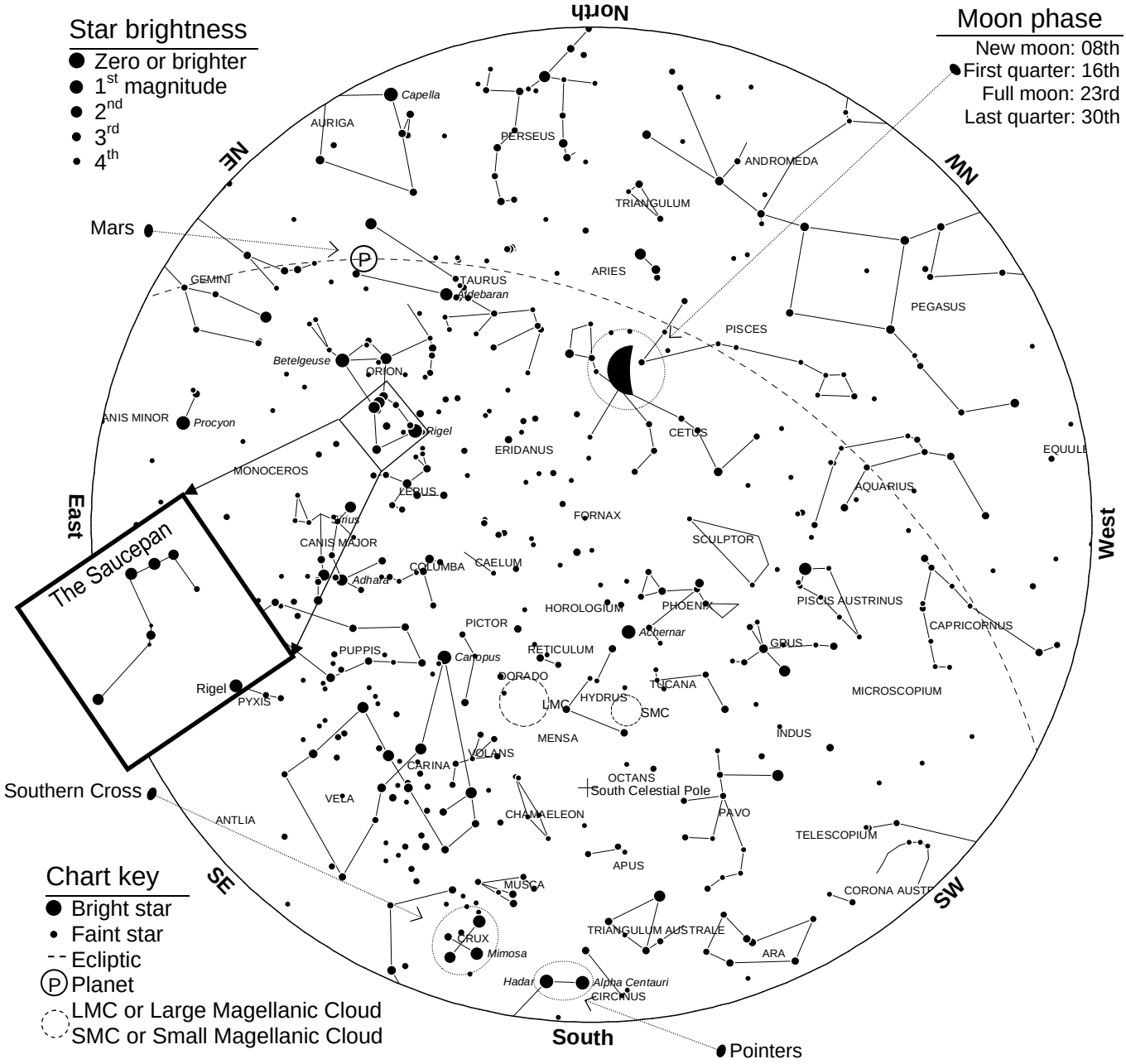
Sydney Observatory night sky map

A map for each month of the year, to help you learn about the night sky

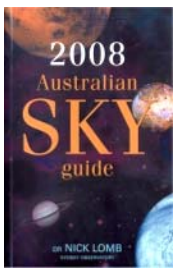
January 2008

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky from Sydney, Australia, for January 2008 at about 9:30pm (summer time) on the 7th and 8:30pm (summer time) on the 21st. The chart will also work for any place in Australia. 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.



Mars is visible in the evening toward the north-east in the constellation of Taurus. On the 20th, the Moon is positioned directly below Mars toward the north-east. Earth will be closest to the Sun on 3 January at 11am summer time, a distance of only 147 million kilometres. To the north-east is the famous constellation of Orion that contains a group of stars commonly called The Saucepan. The Southern Cross is only a few degrees above the southern horizon, making it hard to locate in the night sky this month.



To learn about the night sky in detail why not purchase the *2008 Australian sky guide* – this annual book has details on the sky for the whole year, including the rise and set times for the Sun, Moon and planets, and tidal information. Available from Sydney Observatory, Powerhouse Museum, good bookshops and via mail order by phoning (02) 9217 0129. RRP $16.95
(2009 edition available early December 2008)

Sydney Observatory is open every day (except Christmas day and Good Friday) between 10am and 5pm. At night time bookings are essential. See the new 3-D space theatre and view the stars through our telescopes every night.

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Sydney Observatory is part of the Powerhouse Museum. The Sydney Observatory night sky map is prepared by Dr M Anderson using the software TheSky and is copyright 2008 by the Trustees, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.