter

[www.faasa.com.au](http://www.faasa.com.au)

Cancer Edition 2014

## ***Musings from the President's corner***

**M**y column begins this month with the disappointing news that, for health reasons, Ed Tamplin is not able to travel over here for our workshop on July 5<sup>th</sup>. He is a brilliant and original astrologer as well as a fascinating man, and we wish the speediest of recoveries. We are hoping that he will be able come in July next year – and who knows what state the world will be in then!

We are most fortunate in having in our midst another wonderful astrologer with the world at her fingertips – Mari Garcia. Mari has stepped into the breach and will present her 2014 National Conference lecture on Australia and the Uranus-Pluto cycle. As Australia was discovered on a Uranus-Pluto Opposition, this has particular relevance for us, so don't miss this intriguing lecture!

We are in discussion with Melanie Reinhart regarding a Workshop on the weekend of 21/22 February next year, so put the date in your diary. Melanie is an astrologer based in UK but esteemed around the world. Best known for her ground-breaking book, *Chiron and the Healing Journey*, Melanie describes her work as 'an unusual combination of intuition and meticulous research'. To get her to Adelaide will be quite a coup!

I have just got back from a wonderful month overseas, mainly in Italy, so my feet haven't really touched the ground yet. We were blessed with the most gorgeous weather, so everything was seen and experienced at its most beautiful. But it's nice to be home, and Aldinga is looking pretty good today too – I have Sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars in the Fourth House, and my husband has the Moon there, so we always like the sound of our own front door!

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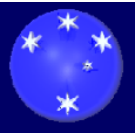
### What's On

**Sat 5 July** - 2 pm - Mari Garcia:  
Tempest and Tribulation:  
Australia and the Uranus-Pluto  
cycle

**Sat 2nd August** – 2pm –  
Cate Whelan, Life After 50

**Sat 6th September** – 2pm -  
Martha Adams, Tarot and  
Astrology

**Sat 11th October, AGM** - Vivien  
Lowe, The Nuclear Industry



## Musings from the President continued ...

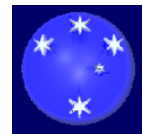
We saw the Italian and English countryside at its best, after a wet winter and warm spring – blue skies, green fields, bursts of red poppies, silhouettes of pencil pine trees (Italy) and masses of wildflowers (England). The only problem really was the ubiquitous presence in the towns of hordes of tourists...

I hope to see you on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July at the usual time of 2 pm for a thought-provoking lecture from Mari Garcia.

May love and laughter light your days

*Cate*





# ***Next Meeting***



**FAASA : Next Meeting Saturday 5th July at 2 pm**

**Mari Garcia:**  
***Tempest and Tribulation***

## **Tempest and Tribulation: Australia and the Uranus– Pluto Cycle**

Australia was discovered under the auspices of a Uranus-Pluto opposition and the seeds of Enlightenment found fertile soil in the land down under. Those seeds of revolution, independence and self-sufficiency have helped shape the national character. There has also been a fair share of brutality and oppression. Mari will explore how Australia has manifested both the positive and negative characteristics in its history and how we can use them to further the national interest as we enter the next phase of national development.

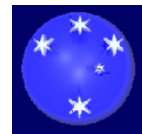


Mari Garcia is a consulting astrologer who has been involved with astrology since 1990. She has lectured widely both in Australia and the USA and has published articles in Australia and overseas and writes for several local and national publications. She runs a consulting practice in Adelaide and is co-principal of ASTRO MUNDI, which offers courses in astrology, including Traditional Astrology 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](http://www.astromundi.com)

**Meeting: Sat July 5 at 2 pm**  
TS Rooms, behind New Dimensions Bookshop  
310 South Tce Adelaide  
Afternoon Tea provided.

<b>Members:</b>	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Concession Members</b>	<b>\$6</b>
<b>Non-Members</b>	<b>\$12</b>

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Website: [www.faasa.com.au](http://www.faasa.com.au)  
Federation of Australian Astrologers (SA) Inc



## *Speakers for 2014*

Monthly meetings of the Federation of Australian Astrologers SA Inc are usually held on the first Saturday of the month at the Theosophical Society, 310 South Terrace, Adelaide.

\$8 Members, \$6 Concession Members and non-members \$12. Afternoon tea is provided and everyone is welcome.

Please [contact us](#) if you would like more information about the Federation of Australian Astrologers SA and our activities.

