

February 2019

STAR BRIGHTNESS

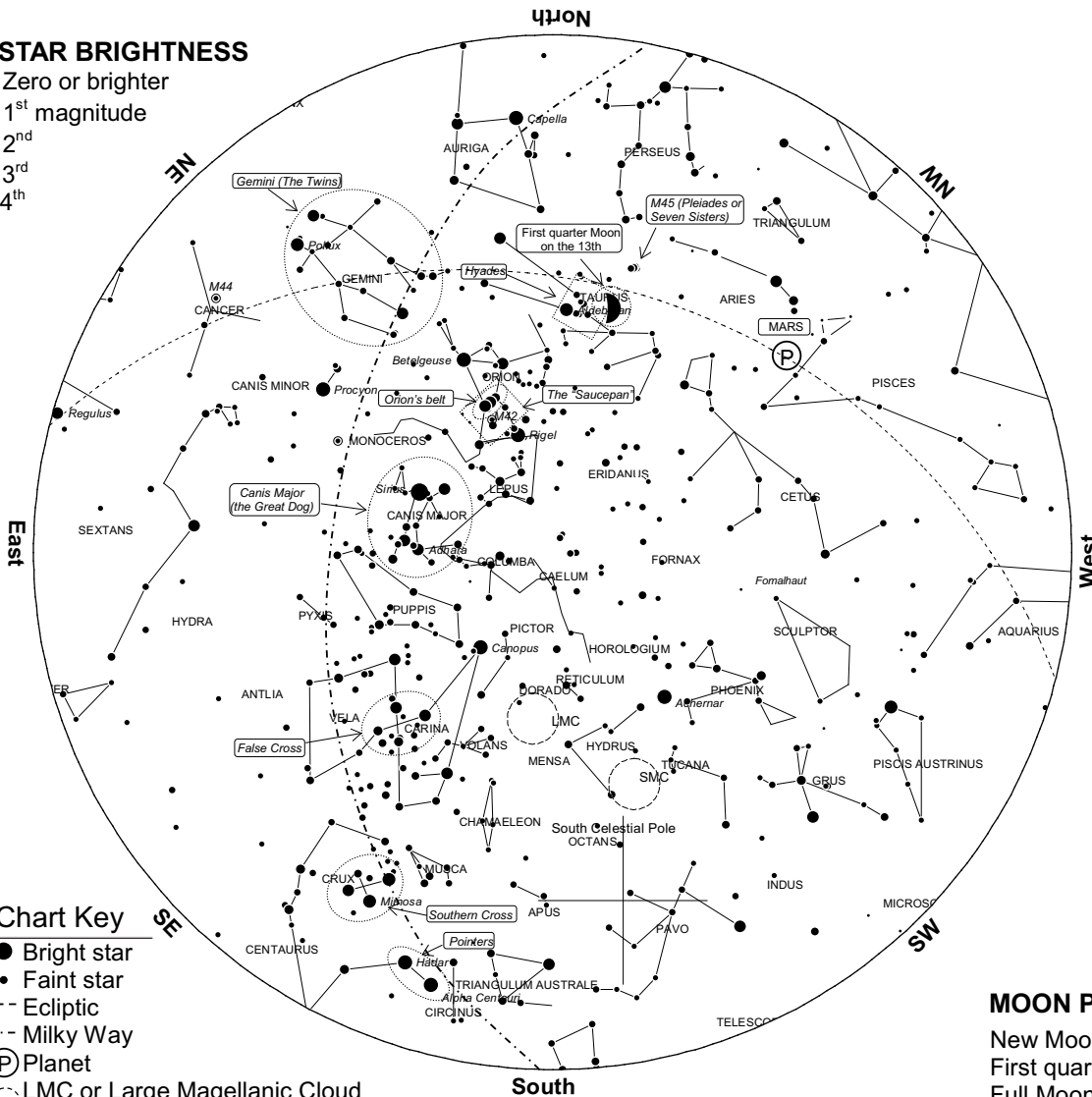
- Zero or brighter
- 1st magnitude
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th

Chart Key

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

MOON PHASE

New Moon	05th
First quarter	13th
Full Moon	20th
Last quarter	26th



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 2019

The best time to view the Moon is a few days either side of its first quarter phase on the 13th February. Mars is in the north-western sky after sunset and moves from the constellation Pisces to Aries on the 13th. 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 in the constellation of Centaurus (the Centaur).

Sydney Observatory is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. The Sydney Observatory night sky map was created by Dr M. Anderson using the *TheSky* software. This month's edition was prepared by Melissa Hulbert. © 2018 Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney.