



Virgo 2017 edition:

Introduction to Vesta, with Vivien Lowe

Your asteroids, and where to find them

## From the President

Next meeting marks 6 years for me as president of FAASA, and I must say it has been a rewarding experience. It's been lots of fun and I've worked with some wonderful people, both on the committee and with the presenters of lectures or workshops. I have made new friends, rediscovered old ones, and walked a common path with so many of you through our mutual interest in astrology.

**The committee is currently discussing our program for next year, and we would like your input.**

Would you like to put up your hand to lecture? If you have never spoken at one of our meetings before, then email me at [president@faasa.com.au](mailto:president@faasa.com.au) and I will send you a copy of the speaker guidelines.

**If you prefer the written word**, you could write an article for our newsletter. For information, email [editor@faasa.com.au](mailto:editor@faasa.com.au). Joel is always after interesting material. Would you like to work on the newsletter with Joel? If so, then contact him by email and you can discuss how you might work together.

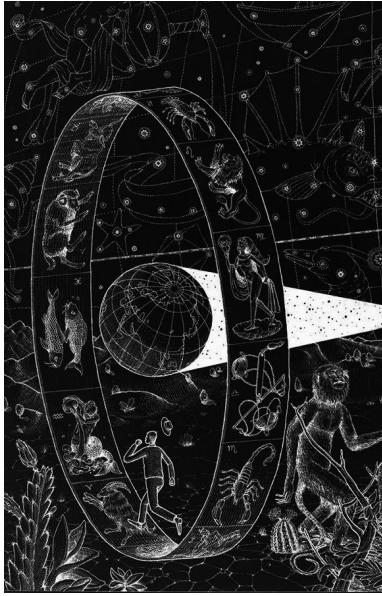
**Do you have some ideas for meetings next year?** We would be really happy to hear from you. Now is the time for input, before plans and bookings are made!

We had lots of fun at the last meeting, with Mari Garcia, Jill Amery and Vivien Lowe providing three interpretations of a mystery chart. About half a dozen people identified the chart and one lucky person won himself a \$50 voucher for New Dimensions bookshop (kindly donated by Vivien). We have followed this format for 3 years now, and next year we plan to do it with a twist – even the presenters won't know the chart's identity!

**Our next meeting is the AGM on 14th October**, commencing at 2 pm, and after that Vivien Lowe will present an updated version of her Sydney Conference lecture on Vesta. Vivien loves to research and she has a nose for finding amazing patterns – must be all that Virgo! This meeting will be free for members - I hope to see you there.

May love and laughter light your days

**Cate Whelan**



## Meeting dates 2017

**October 14, AGM** and Vivien Lowe - Vesta

**November 11,** Chart discussion meeting

**November 25,** Christmas party, with  
Astromundi



**FAASA AGM Saturday 14th Oct 2 pm**

Followed by

**Vivien Lowe**



## **Vesta: Legacy of fire**

The asteroid Vesta is prominent in the charts of natural and man-made disasters where fire was the primary cause of the disaster. For example, Vesta is prominent in the chart of the 1666 Great Fire of London, but not in the chart of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, even though much of the damage resulted from fires following the earthquake. When looking at arson, Vesta is prominent in the charts of serial arsonists. And where was Vesta when fire broke out at the Grenfell Towers in London?



Vivien began her studies in astrology in 1978. She holds the Diploma of Astrology from the FAA and a B Social Science (Hons) in psychology from Charles Sturt University, and is planning to undertake the Advanced Diploma of the FAA. Vivien now concentrates on research, with particular interests in the integration of the newly discovered solar system bodies into Astrology and in Evolutionary Astrology.

