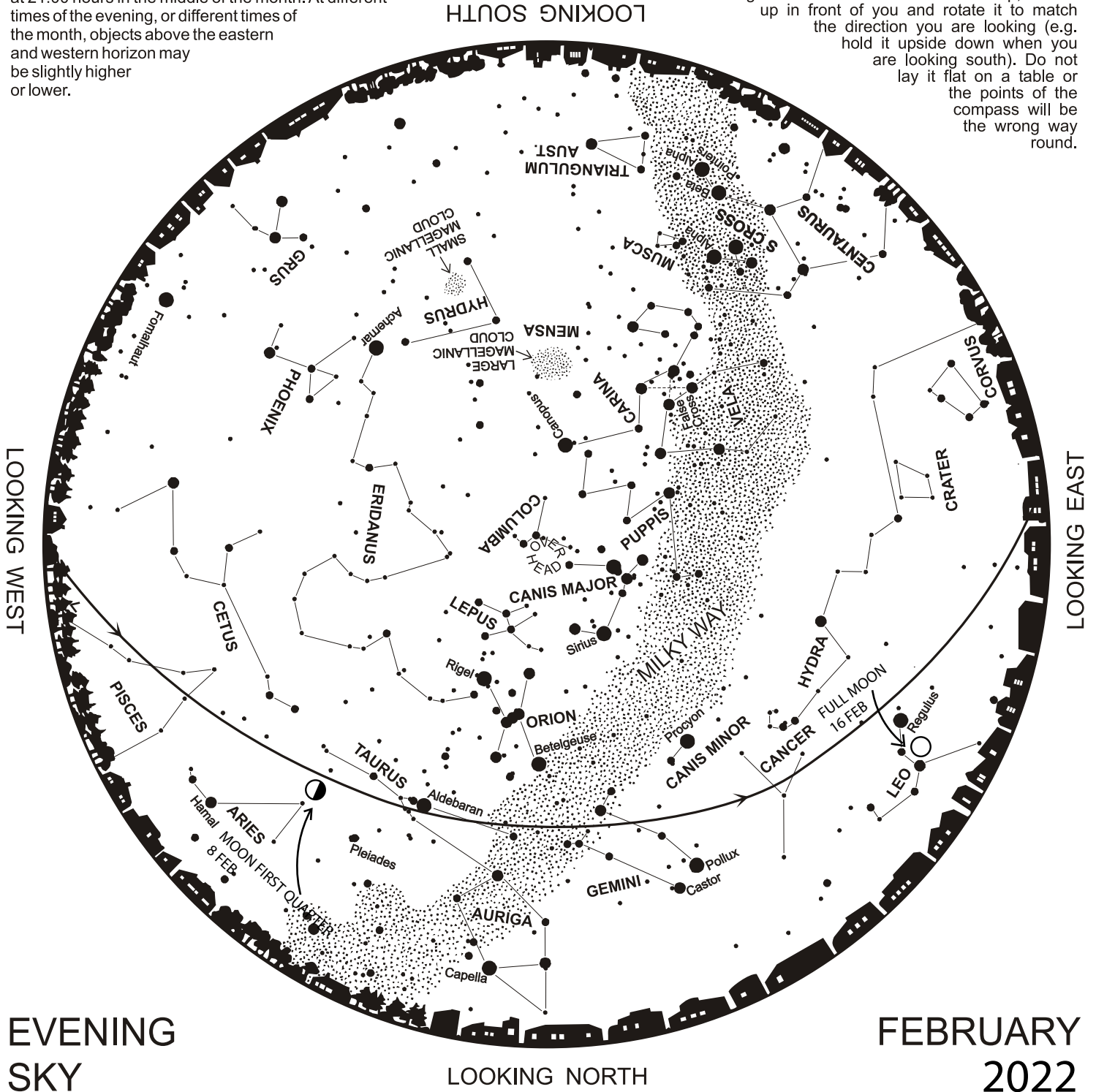


IZIKO PLANETARIUM AND DIGITAL DOME

The map shows the night sky visible above the Cape at 21:00 hours in the middle of the month. At different times of the evening, or different times of the month, objects above the eastern and western horizon may be slightly higher or lower.

The centre of the map is the overhead point, the edge is the horizon. To use the map, hold it up in front of you and rotate it to match the direction you are looking (e.g. hold it upside down when you are looking south). Do not lay it flat on a table or the points of the compass will be the wrong way round.



EVENING SKY

FEBRUARY 2022

High in the south-east, the great ship Argo Navis from Greek mythology sails across our night skies, along the sea of stars that make up the bulk of our Milky Way Galaxy. Try identifying the bright stars in the three Argo constellations: Carina (keel), Vela (sails) and Puppis (stern). Vela, or the 'False Cross', has been known to fool casual observers with its similar appearance to the Southern Cross, which lies further south. Overhead towards the north, Canis Major (big dog) and Canis Minor (little dog) sit close to Orion (hunter) on either side of the Milky Way. Together the bright stars Betelgeuse (in Orion), Procyon (in Canis Minor) and Sirius

(in Canis Major) form the easily recognizable 'Summer Triangle' (or 'Winter Triangle' in the Northern Hemisphere). Towards the west, look out for Taurus (bull) with its red giant star Aldebaran. The moon will be in the evening sky from 2 until 23 February, with Full Moon ('Dassie Moon', see cfah.org.za/fullmoon/ for more details) on 16 February. The Moon appears to make a close approach to Venus and Mars on 27 February. These two planets appear relatively close to one another this month, rising a few hours before sunrise and followed later by Mercury (which lies close to the eastern horizon).