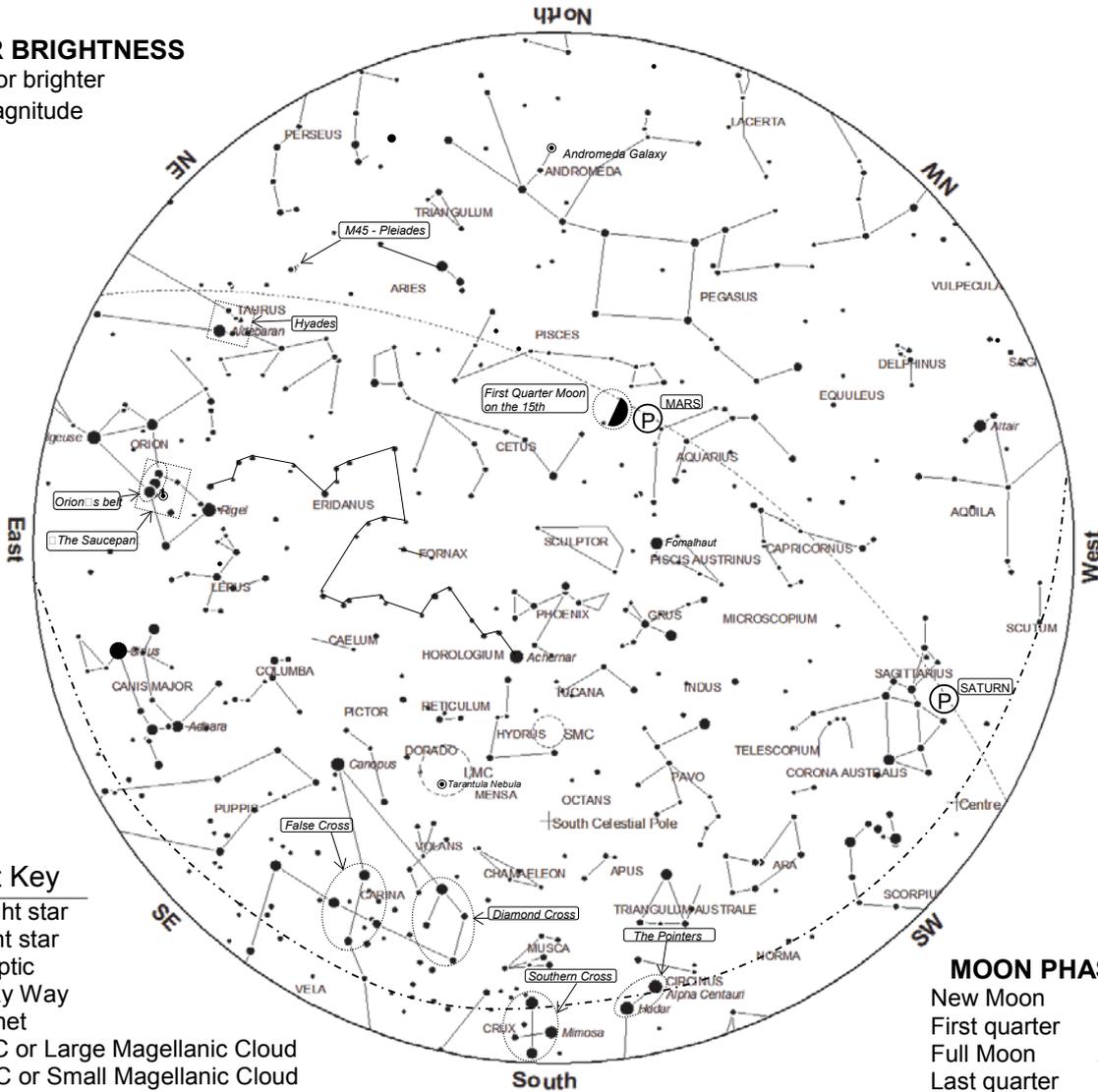


# December 2018

## STAR BRIGHTNESS

- Zero or brighter
- 1<sup>st</sup> magnitude
- 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 4<sup>th</sup>



## THE CHART

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for December at about 8.30pm (local daylight savings 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 2018

The summer solstice is on the 22nd, when the Sun reaches its highest point in the sky for the year, and this day has the most hours of daylight. The best time to look at the Moon with a small telescope or binoculars is a few days either side of its first quarter phase, which falls on the 15th of December. Saturn is low in the west in Sagittarius (the Archer) but vanishes in the twilight mid-month. Mars is high in the northern sky in Aquarius (the Water Carrier). Crux (the Southern Cross) is located to the south, near the horizon, making it difficult to see at this time of year. The summer constellations of Orion (the Hunter) and Taurus (the Bull) are in the northeast. Sirius, the brightest night-time star, is low in the southeast.

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.