**TS Rooms behind New Dimensions Bookshop, 310 South Tce Adelaide**

**No charge for AGM meeting (members)**

**Lecture from 2.45 pm \$10 non-members**



Introduction to Vesta

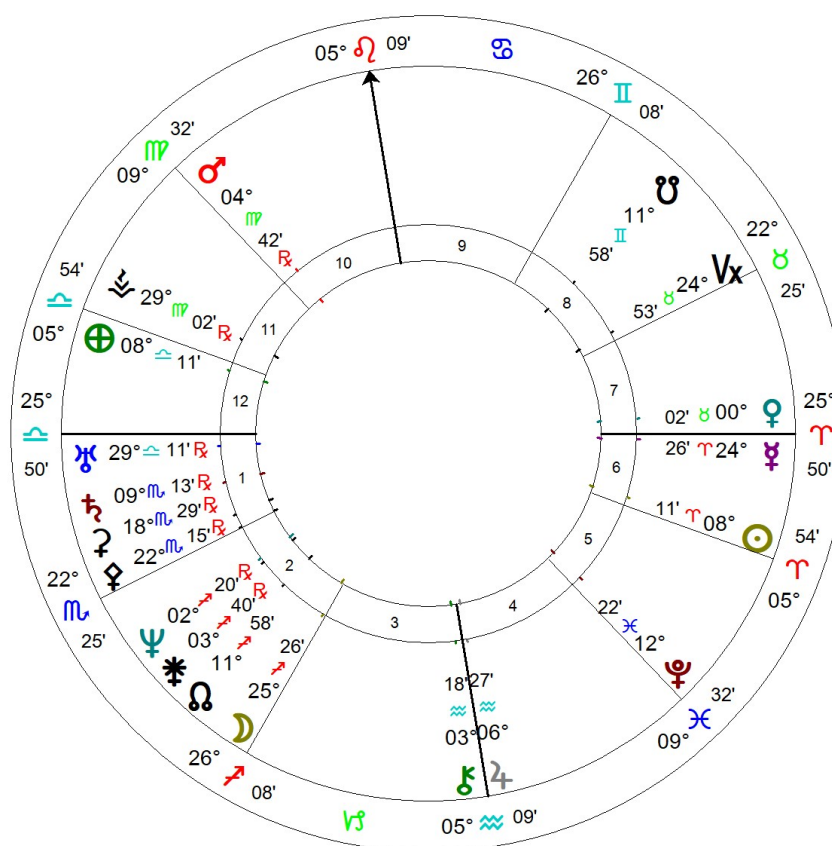
Vivien Lowe

Vivien Lowe spoke at our September meeting, wowing the audience with an Evolutionary Astrology perspective. In October, Vivien explores little-known asteroid Vesta. Here, she gives an astronomical introduction with discovery charts. Don't miss the second opportunity to witness Vivien's eye for detail, and profound analysis - speaking after our AGM, Saturday October 14

Vesta is a remarkable asteroid, the fourth to be discovered, and recently visited by the NASA Dawn probe. The second largest of the asteroids, Vesta is considered to be a protoplanet, and is about one quarter the size of Ceres (which is now classified as a dwarf planet). Vesta is the brightest of the asteroids and can occasionally be seen with the naked eye. The orbital period of Vesta is 3.63 years.

At the next meeting I will be talking on the link between the asteroid Vesta and fire. The following article will focus on the astronomy of Vesta.

**Discovery of Vesta**  
**Event Chart**  
 29 Mar 1807 NS, Sun  
 8:05 pm LMT -0:35:16  
 Bremen, Germany  
 53°N04' 008°E49'  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Placidus*  
*True Node*



## Discovery

In August 1798, a group of astronomers formed to search the asteroid belt for what was thought to be a missing planet that had been destroyed. One of the Astronomers was Heinrich Olbers, who had previously discovered the second known asteroid, Pallas. In a letter to a fellow astronomer, Olbers put forth the first theory of asteroid origin, wondering if Ceres and Pallas could be fragments of a planet which at one time occupied the area between Mars and Jupiter. Olbers reasoned that the fragments of such a planet would intersect at the point of the explosion and directly opposite this point. He observed these two areas nightly, and on March 29, 1807

"shortly after 8 pm", discovered Vesta, becoming the first person to discover two asteroids. The mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, who had already computed the orbit of Pallas, was given the honour of naming the new body. He chose the name Vesta, Goddess of the hearth, and sister to Ceres.

