

Early Years to 2000 of Astrology and the FAA in Perth WA

Text and pictures to 1986 by Geoffrey Dean, FAA WA's first president 1983, rest by Robyn Lee, FAA WA committee member and occasional office bearer 1987-1994



Perth CBD in 1974 as seen from King's Park with Moon in 12th house

The following text and pictures illustrate the growth of astrology in WA from pre-FAA days of the 1970s, through 1983 when FAA WA was founded, to 1997 plus a taste of beyond. The text uses information from various sources including *The FAA Journal* and FAA WA newsletters.



FAA Journal 1971-1986. Far left are the first three issues (1971), which were on quarto paper. Subsequently the issues were on foolscap (or A4 from mid 1983) centre-stapled to form a booklet. Each issue had a cover whose colour followed no regular order. In 1972-73 the average number of pages per issue was 36 and each issue cost \$1.00. By 1984-86 the number of pages per issue varied between 52 and 108, average 72. In 1986 each issue cost \$3.50, up 9% pa since 1972.

Astrology in Australia to 1975

The editorial by Doris Greaves, then one of Australia's leading astrologers, in the *FAA Journal* Volume 1 No 1 gave some background on how the FAA was formed:

"For some time the teaching astrologers throughout Australia have been concerned that we have had no National Association to set the standards required for astrologers in this country. We also felt the need for a publication based on Southern Latitude research into this subject. However, owing to the tremendous distances involved, it was hard to see at first how we could achieve Interstate cooperation yet still maintain State independence. This was made possible last year when, after speaking to representatives of the two main Sydney groups, I travelled to Brisbane to discuss the possibility of an Australian Association with leading astrologers there. ... They immediately agreed to assist in the forming of a Federation."

The meeting at which the Federation was formed took place in Cleveland Qld (25 km ESE of Brisbane) on 8 July 1970 at 3:21 pm EST. Fifteen months later, Volume 1 No 3 announced that the membership was "over one hundred with members in all States of the Com-

monwealth and New Guinea" and was "continuing to grow at an encouraging rate." The National Executive and State Representatives included astrologers from all states except Tasmania and WA. The first certificate exam was held in October 1971. The annual membership fee (which included the journal) was \$5.50 with an enrolment fee of \$2.50.

TWO CENTURIES OF ASTROLOGY IN AUSTRALIA

JOHN TURNER

with biographical contributions from some of our astrologer pioneers.

The closing lines of the editorial in the last FAA Journal have, unknowingly, given an excellent introduction and reason for this historical reflection and I quote, "For many years people have studied and in some cases spent the greater part of their lives in ensuring that astrology should not be lost to future generations. It is regrettable that their science should be rediscovered and (perhaps) renamed without acknowledgement of their efforts."

Astrology, being a rather unconventional subject, has not been included in our local history books and with the growing population of younger readers, and less oldies to tell the tales, it is hoped that these reminiscences and reflections will fill the background for future astrological enthusiasts.

Two Centuries of Astrology in Australia is a 20-page account by NSW astrologer John Turner in *The FAA Journal* over four issues in 1972-1973, when Turner was in his mid eighties.

According to Turner, one of the early active astrologers in Australia was David Cope, born 1848 in Birmingham and a friend of Alan Leo, who came to Australia in the 1880's. In Sydney in the 1930's Cope was "practising as an astrologer and teaching astrology. ... He looked the typical old style astrologer, with flying white hair, old fashioned frock coat. ... Agar Zariel, as everybody called him (that was the era when Astrologers all took fancy titles) had a grandson and he was asked to pick a name for the child according to Astrology. He chose Horace, but the magic did not work, because Horace Cope grew up to be a tram driver, not an astrologer."

DEAR SIR,

I have read the remarkable contribution from Mr. P. Toller-Bond to your journal with the keenest interest, and am eagerly awaiting "more light."

All criticism at the present stage is obviously premature, since it is utterly impossible to make the slightest use, for any purpose, of the elements so far submitted to your readers, until at least four items are clearly defined, viz.:-

1. Rules to show which of the seven alphabets to apply.
2. Rules to indicate the particular sign *influences* from which ☉ ♀ and ☿ operate, and when the ☉ and ☿ are considered positive or negative.
3. Rules to find the planetary government of each hour during the days of the week according to the author's system of using them.
4. Rules for the application of the changes in the vowel sounds.

The idea of the Sun passing through the twelve signs of the Zodiac four times during a period of one year, is, of course, somewhat startling; but as there are four seasons during that time, and four quarters in the circle, it does not seem so extravagant after all to suppose that the solar power may operate (in an *influential sense*), through each of the twelve signs in turn, once in every three months. This may be the case without the necessity of requiring us to believe the actual body of the Sun to be transmitting the signs in question. [Hear, hear!—Ed.]

What is now needed is, that we may be able to make our own private tests of this extraordinary problem. Then we may be in a position to endorse the surprising evidence presented, or to criticise—not before.

As the details of the scheme promise to offer a wide and useful field for application in many directions, I hope to see the technical points and rules completely and clearly defined.

I remain yours truly,

London, 8/11/05.

AGAR ZARIEL.

[Our correspondent is brief and to the point; we trust that the writer of the article in question will be equally concise and definite.—Ed.]

Agar Zariel must have been back in the UK in the 1900s, because this letter by him written in London in 1905 appeared in Alan Leo's journal *Modern Astrology* (New Series) 3, 46-47, 1906.

In his letter Zariel is asking for details of a proposed technique that shuttles solar power through the twelve signs during each season, arguing (most sensibly) that independent assessment is not possible without details.

In his PS the editor (Alan Leo) praises Zariel for his brevity and clarity, and hopes that the writer of the article being referred to "will be equally concise and definite".

In Western Australia, the earliest astrologers reported by John Turner were Otto Werner, who sent a paper connecting aspects with musical chords to Australia's first Astrological Convention held in Melbourne in June 1949. Concurrently, in 1951, a Mr Hunter-Michie, then 62, who had been established in Perth since 1930, gave lectures at the WA Theosophical Society, and also practised Hindu Astrology. WA's later Astro-Palmistry Register of 1984 (see page 11) reveals two astrologers who were active in the 1940s, namely John Louis whose special interest was Hindu astrology, and James Prinz whose special interest was esoteric astrology and who also practised palmistry.

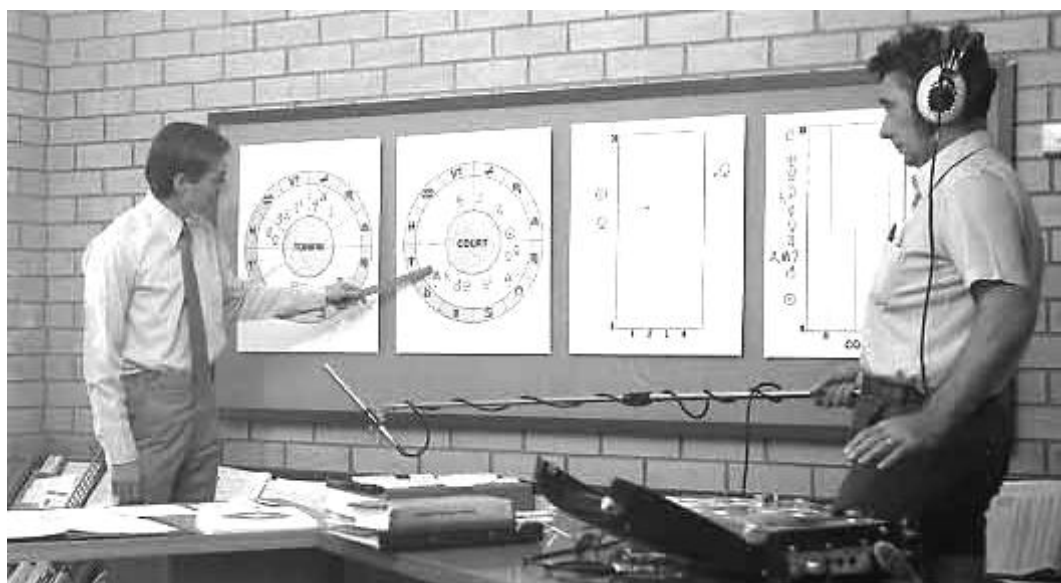
Astrology in WA 1970-1975



In the early 1970s, at the Magic Circle bookshop in Barrack Street and the Theosophical Bookshop in Museum Street (pictured on page 8), which together were the two main sources of astrology books in Perth, one could hear rumours about local people who could calculate birth charts. Details were vague, but it was clear that no astrology classes existed. Nevertheless, as shown here, popular ideas were alive and well.

