



Evening sky in October 2017

Vega, the bright star low above the northwestern horizon, is the first star other than the Sun, to be photographed and have its spectrum recorded. It lies in Lyra, the constellation resembling a lyre (musical instrument). Higher up is Altair, the brightest star in Aquila, the Eagle. Almost overhead is Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish. The next bright star along this line is Achernar, halfway above the southeastern horizon in the constellation of Eridanus, the River. The line ends with Canopus, the bright star belonging to Carina, the Keel, low above the southeastern horizon. To the southwest and also low above the horizon, is Crux, also known as the Southern Cross, the smallest of the constellations with the two bright Pointers in Centaurus higher up. Orange-red Achernar is the brightest star in Scorpius low in the west.

The Moon is in the evening sky until 7 Oct. and again after 20 Oct.

Conditions are favourable for the Orionid meteor shower peaking on 21 Oct. Watch from midnight to dawn for meteors associated with Halley's Comet producing the occasional bright meteor leaving a persistent train.

World Space Week is celebrated 4-10 Oct. Visit the upgraded *Iziko Planetarium and Digital Dome* for an exiting space experience!