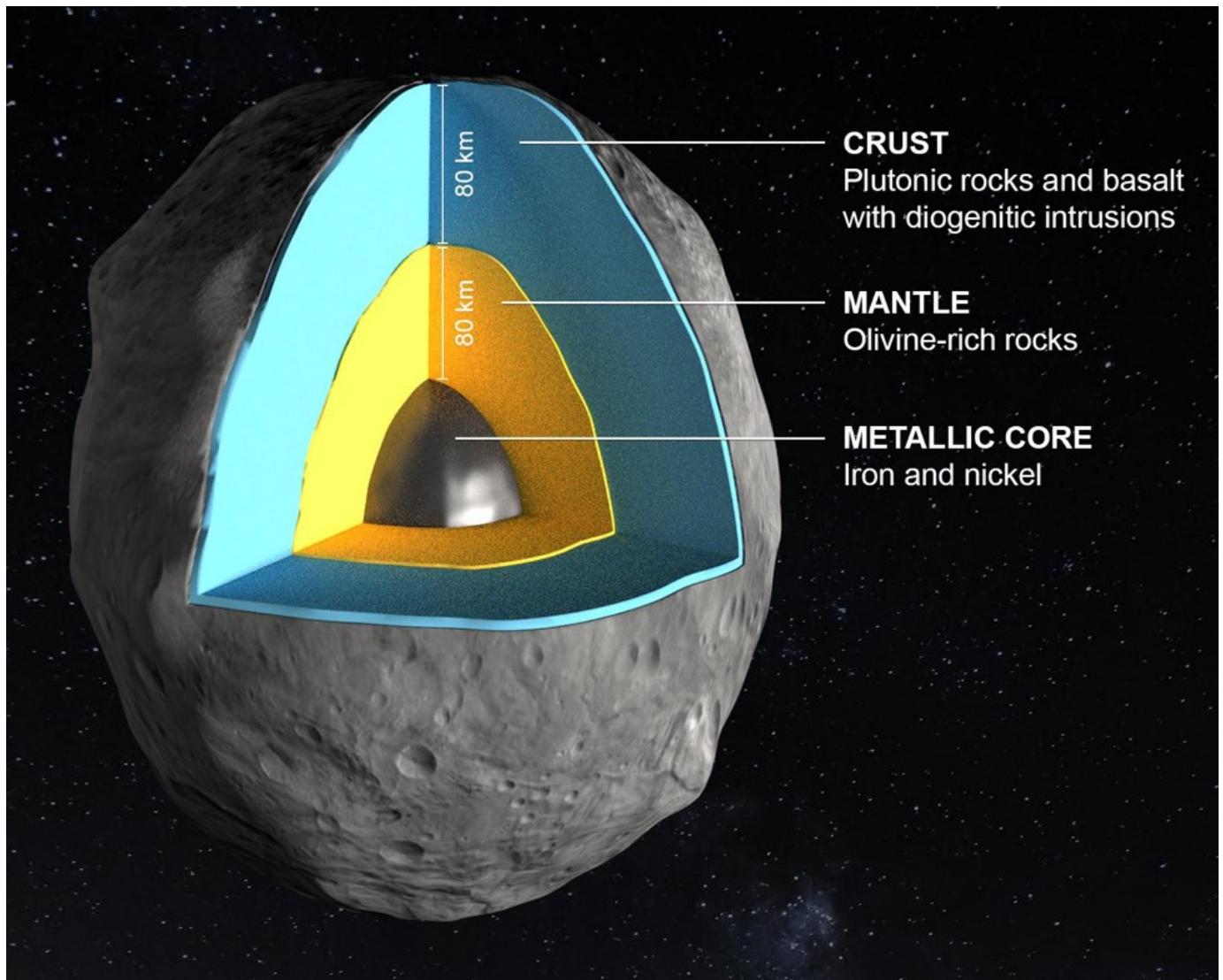
Given its size and structure, Vesta is now regarded as a protoplanet. The gravitational pull of Jupiter is thought to have disrupted Vesta's formation: without the presence of Jupiter, Vesta, as well as Ceres, may have continued to evolve into full-size planets.

## Surface, composition and formation

Vesta appears to have a surface of basaltic rock, which consists of frozen lava that oozed out of the asteroid's hot interior shortly after its formation about 4.5 billion years ago. When Vesta made a close approach to Earth in 1996, the Hubble Space Telescope mapped its surface features. One unique surface feature, a giant crater, was of particular interest to NASA and was to be an important part of the Dawn mission (discussed later in this article). This crater is located at the asteroid's south pole and is about 460 kilometres across and 13 kilometres deep. It was caused by a massive collision that blasted out about one percent of the asteroid's volume (or over one-half million cubic miles of rock) into space. The debris ranges in size from sand and gravel to some pieces the size of a mountain, and travels in a cloud around Vesta. Scientists believe that about 5 percent of all meteorites that we find on Earth are a result of this single ancient collision.

Unlike most asteroids, the interior of Vesta is differentiated. Like the terrestrial planets, the asteroid has a crust of cooled lava covering a rocky mantle and an iron and nickel core. This is the major reason why Vesta is considered a protoplanet, rather than an asteroid.





## Vestal visitors to Earth

Vesta's unique composition means that it is responsible for an entire group of meteorites, called the HED meteorites (made up of howardites, eucrites and diogenites). The eucrites form from hardened lava from the crust, the diogenites come from beneath the surface and the howardites are a combination of the two formed at the time of the massive collision. In 1960, a piece of Vesta arrived on Earth near the Millbillillie and Jundee cattle stations in Western Australia in the form of a eucritic meteorite that has been shown to have the same spectral signals as Vesta.

But, if the orbit of Vesta lies beyond Mars, how did pieces of it manage to arrive on Earth? Vesta and its cloud of fragments pass close to Jupiter once every three orbits around the sun, allowing Jupiter's gravity to affect their orbit. It is believed that Jupiter's gravitational pull has shifted the fragments enough to cause their eventual impact with Earth.

Vesta is one of only three bodies that scientists have found samples of on Earth. The other two are the Moon and Mars.

## The Dawn Mission

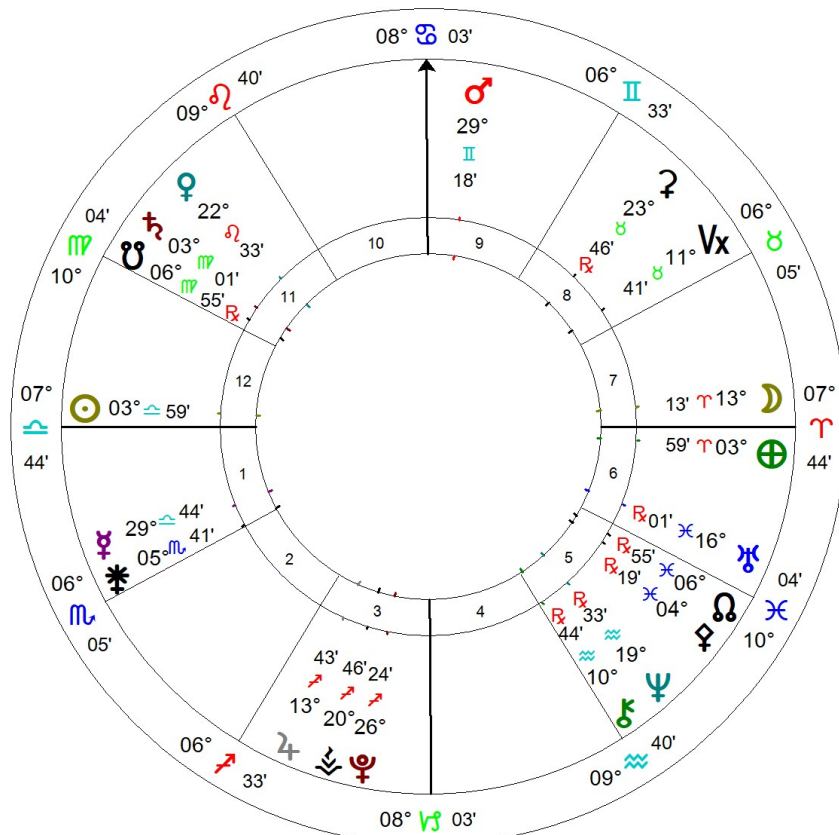
In September 2007, NASA launched a spacecraft to visit Vesta and Ceres. This mission, Dawn, was unique in that it is the first craft to enter orbit around first one solar system body, before proceeding to a second. Dawn entered orbit around Vesta July 2011. After studying the asteroid for a year, it left Vesta to travel to Ceres.

NASA used Dawn to study the characteristics of the early solar system by analysing Vesta and Ceres, which are very different. Ceres has seasonal polar caps, and may have a thin atmosphere. Vesta, on the other hand, is dry and rocky. Information gained from these two asteroids will expand our knowledge of our own planet, as well as Mars and Mercury.

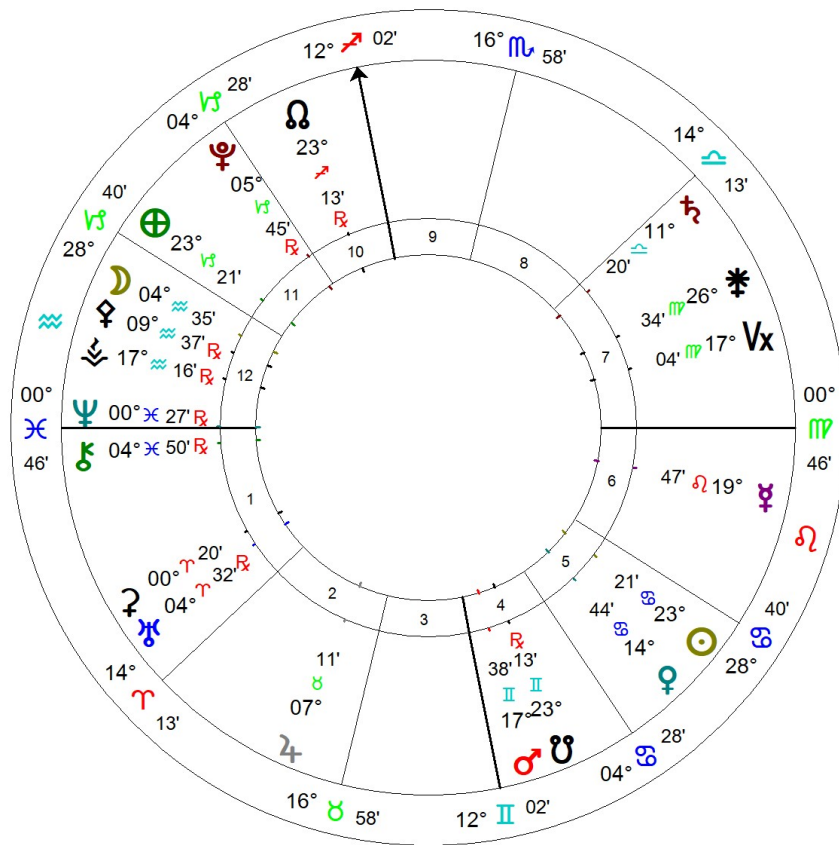
Dawn was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida at 7:34am EDT on the 27th September 2007. At about 10pm PDT, Dawn entered the orbit of Vesta (the chart has been set for the Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, California).