Putting the sin back into synastry. Classified ad from the *Sunday Times* in the mid 1970s.

The first TV station in Perth was Channel 7, which began on 16 October 1959. The ABC followed on 7 May 1960 and Channel 9 on 12 June 1965. By 1977 each was on air for about 14 hours a day. About ten hours was devoted to drama and light entertainment, one hour to sport, and the rest to news, current affairs, family and children's programmes. With a few rare exceptions, astrology was conspicuously absent.



The first appearance of a Perth astrologer on ABC TV in WA. Geoffrey Dean looks at the prospects of Arthur Tonkin and Richard Court, contenders for the premiership in the state election of April 1974.

The non-availability of astrology classes changed in 1974 when the first astrology class at the TS for twenty years began at 9:36 pm on Tuesday 9 July in the TS Reading Room. It was taught by FAA member Geoffrey Dean. The class had been recruited by a notice in the TS bookshop advertising "A course of 10 weekly classes showing how to erect and interpret a birth chart with the minimum of fuss. Fee is \$20 and covers everything – books, calculation sheets, chart forms, the lot. Absolutely nothing else is needed, not even pencil and paper." As shown in the next picture, Perth in 1974 was a smaller and quieter place than it is today.



Perth CBD 9am on Christmas Day 1974, looking south along Barrack Street from Murray Street. Clock tower marks the Perth Town Hall.

In those days bread cost 30c for a 900g loaf, milk 30c for 1200 ml, eggs 80c for a dozen 55g size, and T-bone steak was \$2.20 a kg.

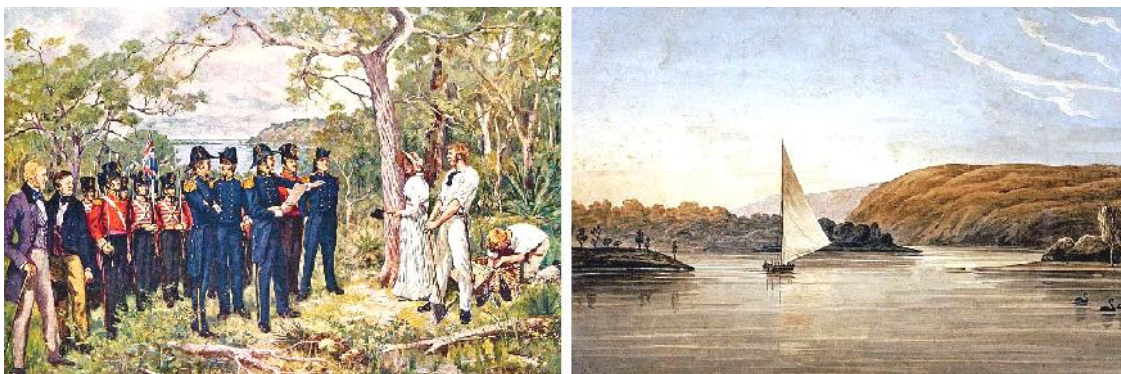
The basic weekly wage was \$48.50 for males and \$43.50 for females.

For astrologers Perth City has the distinction of being founded by an unusual ceremony that took place at an unusual time on a day when almost nothing went according to plan. The foundation is commemorated by a plaque in the footpath on Barrack Street just south of Hay Street near the clock tower, at 31°57.3 south and 115°51.4 east. Normally cities are founded by the laying of a stone, but the area was entirely sand and no stone could be found. So a tree was felled instead, a tradition that to the despair of greenies has been followed ever since. Another tradition that is followed on the plaque to the despair of astrologers is the absence of any mention of the time. Especially as the time was not what you might expect:



Governor Stirling was encamped on Garden Island just outside Fremantle (which had no safe anchorage), but the boat journey up the Swan River to the place selected for Perth was so delayed by head winds and sand bars that the foundation ceremony did not start until half-past four in the afternoon local time, about 45 minutes before sunset. Allowing a few minutes for the ceremony, the felling would have occurred around 4:50 pm WST or 8:50 am GMT (WST itself was not adopted until 1895.)

One hundred years later the ceremony was portrayed by the artist George Pitt Morison in his famous but speculative oil-on-canvas picture shown below. The original is 97 cm x 138 cm.



Others in the picture include Governor Stirling, Captains Charles Fremantle and William Dance, and the Surveyor-General John Septimus Roe. In the distance is Mount Eliza (now Kings Park), seen at right in an early watercolour.

The time of the ceremony is given in a letter written about September 1829, probably by the ship's military commander Major Frederick Irwin. The time is not mentioned in official Perth histories, and is not even accurately portrayed in the above picture. Here is an extract:

“On the 12th of August, being the King's Birthday, the ceremony of naming the town of Perth took place; accordingly the Governor and all the officers went up the river, and fixed upon a spot near Mt Eliza, about 15 miles from its mouth, and at half-past four the ceremony commenced. Mrs Dance, the only lady who ventured so far up the river, was proposed by the Governor to christen the town, which she did by holding an axe, and the Governor guiding her hand, she then gave a blow with it upon a large tree, which was cut down for the purpose [by the axeman shown in the painting]; the soldiers fired a volley, and all present gave three cheers. The Governor made a speech upon the occasion, and thus ended the ceremony; after which he gave a dinner to all the officers.”



Sir James Stirling 1791-1865

The full moon on 15 August 1829 was only three nights away. Clock time was then the usual local clock time, namely sundial time corrected for its non-uniformity (which is due to the same factors that cause the seasons) by a standard correction known as the “equation of time”. On 12 August in any year the clock time is five minutes ahead of sundial time, but on other dates the difference can be 0-16 minutes either way. The uncertainty in the corrected time is difficult to assess, but assuming that a naval officer would not have



Charles Fremantle 1800-1869

specified half-past if it was on the quarter, the uncertainty might be less than ten minutes.

First Perth astrology class of 1974

Returning to that astrology class of 1974, the pioneering members are in the front row of the picture below, taken nine months later at a meeting in the TS reading room.

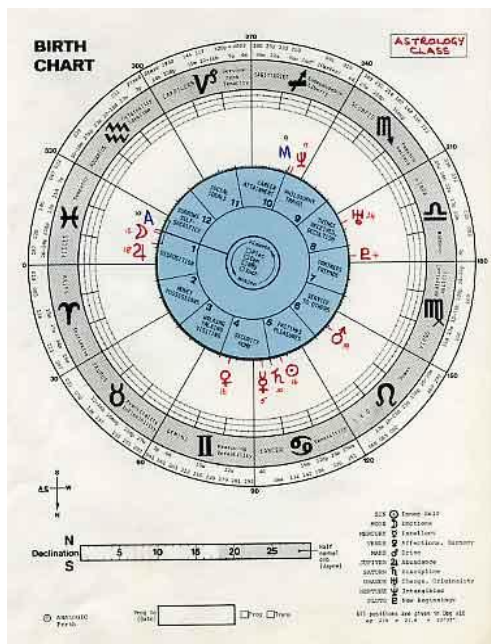


Meeting of astrologers and palmists in the TS reading room March 1975. In the front row is the original astrology class with their work books. From left: Carole Good, Solveig Main, Vicki Shegog, Geoffrey Dean, Becky Newell, Chris Newell, and Sue Clark. Standing fourth from right is astrologer-palmist Jill Ilott. These were the most enthusiastic members. The names of the others were unfortunately not recorded.

Each class usually ran from 8pm to 10:30pm except the first, which officially began at 9:36pm in order to put Neptune (seen by some as the planet of astrology) on the MC. The class had actually opened around 9pm with the handing out of the class requisites (at which time Mars was vaguely opposite the Ascendant), which for each person consisted of the following:

Teach Yourself Astrology by Jeff Mayo \$1.65, *Principles of Astrology* by Charles Carter \$3.60, *Everyman's Astrology* by Edward Lyndoe \$5.15, total for books \$10.40. Plus 12 calculation sheets, 12 interpolation grids, 12 birth charts, 6 houses sheets, 12 sun/rising sign meanings sheets, 3 aspect finder cards, 21 sheets for chart synthesis, one quarto ringback file, one red pen, one H pencil, one eraser, one pencil sharpener, one glue stick, and one drawing pin. The choice of books was determined by what was readily available in Perth, which was very limited compared with the choice available in Sydney and Melbourne, total \$9.60. The grand total per person was \$20.00. Tuition was free.

The main difficulty was obtaining a multi-year ephemeris and table of houses at a reasonable price, and here Edward Lyndoe's book (it contained a condensed ephemeris for 1900-1975 and a table of ascendants) proved to be the best deal. Planetary positions to the nearest degree could be extracted by eye except for the Moon, which needed an interpolation grid. In those days affordable hand calculators did not exist, and the grid allowed interpolation without the



need for logarithms, only a pencil and straight edge.

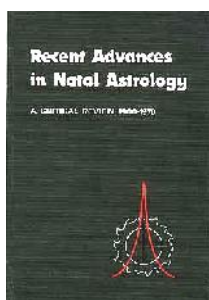
Since the chart itself might be the person's only visual contact with astrology, it had to be neat and attractive. This was achieved by drawing the planets in red, and by inserting the (equal) houses as a pre-printed circle (which came in six orientations to match any ascendant location), thus avoiding the need to draw cusps by hand. The resulting chart for the start of the first class is shown opposite.

Chart for the first astrology class 9 July 1974. To ensure neatness the blue circle containing the (equal) house positions was cut by scissors from a separate sheet and pasted in position.

During the ten classes the group became interested in interpreting unaspected planets. There was almost no information on this in the books, so they decided to do their own research. As it happened, they got on very well with each other, and they all seemed to know some very odd people. So they held meetings in

each other's homes to which they would bring the charts of those odd people, just to see if their oddness was linked to planets lacking major aspects. They found that it usually was.

Pre-Federation WA 1976-1982



Later, in 1975-1977, when Geoffrey Dean was in the UK, he followed up this work at the British Astrological Association's library in London, and was encouraged to expand it to cover most of astrology, not just unaspected planets. Soon leading astrologers around the world became interested, and three years later *Recent Advances in Natal Astrology: A critical review 1900-1976* was published under the aegis of the British Astrological Association.

It co-ordinated and summarised material from 310 astrology books (out of over 1000 consulted), 410 journal articles, and 300 scientific works. It took

seven man-years to prepare and involved more than fifty astrologers and scientists from ten countries. It had 608 pages and sold for \$25.

The book received international rave reviews at the highest level. It is often remembered for its superchart below "based on factors proposed and testified to by astrologers of standing". Its summaries of emerging research are now very out of date and very misleading but in 2016 the book was updated as *Tests of Astrology*.

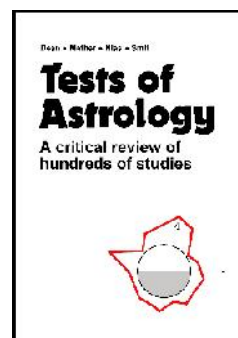
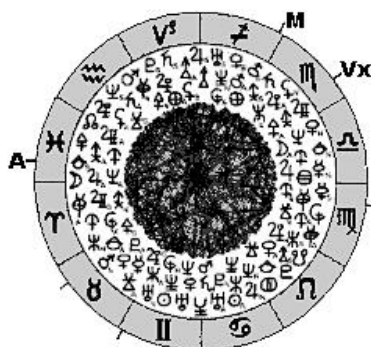
Excerpts from Reviews

The book is, not to mince words, thoroughly and magnificently analytical. There are no sacred cows here; everything is systematically expounded and carefully dissected to reveal every truth and every inconsistency to the last detail. If you have a serious interest in the cosmic art-science, you cannot do without this book. Buy it, read it, use it as a pillow, and absorb it while you sleep—anything, just don't let *Recent Advances* pass you by. *Horoscope, USA*

The most important book ever written on astrology. *Recent Advances*... is bound to radically alter the face of modern astrology through its incisive and comprehensive analyses of the basic problems of astrology. The list of collaborators... reads like a Who's Who of modern serious astrology. *Phenomena, Canada*

This is a book which had to be written. If there is any corner in astrology you don't feel very conversant with, this book will illuminate it for you. The result is a milestone in astrological book publishing. *FAA Journal, Australia*

What a book! It will go into history as one of the most important books of western astrology. One special feature is that both astrologers and devoted enemies of astrologers will find here much to their taste. If you think astrology is (or should be) a science like any other... you just cannot afford leaving this book unread. It is the book the entire astrological community has been waiting for. *Tijdschrift Astrologie, Netherlands*



In due course *Recent Advances* led to a revival of interest in astrological research, which in 1979 led to the founding of annual Research Conferences in London, and in 1981 to the founding in the UK of the international research journal *Correlation*.

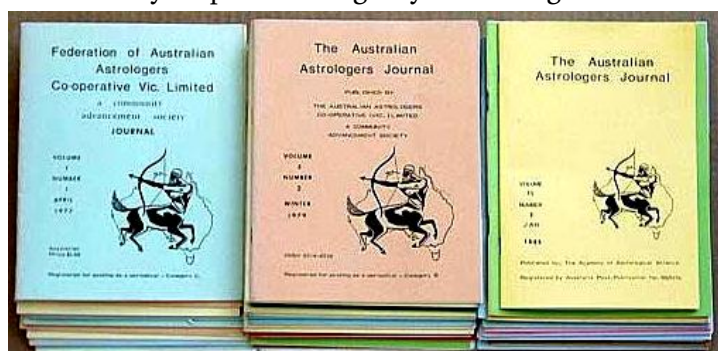


As a result, *Recent Advances* became the book that no well-dressed astrologer could afford to leave home without.

In January 1976 the FAA annual membership fee was increased to \$10.00 to cover rises in printing and postage costs, the first increase since 1970. The FAA Conference attracted 300, including 50 from NSW and Queensland, and “nearly all states were represented”.

All seemed to be well, but discontent was brewing – the FAA leadership was seen as non-democratic and putting its own interests before those of astrology. Such conflict was not uncommon among astrology groups worldwide, not just Australia. Eventually it led to a breakaway group being registered on 17 Mar 1977 under the Co-operation Act of Victoria (there being no Federal Act), which unlike the FAA was bound by law to keep proper records and hold proper elections.

The breakaway group issued its own journal and held its own conferences. The FAA immediately disputed its legality and its right to accumulated FAA funds. After a year of bitter



legal wrangling, the funds were split 7:5 between the FAA and the new group. In January 1979 the new group severed ties with the FAA and named itself the Australian Astrologers Co-operative (Vic.) Ltd with its own journal (far left). Its registration had given the group legal protection against fraud and mismanagement, but by 1987 other

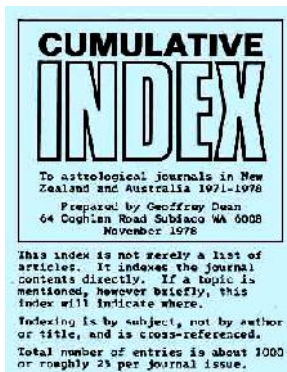
laws had changed and such registration was no longer needed. So the group de-registered and changed its name to Australian Astrologers with a corresponding change in its journal name.

When Geoffrey Dean returned to Perth in 1978, he was asked to begin a new class at the TS. Lyndoe’s book was no longer available, so the class was based on *The Compleat Astrologer* by Derek and Julia Parker costing \$15, which had a condensed ephemeris 1900-1975. Otherwise the chart forms etc were the same as before. Of the attendees the most notable was Barbara Brackley, who would later become one of the stalwarts of FAA both in WA and nationally.



The group from the first class had continued to meet in their various homes, and in due course they were joined by the group from the second class, and indeed anyone else who was interested in attending.

One of the informal Perth meetings in late 1978 of people studying astrology. In middle in white is Barbara Brackley. Far right is Becky Newell. The general preponderance of females was typical.



In those days astrology books and journals usually had no index, so you could forget about finding something in a hurry. It meant that the treasure trove of information in journals was effectively beyond easy retrieval and was thus effectively wasted. Accordingly, one of the things that helped to raise WA's then tiny profile at FAA level was the preparation of a cumulative index to all serious (ie non sun sign) astrological journals in New Zealand and Australia 1971-1978. The index was immediately praised in *The FAA Journal* for December 1978 as "very worthwhile and greatly appreciated."

Copies were free to anyone who sent in a stamped addressed envelope.

In addition to informal meetings, a regular programme of formal monthly meetings began at the TS Reading Room. Admission was free and the meetings attracted attendances of 10-20, which in those days was quite an achievement. The area is shown in the picture below.



HQ of the Perth Theosophical Society, corner of James and Museum Street, in the late 1970s. The TS bookshop windows on James Street (left) were too high to adequately display what the bookshop sold, giving it an air of mystery. Just before the parked car on the right is the entrance to the TS reading room. This link with Perth's astrological past was lost in the 1980s when it and surrounding areas were demolished to make way for a new Perth Cultural Centre. The TS Bookshop then moved to 21 Glendower Street opposite Hyde Park in North Perth.



The first flyer for these formal meetings is shown opposite and reveals a range of topics that even today would be impressive. For example the topics included recorded interviews with overseas astrologers, a panel answering questions from the floor, panel discussions of using astrology in counselling, astrology overseas, spiritual astrology, and comparative delineations by different methods including palmistry.

Flyer for the 1978 formal astrology meetings in the TS reading room. For want of a name to put on the flyer, the group called itself the Perth Astrological Society. Lectures were held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 8 pm sharp. Most important, ample free parking was just two minutes' walk away.

Here the last listed item reflected the research interests of Geoffrey Dean and Perth's then leading palmist Ron Hedgcock (pronounced Hedge-Co). Later this interest expanded into joint astro-palmistry research evenings

where slides of the chart and hand were projected side-by-side before a panel of astrologers, palmists, and psychics, who were invited to answer various questions ranging from easy (is this person reserved or outgoing?) to difficult (what colour eyes does this person have?). The

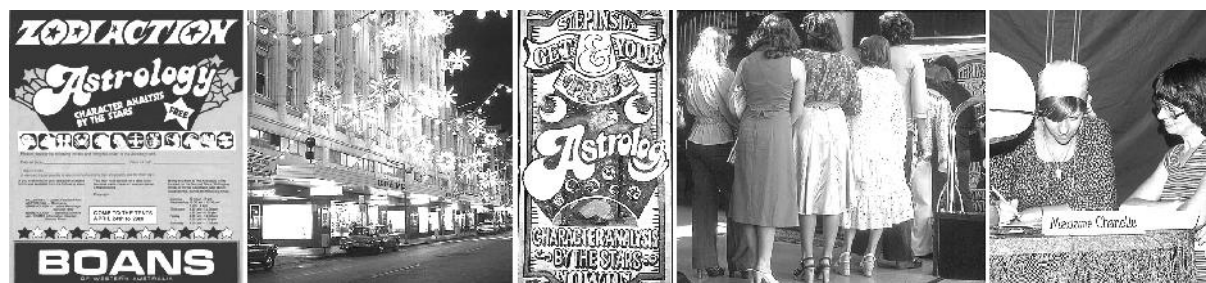
meetings were devoted to specialised research projects and were therefore not open to the general public. In the April 1980 picture below, standing is palmist Ron Hedgcock pointing out features in the subject's palm (image has been washed out by the camera flash). At right



are the slide projectors. **Bottom** In the front row from the right are our three astrologers Vicki Shegog, Becky Newell, and Ethel Webb, then three palmists, then two psychics. In the second row (and unknown to the readers) for feedback are some of the anonymous subjects whose charts and palms are being shown. In the back row at left are Barbara Brackley and, at far right, Annette Ridgway. The most notable finding was that no reader tended to score better than chance even on the easy questions.

But research was not limited to TS evenings. The notion that astrology clients tend to cluster by Sun sign was tested when Boans, then Perth's largest department store, decided to hold promotions in their four main

centres, and were persuaded to feature a *Zodiaction Week* in which fortune-tellers (trained by us) would tell customers their Sun, Moon and rising signs (obtained from tables via their birth data) plus a brief interpretation, all for free. All inputs were written down for later analysis.



Form for birth data. Boans main store in central Perth. Sign outside the astrology tent. Typical queue. Inside tent.

Zodiaction Weeks were held in all four Boans centres and attracted a total of 2045 customers. Most of the time there was a queue. Most birth times were too uncertain to allow analysis by Moon sign, otherwise the results were clear: No, clients did not tend to cluster by Sun sign.

1983 and FAA WA is born

In 1975 the FAA had branches only in NSW and Victoria. The Queensland branch was established in Brisbane on 5 July 1976; the meeting began at 7:30 pm. The *FAA Journal* is silent about when the SA branch began, but implies it metamorphosed in 1978 from the Astrological Society of SA founded on 13 October 1971 at 4:22:30 am, which otherwise inconvenient time allowed the convenience of Virgo rising. The Noosa (Sunshine Coast) branch began similarly in mid 1980. In due course the Tasmanian branch began on 23 July 1985 in Hobart, no time given but presumably in the evening, and the ACT branch on 10 August 1985 at 2:00 pm in Canberra, with about 30 people present on both occasions.

WA's turn came on Thursday 1 December 1983 at 8:43 pm WDST. A branch could be born only with FAA approval, and only if the FAA president or his representative was there to convene the meeting. In this case the president Keven Barrett was represented by the national

treasurer Gillian Murray. Afterwards Keven expressed the following sentiments in the *FAA Journal* editorial of December 1983:

“On the 1st December 1983 another milestone was reached in the FAA with the formation of the Western Australia [sic] branch in Perth. As I was unable to go to convene the meeting Gillian Murray acted for me and her report of the proceedings was most encouraging. Twenty-five people attended the meeting. Dr Geoffrey Dean was elected President and to National Executive, and Ly Langston is (sic) Vice-President and also National Executive.”

On the following page Gillian Murray had this to say:

“On the 1st December I felt very privileged to be representing Keven as the Convener of the meeting to launch the FAA WA Branch. Ly Langston made her lovely home available to us for the meeting on the Thursday and also the Seminar on the Saturday. The enthusiasm of the members was most noticeable and their knowledge and dedication auger well for a very stimulating and thought provoking group. Our very best wishes to them. I would particularly like to thank the WA Branch for their kindness and the time they devoted to me, particularly Ly Langston and Geoffrey Dean, the two new National Executive members.”

Gillian Murray had opened the meeting at 8 pm by explaining what the FAA is all about, and what the formation of a branch entails. A branch had to have elected office bearers, keep books of account, hold AGMs, and conduct activities to further the objects of the FAA. A branch had no control over fees (then \$25 a year), policy, journal, or examinations, which were decided by the National Executive. The occasion is recorded in the picture below.



After due deliberation a WA branch was declared launched by Gillian at 8:43 pm. Front row from left: Maureen Perkins, Jason Braunstein, Olive Lennox, Gillian Murray, Geoffrey Dean. Middle row from left: ?, ?, Becky Newell, ?, Margaret Hughes, ?. Back row from left: Barbara Brackley, Mary Regts, ?, Roland Hatch, ?, ?, Ly Langston, ?, ?, ?.

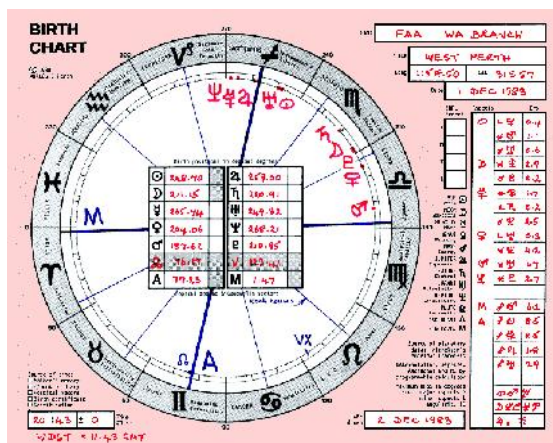


Chart for the birth of FAA WA on 1 December 1983 at 8:43 pm WDST (Koch houses) is shown opposite. The time, date and place for the birth of FAA WA were not determined in advance so this is not an electoral chart.

Inspection reveals a classic Marc Edmund Jones's bundle pattern, with no planets rising or elevated. The closest angular placements are Jupiter on the Descendant orb 1.8° and Moon's North Node on the Ascendant orb 1.0°.

Aspects are listed in the box at far right. The closest major aspects are Sun conjunct Uranus (orb 0.6°) and sextile Mars (1.1°), and Moon conjunct Pluto (0.2°); next are Mercury sextile Venus (1.7°) and Mars sextile Uranus (1.7°); all indicative of the vigor that (as we shall see) was characteristic of FAA WA's future activities. Both Jupiter and Saturn lack major aspects, suggestive (correctly) of erratic moments.

FAA WA enters the Big Time 1984-1986

Astro-Palmistry Register					
A list of persons interested in serious astrology and palmistry in WA, plus other useful information (see overleaf). 4th edition March 1984.					
Looking for a reading, a book, a course, a group, or someone sharing your interests? This list will help you. If you would like your name added (listing is free) please call (09) 322-2228 all hours.					
Key: gives r = readings*, c = classes or private tuition, l = lectures, Business, Cosmobiology, Electional, Esoteric, Events, Family, Hindu, Horary, Medical, Mundane, Relationships, Research, Twins, Vocation.					
Name	Telephone	Suburb	No of Books	Yrs of Study	Special Interests
Bobbie Atkinson	332-3850	Bullcreek	15	1	
Merrill Barratt	r 418-2145	Hamilton Hill	100	5	Rel
Peter Bell	332-2488	Bullcreek	100	6	Res
Barbara Brackley	364-3942	Applecross	50	10	
Jason Braunstein	362-5808	E Vic Park	15	2	
Jill Brown	401-9798	Mullaloo	7	16	Med
Linley Christiansen	rc 386-6121	Nedlands	25	7	Es, Ev
Geoffrey Dean	rl 322-2228	West Perth	600	12	Res
Shawn Dowling	00573-1363	Wooroloo	6	1	
David Gibbings	454-7142	High Wycombe	25	4	
Roland Hatch	448-5651	Greenwood	100	10	Cos, Hin
Lauren Horan	r 279-4147	Lockridge	30	8	Rel, Tw
Bette Howell	450-1429	Como	50	2	
Margaret Hughes	453-9232	Forrestfield	100	5	
Jenny Kitchen	381-2358	West Leederville	20	5	El, Ev
Jenny Ladd	293-5237	Carmel	26	7	
Ly Langston	r 322-5309	West Perth	150	20	Bus, Rel
John Louis	rc 384-5093	Cottesloe	100	42	Hin
Vivienne Louis	r 384-5093	Cottesloe	100	15	
Elise McCune	447-9366	Carine	6	1	
Harvey Menzel	271-4016	Maylands	4	10	Es
Becky Newell	r 344-4282	Hamersley	100	15	Es
Valerie Peacock	446-3009	Innaloo	30	6	Es, Ev
Maureen Perkins	r 298-8024	Glen Forrest	20	3	
James Prinz	rc 279-2511	Maylands	-	38	Es
Philip Quenby	r 279-4147	Lockridge	30	7	Ev
Jennifer Pommerin	09527-8094	Safety Bay	30	12	
Mary Regis	r 272-6514	Inglewood	40	14	Tw
Maureen Thompson	450-1429	Como	50	3	
Ineke van Wel	326-0253	Yokine	12	1	
Fran Vidente	rc 367-6669	South Perth	30	6	Med
Ethel Webb	rl 234-1548	Swan View	100	12	
Helen Weir	383-1706	Swanbourne	10	1	
Joanna Wielinga	291-6103	Leamurde	6	1	
Shane Wilson	335-8928	Hamilton Hill	60	4	
Palmists					
Prinz Chetio	rel 279-2511	Maylands	-	38	Es
Ron Hedgcock	328-8394	North Perth	120	20	Res
Jill Hott	276-0902	Dianella	10	2	Ev, Med
David Lane	rl 386-6110	Nedlands	15	20	
Valerie Peacock	446-3009	Innaloo	15	5	

*A reading can give insight into yourself, a relationship or a situation. It does not tell your fortune - this is neither possible nor legal. Listing does not mean that the reader is able or reputable - if you want a reading you should call every reader listed and decide for yourself. Note that anybody can call themselves an astrologer or palmist, so beware of charlatans. Specify what you want. Ask about their qualifications, their areas of specialisation, how long the reading takes (it should last at least an hour), and cost (the 1984 average is about \$40). The most important thing is that you should feel in tune with the reader. Prefer astrologers who have passed an examination and reject those who do not insist on having your birth time to at least the nearest hour or so. Let the FAA know (on 453-9111) if you have a complaint.

Ever since the early 1970s an effort had been made to offset the then small size and astrological isolation of Perth by maintaining an Astro-Palmistry Register of persons in Perth who were interested in serious astrology and palmistry. The Register contained phone numbers and the person's areas of interest, and was circulated among those listed to encourage mutual contact. It worked well.

At first the Register contained only a handful of names, but by March 1984 (a few months after the launch of FAA WA) it listed 35 astrologers and 5 palmists as shown in the adjacent picture. About half the astrologers were FAA members.

Perth's Astro-Palmistry Register 4th edition of March 1984. Among the things listed are number of books and years of study, which for astrologers ranged from 4 to 600 books (average 63) and 1 to 42 years (average 9), and for palmists ranged from 10 to 120 books (average 40) and 2 to 38 years (average 17). The reverse side carried information on bookshops, correspondence courses, and so on. It aimed to be *useful* - and it was.

But it was now the 1980s and home computers were replacing hand calculations. Astrology would never be the same again.

One of the first home computers for astrological use had been demonstrated at the 1979 FAA Conference in Sydney by Austin Levy, who later founded *Astrosearch*, Australia's first (and popular) chart calculation service. Levy's FAA demonstration is recorded in the next two pictures.



Left: Austin Levy demonstrates the PET Commodore 64, which became one of the workhorses of computerised astrology. It did in seconds what previously took hours of hand calculation, but by today's standards the screen

display was extremely primitive. **Right:** The PET Commodore 64 could display only horizontal or vertical lines in green on a black background so the result was almost unrecognisable as a birth chart. But it was accepted as a small price to pay for the ease and speed of calculation, and users eventually got used to it. Or so they said.

These early computers cost around \$1000, four times the average household income, so few astrologers could afford them. For comparison, yearly FAA membership in 1979 cost \$15 including *The FAA Journal*, and in January 1980 the FAA conference in Sydney cost \$30 plus \$82 for meals and accommodation. On the other hand, as an officially established branch, FAA WA now had the clout to attract big name lecturers who might otherwise confine their Australian tours to the Eastern States. Some examples are shown in the pictures below.



Doris Greaves in the TS reading room September 1984. Alan Oken in the Subiaco library annexe July 1984.



Derek and Julia Parker in the Subiaco library annexe June 1985, with Gillian Murray smiling in the front row.

The Parkers were so well looked after in Perth that they dedicated their *Parker's Astrology* to host Barbara Brackley

The Parkers also visited the Eastern States and New Zealand, describing their experiences in the *British Astrological Journal* for Winter 1985, reprinted in the *FAA Journal* for March 1986:

"In Australia, Federation committee members from as far apart as Perth and Brisbane — and we're talking about well over 2000 miles — meet regularly. Visiting lecturers, on what is now a well-established circuit, find as warm a reception in Perth (under the enthusiastic presidency of Barbara Brackley, and with Geoffrey Dean in attendance) as they will find in Sydney (with the extravert Hindu astrologer Keven Barrett, National Federation President). There is enthusiasm everywhere — even in Western Australia, which thinks of itself a rather under-privileged, but, though this Branch of the Federation was founded only eighteen months ago, and has 40 members, it can get together many more than that for a lecture. One couple drove over 200 miles to attend one of our public meetings."

