

Capricorn 2018 edition:

Rethinking Australia Day, with Mari Garcia

Report-back from FAA International Conference

FAASA's 2018 lecture program

From the President

I'm not very good at New Year resolutions. What seems a good idea on January 1st can be happily overlooked if a better offer comes along. My Mars in Pisces is mutable, so happy to consider other options, and somewhat lacking in drive, so procrastination is easy. A daily walk on the beach is a good, healthy idea. But if it's windy, or cold, or I'm reading a really good book, there are so many ways to convince myself that daily doesn't really mean every day, just often enough to keep myself slightly fit. I know how much better I feel after being on the beach – but brain and body do not always work as one!

This year I have been inspired by an article I saw on the ABC website. Our New Year resolutions are always about ourselves, it pointed out, getting fitter, more organised etc. Perhaps it's time to focus on others. So that's what I'm trying to do this year. To talk less and listen more (did you hear that, Mercury in Aquarius?) To judge less and accept more (be silent, my Virgo Moon!) To accept criticism and react to wrongs with equanimity (slow down there, Mars/Uranus!)

Jonathan Edwards, an American 18th-century theologian, listed the following: "Resolved, not only to refrain from an air of dislike, fretfulness, and anger in conversation, but to exhibit an air of love, cheerfulness and benignity.

"Resolved, in narrations never to speak anything but the pure and simple verity.

"Resolved, always to do what I can towards making, maintaining, establishing and preserving peace." (Quoted by Natasha Moore, University of Cambridge, ABC website)

Good intentions indeed! I will try to make these my default position, and that will need a lot of practice. Feel free to remind me if you see me deviate from my path. Here's to peace, love and truth, at home and in the world!

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2018. **We have a fantastic, diverse program lined up for you, and we begin on February 10th with a look at the year ahead.** I hope to see you there!

May love and laughter light your days

Cate Whelan



2018 Lecture Program

February 10 - A look at the year ahead, with Alice Portman and Cate Whelan

March 17 - Cycles of Time, financial astrology with Ann Collins

April 7 - Astro-Mapping, an adventure on Solar Fire with Stephanie Johnson

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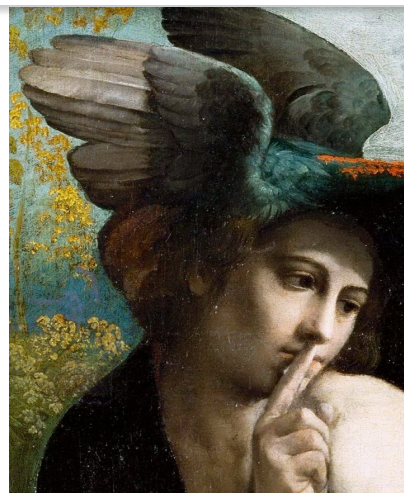
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Rethinking Australia Day

