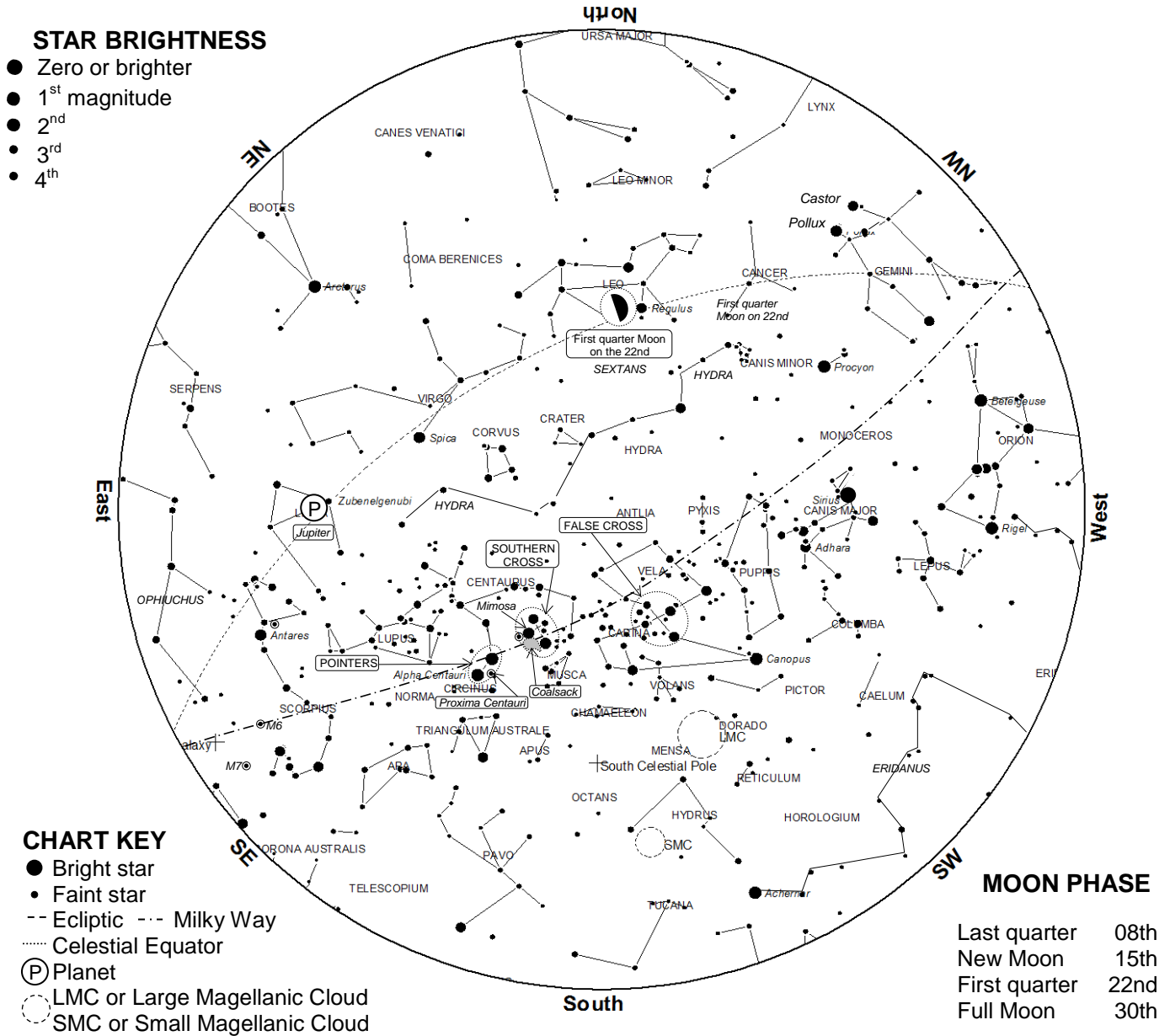


Night sky map

May 2018



THE CHART

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for May at about 7.30pm (local standard time). 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 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 point, and the outer circular edge represents the horizon.

HIGHLIGHTS IN MAY 2018

The best time to view the Moon with a small telescope or binoculars is a few days either side of its first quarter phase on the 22nd. Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, can be easily spotted in the east within the constellation of Libra (the Scales). Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, can be found in the west, forming a part of Canis Major (the Great Dog). High in the sky this month are the constellations of Cancer (the Crab), Leo (the Lion), and Virgo (the Maiden). Crux (the Southern Cross) is well placed for observation as it is now high in the south-east. The Eta Aquariids meteor shower will occur this month. Look for it in the eastern sky in the early morning of the 6th.