

July 2016

STAR BRIGHTNESS

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

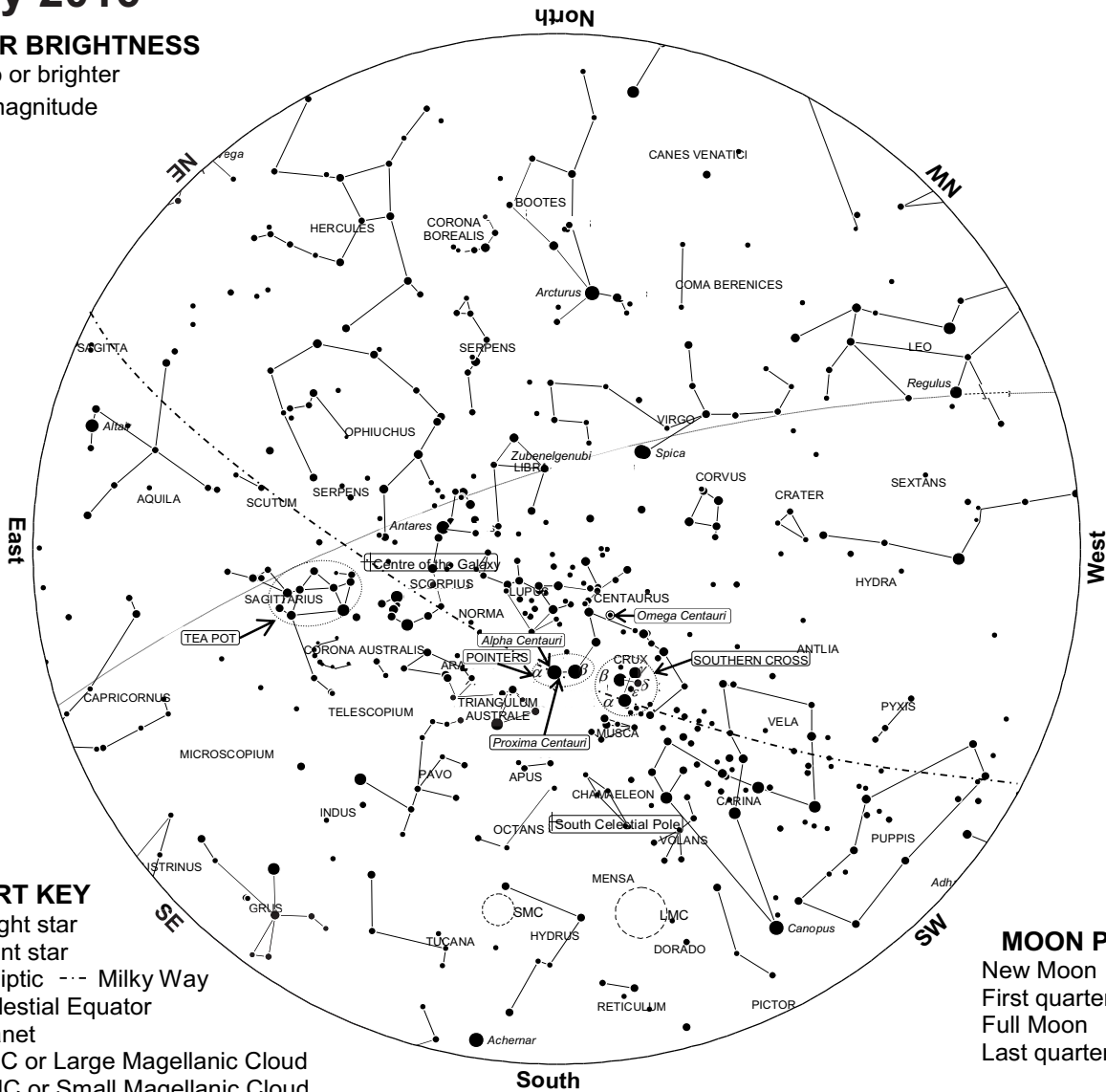


CHART KEY

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

MOON PHASE

New Moon	05 th
First quarter	12 th
Full Moon	20 th
Last quarter	28 th

THE CHART

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart and Adelaide for July 2016 at about 7:30 pm (local standard time). For Darwin and similar 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. The best time to look at the Moon with binoculars or telescopes is within a few days either side of first quarter.

HIGHLIGHTS IN JULY 2016

This month there are three bright planets in the evening sky: Jupiter in the north in Leo, Mars high in the east in Libra and Saturn lower east in Scorpius. The constellations of Scorpius (the Scorpion) and Crux (the Southern Cross) are high in the sky. The Southern Cross is easily located using the two nearby pointer stars, which themselves are a part of Centaurus (the Centaur). The brighter of the pointers, Alpha Centauri, is the closest star system to our own. Near the end of the Scorpion's tail is Sagittarius (the Archer). The brightest stars in Sagittarius form the shape of a teapot.

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 Andrew Smith and Dr Dimitri Douchin. © 2016 Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney.