



# The Phenomenon Times

Bimonthly Journal of the UFO & Paranormal Research Society of Australia

April 2008 Issue

## President's Report

Welcome back.

It's amazing that we have just passed the first quarter of 2008 and so many things have already happened.

After shooting in and around six different locations, we have finally completed the new series *Paranormal Investigators – The Challenge*. *PI* the series and *The Challenge* will be aired on Television Sydney (TVS – Channel 31) as a 10-part series. We have been assured that the launch date will be confirmed soon. Please visit our website for more details.

Our first conference for the year (*Next Dimension 2008*) went exceptionally well with speakers covering a variety of subjects, audience interaction and workshops. Although we didn't have the usual large turn-up, the people who did attend displayed a lot of enthusiasm. What more could you ask for? Depending on our schedule, UFO-PRSA may conduct another conference later in the year.

We have good news for those who have been looking forward to the *UFO-PRSA Support Group*. As of May 2008 the new group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm, here at our meeting rooms. The support group caters for those who have had experiences (abductees, contactees) on a supernatural level. The group will be run by our counsellor and Vice President, Lorraine Cilia. There is a small entry fee to cover costs. For further information please visit the main page of our website [www.ufosociety.com.au](http://www.ufosociety.com.au) or contact Lorraine after the meeting.

Regards,

Attila  
President

P.S: Our next meeting will be on  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2008.



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**UFO & Paranormal Research Society of Australia –  
formerly known as UFO Society of Western Sydney  
EST 2000**

## Vice President's Report



By Lorraine Cilia

“We had a cross disciplinary approach covering the entire paranormal topic, Spiritual, inter-dimensional and extraterrestrial.”

Greetings to all my Earthling and Alien friends.

We have had such a busy time filming the documentary episodes at various locations throughout February and March and the Next dimension conference swallowed up any time we had left! But it was a great day out at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains and all who attended praised the fact that such a gathering was even taking place. We had a cross disciplinary approach covering the entire paranormal topic, Spiritual, inter-dimensional and extraterrestrial.

I have finally arranged times for a Contactee Support Group. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and every first Tuesday of the month thereafter in the Meeting Room of the H. J. Daley Library in Campbelltown. This will be an open Public Forum for any person who has had any form of paranormal experience. I will be conducting an anonymous safe haven for like minded people to meet and discuss their experiences in a serious ridicule free environment. The cost will be \$3.00 for members of our Society and \$7.00 for non members. If you are interested in attending and would like to join membership of the Society, please go to [www.ufosociety.com.au](http://www.ufosociety.com.au) for online membership and all additional information.

The President has been involved in discussions concerning the release of our paranormal investigations series on Free to Air Television broadcasts. Please keep watching the website for broadcast details as they come to hand. This is a very important step in the society's public profile and it is envisaged that this type of public presentation could continue to include more topical content if they are well received.

Whilst on the subject of “what's going on in the media”, it has come to my personal attention through relatives in England that the famed singer Robbie Williams is giving away the pop scene in favour of paranormal and UFO investigative pursuits! If it wasn't for the fact that the newspaper clipping was sent right along with the story, many others would have found it too hard to believe. But that's just the problem with the whole topic in the first place. As for us, it's actually an old story. Many notaries are ‘gagged’ about their personal beliefs or experiences when they are climbing the popularity scene by the same ‘disbelief’ factor – only for the truth to come out many years later.

As for our future involvement with the media, we have learned to tread carefully but through the President's editing efforts, we are now able to control some of our content and its use or abuse. *Remember, the future is in all our hands.*

Lorraine Cilia  
Vice President

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## Orb Facts

There has been much debate about the representation of orbs, especially after the introduction of digital technology. They come in different colours, sizes and some even appear to take on some very peculiar characteristics. They can appear at random in video footage and still imagery. The more flamboyant explanation suggests that 'orbs' are the pre-manifestation of spirits prior to materialisation. This is more of an anecdotal theory. In order to take an objective approach, one must rule out all conventional possibilities before leaning towards the unexplained. There are known cases and documentations of phenomena that fit in that category, but seldom do they appear.

In my experience as a paranormal researcher, at least 95% of orb documentations are explained in conventional terms. Some of the more popular orb effects are created by airborne particles such as dust or fabric. This occurs when the contaminant is within the range of the camera's depth of field, making it out of focus thus producing an orb-like effect. It is also worth noting that cameras are infrared sensitive (especially video cameras operating on night mode) and will pick up reflection or refraction in that spectrum.

