



Evening sky in JANUARY 2014

The "summer hunting scene", appearing above the north-eastern horizon and upside down to Southern Hemisphere viewers is dominated by Orion, the Hunter. The three bright stars that form Orion's Belt are also known to many South Africans as "the three sisters". Two bright stars above Orion's Belt represent his legs, and two below, his shoulders. The Hunter is seen in combat with Taurus, the Bull, on his left. To Orion's right are Canis Major, the Big Dog and Canis Minor, the Little Dog, faithfully following the Hunter. Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky is in Canis Major, while the second brightest, Canopus, known to the Swazi people as *Naka*, is easily visible high in the south-east in the constellation of Carina, the Keel. Lower down are the Southern Cross (Crux) and Pointers.

Planet Venus is in the constellation of Sagittarius low in the west and by midmonth will move into the glare of the Sun. Planet Mercury moves through the constellation of Capricorn and into Aquarius, but sets before 21:00. To the east planet Jupiter is in Gemini above the bright stars Castor and Pollux.

The Moon is in the evening sky from 3 January until 18 January.