

# Sydney Observatory night sky map

# May 2015

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

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

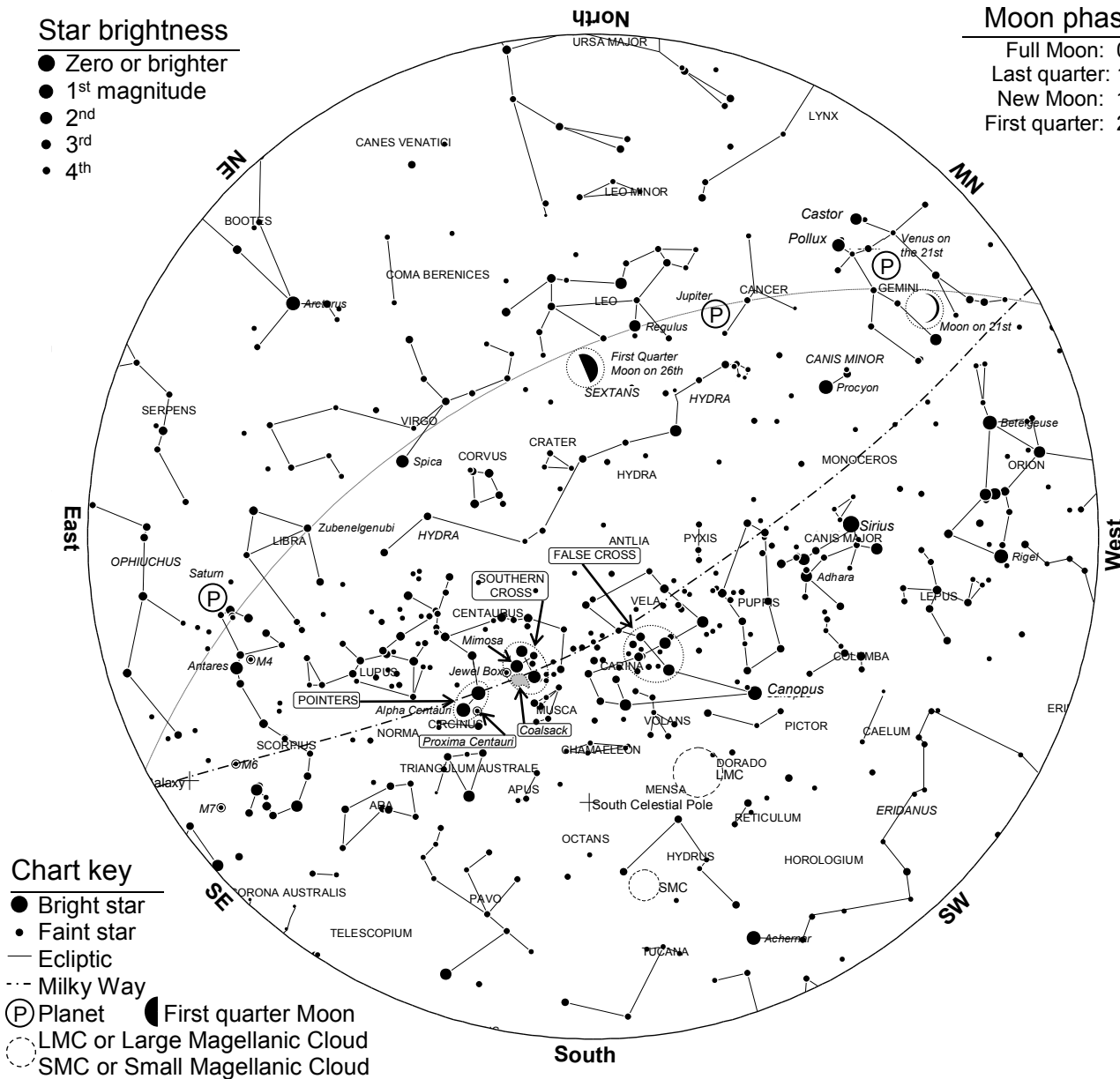
The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for May 2015 at about 7:30 pm (local standard time). For Darwin and similar locations the chart will still apply, but some stars will be lost off the southern edge while extra stars will be visible to the north. Stars down to a brightness or magnitude limit of 4.5 are shown on the star chart. To use this star chart, rotate the chart 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: 04th
- Last quarter: 11th
- New Moon: 18th
- First quarter: 26th



## Chart key

- Bright star
- Faint star
- Ecliptic
- Milky Way
- Ⓟ Planet
- ☾ First quarter Moon
- LMC or Large Magellanic Cloud
- SMC or Small Magellanic Cloud

The Southern Cross is well placed for observation as it is now high in the south-east. The brightest star of the Cross, Acrux, is the closest to the horizon, while the next brightest, Beta Crucis or Mimosa, is to the east. Jupiter is located in the northern sky in the constellation of Cancer and is directly below the crescent moon on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Saturn appears low in the east after the first week of the month in Scorpius. Mercury makes a brief appearance very low in the north-west in Taurus after the first few days of the month, but disappears in the middle of the month. Venus can be seen low in the north-west and the crescent Moon is above and to the west of the planet on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Eta Aquariids meteor shower will occur this month. Look for it in the eastern sky in the early morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>.



Sydney Observatory, with a magnificent view overlooking Sydney Harbour, is open 10am to 5pm daily – except closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and open 10am to noon on New Year's Eve. Open Monday to Saturday for night sessions (times vary depending on the season) for sky viewing through one of our telescopes (cosy planetarium session if cloudy), and 3D movies about the Universe. Bookings are essential for night programs.

For more information, check the website at [www.sydneyobservatory.com.au](http://www.sydneyobservatory.com.au) or call (02) 9921 3485. Sydney Observatory is at 1003 Upper Fort Street, Observatory Hill, in the historic Rocks area of Sydney.