Other optical effects are on images taken near reflective

surfaces, or near direct sunlight. The orb that is created in this instance is caused by lens flare (or even camera interior structure reflection). Lens flare can also enhance minute contamination on the lens itself (dust, dew, hair, compromised lens), producing fuzzy orb-like spots.



Some poor quality digital cameras occasionally have pixel drop out during photography. The unit then attempts to compensate for the fault (digital overcompensation) by producing pixels of random colour. This will appear as some kind of circular artefact. We have all seen video footage in night mode of orb-like anomalies moving hastily around the cameraman, changing course and then disappearing. Most of these orbs are in fact insects that we wouldn't otherwise see if it weren't for the cameras infrared function. These are some of the more common forms of conventional explanations.



At closer inspection, some orb photography present (see example) unusual patterns – some even seem to represent faces or other bizarre figures (even occult-like). This is an occurrence that falls under the category of a psychological phenomenon, called pareidolia.

The human brain is capable of interpreting certain patterns (ambiguous stimuli) as recognisable forms, like faces, religious icons, etc.



It is worth taking the abovementioned examples into consideration before jumping into a conclusion. No matter how much we want a phenomenon to be extraordinary, we must first take a rationalist approach. It is only when we have ruled out all natural explanations, that we may begin to cite the extraordinary.

*By Attila Kaldy*

## *Our Very Own Roswell? Did We Really Know About It!*

This is one of those incidences that seemed to have been swept under the carpet and long forgotten. Although the media were made aware of the event, they didn't make a big fuss out of it. In fact they (the radio) only brought it up a few times in the morning ... and then nothing. It seems odd that something so significant was suddenly ignored. The only persistent tabloid was the Macarthur Chronicle. But after making a few enquiries themselves, they were simply going around in circles.

One of the local amateur astronomers was brought into the spotlight. According to his theory (and he wasn't one of the witnesses) he claimed that it was nothing more than a large chunk of space rock (meteor) about the size of a *bus*. Considering the velocity of such a rock entering our atmosphere (travelling approximately 30-km/sec) the result of an impact would have been devastating (much like Hiroshima but in our own backyard). Not a plausible explanation.

So what happened?

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at 9.00pm a truck driver heading south witnessed a large fire ball-like object descend from the sky and impact somewhere near the Avon and Cataract Dam area. This phenomenon was also sighted flying above South Camden. According to the handful of witnesses there,

the unknown flew overhead creating a 'screaming' like noise. The truck driver then saw it as he was driving south on the M5 Freeway (over a creek near Menangle Park), just past the Menangle Road overpass.

According to his testimony, the object came down in an arc across the clear night sky. He claimed that what he saw was equivalent to the size of his thumb at arms length. He also said that the unknown appeared to consist of three tiers enveloped in a fiery contrail. The speed was somewhat faster than an aircraft but slower than any meteorite he had seen in the sky.

In his statement, the object then impacted behind an escarpment towards the southwest - where he could see the lights of Wollongong - producing a 'V' like flash or explosion. In addition, he said that he could clearly see fiery projectiles from the impact site seconds after the alleged explosion.

The truck driver believes that the phenomenon collided with ground surface in a water catchment area near the *Lake Cataract, Lake Cordeaux* and *Avon Dam* region.

The following day radio stations were broadcasting the story of an impacting meteor near the Bulli area. The story was then repeated by Channel Seven. Calls were coming into 2-Day-FM declaring that a large military operation was being conducted near the colliery. The area was then cordoned off.

So much fuss over a piece of space rock? I don't think so.

Another truck driver claimed that while making his usual run to the colliery near Cataract on 17<sup>th</sup> June between 11.00-11.30am, he was stopped by military police and was asked to leave the area, which was apparently marked as an exclusion zone. Furthermore, the truck driver said that he witnessed at least '100' soldiers combing the area.

In addition, none of the local fire departments were alerted and the National Parks and Wildlife said that they knew nothing about the incident. We were told that they would look into it and that they would get back to us. That did not happen, nor did any of our messages receive a return call.

The main witness (truck driver who also served in the military) informed me that he would no longer be part of the case as he received a threatening phone call from Canberra shortly after he went public.

