

## Australians Report Encounters With A UFO

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Two groups of people reported almost simultaneous encounters with an unidentified flying object, and police said Thursday that they were taking the reports seriously.

Members of a family of four said an object shaped like an egg cup chased their car along a remote stretch of outback highway Wednesday morning, police said. The family reported that the car had been plucked from the ground and covered with ashes.

The crew of a tuna boat 50 miles away said they were buzzed by an unidentified flying object minutes later.

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 scientists would examine the black powdery ash found inside and outside the car of Faye Knowles. She told police that she had been driving through the Nullabor Plain from Perth in Western Australia when she first saw a glowing object in her rear window at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Furnell said the object "appar-

ently 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.

"While this was happening, the family said their voices were distorted and it was as if they were talking in slow motion."

He said the crew of the tuna boat could not have known about the Knowles' experience when they reported their UFO sighting in the Great Australia Bight, a body of water off southern Australia. The crew, too, reported that their voices had become unintelligible when the UFO flew overhead.