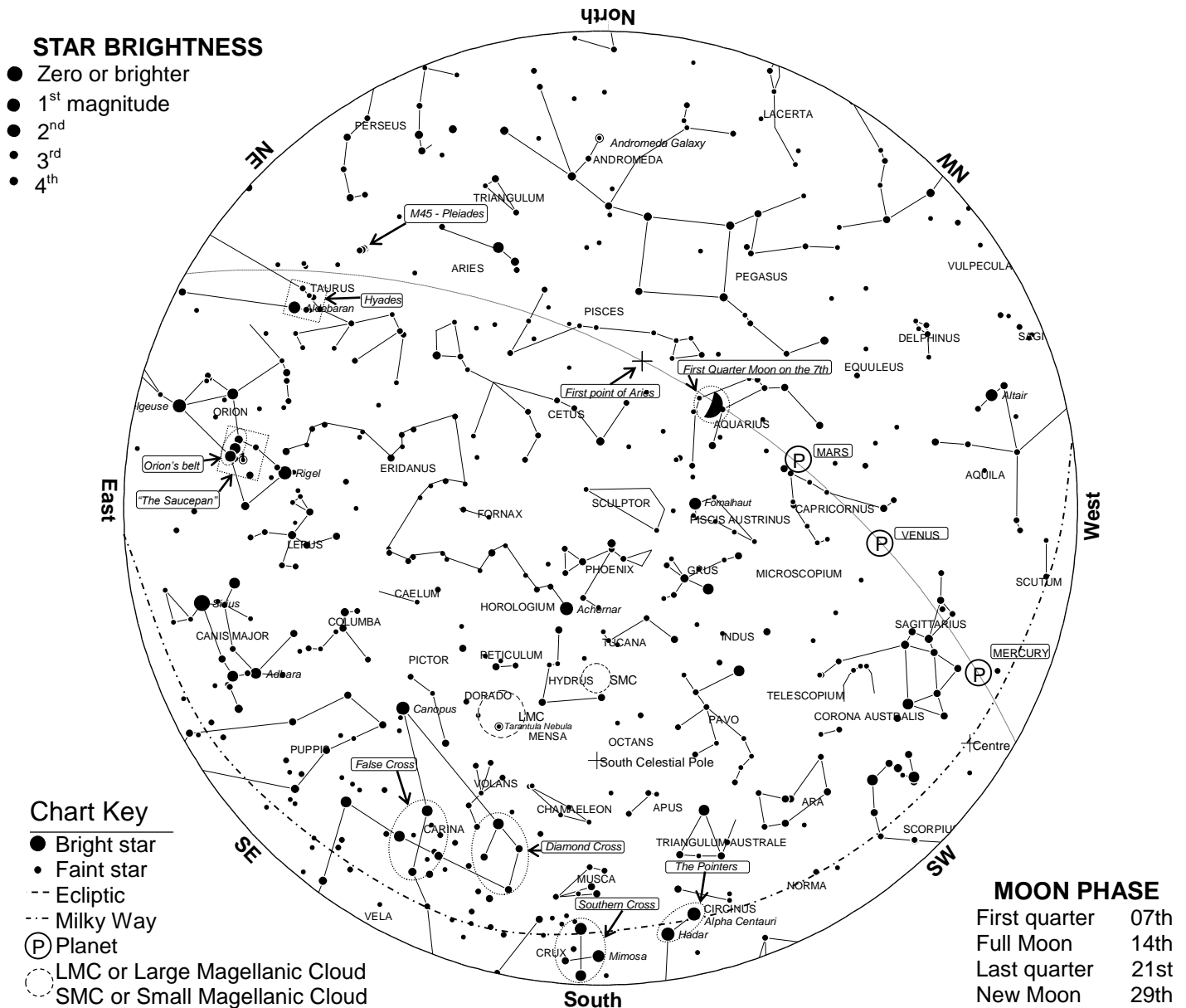


Night sky map

December 2016



THE CHART

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for December 2016 at about 8.30 pm (local daylight saving time) or about 7.30pm (local standard time) for Perth and Brisbane. For Darwin and similar northerly 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN DECEMBER 2016

The best time to look at the Moon with a small telescope or pair of binoculars is a few days either side of its first quarter phase, which falls on the 7th of December. Mars is high in the west, within the constellation Capricornus (the mythical half-goat half-fish) while Venus will be moving from Scorpius (the Scorpion) into Sagittarius (the Archer) as the month progresses. Crux (the Southern Cross) is located to the south, near the horizon, making it difficult to see at this time of year. Pisces (the Fish) and Aries (the Ram) are located in the eastern sky, while the great square of Pegasus can be found in the north.