Air Traffic Control (ATC) did say earlier in a media report (an interview by the Chronicle) that they did track the object as it entered Australian aerospace in Queensland. In a second phone call to the ATC, all information claimed to have been provided by the ATC was denied.

In a later media announcement the public was told that those who are searching for the impact site are wasting their time as the meteor exploded in midair (not to mention prohibited access to the water catchment area).

Before I lost contact with the truck driver, he told me that he had made some inquiries himself at the local police station in Camden. He said that an officer heard that the mining pits at the colliery had lost power for half an hour around the time of impact, and were running on generators.

Before he received the alleged phone call from Canberra, he was contacted by an individual claiming to be from the Bureau of Meteorology. He informed the driver that it was no use making a big 'fuss' about the event as it was trivial.

For days military aircrafts buzzed the area repeatedly.

After the operation, things went back to normal, or so we assumed that to be the case. But not according to another truck driver. In a certain region near the colliery, some drivers, he said, complained that certain

electrical equipment would go haywire.

Some enquiries were made years later about the incident. One fellow (retired SAS) told me that the impact was actually caused by a Black-Project experiment that went horribly wrong (if that was the case then it makes me wonder how much of our tax monies went up in smoke?). No information about the type of aircraft (assuming it was an aerial vehicle of some kind, like a UAV) was given.

Then I had the privilege of interviewing another retired military officer, who again, knew of the incident. He didn't tell me directly what had crashed, but the right gestures were made when I asked the question (while on the subject of extra terrestrial intervention) *'it wasn't one of ours, was it?'*

Weeks after the crash-landing occurred, members of our society were planning to charter a helicopter over the area of interest.

Unfortunately, due to lack of funds we weren't able to place our plans into action.

So what really happened around the *Cateract, Cordeaux* and *Avon Dam* area?

It is now clear that what came down was not a meteor. What, to be precise ... we don't know for sure. Whatever it was, it was important enough for the military and other alleged government departments to get involved.

What proof do we have?

Other than the slight variations in testimonies from ranking military people and other witnesses ... we have no blueprints, no physical trace evidence ... nothing, only claims.

*By Attila Kaldy*

## *Dom's Corner*



*By Dominic McNamara*

### **Life forms ...**

*is a collection of Articles based in Facts. These articles cover life's formation, existence and struggle to survive. In fact, if you look hard enough, life has survived some of the strangest, remote and sometimes, unexpected places.*

During the late '70's, somewhere in the Pacific ocean, an underwater expedition involving a remote camera chamber called

"Alvin", settled near the sea floor at a depth where few vehicles in the world would survive. What they found changed our ideas of life itself.

### **Welcome to the dive**

At the mid-ocean ridges, molten rock bubbles up from the mantle to the sea floor and cools to form new oceanic crust. Cold sea water percolates down through the fissures in these ridges, and many types of

minerals -- like sulphur, copper, zinc, gold, and iron -- are transferred from the hot, new crust into the water.

The water, now rich with dissolved metals, is heated and then gushes back up through the cracks, forming hydrothermal vents. As the hot water -- which can reach temperatures of over 700 degrees Fahrenheit -- escapes from the vents and comes in contact with the near-freezing water of the ocean bottom, the metals quickly rain out of their solution. The result are surging clouds of particle-rich water called "black smokers," which often erupt out of tall chimneys of previously deposited solidified mineral.

Such hydrothermal vents were predicted long before they were first discovered by the submersible Alvin in 1977, as it surveyed the Galapagos Rift, along the eastern Pacific Ocean basin and over a mile and a half below the surface. (Other active systems being studied include the Juan de Fuca Ridge, off the coast of Washington and Oregon, and the Southern East Pacific Rise, in the middle of the southern Pacific Ocean).

Because so much metal is spewed out, hydrothermal vents have been responsible for many of the world's richest ore deposits, like the copper ores mined on the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea. Indeed, many economic geologists have suggested that active vents -- not just the sites of former ones -- be mined for

their massive metallic deposits, although their remote locations might make that difficult. Economics has often driven discoveries of the most bizarre kind.