Sat 5 July - 2 pm - Mari Garcia: **Tempest and Tribulation: Australia and the Uranus-Pluto cycle**

Sat 2nd August – 2pm - Cate Whelan, **Life After 50**

Sat 6th September – 2pm - Martha Adams, **Tarot and Astrology**

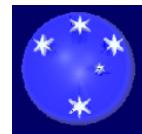
Sat 11th October, AGM - Vivien Lowe **The Nuclear Industry**

Sat 1st November – 2pm - Joy Usher, **The Magic of Antiscia**



**FAASA is sorry to advise that the Ed Tamplin Workshop due to be held on Saturday 5th July has been cancelled due to ill health. Instead, a normal meeting starting at 2 pm will be held, with a lecture by brilliant South Australia astrologer Mari Garcia.**





# Seasons & Hemispheres

By Mari Garcia

Seasons colour our experiences of the turning of the year and the annual cycle of birth, growth, maturation and death. Humans have honoured this cycle of seasons for millennia and this has been enshrined in language, customs, traditions in many cultures and civilizations. The names of the seasons are enshrined in our language but their origin is often not well known. As we in the southern hemisphere head into the clutches of winter, let us start with this season.

## WINTER

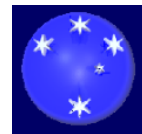
The word **winter** is Old English meaning “fourth season”. This Old English word has origins in the Germanic and Nordic languages. The Anglo-Saxons counted years in “winters” so children were referred to as being “two winters old”. In Old Nordic *Vetrardag*, the first day of winter, was the Saturday that fell between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. For the southern hemisphere, winter is heralded by the June solstice.

The most common winter celebration in our modern world is of course Christmas, a Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. Christmas or *Christ's Mass* was imposed on age-old solstice traditions by the early Christian Church, who sought to make their doctrine palatable to converts. These practices and festivals varied from place to place but ‘re-labelling’ was common to most religions because

these festivals often marked important celestial events which had been enshrined in myth, folklore and worship. In Persian culture the winter solstice is called *Yalda* which means ‘birth’ and it has been celebrated for thousands of years. *Yalda* refers to the eve of the birth of the god, Mithra, who symbolised light, goodness and strength on earth. The feast of *Juul* in Scandinavia is pre-Christian and celebrates the return of light while the Romans celebrated *Saturnalia* and the Scots, *Hogamanay*.



What these celebrations have in common is the celebration of light at the darkest time of the year in the northern hemisphere and also the opportunity to enjoy the bounty of the year just past. In many cultures, this period was seen as an opportunity to consume precious and expensive foods which would otherwise have remained in storage. This was done in honour of the gods and, in a more pragmatic way, for many especially the poor, this was a way of stocking up on the calories before the lean times



of winter set in and food scarcity became a day to day reality.

## SPRING

The word **Spring** comes from the Old English meaning “to leap, burst forth or fly up”. Its Germanic and Nordic origins comes from the words *springen*, *springan*, *springhen*, *springa*. It is also interesting to note that in Sanskrit the word *sprhayati* means “desires eagerly” while the Greek word, *sperkesthai* means “to hurry up”. It was always used to refer to the “season following winter”.

The March equinox, which varies between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March is usually taken to mark the

first day of spring in the northern hemisphere.



The September equinox, occurring at any time between the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, marks the first day of spring in the southern hemisphere.



## MASTER CLASSES 2014

The Third in the Master Class Series of 2014 will be held on **SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> July** from **1:30–4:30pm** 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.



### Sol Invictus: the Unconquered Sun

*The Sun in modern astrology is seen as one of the focal points of required for our personal growth and development. In traditional astrology however the Sun is given a different emphasis: not more or less, simply different. This Master Class will explore the Sun as signifier for the Nons or the 'light of the mind' giving another perspective on the Sun's role in the natal chart.*

For details on 'virtual attendance' or to enrol, contact us on **1800 003 517** or email [astromundi@internode.on.net](mailto:astromundi@internode.on.net).

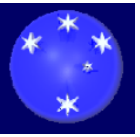
Payments can be made by Cash, Electronic Transfer, PayPal, VISA, Mastercard, cheque or money order.

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 at

<http://www.astromundi.com/workshops.html> or buy previous Master Classes on CD

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Celebrations to mark the advent of spring are varied but occur in just about every culture and span many civilisations. In India, *Holi*, the festival of colours, celebrates the end of the winter season and in ancient Babylon, spring was celebrated as the “head of the year”. In Iran, the first day of spring is celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox, which usually occurs on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. It is celebrated on the previous or following day depending on where it is observed.

This is the beginning of the new year, Nowruz, which means “New Day” in Persian language. It marks an important traditional holiday festival celebrated in Iran as well as in Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, and by Kurdish communities in Turkey and Iraq.

Up to the reign of Julius Caesar, the new year was celebrated at the March Equinox but in 45 BCE, the Julian calendar was introduced and the civil New Year was fixed for 1<sup>st</sup> January. With the advent of Christianity, this date was given various significations but the March equinox continued to be celebrated as the beginning of the year by the Christian world as it was the major determinant for Christianity’s most holy festival, Easter. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII while reforming the Julian calendar established 1 January as the beginning of a New Year of the Gregorian calendar.

