

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ix

Introduction 1

PART 1 MEASURING DISTANCES IN THE SKY 3

Map of the Moon 6

Distances to the stars 9

Three-dimensional awareness 9

The brightness of stars 9

The Milky Way 10

Life in the heavens 12

Instructions for use of the atlas 12

Four seasonal star maps 13

PART 2 A WALK THROUGH THE HEAVENS 17

A walk through the southern sky 18

The Southern Cross (Crux) 20

Pathways from Crux 22

 To locate Musca 22

 To locate Corvus 22

 To locate Carina 22

 To locate Achernar of Eridanus 22

The Centaurus–Crux–Carina–Vela relationship

The True and False Southern Crosses 24

 To locate Vela and the False Southern Cross 24

The Acrux–Canopus–Achernar triangle 26

The Centaurus–Lupus–Ara–Libra–Scorpius relationship . . . 28

Pathways from Centaurus 28

 To Lupus 28

 To locate Libra 28

 To Ara 28

 To Circinus and Triangulum Australe 28

The Sagittarius–Centaurus–Hydrus–Pavo relationship . . . 30

 To locate Peacock in Pavo 30

The Achernar–Fomalhaut–Peacock triangle 32

To locate Grus 32

Pathways from Grus. 32

To locate Tucana 32

To locate Indus 32

To locate Capricornus 32

The Diphda–Fomalhaut–Achernar–Peacock triangles 34

To locate Ankaa in the constellation of Phoenix 34

The Grus–Sagittarius–Scorpius–Lupus relationship 36

To locate Microscopium 36

To locate Telescopium. 36

To locate Norma. 36

The Canis Major–Puppis–Carina (Canopus)
relationship. 38

To locate Puppis 38

The River Eridanus 40

Guides to the South Celestial Pole (SCP) 42

The Magellanic Clouds 42

Starting from Orion 44

Pathways from Orion 46

To locate Sirius in Canis Major 46

To locate Procyon in Canis Minor. 46

To locate Taurus and its star clusters the Hyades
and the Pleiades 46

To locate Achernar and Canopus. 46

To locate Gemini 48

To locate Auriga. 48

To locate Lepus, Columba and Cetus 50

To locate Cetus 50

Orion's encirclement 52

To locate Arcturus in Bootes 54

To locate Cor Caroli in Canes Venatici 54

To locate Corona Borealis 54

To locate Spica in Virgo 56

To locate Corvus 56

To locate Hydra, the water snake 56

To locate Leo 58

To locate Cancer 58

To locate Vega in Lyra 60

To locate the Northern Cross (Cygnus)	62
To locate Pegasus	64
To locate Altair in Aquila	64
To locate Hamal in Aries, Diphda in Cetus and Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus	66
To locate Aries	66
To locate Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus	66
To locate Diphda in Cetus	66
To locate Perseus and Andromeda	68
To locate Hercules	70
To locate Ophiuchus	72
To locate Serpens	72
To locate Antares in Scorpius	72
To locate Sagittarius	72
General summary of pathways	74
 PART 3 LEGENDS OF THE CONSTELLATIONS	 79
Legend of Andromeda	80
Legend of Aquarius	80
Legend of Aquila	81
Legends of Ara	82
Legend of Argo Navis	82
Legends of Aries	84
Legend of Auriga	84
Legend of Bootes	84
Legends of Canis Major and Minor	84
Legends of Canopus in Carina	84
Legend of Cassiopeia	85
Legends of Centaurus	86
Legend of Cetus	87
Legend of Columba (Noah's dove)	87
Legend of Coma Berenices	87
Legend of Corona Australis	87
Legend of Corona Borealis	87
Legend of Corvus	88
Legend of the Crater	88
Legend of Crux	88
Legend of Cygnus	88

Legend of Delphinus	90
Legend of Draco the dragon	90
Legend of Eridanus	90
Legends of Gemini	90
Legend of Grus	91
Legend of Hercules	91
Legend of Hydra the water snake	92
Legend of Leo	92
Legend of Libra	93
Legends of Lyra	93
Legends of Ophiuchus	93
Legends of Orion	94
Legend of Pegasus	95
Legend of Perseus	96
Legend of the Phoenix	98
Legends of the Pleiades	98
Legend of Sagitta the arrow	99
Legend of Sagittarius	99
Legend of Scorpius	100
Legend of Taurus	102
Legend of Ursa Major	102
Legend of Virgo	103
Legends of the Milky Way	103
 PART 4 THERE’S MORE TO SEE!	 105
Circumpolar constellations	106
Test of vision	107
Colour test	107
Star brightness test	107
Binocular sights	109
Location of planets	109
The ecliptic and the Zodiac	112
Planet locations	113
Navigational stars	115
Minor constellations	116
Constellations index	116