

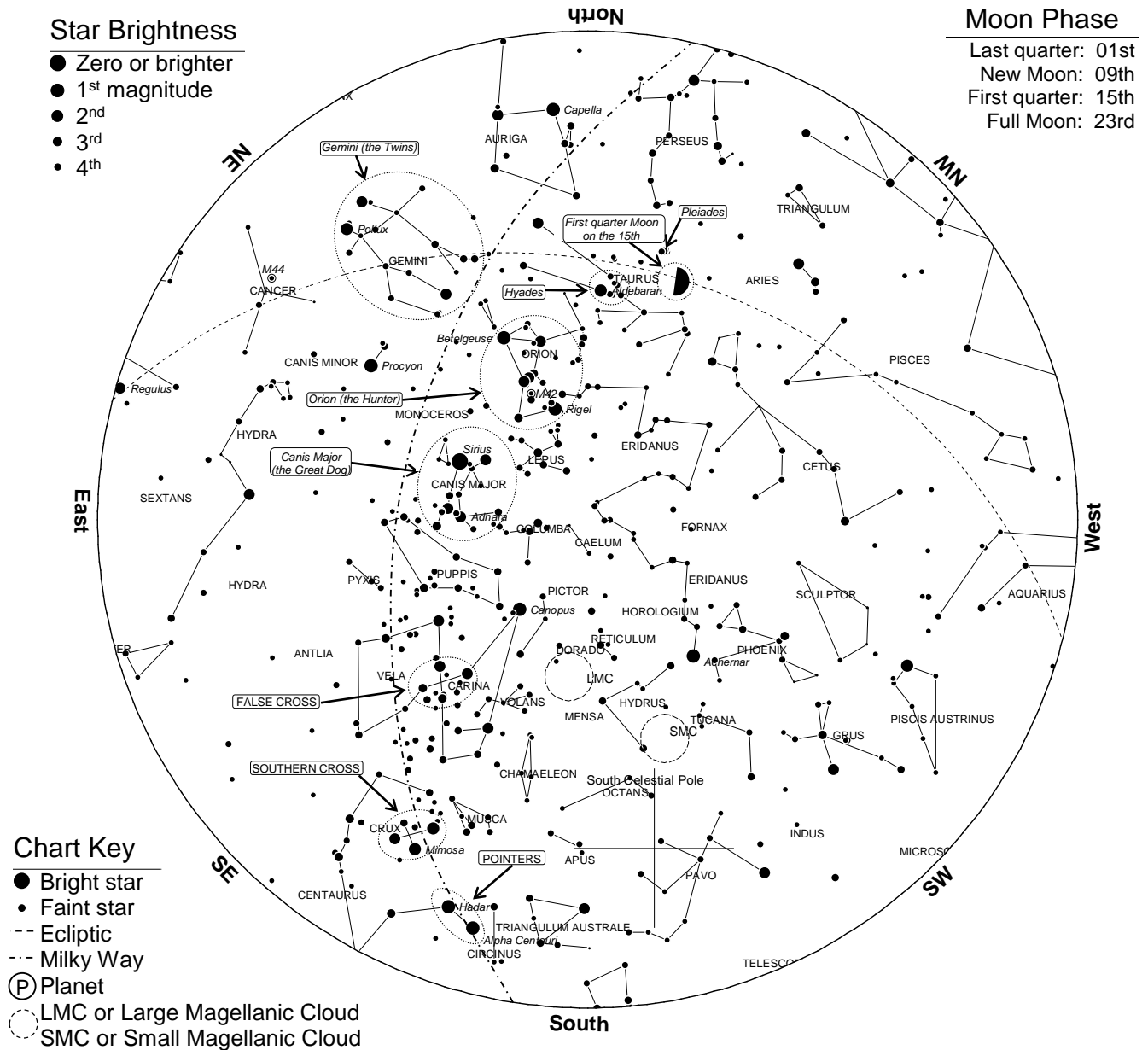
# Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

# February 2016

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for February 2015 at about 8:30 pm (summer time) and at about 7:30 pm (local standard time) for Perth and Brisbane. 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 point, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.



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 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. The constellation of Orion (the Hunter) is high in the sky throughout February. The three stars that make up the belt of Orion form the base and the dagger hanging from Orion's belt forms the handle, of an asterism that is colloquially known as "The Saucepan". The v-shaped head of Taurus (the Bull) can be seen further to the west of Orion, while the companions of this hunter are found further to the east, in Canis Major (the Great Dog) and Canis Minor (the Little Dog). Crux, (the Southern Cross) is low in the south east.



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.