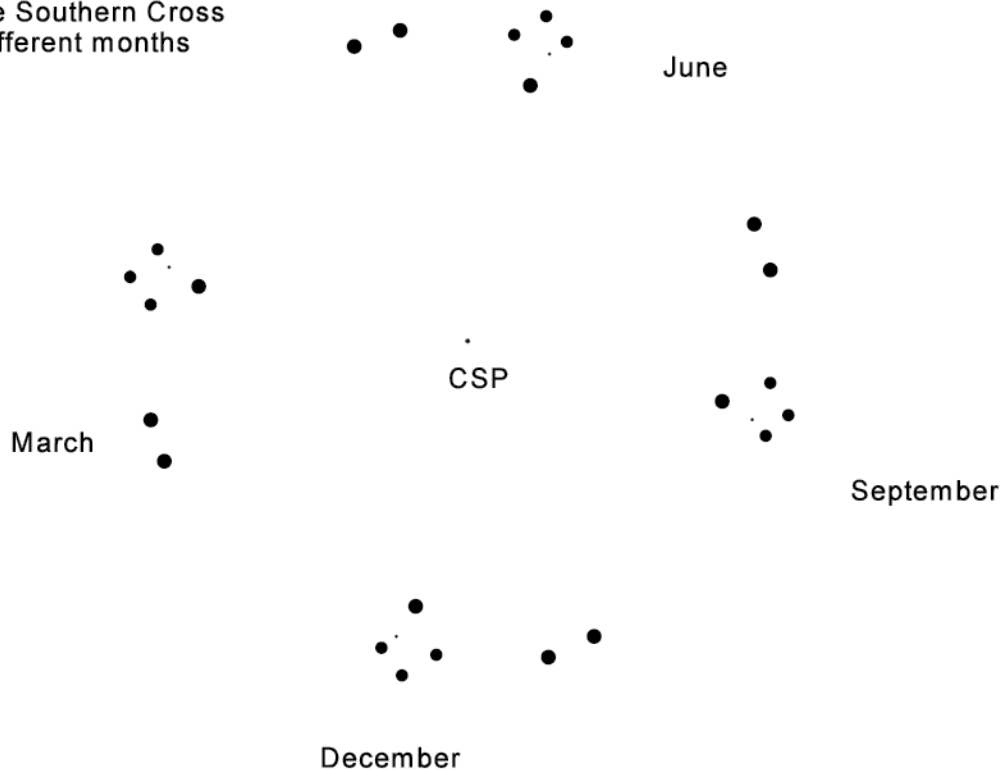


Finding South in the Southern Hemisphere

If the Sun has set on your right, then you are facing in a southerly direction. On a clear night you should be able to identify the Southern Cross and the Pointers quite easily. The diagram below shows the position of the Southern Cross at various times of the year. The Pointers and the Cross are **circumpolar**: meaning that they remain visible throughout the year as they circle the Celestial South Pole, CSP.

Position of the Southern Cross
at 20h00 in different months
of the year.



When you have found the Cross and the Pointers, take an imaginary bisector of the pointers and extend this line. Now draw another imaginary line through the long axis of the cross and extend it. Where these two lines meet is the CSP. By dropping a line from the CSP to the horizon will give south. See the diagram below. It appears difficult, but once you have tried it, you will see how easy it really is and with a little practice you can simply look up at the Pointers and Cross and find South immediately.