### Life's melting pot

The vents are remarkable for something else quite unexpected; the most unusual, diverse life forms ever seen. Like the tube worms, giant clams, and long-necked barnacles. Life is possible at the hydrothermal vent systems because of a unique type of bacteria that forms the basis of the food chain there. The bacteria harness energy not from the rays of the sun -- no sunlight reaches these great depths -- but by metabolizing the large amounts of sulphur in the hot springs, something which had been debated as possible by various biologists, but not much else had been found to support this idea.

Some researchers believe that life on Earth began in extreme environments such as these submarine hydrothermal vents. If hydrothermal vents are now (or once were) present on other worlds -- Europa, Jupiter's ice-covered moon, is one possibility, as is Mars, where minerals that on Earth are commonly formed at hydrothermal vents were just discovered -- life might very well have arisen there too.

This "where life could have begun" business is becoming an ever changing stance. After all, we keep finding new ways in which life -- as we know it -- manages to not only struggle, but to flourish in the face of harsh environments, often beyond belief. In fact, it's enough to make your average friendly neighbourhood space robotic

engineer think twice about where they might be inclined to look for evidence of life.

**Attempt no landing there**  
Many ideas have lurked in the minds of humans as to some sacred place in the solar system other than earth. In Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, author Arthur C. Clarke appears to have picked on Europa. How ironic that after all this time, we now turn to this tiny little moon as unique for something we too hold very dear: water ... frozen water, and lots of it; and some of the liquid variety underneath!

Europa is the smoothest object in the solar system with a mostly flat surface, nothing exceeding 1 km in height. The surface of Europa is also very bright, about 5 times brighter than our Moon.

There are two types of ice crust terrains. One type is mottled, brown or grey in colour and consist mainly small hills. The other type of terrain consists of large smooth plains criss-crossed with a large number of cracks, some curved and some straight. Some of these cracks extend for thousands of kilometres. The cracked surface appears remarkably similar to that of the Arctic Ocean on Earth. The ice / water crust may be no thicker than 150 km. There are very few large craters observed on Europa, indicating a young surface, no more than 30 million years old. Europa's inner core is suspected to be iron-sulphur, similar to that of Io. Since Europa has a lower density than Io (3.01 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>),

the size of the inner core is expected to be smaller than Io's (an inner moon of Jupiter).

An adventurous idea Steven Squyres, the robotics mission engineer involved in the Mars rovers currently roaming the red planet, once remarked of the images of Europa, "We couldn't help notice that those cracks in the surface looked a hell of a lot like sea ice". He said that a good way to go wrong in these things is to simply use spurious analogy. That in identifying something by that which you are already familiar, is almost always something which points you in the wrong direction. But in this instance the evidence was there all along.

The widespread interpretation of the Voyager photographs of Jupiter's 2nd innermost great moon Europa, is that here we have a world with a global ice crust floating on top of a global ocean of considerable depth, covering a rocky crust-mantle-core. Current best guesstimates, reargued from scratch from recent Galileo mission photographs, are amazingly close to those offered a decade or more ago by astronomy "bad boy" John Hoagland.

The ice crust is on the order of 1-5 km thick, the ocean beneath it could be a 100 mi. or 60 km deep, likely to hold twice the water as all the oceans of Earth.

While we have not had on scene the instruments necessary to make direct measurements, it'd be surprising, if this picture is "way off". Tidal stresses caused by Europa's not quite circular orbit around Jupiter evidently supplies the heat to keep this ocean liquid. In ancient mythology, *Rhadamanthus* was the son of Europa by Jupiter. So *The Rhadamanthic* seems an ideally appropriate choice as a name for this hidden global ocean. Water and vacuum do not socialize. But ice and vacuum get along quite well. A thick enough self-derived icy "firmament" can contain an ocean just as effectively as does Earth's thick atmosphere. (Living off the ice, 2002)

There are many surprises waiting for us all as we look deeper into our own solar system's 'eyes'. The thing which continually fascinates me however is our ability to find new forms of life in places we thought impossible to support life – or at least, life as we know it. "As we know it" is fast becoming a statement with few boundaries – just as many of

us have suspected for a very long time. I cannot help but try to imagine the underwater sea world of Europa.

It is something I already know of from the evidence – and I for one cannot wait for the day we finally attempt that historic landing there, even if it is flying in the face of the very best science fiction advice.

Sources: NASA space probe archive. BBC Productions *The Planets*. University of Colorado. Mars Mission control, Cassini Mission control.

