

mm

OTHER MYSTERY OBJECT SIGHTINGS

The NEWS has received two other reader reports of mystery objects seen in the Ballarat skies in recent days. This follows the report published last week of a sighting by eight people of a mystery object over Wendouree.

One reader, Mr Merv Pickford, also of Wendouree, said he saw an object at 7.15 p.m. on Monday May 21. He had just emerged from his backyard shed

where he had been practising weightlifting when it flew overhead heading in the general direction of Mt Helen.

"It was like two fluorescent tubes flying over-

head with a space between them," he said. "There was a glow coming from them, and two white lights were flashing together. There was absolutely no noise."

Mr Pickford said he did not think it was a plane, but if it was a new type, he would like to know what it was.

The other reader was David Young, 16 years of age, of Sebastopol, a student of Ballarat High School. His statement reads as follows:

"I left to go for a run at 3.49 p.m. on Friday May 18. I was running along Miles Street when I got a stitch in my side. I stopped to walk and was just at the top of a small rise with two tall trees on my left, when I saw in front of me (i.e. towards the East) a strange thing.

"There were a few clouds around the hills in the distance. But closer than that, about half-way between the hills and myself I saw a darkish thing.

"I thought at first it was a cloud, but it was much darker than the other clouds, and was too small for a raincloud. I also

'A STRANGE THING'

thought it might be a plane, but the outlines were indistinct. It seemed to be moving.

"I lined it up with the edge of the road and saw that it was in fact moving slowly but steadily towards the south (my right).

"I have always wanted to see a UFO and I wondered if this was one, but it wasn't quite what I had imagined.

"Then suddenly it began growing smaller and I had the feeling it was moving away from me. Very soon it was only a black dot, then even that disappeared.

"The whole thing, from first sighting to disappearing, had taken barely 30 seconds.

"The time was then just after 4 p.m."

David is the son of a pilot and has had many hours in the air.

"AGE"

Melbourne, Vic.

- 3 MAY 1984

mm

UFO hunts are history for RAAF

The air force is to stop chasing UFOs and little green men.

The Minister for Defence, Mr Scholes, announced yesterday that his department will no longer investigate what it euphemistically calls Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS) unless they have "defence or national security implications".

UAS with defence or national security implications are believed to be aircraft intruding on Australian air space from the north rather than flying saucers with aggressive intent.

In future, the RAAF will simply record sightings reported to them and refer the person who has made the sighting to organisations which research UFOs.

The number of UFO-sightings reported to the air force peaked in the early 1960s and, for the past 10 years, it has investigated 120 to 150 sightings a year.

"TIMES"

mm

Canberra, A.C.T.

RAAF resets UFO targets

By FRANK CRANSTON

The RAAF has closed its equivalent of the US Air Force "Blue Book" on unidentified flying objects.

It will now investigate only those unexplained aerial phenomena which suggest a defence or national-security implication. It will not even refer to them as UFOs, but instead as UAS (unusual aerial sightings).

The Minister for Defence, Mr Scholes, who announced the change of policy yesterday, said that though the RAAF would remain a point of initial contact for people seeing things in the skies, those sightings not considered to have defence or security interest would not be further examined.

Instead, they would be recorded and the observer given the address of a civilian organisation which researched UASs if the observer wished to pursue the matter.

Past RAAF investigation of reports had often been time-consuming and unproductive, and had led to many man-hours of follow-up action by the RAAF and other agencies.

Procedures for investigating UAS reports had not been changed for many years, and the vast majority of sightings had proved to have no defence or national security significance.

The sort of report which could be expected to be still investigated by the RAAF was the sighting by a Qantas and a Singapore Airlines pilot of a