



### Evening sky in JUNE 2013

The Southern Cross (Crux) is circumpolar and always visible from Cape Town. During summer it is low above the horizon and appears upside down, but in the winter evening sky, it is upright and high above the horizon. Two bright stars, the Pointers in the constellation Centaurus are found nearby. To Sotho and Tswana cultures the Pointers and the two brightest stars of the Cross represent *dithutwa*, the giraffes. The Pointer furthest from the Cross is Alpha Centauri, a triple star system containing the star closest to our Solar System, Proxima Centauri.

Several bright stars help identify prominent winter constellations. Regulus is in Leo (Lion) to the northwest and Arcturus is in Boötes (Herdsman) above the northern horizon. To the east is Antares, a red supergiant in the Scorpion (Scorpius) with a line of stars showing the curve of its tail, ending in a pair of stars, the sting.

June 21 marks our winter solstice, the start of winter.

Planets Venus and Mercury are visible low in the west soon after sunset. Planet Saturn is in Virgo.

The Moon is in the evening sky from June 12 until June 25.