Europa:

- Discovery: Jan 7, 1610 by Galileo Galilei
- Mass (Earth = 1) 0.0083021
- Mass (Moon = 1) 0.67
- Surface Gravity (Earth = 1): 0.135
- Mean Distance from Jupiter: 670,900 km; 9.5 Jupiter radii
- Mean Distance from Sun: 5.203 AU (times Earth's distance from the Sun)
- Orbital period: 3.551181 days = Rotational period: 3.551181 days
- Density 3.04 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>
- Orbit Eccentricity: 0.009
- Orbit Inclination: 0.470°
- Orbit Speed: 13.74 km/sec
- Escape velocity: 2.02 km/sec
- Visual Albedo: 0.64 (The Moon's albedo is about 0.14, much darker)
- Surface Composition: Water Ice with evaporated sea salts

RACE Reports



“She saw what she thought was a shooting star, but it suddenly stopped and made a right hand turn.”

Now that we have completed the series and finished the conference, we can place 100% of our efforts back into research. In between events, we have been conducting some studies, including the new location of our next expedition.

## High Altitude Sightings

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January at 10.20pm, Mr. W. and his wife saw something very strange from the suburb of Telopea. Mr. W. told me that he is an avid star gazer and had seen plenty of satellites before, but never multi satellites travelling together. On this particular night he and his wife witnessed 3 satellite-like objects travelling from south to north in perfect harmony. Mr. W. stated that they looked close together, one in front of the other and the third one a little over to the left, as they silently crossed the sky. He estimated that it took them about 30 seconds to cross the sky and that they were at a very high altitude. Mr. W. told me that he was baffled by what he had seen, that he and his wife were sensible people and they know what they saw!

Mr. W. was so rattled by this strange sighting that he rang the Williamstown Air Base, hoping to get some information, unfortunately, none was forthcoming! Not giving up, Mr. W. then rang 2GB radio station and reported his sighting to Prue McSween live on air, apparently this prompted lots of call-ins from people wanting to tell of their own sightings of strange aerial phenomena.

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On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February one of our members, J was holidaying at Lakes Entrance, Victoria and witnessed his first UFO sighting. J and another person were sitting outside talking, around 8.0pm, when a strange flickering star caught their eye. He said it caught the attention of both of them because it looked so strange.

It was sitting about 90 degrees above the horizon and as they were watching it, it suddenly ascended at great speed and disappeared. J stated that the object must have been huge because it appeared to be very high up in altitude.

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On the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, C was walking her dogs along the shore of Lake Wallace near Lithgow. It was 6am in the morning and still dark enough to see the stars. C saw what she thought was a shooting star, but it suddenly stopped and made a right hand turn. This shocked and startled C, who is a logical thinking school teacher. She described the object as very high in altitude travelling south and suddenly turning west. She asked me the same question as all the other witnesses, what are they?



## Waitara

30th January 2008 at 1.30pm

I was walking towards where I work when I looked south into the sky and saw an object far away not moving. It looked cylindrical and dark grey. I knew it wasn't a plane because it didn't change shape as it moved. A plane was flying south west. The plane was much closer to me than the object. The sun kept glinting off the object. After about a minute, the object suddenly disappeared. One instant it was there, the next gone.

## Mittagong 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2007

Sometime after 9pm, C walked out to her backyard. Although she is most interested in the stars, this time she saw a light going along parallel to the house fence line. "There was no flashing like you would see on a plane" she said. C described this object to be the apparent size of a tennis ball. "There was no sound, only the distant sound of dogs barking in other people's yards. I moved to a better place to see this thing as it moved from my left to right, low along the horizon. As I did, I tapped on the window next to me, as I knew my husband was in that room, reading. By the time he had come out, this thing was turning right and straight to our house, until it was the size of the moon, but not round anymore, more like a star; it had many points sticking out of it and was a bright orangey colour – more so than just yellow". C said it then seemed to get no closer or further away as if it was hovering in the sky. Although her husband got bored with a seemingly less than animated light show and he went inside whilst this object slowly started to back up directly away from the observer and got smaller and smaller until C lost sight of it through distance itself. The whole sighting lasted a number of minutes. The night was Cloudy and C never lost sight of it above the clouds as it departed, so seems likely that it was not too distant from her at any time. The next day, C read in the Southern Highlands papers that others had seen strange glowing orange objects in the sky and she rang them to tell of her story.