## SUMMER

**Summer** refers to the “hottest season of the year” from the *sumor* or the Germanic *sumur*. In Old

Nordic *sumarsdag* was the first day of summer and was the Thursday that fell between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April. Summer, in the Northern Hemisphere is heralded by the June Solstice when the Sun reaches its most northern position in the sky and is directly over the Tropic of Cancer at 23.44 degrees north latitude.



In 2014, the June solstice will occur on the 21<sup>st</sup> June at 10:51am GMT.

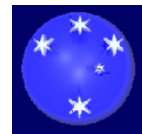
Midsummer festivals and celebrations were held at this time and they varied in many ways but the most central theme in all of them was that of fertility and growth and a celebration of life.

In ancient China, the summer solstice was observed by a ceremony to celebrate the

Earth, femininity, and the “yin” forces while Native American tribes in North America held ritual dances to honour the Sun.

## AUTUMN

The season referred to as “fall” was once referred to simply as “harvest” to reflect the time of year when crops were gathered for winter



storage. Crops were harvested and stored roughly between August and November.



The season itself lasts from the end of the September until December, falling between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. The word *harvest* comes from the Old Norse word *haust* which means “to gather or pluck.”

When more people started moving into cities in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the word harvest fell out of use. Instead, city dwellers began to use the phrase “fall of the leaf” to refer to the third season of the year when trees lose their leaves.

The word *fall* comes from the Old English word *feallan* which means “to fall or to die.” Over time, the phrase was shortened to fall.

The word *autumn* comes from the ancient Etruscan root *autu-* and has connotations of the passing of the year. The Romans borrowed the word and it became the Latin word *autumnus*. After the Roman era the word passed to the Old French word *autompne* (*automne* in modern French). The term was used as far back at the 1300's and Shakespeare often used the word,

as in *Midsummer Night's Dream* when the character, Titiana describes the cycle of the year, “The spring, the summer, the childing autumn, angry winter.”<sup>1</sup>

As English spread to the New World, the common season names split as well. The use of the word *fall* fell out of use in England. Today, American English uses the word *fall* while British English uses *autumn* almost exclusively.

Autumn festivals are celebrated most commonly in China, South East Asian countries and amongst ethnic Chinese resident around the world. The festival is commonly known as the Full Moon festival or the Lantern festival and features family gatherings, thanksgiving for the bounty of the year and prayers.

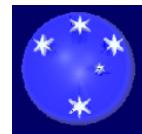
In North America, both Canada and the US each have their own Thanksgiving celebrations in October and November. Certain religious holidays, such as the Jewish festival of Sukkot, have their roots in harvest festivals.

In Britain, thanksgiving has been given for successful harvests since pre-Roman times. The Harvest festival is traditionally held on the Sunday nearest the Full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. Celebrations on this day usually include hymns, prayers and the decoration of churches with baskets of fruit and food. In the Anglican liturgical list the festival is known as Harvest Festival, Harvest Home or Harvest Thanksgiving.

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<sup>1</sup> William Shakespeare *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 2, Scene 1.





Although today we live in a world which is less connected to the cycle of seasons than our great grandparents. We eat food out of season, we have plenty to eat for the entire year, except for regular worshippers, the festivals have been reduced to a time of consumption and expenditure in an attempt to 'mark' the cycle of the year.

As astrologers, it is worth stopping and thinking about these markers of the Sun's progress through the heavens. The seasons as marked by equinoxes and solstices are worth noting and celebrating as they are the great hinges of the solar year. How do you mark these turning points?

## Mari Garcia

**Copyright Mari Garcia 2014. 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.

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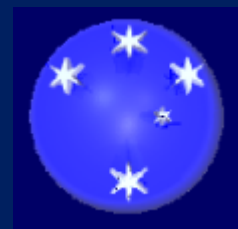


## Workshops

Astro Mundi hosts workshops, Master Classes, retreats and seminars featuring its principals, Joy Usher and Mari Garcia as well as some of today's respected astrologers, scholars and practitioners.

In 2014, we again offer a varied programme and we hope you can join us for one or more of these events.

**ALL WELCOME**



#### Southern Star

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**Submissions:** All articles and advertisements are to be submitted in word format (preferred) to the Editor via email by the 12<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

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Prepayment required for all Southern Star advertising.

	Full Year	One Issue
1/8 page	\$60	\$10
1/4 page	\$100	\$15
1/2 page	\$185	\$30
Classified (4 lines)		\$10

#### Membership Fees

(per calendar year)

Full	\$70
Concession*	\$50
Joint Full	\$100
Joint Concession*	\$75
Newsletter Only	\$30

\*Concession cards need to be sighted by the Treasurer when paying membership subs. Only pension cards and healthcare cards issued by Centrelink are deemed Concession.

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