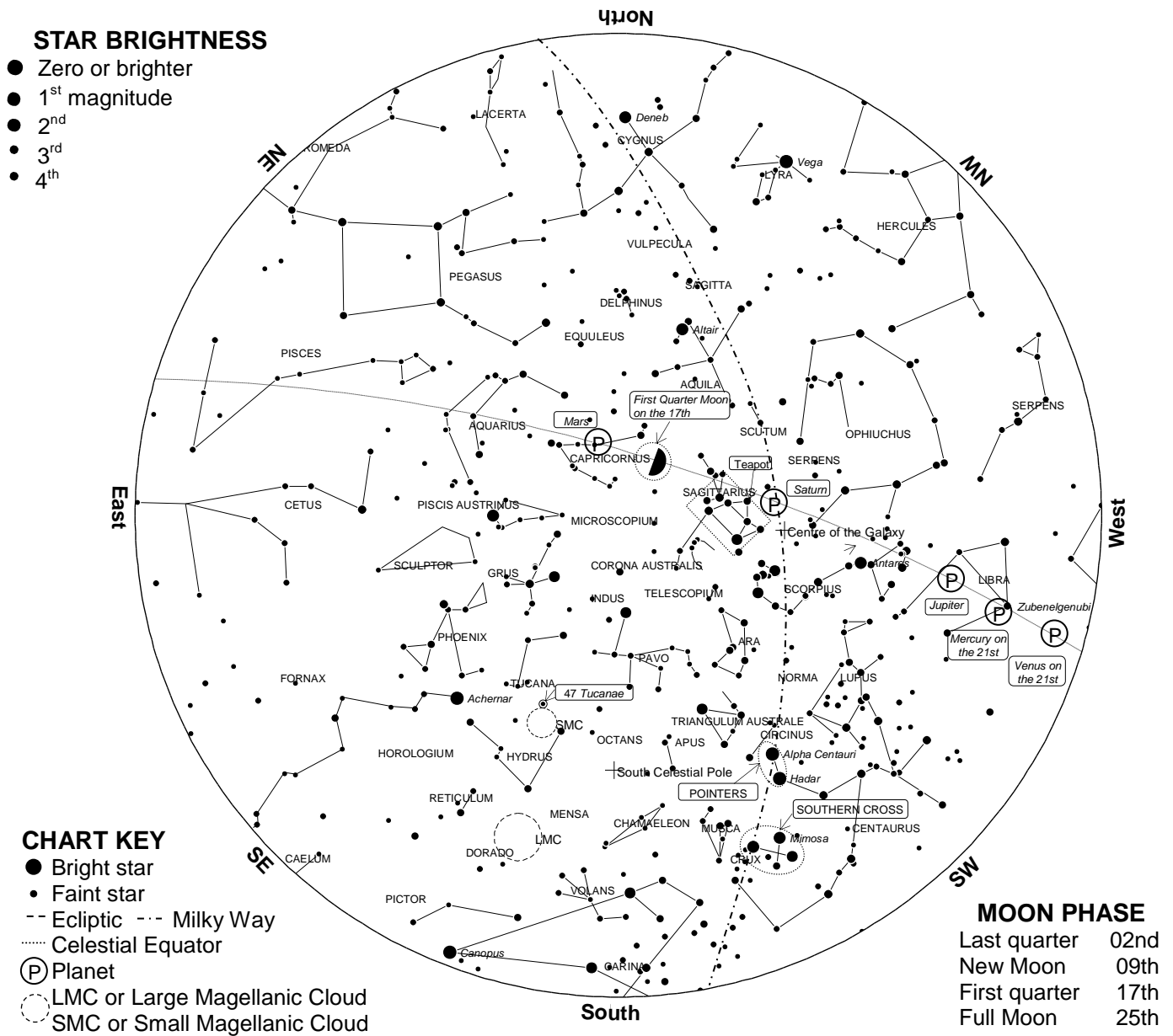


Night sky map

October 2018



THE CHART

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for October at about 7:30 pm (local standard time) or 8.30pm (local daylight saving 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 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 OCTOBER 2018

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 17th of October. Saturn is high in the west in the constellation Sagittarius (the Archer). Jupiter is low in the west with Venus which will disappear below the horizon by month's end. Mercury is also low in the west but will appear higher in the sky as the month progresses. To the south-west is the constellation Crux (the Southern Cross), which can be easily located using the two nearby stars commonly referred to as the Pointer Stars. The brighter of the two Pointer Stars, Alpha Centauri, is the closest star system to our own. Scorpius (the Scorpion) is also high in the west.