

SEPTEMBER MAHURU HIGHLIGHTS

Aquila

Once you've found the star Altair, you can join the stars around it to mark the constellation Aquila. This constellation is located along the Milky Way and, due to its position, there are many star clusters and nebulae to be found within its borders.

Aquila is one of the 48 constellations that were described by the astronomer Ptolemy back in the second century, but earlier mentions of the constellations have been found in the third and fourth centuries BCE.

Aquila gets its name from the Latin word for 'eagle'. According to classical Greek mythology, Aquila was said to represent a giant golden eagle that was Zeus' animal companion, and was responsible for carrying his thunderbolts.

Within this constellation lies NGC 6751, pictured on the front cover. Also known as the Glowing Eye Nebula, this planetary nebula is believed to have formed several thousand years ago, when a star, nearing the end of its life, collapsed and threw off its outer layers of gas.

Vega and Altair

In the northern sky this month will be two bright stars – closest to the horizon is Vega, and higher in the sky you'll find Altair. Vega is the fifth-brightest star in the sky, and is relatively close to us – only 25 light-years from the Sun. Even closer, but not quite as bright, is Altair roughly 16.7 light-years from the Sun.

The stars Vega and Altair are used to tell the Chinese folk tale of The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl. Vega represents Zhīnǚ, the weaver

girl, and Altair represents Niúláng, the cowherd. There are many variations of this love story, the earliest known reference to the myth comes from around 2600 years ago.

One version tells that Zhīnǚ was a goddess that lived in the stars, working as a weaving maiden for her father, the Jade Emperor. Zhīnǚ was married to Niúláng, the cowherd. Their love was so strong that Zhīnǚ was distracted from her weaving duties.

The Emperor was angered that his daughter had been neglecting her weaving duties for so long. As punishment he placed Zhīnǚ and Niúláng on opposite sides of the heavenly river so they couldn't be together. We see this river as the Milky Way, with Vega and Altair on either side.

Image: Vega (top left) and Altair (bottom middle) with the Milky Way between them. NASA.

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Each chart shows the position of stars, constellations, planets, and the Sun, and the phase of the Moon for the exact time, date, and location of your special event.

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THE SKY TONIGHT TE ĀHUA O TE RAKI | TĒNEI PŌ



SEPTEMBER MAHURU SKY GUIDE

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MOON MARAMA PHASES

Phase

Date

Full Moon	Wednesday, 2 September
Third Quarter	Thursday, 10 September
New Moon	Thursday, 17 September
First Quarter	Thursday, 24 September

PLANETS WHETU ĀO

Jupiter Hine-i-tiweka

1 September until 4.55am
15 September until 3.59am
30 September until 4.02am
In Sagittarius

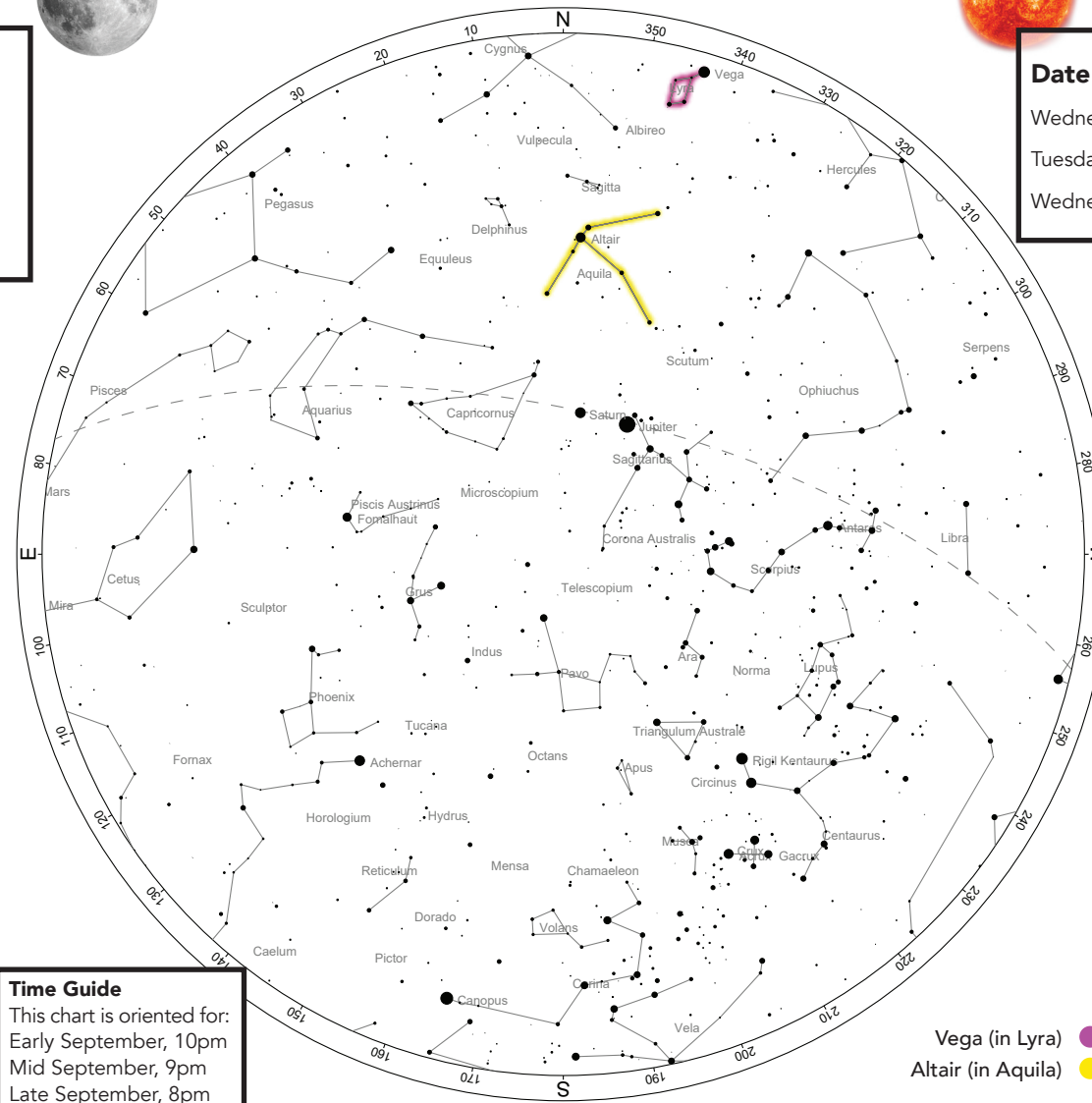
Saturn Pareārau

1 September until 5.22am
15 September until 4.26am
30 September until 4.27am
In Sagittarius

Mars Matawhero

1 September after 10.03pm
15 September after 9.09pm
30 September after 8.56pm
In Pisces

SEPTEMBER MAHURU 2020



Time Guide

This chart is oriented for:
Early September, 10pm
Mid September, 9pm
Late September, 8pm

How to use this chart: Hold the chart up to the sky and rotate it, so the direction you are looking matches the direction printed on the bottom. For example, if you are looking south, place 'S' at the lower edge. Stars rise in the east and set in the west like the Sun. As the Earth turns, the sky appears to rotate clockwise around the south celestial pole. The sky makes a small shift to the west every night, as the Earth rotates around the Sun.

SUN RĀ RISE / SUNSET

Date

Rise

Set

Wednesday, 1 September	7.07am	6.09pm
Tuesday, 15 September	6.40am	6.26pm
Wednesday, 30 September	7.11am	7.45pm

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

On September 27, daylight saving time will begin in New Zealand. At 2am, clocks will move forward one hour.

This means that after we move into daylight saving time, sunrise and sunset will be an hour later than the day before. While this means we have to stay up slightly later in order to see the stars, we also gain that extra daylight time in the evening.

As our planet orbits the Sun, the hours of sunlight we receive each day changes. The purpose of daylight saving time is to make better use of the daylight hours we receive as we move into summer.

Daylight saving time is not used worldwide. In countries that are located near the Equator, the sunlight they receive is largely the same throughout the year, so there is no need to change the clocks.

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