With Mari Garcia

Australia Sydney Cove Landing

Natal Chart

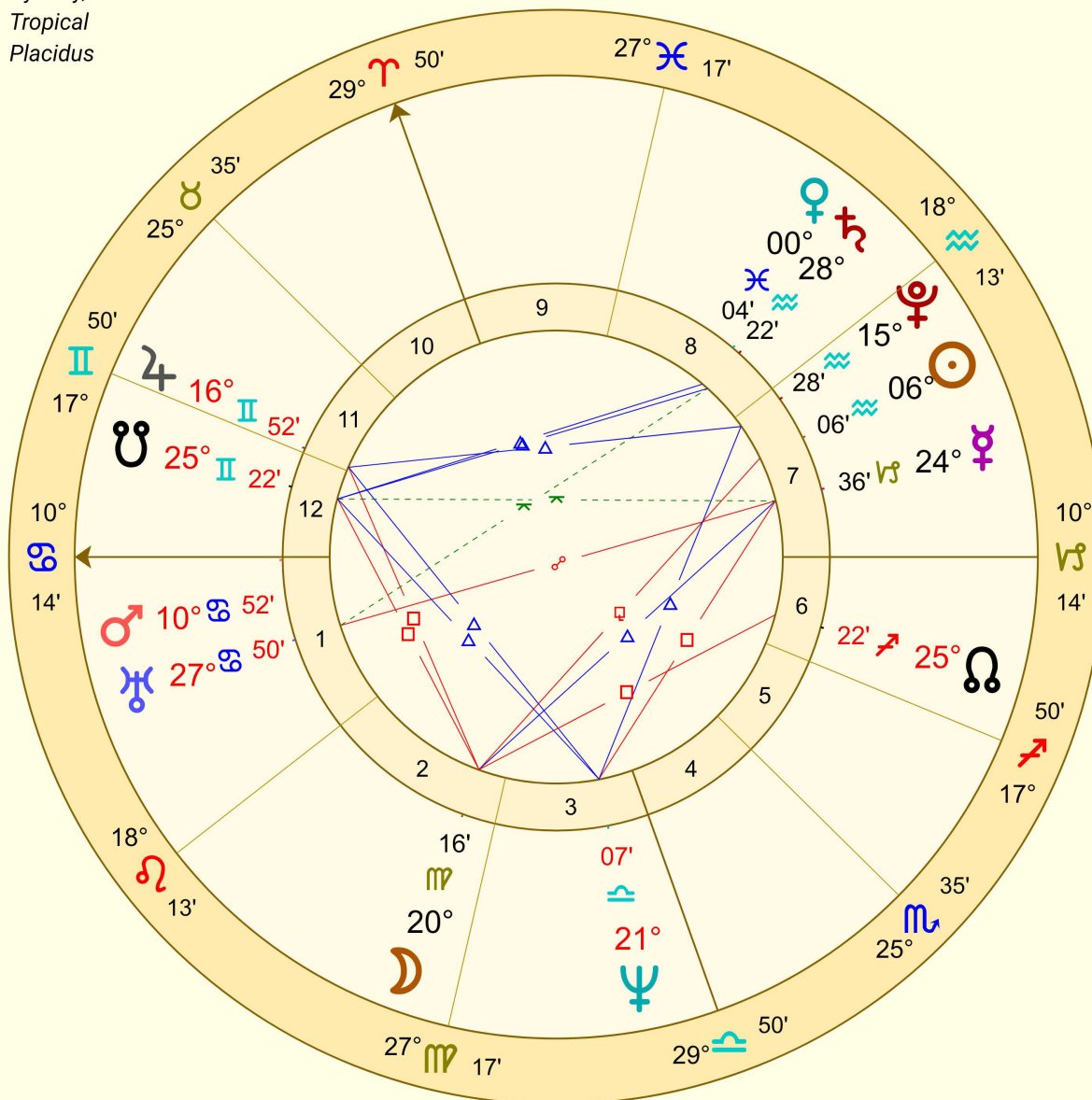
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One of the major images Australia has had to contend with in its short history is an underlying xenophobia/racism and the heritage of the White Australia policy which was in force for so many years. This debate has surfaced intermittently but over the last twenty years it has become politicised and entrenched as a national issue. So much so, that now it sits squarely on the national agenda and has had effects on trade, immigration, and foreign relations.

So, where does it come from? Is it described in the astrology of the nation's charts? To understand the issues, we must look at a broad chunk of history to gauge not only where these came from but their evolution.

its waning square. The Uranus-Neptune cycle mirrors religious, cultural and intellectual revolution and enlightenment. This cycle affects the illusions and truths of any time and generation - and thus how they impact on history through their beliefs and the externalisation of the human psyche in public and cultural affairs. It is interesting that this degree is captured in the Sydney Cove chart with Jupiter occupying the degree of the Uranus-Neptune conjunction. We could conjecture that Jupiter becomes the 'voice' of the cycle, especially as it squares the Moon, significator of the people and lord of the Ascendant and Jupiter makes a wide conjunction to the South Node. In its detriment, Jupiter cannot bring the full impact of bounty or fruitfulness.

Instead, I think this Jupiter, ruling the 6th and the 9th and as the exalted lord of the Ascendant, sitting in the whole sign 12th house stirs up the fears and anxiety of the collective.

These fears and anxieties could centre on new ideas and beliefs which may challenge existing structures: physical, social, cultural and religious.

The lord of the Gemini 12th house is Mercury in Capricorn in a tight opposition to Uranus across the 1st – 7th house, and square Neptune, echoing the challenge of new ideas, points of view and opinions from external sources, alliances or enemies. The T-square with Neptune captures the concepts and ideals brought here with the First Fleet now forming a platform for Australian beliefs.

The new cycle in 1820 (a few years after settlement) was born at 1-3 degrees Capricorn, just a few degrees shy of the Sydney Cove Descendant. Previously, the exclusion of certain people was seen as a way of keeping the fruits of productive labour [1, see footnotes] (6th house) for the benefit of the local people. It had its roots primarily in ensuring that the native born were not disenfranchised from their heritage and livelihood. Unfortunately, native born did not apply to the Indigenous people who became the most disenfranchised group.

So, where did this attitude come from? To answer this question, we must go back to the original convicts transported to Australia on that First Fleet. These people had lost everything and in the sentence of 'transportation' imposed upon them for their crimes, they had little or nothing else left to lose. Transportation to Australia was a last resort and many would see out their remaining years here. The other group of people who were part of the First Fleet were called Improvers who accompanied the convicts. This group comprised clergy, soldiers, governors, and civil servants, who saw the convicts as wretched creatures and denounced them as treacherous.

But what these Improvers did not see was a the source of the convicts future power and glory -

property, and to found families and so experience those nobler human emotions which the pursuit of crime had left them a stranger to [2].

Apart from the convicts, there were also free settlers who in their decision to come to Australia fulfilled their need to seek the political, religious, social utopia which would not have the same shortcomings of the society they had left behind.

The Aquarian Sun describes the search for Eden, for utopia and over time that is what Australia as a country, has stood for to the many people who have, over the years, made their home here. This was the Promised Land where things could and were different. Ruled by Saturn, Aquarian ideals have to do with institutions and hierarchies established to fulfil collective needs but which may not necessarily foster independent or individual aspirations.

Those first settlers, many of whom came under duress, included: the convicts as victims of a system, the improvers as servants of the system and the free settlers in the hope of escaping the system. They were all looking for a new life.

By the time of the birth of the next Uranus-Neptune conjunction in 1820, the promise of the waning square was now in the process of being fulfilled. There was a strong patriotic development and many hailed the one thing that made this land different to the Old World was that it was free of war (the Aquarian idealism) but it is ironic that the chart, with its Mars in fall on the Ascendant describes the wars waged on the Indigenous people to the point of near extinction in many parts of the land.

From the idea that the colony belonged to the convicts and their descendants stemmed both the notion that the Australians could create a society free from the evils of the Old World (Aquarian idealism coupled with Uranus in the first house) and that the enjoyment of such an achievement should be reserved for the native born.[3]

Sentiments of belonging to the country also went hand in hand with ideas of exclusive ownership which echo the Cancer Ascendant. Australian xenophobia has a long history and its origins can be traced to the passions and aspirations of those first convicts/settlers.

This exclusivity is indicated by the Cancer Ascendant which is driven by a need for emotional security, realised through the critical and pedantic Virgo Moon in the second house, square Jupiter and the Nodal Axis. The people, or popular opinion, is underpinned by the need for security and whenever this point is triggered the primal need in the collective will see this either as a physical threat or an undermining of what it stands for.

From this perspective, we can then view the 1992 Uranus-Neptune conjunction at 18-19 degrees Capricorn, placed squarely in the middle of the 7th house, indicating that significant changes in Australia's relations with other nations are going to come about. It also indicates that the nation

The racism debate has developed and has become a very big part of those changes. The 7th house is the house most likely to be projected out, and in the racism debate Australia is seen as taking the moral high ground by accusing other nations/societies (7th house) of giving preference to their own native born at the expense of others (like Australians) especially in matters of trade.

The spate of sensationalist nationalistic comments and pronouncements made by a number of politicians - who in effect represent the people - on the issues of foreign aid, trade, multiculturalism and immigration has started to have effects on Australia's relations with other countries. As a nation, Australians have to deal with this because it is becoming the face by which it is known.

Over the past twenty years, the eruption of racist behaviour and its politicisation has become more overt and apparent, not only in the rhetoric but it is again being enshrined in government policy. The White Australia policy was formally enshrined in the Immigration Restriction Act of 1901. The passage of this bill is considered the commencement of the White Australia Policy but its predecessors, a series of taxes and exclusions based on race and ethnicity, go back as far as the early 1850s.