So what is happening in the Discovery Chart when Dawn is launched and when it enters Vesta's orbit? A key feature of the Discovery Chart is the Jupiter/Chiron conjunction in Aquarius spanning the IC of the discovery chart. This conjunction makes an out of sign trine to Vesta in late Virgo in the 11th house (I allow the 4 degree orb for the trine of Vesta to Chiron, although not all will agree). At the time that Dawn was launched, the transiting Sun is in a partile trine to Chiron as it prepares "to shine a light" on the structure of Vesta and the collision that has scarred its surface. The transiting Sun is also about 5 degrees past a conjunction to Vesta in the Discovery Chart. When Dawn entered Vesta's orbit, transiting Jupiter was squaring the discovery Chiron/IC/Jupiter conjunction; an appropriate transit for a mission designed to learn more about what lies at the foundation of terrestrial planets, including our own Earth.

**Dawn launch**  
Event Chart  
27 Sep 2007, Thu  
7:34 am EDT +4:00  
Cape Canaveral, Florida  
28°N24'20" 080°W36'18"  
Geocentric  
Tropical  
Placidus  
True Node



**Dawn Enters Vesta Orbit**  
**Event Chart**  
 15 Jul 2011, Fri  
 10:00 pm PDT +7:00  
 Pasadena, California  
 34°N08'52" 118°W08'37"  
*Geocentric*  
*Tropical*  
*Placidus*  
*True Node*



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**Vivien Lowe**





#### International Speakers:

Verena Bachmann from Switzerland, Wade Caves from the USA, Frank Clifford from the UK, Demetra George from the USA, Ryuji Kagami from Japan, Jupiter Lai from Hong Kong, Michael Lutin from the USA, and Christof Niederwieser from Germany

#### Australian Speakers:

Jessica Adams, Jill Amery, Narelle Duncan, Michele Finey, Mari Garcia, Bob Hunter, Charles Jameson, Terry MacKinnell, Joanne Madeline Moore, Cindy Naunton, Damian Rocks, Christine Rothwell, Sagari (Janet Menefy), Kira Sutherland and Ed Tamplin



### Conference Speakers in the Spotlight this Month



#### Frank Clifford

Frank Clifford is a consultant astrologer and palmist who runs The London School of Astrology and has lectured in a dozen countries. Frank has published over 30 books and written 12 volumes, including *Getting to the Heart of Your Chart*, *The Midheaven: Spotlight on Success* and *Horoscope Snapshots*. One of his favourite jobs is writing for, and guest editing, *The Mountain Astrologer*. Frank won a writing award from ISAR in 2016 and a lifetime achievement award from the Astrological Association in 2012. He is launching a series of online courses for students of all levels, along with a student textbook to accompany them.

Lecture Topics: [The Consultation Chart: A Tool for Working Astrologers](#)  
[The Ascendant and Midheaven in Combination](#)  
[Never Launch Anything at a New Moon! New Ways to Explore the Lunar Cycle](#)

Post-conference Workshop: [Courage + Talent + Energy = Success](#)



#### Narelle Duncan

Narelle Duncan is an award winning Australian Astrologer (FAA Silver & Gold Medal 2009) who uses her natural perceptive gifts to help others get in touch with their passion and live their 'best life'. For more than 18 years Narelle, an astrologer, naturopath and life-style counsellor, has infused people with self-awareness. Narelle's specialty lies in highlighting life lessons and teachings and providing tools to stay 'on track' with one's life purpose. She designed the Soul Purpose Oracle Cards based on the nodes and pre-natal eclipse so everyone can access their soul purpose!

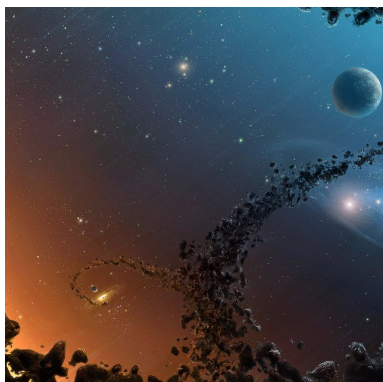
Lecture Topics: [Relationship Compatibility – Getting the Best Out of Your Relationships!](#)  
[What Career Suits Me Best?](#)



#### Terry MacKinnell

Terry MacKinnell was born in Sydney, Australia in 1951 and is a self-taught Vedic-western fusion astrologer who has been studying astrology since the early 1970s. In 1987 he came up with the initial inspiration for his research into the astrological ages. Commencing in 2000, he returned to his research in earnest and, after a three year writing project, published his first book on the subject in 2011 – "The Dawning – Shedding New Light on the Astrological Ages". He is currently writing a book on the sub-ages of the astrological ages and does lectures and workshops on Vedic astrology and the astrological ages in Australia, New Zealand and Bali.

