

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

MAY 1981 NEWSLETTER (NO.33)

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More Investigations.

At last the Centre can report that there have been more investigations during the first 4 months of the year. To date, 30 cases have been brought to the Centre's notice, plus a few oldies. At the same time last year we had received only 18 calls. The number of unexplained cases last year at the end of April was 3, to date for 1981 we have 4, with a number of investigations yet to be finalized. Some interesting cases are still eluding us as we have trouble getting in touch with the witnesses. One is a second report of an auto-stop to Eric Hodgson, our Northern Rep. Meanwhile Ron Jolly (President) has leads on cases at Ross including another alleged auto-stop from 1980 and an incident on a yacht off Bruny Island. Quite a few cases reported to the Centre have involved puzzling lights that could be satellites, or stars, or something else. There just isn't enough to make a positive decision on but they are interesting enough to list. On 7th January, 1981, 23.07 hrs. Hayes policeman reports flashing white light moving away to south on south-west horizon. Could it be a satellite? probably, but nothing listed.

- January 9th 22.15 till 01.00 Bridgewater. Family reports seeing 9 or more lights crossing sky at different times. Some identified as satellites; the others probably satellites also. Investigator able to view two.
- January 25th Mowbray. Silver/blue light with yellow aura 30m off ground frightens two witnesses. No follow-up possible yet. (Time 01.30)
- February 9th Late pm to early am. Lights seen to S.E. from yacht N.E. of Flinders Island. Area around boat lit up. Unidentified.
- February 19th Mt. Nelson. Two white lights crossing sky at 21.30. Nothing listed but again probably satellites.
- February 21st 02.00 Mt. Nelson. Six lights seen this time, 4 going one behind the other. Unexplained.
- February 26th 21.30 Sandy Bay. Two lights again going north to south and south to north. May be satellites.
- February 20th 20.00 White/blue ball over roadside paddock near Campbelltown. Unexplained.
- April 3rd Lake Pedder 01.00 flashing light to south-east low elevation seems to move south and down. This could be astronomical but no bright stars in direction indicated by witnesses.
- April 7th 19.05 Glenorchy. White light like satellite going north, decides to do 90° turn and go off S.E. Still investigating.
- April 11th Partridge Island 20.00. Four witnesses see light moving south and low over bush-covered hills. Becomes stationary. Unidentified.
- April 11th 20.30pm Tunnel Hill. Large white light seen low over Mt. Nelson. Identical light seen on 14th at 22.20 from same location. No movement. May be due to ground source or star but no prominent star in location???

Well, there we have it; a list of 4 or 5 unidentified cases and an odd assortment of lights that could be anything. Also being investigated is a report which involves two slide pictures taken in Hobart on January 23rd. The night shots when printed have shown up a dome-shaped area of light in the night sky. The slides are currently being analysed by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies. The witness did not notice anything at the time he took the photographs. More on this, we hope, at future meetings.

Our next meeting will be on June 12th starting as usual at 8pm. The venue is the BP Theatrette, CML Bldg. (3rd floor), corner of Argyle and Liverpool Streets.

If you have heard of a sighting, new or old, and can't come along please ring Keith Roberts (evenings only) on 23 6009.

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If you have any friends who would like a copy of this year's Annual Report, buy one at OBM, Ellison Hawker, Sandy Bay News, Harrington St. News, Ewings Nth. Hobart, Irwins New Town, Arcade News, Moonah, Glenorchy News, Claremont News, Eastlands, Quadrant and Birchalls, Launceston.

FROM THE ACUFOS BULLETIN OF JANUARY 1981

Rosedale, Victoria - A Significant Physical Trace Case (Ref AX81/001)

The following account presents preliminary details of a case with physical effects which occurred on 30 Sep. 80 commencing at 01.00hrs local time, near Rosedale Victoria. An on-site investigation by Bill Chalker, Gary Little and Keith Basterfield was conducted on 31 Sep 80. (Full report in the Jan/Feb ACUFOS Journal).

Mr. George Blackwall, 54, a station hand, was awoken at 01.00hrs to hear a screeching whistling noise, bellowing cattle and a horse running around in panic. Going outside he reports he observed an object coming from the S.W. at an estimated height of 8-10 feet (all his measurements were in the old system and have been left as such). It travelled between a shed and a hedge below the line of sight of the shed. It then passed between a silo and a tree, then moved over a concrete water tank where it appeared to hover for about a minute. From here it moved to the north and seemed to land in a paddock.

He returned inside, dressed, and rode his bike up to the paddock to see what was going on. From about 50 yds away from the object he felt unusual, in his own words "like a jelly on a plate". He rode to within 50 ft of the object and stopped, sitting on his bike balancing it by having both his feet on the ground. At no stage was there any effect on the bike.

The object remained on the ground for some minutes, then came an awful screaming noise and it rose into the air. As it moved through a position about 30 ft from the spot on the ground, it went silent and cow pads and rocks fell from underneath it. Mr. Blackwell then rode straight onto the site and watched the object, stunned, as it left to the east. It became smaller and smaller as it went away and eventually was lost to sight.

Returning home, he experienced problems with his watch and found it had stopped at 0110 hrs. The watch kept starting and stopping and this persisted for about a week.

Next morning at 5am he returned to the site and found an 18" wide, 28' diameter black circle with green grass inside and outside it. To the east were rocks and debris from either the site itself or around the water tank. Other traces were said to have been evident for a few days afterwards.

Samples were taken and have been forwarded to Geoff Stevens for possible analysis. Investigation is proceeding.

BRISBANE COURIER MAIL 18.3.81...POLICE CHECK UFO SIGHTINGS

Police were interviewing people in the Gundale area last night after reports of a UFO hovering at tree-top height level in the Formosa Road area. More than 20 people reported seeing a round object with green and red flashing lights around its perimeter. They told police it hovered for a time and then zoomed off vertically at "an incredible speed". The sightings were about 9.25pm. Air Traffic Control operators at Brisbane Airport said no aircraft were in the area at the time. Nothing showed on the radar screens.

(Credit: "Independent" Perth, W.A. (John Hemmingway)

24th June 1979...Did a UFO "drink" 13,000 gallons of water from a paddock water tank? That's the mystery facing a farming couple in the W.A. outback. The disappearing water is tied up with the extraordinary events surrounding reports of "flashing blue lights" seen in the night sky near Mount Magnet last year. Ron and Heather Moses checked their 13,000 gallon (52,000 litre) tank late one Saturday. It was full to within two inches of the top. The next day, it was bone dry. The plug was still in place. There was no sign of leakage and no tracks to suggest anyone had been near the tank. Two days later, reports of flashing lights brought scores of reporters and UFO spotters to the area. Heather said: "We never told of what happened to our water tank because my husband thought people would laugh. The only explanation I can think of is that a UFO took it. I do believe in these things. There is no way that amount of water could disappear without trace. It could not have evaporated in that snort space of time. If it had leaked out slowly, all of it could not have gone overnight. If it had rushed out, it would have left some signs of the ground. We refilled it and it has been alright ever since", Heather added: "The reports of the blue flashing lights said they had gone right over our paddock".