It is interesting to note that Pauline Hanson, one of the more outspoken politicians who has formed her own party, has her Sun at 5 Gemini [4] conjunct the Ascendant/MC midpoint of the Sydney Cove chart. The Ascendant/MC midpoint will describes the way in which the country puts its ideals and aspirations (MC) to work in the world (Ascendant). Having her Sun in this point suggests that Hanson's popularity is based on the fact that she literally is the face (to some) of the country's ideals and aspirations.

The Aries MC describes aspirations for independence, assertiveness and action enshrined via the ruler Mars on the Ascendant and expressed as possessiveness especially of that which is familiar or 'owned'. We like being first at things: Australia has a pioneering reputation in many fields including sports, engineering, aviation, pharmaceuticals, and medicine, to name a few. As a society we strive to be the first, the fastest, the tallest, echoing very much the currency lads and lasses of the 1820s boasting of their prowess over their European counterparts. We like to be better than anyone else.

Today, Pauline Hanson and others say that they pride themselves on defending Australia from all the other nations - of putting Australia first. One of the important points here is that there is an assumption that Australia is so wonderful, everyone wants to live here, and that what we have is better than anything else on offer anywhere. The Sydney Cove chart with its Cancer Ascendant

the attitude of "if we keep ourselves to ourselves then that isn't going to happen".

As Australia Day comes around again, we are faced with the escalating voices. On the one hand, they express the disenfranchisement which Indigenous people feel regarding the celebration of the landing of the First Fleet. On the other, we have equally vociferous voices using the notion of Australia Day to perpetuate a singular and very dangerous brand of nationalism. What we as a society need to do is re-discover the sense of discovery and unity in the creation of a unique society, rather than on the divisiveness based on who or what defines Australia.

[Mari Garcia is an Adelaide-based astrologer](#), and is an experienced educator, lecturer, and astrological consultant. She is co-principal of astrology school AstroMundi.

[1] Michael Baigent, Nicholas Campion and Charles Harvey, *Mundane Astrology: an introduction to the astrology of nations and groups* (London: Aquarian, 1984), 230.

[2] Michael Cathcart, *Manning Clark's History of Australia, Abridged* (City: Penguin, 1996), 9

[3] *Ibid*, page 78

[4] Source for Pauline Hanson's date of birth is Australian Government listing of Members of the House of Representatives as listed on the internet at <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/trialhom.html>.



Conference Report-back

Reflections on the 2018 FAA International Conference

It's over for another year. But if you missed the 2018 FAA Conference, we had several local astrologers in attendance and they offer reflections on some of the finer moments [here](#).

your own.

Feeling the buzz

Cate Whelan - "Noise, colours, hugs, chaos. Rediscovering old friends, making new ones. Finding our way around the campus. Electronic keys. A great dining hall of people for breakfast and lunch. Exquisite pastries, and fresh watermelon and pineapple between lectures. Trying to sleep in hot rooms with concrete pillows. Discussion and revelation."

Kris Svendsen - "It was great to re-meet some of my new interstate friends and colleagues. One of these, **Kerry Gallea**, is coming to FAA SA in September to present to us."

Delyth Owen - "This was my first astrology conference and to be immersed in the astrological community for 3 days sharing ideas, charts and personal experiences was like nirvana to me!... I also found the guest speakers to be extremely approachable and generous of spirit when interacting with them at meal times etc."

Jill Amery - "The overall 'vibe' of the conference was positive, uplifting, and welcoming, as with many astro-conferences where we as astrologers can feel as though we are with a 'family'... at the gala dinner on Saturday night, there was an astrologer from the UK who had attended, with me, Noel Tyl giving an all-day workshop on his astro-methodology (a life-changing event for us both) back in September 1995 in Cirencester, UK! We connected in Melbourne 22 years later!"

Julie Bowen - "I really enjoyed my first interstate conference, and especially loved the buzz of being around my own tribe - Astrologers! There are so many types of astrology. It was good to experience that."

Fresh Ideas and new faces

Kris - "My personal highlights were all the **Wade Caves** presentations... Wade is a great presenter and I like his clear and concise "no holds barred approach."

Cate - "Two new international speakers shone. **Wade Caves** embraced his audiences and drew them into his world. He made dry topics fascinating, and his talk on electional astrology was just outstanding - it turned standard practice on its head. **Christof Niederwieser**, an Austrian business astrologer with a severe profile in the program, turned up with wayward hair, a bushy beard and a great sense of fun. His lectures on group dynamics were wonderful. I was upset to have missed the first, but I made sure I was there for the second. The word had got around and it was a full house."