Along with the increase in clout came a decisive decrease in the cost of technology that changed the face of astrology forever. For as computer prices fell and software improved, a computer became more affordable and more essential, especially for the working astrologer. To bring the WA public up to speed on these developments an all-day Saturday expo of astro-computing was held in the Subiaco library annexe in 1986, part of which is shown below.



The “a” on display is the logo for the British *astrocalc* software. This particular part of the expo was due to FAA WA members who lived in the hills east of Perth and called themselves the Hills Group. At left is Maureen Perkins, FAA WA’s first secretary who in the 1990s became UWA’s first PhD in an astrology-related subject, subsequently published in 1996 by Oxford’s Clarendon Press as *Visions of the Future: Almanacs, Time, and Cultural Change 1775-1870*. At right are Trish Beaumont-Field and Margaret Hughes, then all living in the hills area.



The lecture circuit was not one-way. People from WA also lectured at FAA conferences:

FAA international convention in Melbourne January 1984.

Top President Keven Barrett opens the convention, which attracted leading astrologers from interstate and overseas.

Bottom From left are lecturers Rob Hand, Austin Levy, and Geoffrey Dean. Also present was Rudolf Smit, an expert on primary directions, who later moved to WA.

In 1984 Gillian Murray made the headlines when she moved to WA and married the concert pianist David Helfgott whose life story was later featured in the 1996 hit movie *Shine*. In view of the intense interest among astrologers, *The FAA Journal* for December 1996 provided these details as authorised by Gillian Helfgott:

“Gillian and David met when Gillian was asked by the FAA to travel to Perth to open the newly-formed Perth branch of the FAA. ... Gillain [sic] and David met at 1.15 pm on the 30th November 1983 in Perth. David asked Gill to marry him the next day. By March 1984 Gillian had returned to Perth and in mid-April of that year they started living together. They were married in Perth on the 26th August 1984. ... David and Gillian live in Bellingen NSW but travel so extensively that they are only at home for a few weeks of every year.”

In 1984 Gillian and Barbara Brackley had jointly set up the Perth Academy of Astrology for teaching astrology, which by then was just one of several places in the Perth area where one could attend astrology classes. By that time Geoffrey Dean had become fully occupied with astrological research at the international level, with frequent articles in the UK research journal *Correlation* and frequent lectures at London research conferences, so he had resigned as FAA WA’s president. In 1988 he received a Commemorative Bi-Centennial Award from the *Astrological Monthly Review* for his contributions to astrological research, whose other recipients included Rudolf Smit, Rob Hand and Liz Greene. Today he is recognised as one of the world’s leading astrological researchers, albeit not in WA where he remains largely unknown. His work and that of his associates can be found on www.astrology-and-science.com.

Back in WA, FAA WA went from strength to strength, albeit with various changes of president, secretary, treasurer, and meeting place. Here respectively are the details:

1984 Roland Hatch, Bobbie Atkinson, Barbara Brackley, Seekers Centre.

1985 Barbara Brackley, Roland Hatch, Valerie McCall, Subiaco Library annexe.

1986 Barbara Brackley, Roland Hatch, Mary Cheah/Betty Board, PD House in West Perth.

As evidence of FAA WA’s growth, the December 1986 issue of *The FAA Journal* was the first to include WA branch news, which reported the “great success, judging by the attendances” during Astrology Week, WA’s “idea of bringing the Federation to the notice of the public”.

In 1984 the national FAA had purchased a 64K Kaypro 4 computer with a CP/M operating system and two 5.25" disk drives (list price was \$3200, a serious amount of money in those days), WordStar software, and a Silver Reed daisywheel printer. As a result the September 1984 issue of *The FAA Journal* was the first fully word-processed issue. The national FAA now had 500 members and a yearly membership fee of \$25, discounted to \$15 for pensioners and students. According to the 1985 financial statement the breakdown of memberships by state was NSW 32%, Vic 25%, SA 19%, Qld 9%, WA 8%, Tas 3%, interstate and overseas 4%.

In mid 1987, as part of International Astrology Month (later Day) organized by the US-based Association for Astrological Networking formed in 1983 as a protest against misuse of power by the AFA and to "enhance, protect, and validate the important role astrologers and astrology have in today's society", FAA WA organized a raffle and a talk by Geoffrey Dean (then an AFAN Co-ordinator) on unaspected planets. Barbara Brackley looked after publicity, resulting in an "above-average turnout". At which point Robyn Lee takes over most of the story.

FAA WA is now Really Big Time 1987-1989

Yearly membership was now \$27. Not everyone renewed at the same time, so the annual total for the national FAA depended on when it was counted, for example it was 648 in January 1988 and 578 in July 1989. A bold move in the FAA's endeavours occurred in January 1988 when Perth hosted the annual FAA Conference. It was bold because Perth was far from the main centres of astrological activity in Australia, and it says a lot for the WA branch that the FAA felt it was able to host such an important event. The organising committee rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and hard work, and the Conference was a big success. Members of the organising committee are shown at the closing ceremony in the picture below.



The 1988 FAA WA national conference committee (all female!) being thanked from the microphone by FAA National President Hans Heshusius. From left are: Rikki Harrison, Mary Regts, Jenny Roper, MJ, Barbara Brackley (partially hidden), Gillian Helfgott, Betty Board, Paula Nettleton, Annette Ridgway, and Robyn Lee.

Speakers at the Conference included Rob Hand and Jim Lewis from overseas, and from the eastern states some of Australia's most experienced astrologers and teachers including Doris Greaves, John Clark, Christine Turner, Alia Griffin, Brian Clark, Glennys Lawton, and Bernadette Brady. *The FAA Journal* for March 1988 described the conference as follows:

And what a Conference it was! Perth, with her gloriously hot weather, and the University of Western Australia, with its impeccable gardens, lawns and layout, provided an unbeatable combination for the showcase of astrology that was laid before us at the 7th International Astrology Conference [in Australia]. I suppose what one expects from a Conference is (i) comfortable accommodation, and (ii) great astrology, and here in Perth we were treated to both! ... The Conference was opened on Friday 22nd January, 1988, by National President Hans Heshusius who welcomed our overseas visitors and especially Rob Hand and Jim Lewis.

FAA WA consolidation 1990-1997

In 1991 the national FAA started a national register of qualified working astrologers. Also in 1991 *The FAA Journal* changed to a new method of production using Page Maker and a laser

printer, which was accompanied by a change in front cover design. The rear cover continued to feature ads, a practice that had become established ten years earlier.



Front covers (top row) and back covers (bottom row) of *The FAA Journal* for the following issues left to right:

June 1987 typical of the sometimes drab colour combinations. Some issues during 1987-1990 featured all the questions from current FAA exams.

September 1991 when the method of production and cover style changed.

December 1995 when software ads became more common.

The FAA Journal continued to be published quarterly and the national FAA continued to hold international conferences every two years (more on this later). During 1990-1997 FAA WA settled down to a steady programme of meetings and activities both formal and informal. And as evidence of progress there were increasing exam successes, described later.

Meetings and activities 1990-1997



In 1959 this property at 34 Kings Park Road, West Perth had been purchased by the Royal Australian Nurses Federation and named the Nurses Memorial Centre. From 1990 to mid 1994 FAA WA held its meetings in the lesser hall (here on the right) which was rather grand inside with stained glass windows, wooden pillars, and a big fireplace. On its wooden mantelpiece was a clay replica in Aladdin's lamp style of the imagined Florence Nightingale's lamp.

1990 saw just four FAA WA meetings, but behind the scenes the opportunities to learn and study were steadily growing. This was because many FAA members were running workshops and holding informal study groups, for example Barbara Brackley had her Academy of Astrology, Gail Kelly had a school preparing students for the FAA Exams, Daniel Sowelu was running workshops in Fremantle on everything astrological including Chiron and the asteroids, and Robyn Lee had combined with Gail Kelly to run workshops in Perth and Fremantle, all well attended both by people new to astrology and those already interested. (Daniel was later the resident astrologer for *Nova*, Australia's free holistic monthly launched 1994 in WA.)

The resulting interest in astrology was high, with groups of astrologers and students continuing to meet informally every fortnight in individual homes through mid-1991. All of these activities, both formal and informal, contributed to the growth and educational diversity of the FAA in Perth as more and more students went on to pass FAA Exams (details page 18). Membership cost \$38 pa, National membership was 2950 (500 in 1984), of which the bottom states were WA with 13 (4.1% vs 8% in 1984) and Tasmania with 8 (2.5% vs 3% in 1984).

1990 was not without sad occasions. On 31 August Barbara Brackley's mother Rix Weaver passed away after some months in hospital. Rix Weaver was the first Jungian Analyst in Australia so her passing was a significant event for the Jungian community. At the FAA WA AGM on 11 December at 34 Kings Park Road, Barbara Brackley resigned from her position of president and was presented most fittingly (she was a Cancerian) with a beautiful crystal and gold crab, with words of appreciation for her contributions to WA astrology. She remained as the National Executive representative for WA and was also on the Examiners Board of the

National FAA. Later, in 1996-1997, she returned as FAA WA's vice president.

During **1991** meetings were held on the second Wednesday of every month at 34 Kings Park Road. They featured talks both by experienced astrologers and by anyone with an interesting topic. This was at a time when more and more "holistic therapies" were being incorporated into astrological practice, and vice versa. Workshops and study groups run by individual members increased, some of them incorporating areas such as Tarot (Jane Mitchell), numerology (Cindy Naunton), palmistry (Peter Burns), and body work (Paula Nettleton and Robyn Lee). A discounted membership fee was introduced (\$70 for two years, a saving of \$6).

In **1992-1993** Barbara Brackley through her Academy attracted national and international astrologers for workshops. These events were well attended by the broader community of astrologers including non-FAA members. Some of the famous names included Brian Clark, Glennys Lawton, Bernadette Brady, Demetra George and Melanie Reinhart. Despite WA's isolation, FAA WA was introducing a variety of world-class astrological views long before the internet arrived, an enrichment that continued well into the 2000's.



1993 was notable for these milestones:

FAA in WA was 10 years old (on 1 Dec).

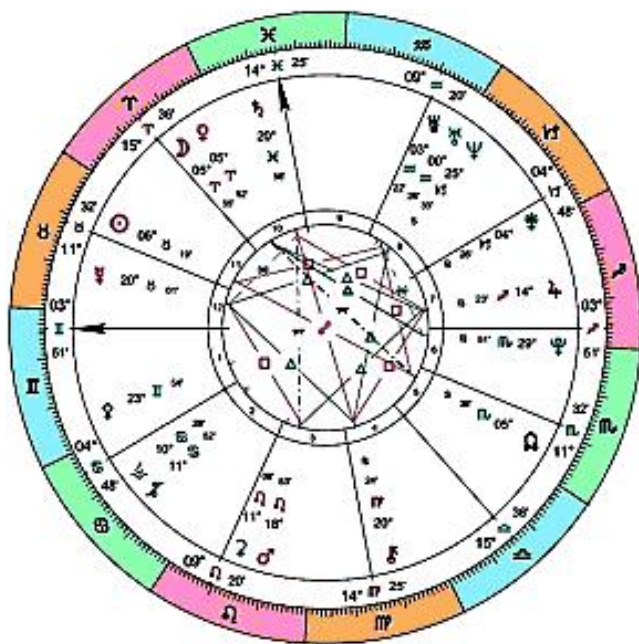
It had a book and cassette tape library run by Cindy Naunton.

The world wide web was launched.

Rob Hand's *Project Hindsight* began (it translated ancient astrological works).

Image courtesy Sydney astrologer Bob Hunter

In **1994** all FAA branches including WA had to become Incorporated following a disastrous National FAA Conference in Sydney, which made a loss of around \$30,000 that effectively bankrupted the national FAA. (The conference convenor was an excellent astrologer but he was unable to manage finances.) All branches were asked to raise funds to save the national FAA. WA was barely in credit and was not in a position to contribute. Nevertheless, like other branches, to protect itself financially it had to become Incorporated and then affiliate with the national body. The marathon work necessary was ably performed by Jan Evans, who was both president of FAA WA and treasurer of Barbara Brackley's Academy of Astrology in Applecross.



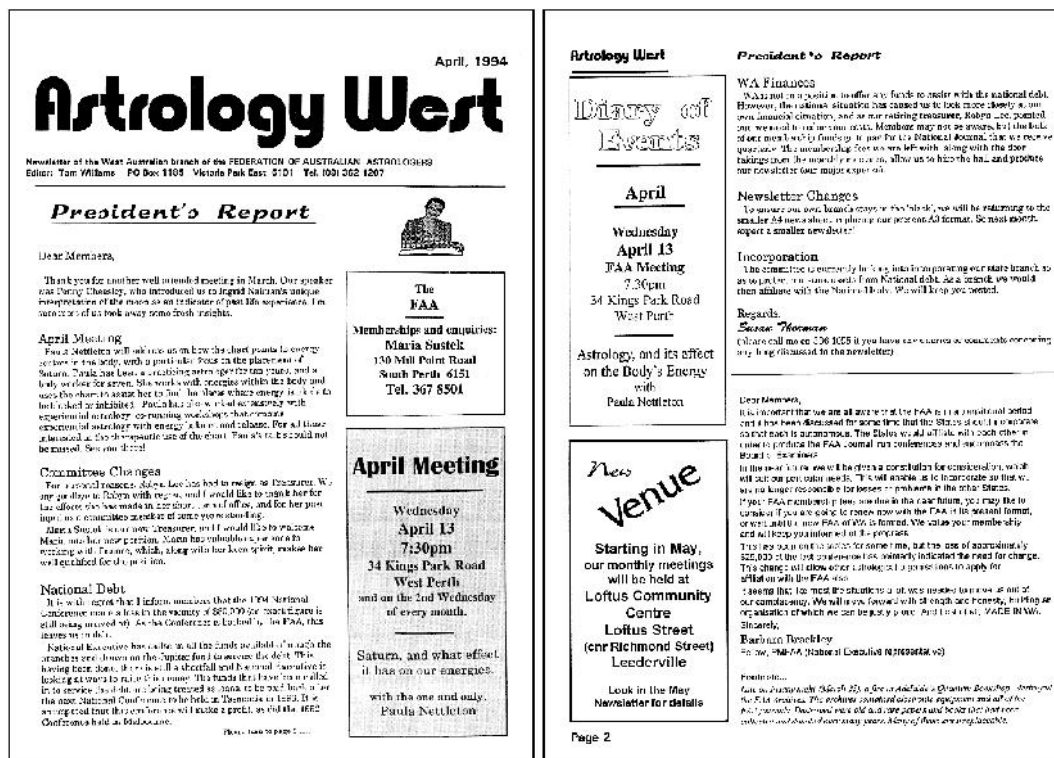
The chart for FAA WA Inc (pictured) could not be an electional chart because it was determined by the time taken by legal paperwork. It is for the nominal start of business at 9:01 am WST on Thursday 27 April 1995 in Perth at 31s57 115e51. The Moon is exactly conjunct Venus in 10th, Mercury is square Mars (orb 1.1°) and sextile an elevated Saturn (orb 0.9°), which is opposite Chiron (orb 0.2°) and 6.5° from the MC. Pluto opposes Ascendant (orb 4.0°). There are no other close major planetary aspects.

In the March 1994 *FAA Journal*, National President David Targett gave this astrological description of the crisis:

"The situation is that the [national] FAA's chart is having transiting Saturn oppose its natal Moon while it conjuncts the North Node and IC. Therefore, if we do not take solid logical legal action to ensure a base for Australian astrology, the FAA will not last the next Saturn cycle."

FAA's own chart (8 July 1970 3.21 pm EST Cleveland Qld) has a Sun-Uranus-Neptune conjunction opposition Moon.

The crisis also led FAA WA to look closely at its own finances. Decisions were made to reduce the size of its costly *Astrology West* newsletter to a single sheet, and in May to move the venue for meetings to the more affordable Loftus Centre in Leederville.



In 1993 editor Tom Williams took advantage of word processing and photocopying to update FAA WA's newsletter (called *Astrology West* from 1991 and *Mercury Messenger* from 1996) to this handsome folded A3 monthly, which after the national financial crisis had to become a single A4 sheet to conserve funds.

1994 saw a second national FAA disaster – on 17 March a fire at the Quantum Bookshop in North Adelaide destroyed the bookshop and its FAA national archives (books and journals) begun in 1991. For its history and rebirth see www.faa-inc.org.au/faq-history-and-archives/

During **1995** all branches of FAA became incorporated in their own States. As a further cost-saving measure FAA WA meetings were now held every six weeks at Barbara Brackley's Academy of Astrology in Applecross. In February Robyn Lee spoke on Venus and her dual temperament, including addictions. In June Annette Ridgway spoke on Chiron's role in Medical Astrology. Behind the scenes, astrology's growing diversity of techniques was facing a growing society expectation of proper standards, especially as computers and the internet were allowing anyone to download their own chart "interpretations" for free. In response, the national FAA, or FAA Inc as it was now called, continued to refine its exam system and definitions. It had become incorporated on 16 January 1995 at 5.25pm in Melbourne Victoria.

1996 introduced a focus on holistic topics as requested by a member's survey. For example



March – Paula Nettleton, *Bodywork & Gems*.
 April – Margaret Hugs, *Horary Astrology*.
 May – Ronelle Ashford, *Reiki*.
 July - Delores Meredith, *Feng Shui*.
 August – Maggie Ashton, *Aroma Therapy*.
 October – Peter Burns, *Palmistry*.
 December – Robyn Lee, *Jupiter*.

Robyn Binks persuaded a colleague to produce this logo, still used on the FAA WA website (which Robyn was instrumental in setting up) and in PR.

In response to many requests, National FAA President David Targett clarified the certification

of practising astrologers. They could now describe themselves as QA (FAA) – this changed later to Dip Astro – but had to remain FAA members to keep their certificate.

In **1997** FAA WA meetings were held every six weeks at the Loftus Centre in Leederville and other venues. Activities during the year were summarised by FAA WA President Robyn Binks in *The FAA Journal* for December 1997 as follows:

1997 has seen a positive upturn in numbers at FAA meetings in Western Australia and we hope this continues in 1998. Although problems with the *FAA Journal* saw our membership decrease considerably, in 1996-97 confidence has slowly returned as [its SA editors] Tim and Ruth have brought it back on line, rekindling the vital link for our members to keep in touch with the collective Australian, and worldwide, astrological community. Throughout 1997 the FAA WA Committee worked hard to bring variety and subjects of topical interest to meetings.

The variety and topical interest she referred to was reflected in these 1997 FAA WA talks:

February – Gail Kelly, *Age of Aquarius*.

April – Daniel Sowelu, *Chiron in Scorpio*.

July – Sudhir, *Experiential Astrology*.

August – Annette Ridgway, *Mars* (in restaurant prior to Black Swan Theatre's *Mars: Planet of Desire*).

October – Barbara Brackley, *Cosmobiology*.

November – Robyn Lee, *Taurus Full Moon Picnic* (on Crawley foreshore).

WA exam successes 1990-1997 as reported in *The FAA Journal*

Many teachers in the Perth area contributed to these successes, as did the correspondence courses run by Brian Clark and Glennys Lawton in Melbourne. FAA exams were originally in two tiers of entry-level certificate and high-level diploma, becoming in 1990 three tiers of certificate (fee \$50), intermediate (later practitioner's, fee \$100), and diploma (fee \$200). In 2000 there were further changes, see www.faainc.org.au/history-of-the-faa-exam-system.

FAA Certificate Exam successes for WA

1990 – Suzanna Day (Credit) (75%-89%), Liz Field (Credit), Peter Burns, Kay Webster.

1991 – Jane Mitchell (Credit), Shanti Plush, Sue Volzke, Cindy Naunton.

1992 – state breakdown not given but there was a national total of 100 candidates.

1993 – Zia Caruana, Jean Ellis John Henry Geddes, Joy McBeth, Donelle Pritchard, Ivon Stiller, Henrietta Tong, Allison Waldoock, Marat Wedemeyer. Total 9 for WA out of the national total of 80.

1994 – Chris Baker, Bruce Boyes, Anna Castillo, Anna Di Noto, Janet Evans, Gary Jones, Sabrina Pacifici, Jeanne Prosser, Carol Neist, Verena Stoffeld, Noela Wilks. Total 11 equal to NSW, SA was first with 16.

1995 – Robyn Binks, Patricia Barnett, Caroline Clark, Beverley Harris, Brittain Hastings, Leigh-Ann Hunter, Dianne Lawrence, Tracey Lawrie, Helen Lock, Sharon Martin, Lisa Sonnenberg, Julie Vudrag. Total 12 (18% of the national total of 66) behind only NSW 15 and SA 18.

1996 – Anna Baeli, Pauline Burley, Kristene Edwards, Anna Galambos, Jennie Gray, Helen Hewworth, Jean Jolly, Leonie Henderson, Renate Lehre, Michelle Peirce, Lesley Quartermaine, Carol Reeve-Fowkes, Julian Ross. The total of 13 was behind only SA 16, and was an exceptionally good 32% of the national total.

1997 – Evelyne Arnold, Barbie Davidson, Dru Kersey, Elizabeth Lang, Sharyn Moore, Janet Parker, Patricia Perris, Nicole Robinson, Shirley Silva, Rita Welsh. Total 10 (16% of the national total of 61) behind only NSW 12 and SA 24. FAA WA's total for 1990-1997 was more than 63 – an impressive achievement!

FAA Practitioners/Intermediate Exam successes for WA

First held by FAA WA in 1990. All candidates had to have the FAA Certificate. If successful they became officially accredited by the national FAA to be qualified astrological practitioners, and from 1991, for \$50 a year, were eligible for listing on the FAA's national register.

1990 – Veronica Guy, Gail Kelly (Credit, her answer to the question on Solar Arc Directions achieved a Distinction and was published in the September 1990 *FAA Journal*).

1991 – Robyn Lee (Credit, her answer to the Pluto question was published in the June 1992 *FAA Journal*).

1992 – Shanti Plush, Jane Mitchell (Credit, her answer to the Vesta question was published in the June 1993 *FAA Journal* and her answer to the Ceres question was published in the September 1993 *FAA Journal*).

1993 – Susan Thorman (Distinction), Cindy Naunton (Credit), Annette Ridgway. An especially notable year because Susan Thorman scored the highest mark in Australia (over 90%) and was the first winner of the Allan Johnson Gold Medal Award. The December 1993 *FAA Journal* reported that Susan "has significantly contributed to raising the standard of astrological examinations in Australia."

1994 – no practitioner passes were listed for WA.

1995, 1996 – there were no practitioner candidates from WA.

1997 – Jan Evans, Peter Burns.

The preceding activities and exam successes did not occur by magic. They were entirely dependent on FAA WA's dedicated volunteers who were continuing the astrological traditions established in Perth by their counterparts twenty years earlier. The following names of FAA WA committee members are from *The FAA Journal* for the years indicated:

FAA National Executives: 1990-91 Barbara Brackley, Jenny Rafferty. 1992-97 Barbara Brackley, usually the president.

[illegible]

FAA WA's revised newsletter *Mercury Messenger* brought full colour, photographs, art, diagrams, beautiful charts, and email delivery.

reduced the need to go out, **(2)** DVDs and burgeoning TV channels that successfully competed for precious spare time, and of course **(3)** the internet that in twenty years had made almost everything about astrology (including informed views plus opinions from beginners posing as savants) readily available for nothing. What the future will bring is anyone's guess, but keep your ephemeris open and fingers crossed. At which point this brief history ends. (The only other FAA branch history is a brief one-page at www.faasa.com.au/faasa_history.htm.)



19