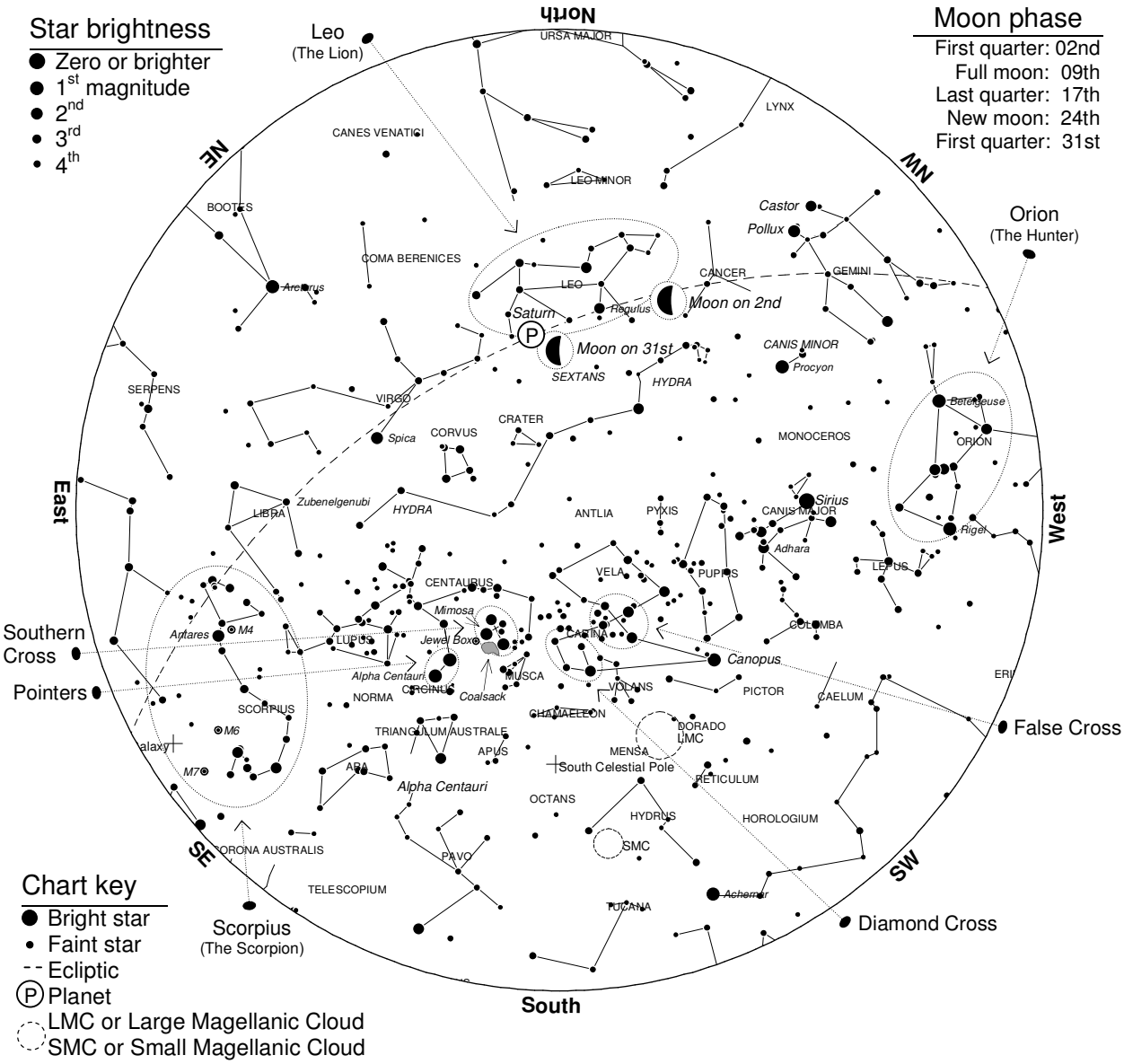
Sydney Observatory night sky map

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

May 2009

www.sydneyobservatory.com.au

The star chart shows the stars and constellations visible in the night sky for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth for May 2009 at about 7.30pm (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 Southern Cross is high in the sky toward the south and is easily located using the two nearby pointer stars. The Pointer star Alpha Centauri is the nearest star to the Sun and Earth, visible to the human eye. Nearby are the False and Diamond Crosses that are both often mistaken for the Southern Cross. The constellation Scorpius (the Scorpion) is to the east, Orion (the Hunter) to the west, while high in the sky is Leo (the Lion). The first quarter Moon can easily be seen towards the north on the 2nd and 31st. Saturn is located towards the north in the constellation of Leo and is next to the first quarter Moon on the 31st.

Sydney Observatory, with a magnificent view overlooking Sydney Harbour, is open every day (except Christmas day and Good Friday) between 10am and 5pm and for night sessions (times vary depending on the season). View the sky nightly through one of our telescopes, and see 3D movies about the universe. Bookings are essential for night programs.

For more information, check our website at www.sydneyobservatory.com.au or call (02) 9921 3485. Sydney Observatory is at Watson Road, Observatory Hill, in the historic Rocks area of Sydney.

sydney observatory
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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. © 2009 Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney