

# THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE



With Glenn Dawes

There's a chance to see Saturn occulted by the Moon, and Mercury and Jupiter crossing paths

## When to use this chart

**1 June 00:00 AEST (31 May, 14:00 UT)** The chart accurately matches the sky on the dates and times shown for Sydney, Australia. The sky is different at other times as the stars crossing it set four minutes earlier each night.  
**15 June 23:00 AEST (13:00 UT)**  
**30 June 22:00 AEST (12:00 UT)**

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

On 27 June, the eastern Australian mainland will see an occultation of Saturn by the Moon. The rising Moon conceals the planet, with great views of its reappearance on the dark limb. Times are: Melbourne 23:32, Canberra 23:39, Sydney 23:41, Brisbane 23:47 (all AEST) and Adelaide 23:07 (ACST). Hobart sees a near miss. Although visible through binoculars, small telescopes will show the rings slowly being revealed, with Saturn's bright moon Titan popping out two minutes later.

## STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS

Early evenings in June display the grandeur of our Galaxy, with the central hub rising in the east and the southern Milky Way passing overhead and heading west. With the long winter nights, there isn't much of the sky not visible to those pushing into the morning hours. The pre-dawn shows the sky to have transformed to that typically expected from spring/summer evenings, with the Milky Way now hugging the horizon with the Magellanic Clouds high in the south!

## THE PLANETS

The drought of planets continues until the end of June, when Saturn is rising before midnight, followed by Neptune around an hour later. Mars is next on the agenda, rising around 03:00 mid-month in a barren part of the sky in Pisces. Uranus

rises around 05:00 mid-month, followed by Jupiter which rises before dawn by month's end. Here's a challenge: low in the dawn on 5th, Mercury, heading towards conjunction, passes Jupiter (0.6° apart) near the thin crescent Moon. Binoculars recommended.

## DEEP-SKY OBJECTS

Virgo is famous for the Virgo Coma cluster of galaxies, but there are some fine galaxies in the eastern end of the constellation that aren't associated with this group. NGC 5746 (RA 14h 44.9m, dec. +01° 57') is easy to find just 0.3' west of the fourth-magnitude star 109 Virginis. This brilliant mag. -10.3 edge-on spiral has a bright, elongated central core (1 x 2 arcminutes) with a faint needle-like halo extending from the ends (running north

to south) approaching 7 arcminutes long.

Next up, two bright 10th-magnitude elliptical galaxies. From 109 Virginis, move 3.7' east to NGC 5813 with an oval-shaped halo (2 x 1.5 arcminutes) that brightens to a non-stellar nucleus. A further 1.3' east finds NGC 5846, with a bright, condensed circular halo (1.5 arcminutes) and prominent core. A dozen fainter galaxies are within 1.5° of NGC 5846.

## Chart key

GALAXY	DIFFUSE NEBULOSITY	ASTEROID TRACK	STAR BRIGHTNESS: ● MAG. 0 & BRIGHTER
OPEN CLUSTER	DOUBLE STAR	METEOR RADIANT	● MAG. +1
GLOBULAR CLUSTER	VARIABLE STAR	QUASAR	● MAG. +2
PLANETARY NEBULA	COMET TRACK	PLANET	● MAG. +3
			● MAG. +4 & FAINTER

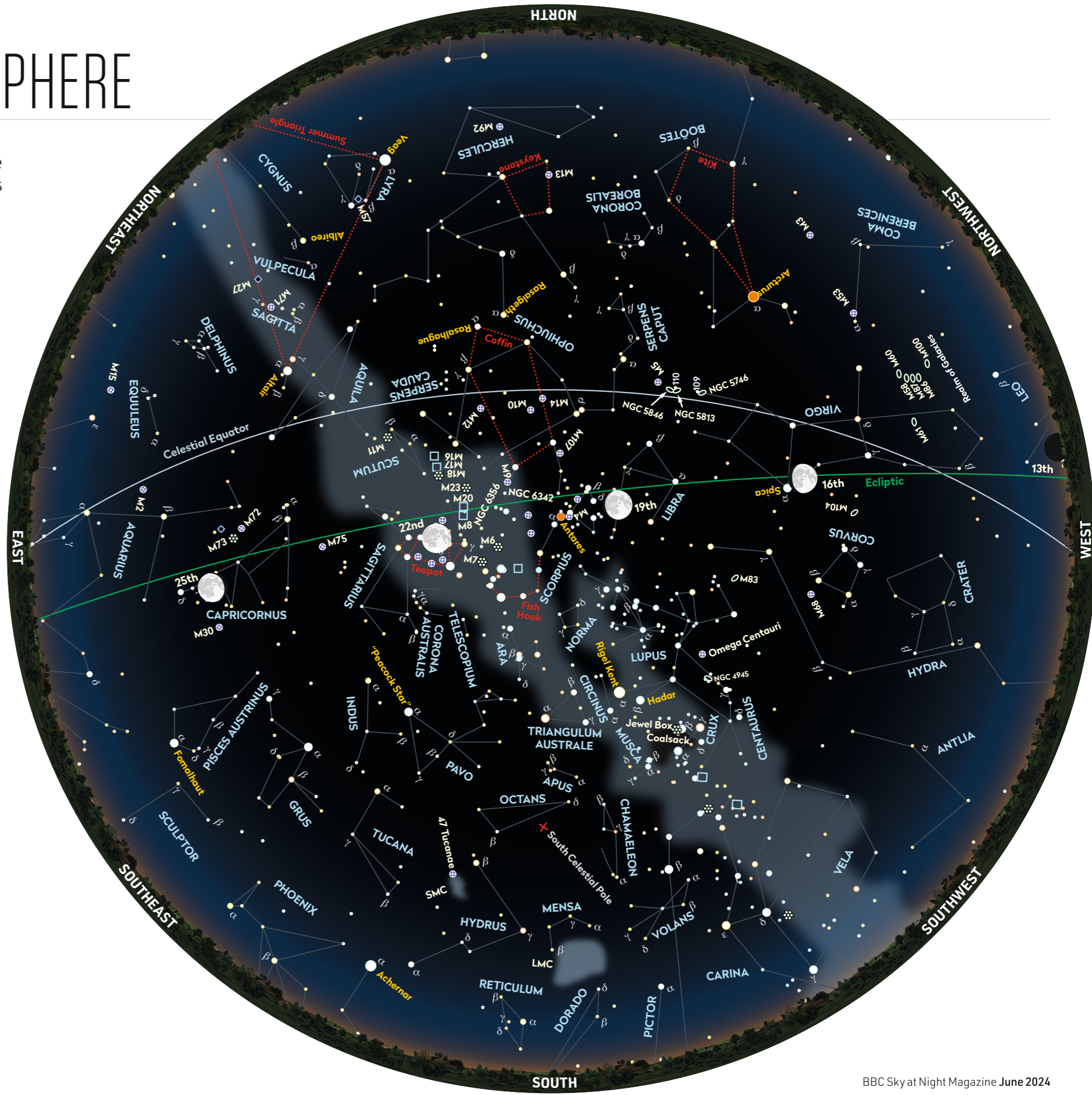


CHART: PETE LAWRENCE