

# Sydney Observatory night sky map

A map for each month of the year, to help you learn about the night sky

# December 2014

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

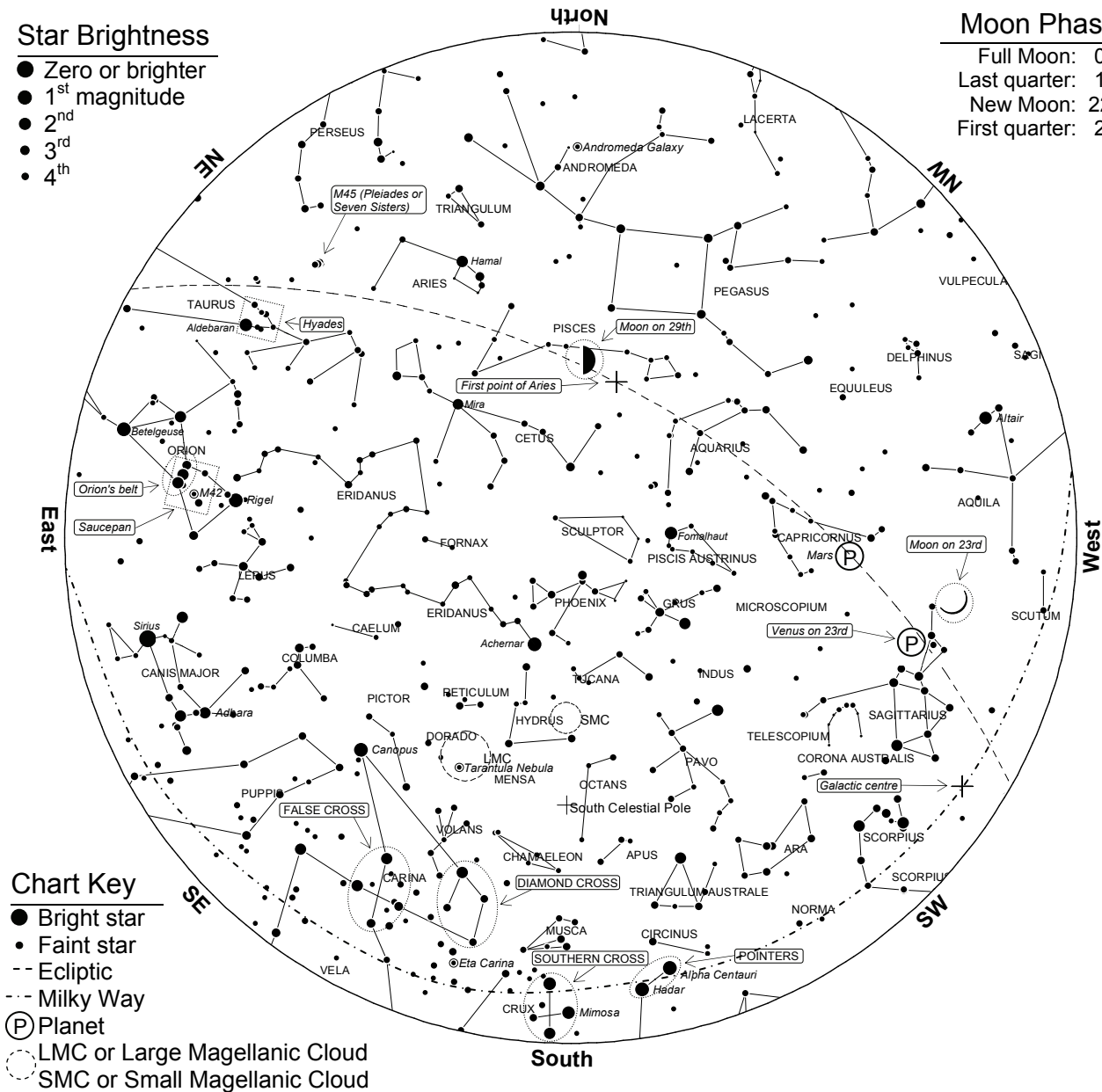
This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for December 2014 at about 7:30 pm (Local Standard Time) or 8:30 pm (Local Daylight Savings Time). For Darwin and similar locations the chart will still apply, but some stars will be lost off the southern edge while extra stars will be visible to the north. Stars down to a brightness or magnitude limit of 4.5 are shown. To use this star chart, rotate it so that the direction you are facing (north, south, east or west) is shown at the bottom. The centre of the chart represents the point directly above your head, called the zenith, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

## Star Brightness

- Zero or brighter
- 1<sup>st</sup> magnitude
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup>

## Moon Phase

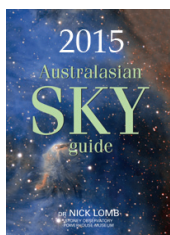
- Full Moon: 06th
- Last quarter: 14th
- New Moon: 22nd
- First quarter: 29th



## Chart Key

- Bright star
- Faint star
- Ecliptic
- Milky Way
- (P) Planet
- LMC or Large Magellanic Cloud
- SMC or Small Magellanic Cloud

Summer solstice on the 22nd is the longest day of the year and gives Sydney 14 hours and 25 minutes of daylight. On 23rd at 8:45 pm Venus is near the thin crescent Moon low in the western sky. Mars remains visible low in the west during the early evening and is near the crescent Moon on the 25th. The best time to view the Moon using binoculars or a small telescope is a few days either side of the first quarter Moon on the 29th. Crux (the Southern Cross) is just above the southern horizon making it difficult to locate.



## 2015 Australasian sky guide book

The 2015 *Australasian sky guide* has details on the sky for the whole year, including rise and set times for the Sun, Moon and planets, and tidal information for Sydney. Available from Sydney Observatory, the Powerhouse Museum and good bookshops (RRP \$16.95); also via mail order (postal charges apply) at [www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/publications/)

## Daily activities at Sydney Observatory

Sydney Observatory is open for night and day visits every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday. Programs include telescope viewings, 3D space theatre and Sydney Planetarium sessions. Bookings are essential for night telescope viewing. Watson Road, Observatory Hill, The Rocks. [www.sydneyobservatory.com.au](http://www.sydneyobservatory.com.au) Ph (02) 9921 3485