

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

OCTOBER 1981 NEWSLETTER (NO. 34)

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No More Sightings.

In our last (May) Newsletter, we noted the increase in investigations compared with last year (1980) but we regret to say that calls to the Centre have fallen away again and in fact no further unexplained reports have come to our attention. To date, we have just 4 unexplained cases (8 in 1980) and if the non-action of the past weeks is any indication this figure may not vary much before the year's end.

It is interesting to note that Venus has been prominent in the evening sky for some time. In earlier years, this would have led to a steady flow of calls. It was also suggested by the "UFO debunkers" that the increase in UFO films, TV shows etc. would lead to new sighting flaps. We can confidentially say that the extreme opposite seems to have occurred.

The four unidentified cases were.....

February 9th late pm to early am NE of Flinders Island. NL.

February 21st 02.00 Mt. Nelson. Six nocturnal lights.

February 20th 20.00 Campbelltown. Ball over roadside paddock.

April 11th 20.00 Partridge Island. Light moving over hills.

Year's investigations currently stand at 51 (late Sept.) which is much the same as last year's 52 at the same stage.

ACUFOS YEARLY SUMMARY 1980

From the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (Gosford, N.S.W.)

ACUFOS notes that the overall number of reports was down on previous years and this seems to be a global fact of life.

1980 provided a variety of interesting events and 26 are summarized in their report. Under Hynek's classification there were 13 nocturnal lights, 4 CE1, 2 CE2, 1 radar visual, 3 identified, 1 photograph, 1 trace and one daylight dot. (If you are interested in ACUFOS publications send a 20 by 10cm stamped addressed envelope to them at P.O. Box 546, Gosford, N.S.W. 2250).

One case that was identified was front page news in the Adelaide "News" of Feb 8th 1980 and also was a feature story in the Australasian Post. The story goes that a large section of a tall pine tree at Stirling had been demolished by the impact of a mystery craft. UFO Research (Sth Aust) viewed the scene and investigated the report. Inspection of the tree showed that the damage had a natural cause. One branch had broken off a weak knothole and brought others down. It was believed that the object was very likely to have been due to the misconception of the cloud of dust and debris associated with the collapse of the branches. There was no evidence to suggest that anything had crashed into the tree.

Two other cases in the list defied explanation, one from Murray Upper was investigated by UFO (FNQ), the second report from Perth by ACUFOS and Jeff Bell.

On Dec 3 at 19.00 hours Mr. G. Peel was a passenger in a vehicle heading north along highway at Murray Upper. He sighted a strange light through the open window, to the left and rear of the car. The driver of the car also saw it, the car engine died, the radio stopped working and the lights flickered but did not go out. After 5 or 6 seconds after it had stopped, the radio started making a noise described as like static with a morse code like beeping as well. This noise carried on until the object left the area. The two did not get out of the vehicle but the object seemed to hover over the car for about 30 minutes. Following this the object moved off to the left to a spot $\frac{1}{2}$ km away then took off away from the car.

The next day Dec 4th on the other side of Australia occurred a radar visual case. At 8.38 am the Perth Airport Control tower reported they had been watching an object glinting in the sun for 15 minutes. There was a matching radar paint at 097 deg, 6nm away, tracking 150 deg at 120 knts. The target was lost in the radar's cone of silence. A witness reported seeing 4 discs tumbling overhead at 12.30pm. The tower observed 4 objects as did the radar. Finally at 1.20pm a return was detected on radar and the tower sighted the object high above one of the runways.

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Don't forget the next meeting date, Friday OCTOBER 9TH, 8pm, BP Theatre, CML Building (3rd floor), corner of Liverpool and Argyle Sts. There will be highlights from a tape just received from NEW ZEALAND. The tape is of AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL during the famous NEW ZEALAND lights affair. P.S. If a tick appears on the end of this line, your \$.....sub is due.....

From the Australian UFO Bulletin Journal of the Vic UFO Research Society.....The Tinamba Circles. (Gippsland)

On April 4th 1981 Mr. H. Gallatly's son was putting petrol in his car at 7.10pm when he observed a flashing red light about 800 yds from the house. It was flying around at fence height. This light had been observed over the past 12 months by other neighbours in the area. He observed the light for a few minutes then turned his car headlights in its direction. The red light switched off and a very brilliant white light replaced it as it sped off in a northerly direction.

On April 16th Mr. Gallatly discovered three complete burnt rings 17 ft in diameter on his property. The three circles connected, forming a triangle in the centre. VUFORS arrived on the scene on April 21st. Soil samples were taken and a white substance like chalk was scattered in the burnt areas. The sheep in the paddock had broken out in panic and Mr. Gallatly stated that one was missing. The horse, normally a quiet animal, could not be caught for a few days and was visibly distressed.

Tinamba is only 8 km from the "White Acres" property at Rosedale, site of a significant landing and trace event on September 30th 1980. George Blackwell visited the Tinamba farm with VUFORS and mentioned he had seen a similar red light some weeks back at White Acres. VUFORS went to the spot and there it was - another burnt circle. Credit "Central Western" Orange, N.S.W. 6/4/81 and VUFORS.

Three Millthorpe youths claimed yesterday they were terrorized by a UFO while spotlight shooting between Panuara and Cadia. One of the youths said he fired a rifle at the object when it moved towards them. The youths said they heard the bullet ricochet off the side of the silver, dome-shaped object. Chris Harvey and Dean Mitchell, both year 12 students at Blayney High School and Kelvin Parker employed by the Shire Council, reported what they saw to the police.

The group was terrified when the object started moving towards them and when it shone a huge, white spotlight on them before speeding away. They tried to chase the object as it sped away but lost it because of its speed.

Mr. Harvey said at about 5.45am yesterday just as daylight was breaking he noticed what he thought was a big star on the horizon. When they came to a farm called Wire Gully, they saw the object hovering in a paddock about 200 to 250 yds from the road. He said it was about two car lengths long and about one car wide. Using the telescopic sight on his rifle, Mr. Harvey said he was able to get a close look at the object.

He said it was a silver dome with a red light, two green lights and several smaller white lights, which could have been windows along the side. The lights were suspended on what looked like small bars from the side of the dome. He said as they were watching it the object moved upwards and hovered at about 15 to 20 feet before it started to move across their path.

The three got out of the car. Mr. Harvey said it was about 50 feet off the ground and moving towards them when he fired at it. He said the object then moved back and upwards and started coming towards them again when it turned a spotlight two to three feet across, on them.

"I was scared stiff and thought we were finished" he said. He said the object then suddenly moved away from them at an increasing speed. The group followed it for about five miles down Cadia Road but it sped out of their sight.