Lecture Topic: [The Transformation of Western Society in the Age of Aquarius](#)



## Asteroids and where to find them

The tradition of astrology is based in a number of ancient tools and techniques, but as

science has advanced so have the number of celestial bodies we are able to draw interpretation from. The inclusion of asteroids is a relatively new element of astrological practice (asteroid ephemerides became available in 1973), but they are used by some astrologers who consider themselves traditional, and some of those more modern. Below are some astrologers who have worked with asteroids, and some resources for finding, understanding, and utilising the asteroids in your chart.

## Early adopters

### Demetra George

George is a well-known traditional astrologer, but initially trained in modern techniques and wrote a seminal work on the topic of asteroids, titled [\*Asteroid Goddesses\*](#). Published in 1986, George developed an understanding of some of the first discovered, and largest asteroids; Ceres, Vesta, Juno, Pallas, and Juno, and framed their delineation around reemerging feminine archetypes within world, and astrological, consciousness.

George also developed a framework for delineating asteroids in her book [\*Astrology and the Authentic Self\*](#).

***"To include the asteroids in your readings in a meaningful way, you must organise them thematically and have a methodology for determining their significance within an individual chart. Remember that perhaps only a dozen or so of the 12,000 asteroids will actually be relevant to a particular chart... [I enter into] the basic chart certain mythic asteroids that I think are universally important, as well as those that are conjunct the four angles, the two luminaries, the ruler of the Ascendant, and anything else that strikes me as interesting."***

### J. Lee Lehman

A contemporary of Demetra George, Lehman's astrological lineage is, in some ways, similar. Before Lehman's well-known work in horary and medical astrology, she wrote the ambitiously titled [\*The Ultimate Asteroid Book\*](#).

Lehman's contribution to asteroid expertise splits a handful of asteroids (68 in total) into themes, and describes the mythology, or stories, behind each, that may assist in delineation.

***"In this book I have explored the astrological meanings of only a small number of the known asteroids. In fact, I could have used an entirely different set of 'roids. This is the strength - and weakness - of the 'roids. We are each free to explore any of them, because any asteroid may be significant under the appropriate circumstances... Asteroids are not exactly like planets because their meanings are not as universal as planets'. This is the reason... that I don't use asteroids with rulerships, nor do I use them with planetary patterns like T-squares and grand trines."***

Typical of Lehman's work, there are plenty of interesting anecdotes to ground out the theory:

***"Symbols run through people's lives in meandering ways. For example, a friend of mine recently noticed that her Eros is conjunct both her daughter's and my Mercury. She is not going to play this out through an erotic relationship, but instead, she talks about her sex life with the two of us more than any of her other friends!"***

## **Finding asteroids**

Much of the today's astrology software has some, or many, of the known asteroids available for selection in a chart. You can also use certain websites for free. [Astro.com offers to do just that in its 'Extended Chart Selection'](#). In this section of the site, you can cast a chart, but also add any number of asteroids from the site's extensive list. Enter the chart details and then scroll to the bottom of the page to add asteroids.

[Serennu is another site](#) where you can see the placement of over 1000 asteroids in your chart, displayed simultaneously with your planets and angles.

## **Where to next?**

Of course, there are many people investigating and delineating asteroids. [Astrosavvy](#) has an interesting list of asteroids with some mythology and delineation information. And this [Skyscript article](#) approaches asteroids and similar phenomena from a traditional perspective. A little lost on the symbology? [This website gives a reasonable list of astrological glyphs and symbols](#), including some asteroids.

## **Southern Star**

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