



Evening sky in NOVEMBER 2014

Overhead the bright star Fomalhaut, at a distance of 25 light years and age 440 million years, is a relatively young star in comparison to the Sun which is 5 000 million years old. A planet orbiting Fomalhaut has the distinction of being the first exoplanet imaged at visible wavelengths by the Hubble Space Telescope. Astronomers have discovered at least 12 exoplanets in the constellation of Pegasus (Flying Horse), visible halfway down to the northern horizon, while NASA's Kepler Mission has detected many exoplanets in Cygnus (Swan), lower down, among them the most Earth-like exoplanet in the Habitable Zone. High in the south-east is a bright blue star, Achernar, the southern tip of the constellation of Eridanus (River), 139 light years away, 7 times the mass of the Sun and 150 times the Sun's luminosity. Lower down is Canopus in Carina (Keel), a white supergiant star, 310 light years away. The three bright stars called Orion's Belt are low above the eastern horizon while the bright stars of the Southern Cross and the Pointers are low in the south.

Planet Mars is in the constellation of Sagittarius in the west.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 8 November and again from 23 November.