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Family in fear as 'egg from outer space' chases car

By Peter Wombwell

in Perth

AN EGG-shaped unidentified flying object apparently scattering black ash in its wake yesterday terrified a family driving across Australia's desolate Nullabor Plain and the crew of a tuna boat 50 miles out to sea.

The object chased the family's car along the lonely road 800 miles from Perth, and finally picked it up and shook it, they reported.

Both the family and the tuna fishermen said their voices became distorted "as though they were speaking in slow motion" while the object was near them.

The tuna fishermen, who police said could not have known of the other incident, said the UFO had "buzzed" their boat in the Great Australian Bight.

Lodged on roof

Mrs Faye Knowles was with her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, when the "huge, glowing, egg-like sphere" appeared.

Sean Knowles said they stopped their car and walked back to look at the object. "It was weird, and we got frightened so we ran through the bushes and back to the car," he said. "But the thing followed us."

He said that later it lodged on the roof and lifted the car bodily off the ground.

His mother went into shock when she reached out of one of the car's windows and touched it. She told her sons it felt like a rubber suction pad.

When they spoke to police at Ceduna in South Australia, they said the car had seemed to float in the air, and their voices became distorted as though they were speaking in slow motion.

Sean said he had been driving about 70 mph when they first sighted the object, but even when he increased the speed to 125 mph the thing followed them.

Then it attached itself to the roof. After the car came down to earth, one of the tyres burst.

'Not of this planet'

Mrs Shirley Lundon, of Mundrabilla, where the family stopped after the incident, said they had scratches on their legs through running through the bush to escape the object, and there were also scratches on the roof and on one side of the car.

Police Sgt Jim Furnell said: "After investigating, we are treating the reports very seriously."

Mr Colin Norris, director of the UFO Centre, said: "It fits in with a lot of other sightings in the world. It appears to be an extra-terrestrial encounter. It's not of this planet."

However, a Melbourne Planetary Society spokesman, Mr Matthew James, was reported to have put the light down to being a rare phenomenon known as ball lightning.