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PERTH, AUSTRALIA

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# UFO's — do they exist?

Science fiction films like 'Star Wars', 'Buck Rogers' and 'Battlestar Galactica' took the world by storm.

Their main attraction, the 'special effects' really made the audience believe for that short instant in life beyond the stars. But who's to say that characters like Luke Skywalker of Star Wars and Adama of Galactica don't actually exist. Maybe not under these names or glorified images but as visitors from other planets. Unidentified flying objects appear across the world in every size, shape and colour imaginable. It's these unexplained sightings that Mr. George Hume of the 'Perth UFO Research Group' investigates.

Mr. Hume, a 72 year old bachelor of Lawrence Street, Bedford, first found fascination with UFO's in 1947 when he read of a pilot

spotting 'discs' over Washington D.C. This pilot was the first to coin the phrase 'flying saucer', which has stuck ever since.

"We receive a lot of calls, but most are about lights in the sky which really don't prove a great deal", Mr. Hume said.

"Each sighting is investigated, the person interviewed and details filed away. The air force, police and meteorological office all refer details of sightings made by the public to us."

Mr. Hume recalls a sighting he himself made over Bedford in 1979. Soon after, he received a phone call from a woman who claimed she had seen a flying saucer over the area.

Mr. Hume was trav-

elling along The Strand at 11.30 p.m. when he saw, at a low altitude, a very bright white light, which after being stationary moved slowly in a line with Essex Street. By the time he got home it had disappeared.

Similar sightings have been reported as far back as man's creation, but have significantly increased since the 1930's.

Since that era UFO groups have sprung up everywhere, fanning out across the world. Books have found their way into suburban Libraries and serious documentaries have been conducted on the subject.

Scientific studies have, if anything, merely increased the mystery surrounding these sightings. Their reports explain away 90%



• UFO researcher Mr. George Hume, a Bedford bachelor, studies some of the unexplained pictures he has collected.

but they are unable to give any explanation for the remaining 10%.

Now, if you are intrigued by UFO's (as this reporter was) it's a simple matter to join the 'Perth UFO Research Group'. They meet every second Wednesday of the month at 'Willard House', 14 Aberdeen Street, Perth.

For an annual subscription of seven dollars, or three dollars for students and pen-

sioners, you can become a member. Activities include, investigating landing sites, interviewing witnesses and working on scientific data.

Don't be disappointed by the fact that researchers lean towards the 'man-made' theory rather than the visitor from outer space one. In fact you could find yourself becoming heavily involved.