

# 2 groups in Australia report UFO

SYDNEY (AP) — Two groups of Australians reported near simultaneous encounters with an unidentified flying object and police said yesterday they were taking the reports seriously.

A family of four said their car was chased by an eggcup-shaped object along a remote stretch of outback highway, plucked from the ground and covered in ash Wednesday morning, police reported.

The crew of a tuna boat 50 kilometres away also said they were buzzed by an unidentified flying object minutes later, and that their voices become unintelligible as a result.

Faye Knowles, a mother of three, also told police that her speech and that of her sons changed during the encounter along the highway.

Police dismissed any suggestion of a hoax.

"We were a little bit skeptical at first," said Sgt. Jim Furnell of Ceduna Police in the state of South Australia. "But after investigating, we are treating the reports very seriously."

He said forensic scientists would examine the black powdery ash found inside and outside Knowles's car. She told police she was driving through the Nullabor Plain from Perth in Western Australia when she first saw a glowing object in her rear window early Wednesday.

"It apparently picked the car up off the road, shook it quite violently and forced the car back with such pressure that one of the tires was blown," Furnell said.

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