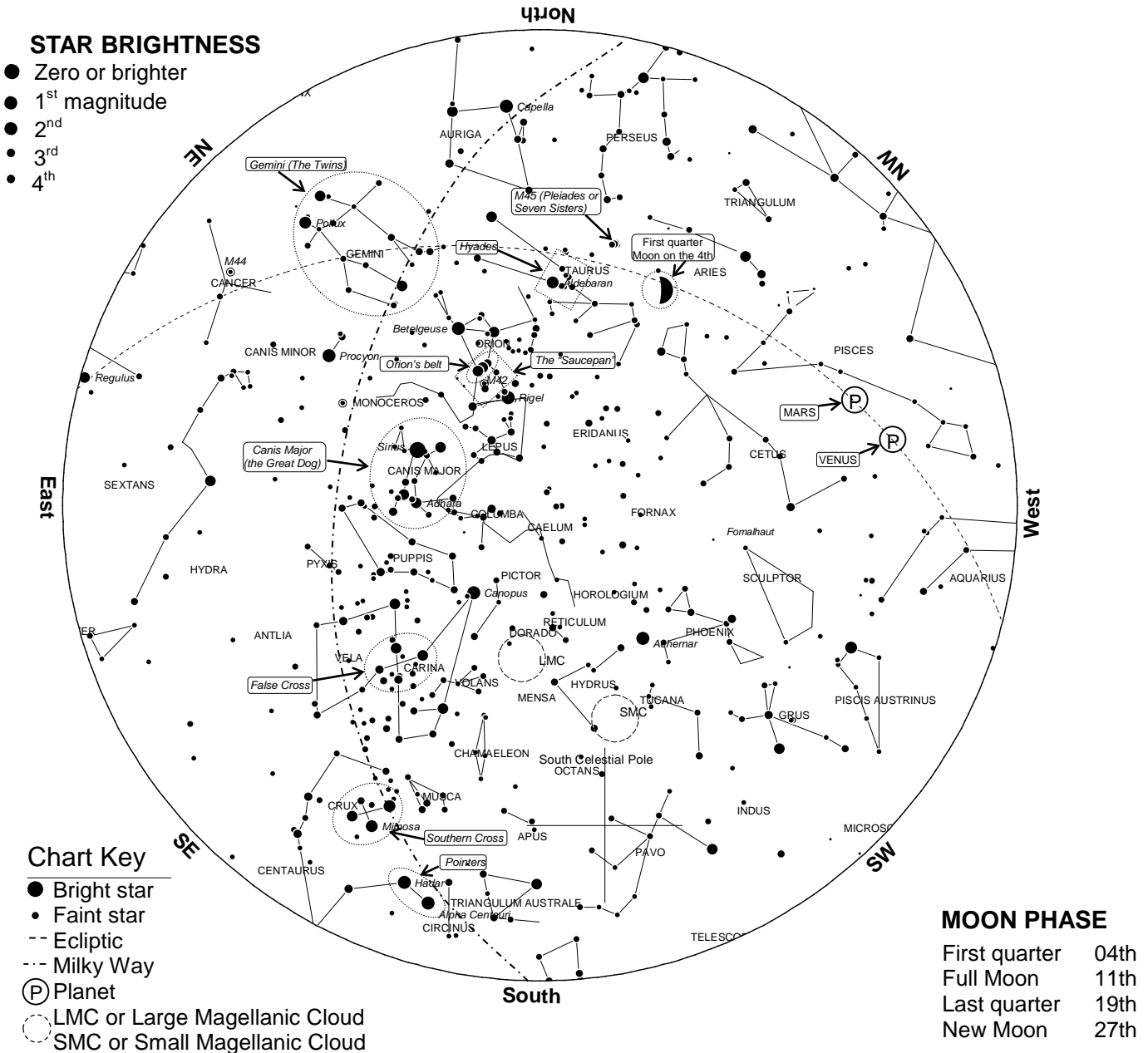


Night sky map

February 2017



THE CHART

This star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Hobart in February at about 8:30pm (Daylight Savings Time), or 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 FEBRUARY 2017

The best time to view the Moon with a small telescope or pair of binoculars is a few days either side of its First quarter phase on the 4th. The planets Venus and Mars are visible low in the west just after sunset. Prominent in the sky this month are the constellations of Canis Major (the Great Dog) which includes Sirius – the brightest star in the sky, Orion (the Hunter), which includes the recognisable southern hemisphere asterism of the “Saucepan”. Crux (the Southern Cross) is low in the south eastern sky although it can be easily confused with the false cross. Crux can be located by looking for the two adjacent Pointer stars of Centaurus (the Centaur).