Niederwieser gave an extended lecture 'The Group Horoscope: Key to Collective Astrology'... The second was **Bob Hunter's** presentation 'The Essence within the Form: Astrology's Common Threads'... Bob is a very gifted astrologer/philosopher who links repeating cosmic patterns in order to gain perspective on where we stand in time. The third was a presentation by the affable and prolific **Frank Clifford** - 'Never Launch Anything at a New Moon! – New Ways to Explore the Lunar Cycle'."

Julie - "I loved **Janet Menefy's** 'Circle on the Floor'. This was more an experience than a talk. The principle was that the chart was laid on the floor in a circle, and a person would stand where their sun sign was. They would then experience the transiting sun as it made its aspects to the natal. This proved quite moving for those both in the circle and in the room... Janet also sells sun-sign essences, which may be of interest."

Delyth - "I was fairly blown away by **Michael Lutin**, unfortunately I was only able to get to one of his talks due to the enormous choice of topics and speakers which was fairly agonising for me! It was fantastic to see South Australian astrologers represented by **Jill** and **Mari** as presenters, I didn't attend but the feedback that I was aware of was very positive."

Other highlights from attendees: **Kira Sutherland** on medical astrology, **Christine Rothwell** on Saturn, **Cindy Naunton** on Solar Returns, **Charles Jameson** on the astrology of cult leaders. **Verena Bachman, Narelle Duncan, and Charyn Maclean.**

South Australian excellence

Kris - "**Mari Garcia** was as usual at her traditional best with two sessions I attended: 'Good and Bad Fortune in the natal chart' (mainly on the positive or negative three periods of life found via the Triplicity Lords) and the 'Time of your life' (on Firdaria). Having used the Hindu Dasas and Bhuktis time lord period method, I find the Firdaria similar but not as sharp in their significations from the natal chart."

Cate - "I didn't see Mari's lectures, but I know the quality of her presentations. **Jill Amery** spoke very professionally on her expert topic, the Quindecile, and although the audience was small it was very engaged and there was some good discussion."

Jill - "While the numbers attending [for Jill's presentation] were disappointing (hardly surprising as I'm not well-known interstate), the interaction with them was good and I felt they enjoyed the presentation and derived something from it that they could take away and research for themselves. I received great support and help from the tech team for setup and also from Cate Whelan, our FAA SA President, who introduced me."

Cate - "It was also wonderful to see **Ed Tamplin**, now the silver-bearded wise elder; he is the master pattern finder in world affairs and his talks were full of amazing connections."

Kris - "The best of the non-Wade presentations I attended were **Demetra George's** complex pre-conference workshop on Hellenistic Time Lord systems, and her simpler plenary session socking-it-to the modern 8th house/sex affinity concept which she shows only came into the literature after 1912."

Jill - "My personal highlight was to see our national astrological treasure, **Ed Tamplin**, very much alive and well after serious illness, and giving two dynamic presentations... When a presentation leaves you longing for more then you know you're with a true Master, and Ed is certainly in that rare category."

Lasting Impressions

Delyth - "It may be a common theme at all astrology conferences, but it confirmed to me that we are living in unprecedented times. Huge global change is afoot, and is already occurring. Timing really is everything and astrology helps us to navigate our way and, to some extent, prepares us. Forewarned is forearmed!

As someone who has only been formally studying astrology for 2 years I was amazed and encouraged to discover how much I do already know and that has inspired me to continue my studies, while also practising astrology daily in my life and hopefully the lives of others."

Julie - "Something that seemed to come up in conversations was the concern of 2020, and the pluto/saturn conjunction..."

Cate - "I love being exposed to new ideas and different ways of seeing things. I had a few lightbulb moments and broadened my horizons in a number of areas. It's an absolute indulgence to be able to speak astrology all day and all night -definitely a positive experience!"

Kris - "Talking to a number of new faces, I perceived there was still a divide between the new students of astrology taking the Modern astrology route and their understanding, or confusion, listening to the traditional and fairly rigorous lectures that they sometimes ventured into (like those of Wade Caves), as opposed to the lighter more comedic Michael Lutin presentations. The future may have to better address this divide, although, the exposure to differing perspectives was still a strength of the 22nd FAA International Conference."

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