

**TUFOIC**

**UFO**



1988



TASMANIA

Price \$1.00

**TASMANIAN  
U.F.O.  
INVESTIGATION CENTRE**

#53

UFO TASMANIA - 1988

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T.U.F.O.I.C. Executive 1988

STATISTICS

PRESIDENT: Ron Jolly  
 SECRETARY/LIAISON: Paul Jackson  
 INVESTIGATION/FILES: Keith Roberts

Year: Reports: Unidentifieds:

COMMITTEE: Janine Hunt

Pre 65 ..... 130 ..... 29

All Correspondence to:  
 TUFOIC, P.O. Box 99, NORTH HOBART,  
 TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA, 7002

1965 ..... 23 ..... 12

Sightings Telephone Numbers:

1966 ..... 34 ..... 15

23 6009 or 25 4054 (area code 002)

1967 ..... 16 ..... 4

Area Representatives:

1968 ..... 29 ..... 6

Launceston ... Don MacSween  
 (003) 39 2410

1969 ..... 61 ..... 14

St. Marys .... Colin Fletcher

1970 ..... 45 ..... 8

Swansea ..... Jenny Lyne

1971 ..... 97 ..... 25

Meeting Dates for 1988

1972 ..... 68 ..... 14

Meetings are held Thursdays.  
 Starting at 7 P.M.

1973 ..... 136 ..... 26

March 10th December  
 B-B-Q

1974 ..... 159 ..... 54

June 2nd (Date and venue  
 to be advised)

1975 ..... 182 ..... 51

September 1st

1976 ..... 192 ..... 43

1977 ..... 155 ..... 38

1978 ..... 178 ..... 32

1979 ..... 152 ..... 19

1980 ..... 60 ..... 8

1981 ..... 87 ..... 10

1982 ..... 60 ..... 16

1983 ..... 63 ..... 8

1984 ..... 44 ..... 7

1985 ..... 84 ..... 9

1986 ..... 81 ..... 7

1987 ..... 68 ..... 8

Investigations 1987

At the FREEMASONS HOTEL (Lounge)  
 Harrington St., Hobart

Unidentified ..... 8

Insuff.info./investigating . 7

Astronomical ..... 30

Aircraft ..... 5

Satellites ..... 8

Ground lights ..... 4

Others ..... 6

Total Investigations ..... 68

UFO TASMANIA - Issn 0158-0590

Aims:

Publication number - 53

To conduct investigations into

Tasmanian sightings. To collect

and disseminate evidence & data

relating to the UFO phenomena.

To cooperate with organizations  
 engaged in similar research.

Items may be quoted from this magazine  
 provided that T.U.F.O.I.C. is credited.

Membership:

Published and Printed by TUFOIC

Membership is open to all who

A Member organization of the  
 AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

support the aims of the centre

P.O. Box 728, Lane Cove, N.S.W., 2066

and can assist in furthering its

T.U.F.O.I.C. was founded in 1965

aims.

Further information can be

obtained from the Secretary, or

by attending Meetings

TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS INVESTIGATION CENTRE

# SIGHTINGS '87

This years' sightings starts with an explanation. In our June 1987 Newsletter we ran an item on the "Monster" seen at Oatlands in the early hours of January 3rd.

The Launceston Examiner told of two Victorian visitors who had camped by Lake Dulverton on the night of January 2/3rd. They awoke to see a huge ape like figure in the lakeside water, it moved towards them and after shinning a torch at the figure the tourists fled.

The Centre followed up the case and even heard rumours of similar events. Information was gathered from the witnesses and locals but a ready explanation was not forthcoming at the time. Maintaining contact with local sources in Oatlands the Centre (in October) eventually learnt that certain locals had played a prank on their visitors.

The story goes that after the witnesses had visited the local pub it was decided to give them a fright. Two people in wet suits got into the lake, then with one on the other's shoulders they appeared in the water as the first witness came out of the tent sometime after midnight. The Centre can not verify the tale but it would appear to be the most likely explanation for the "Monster" event.

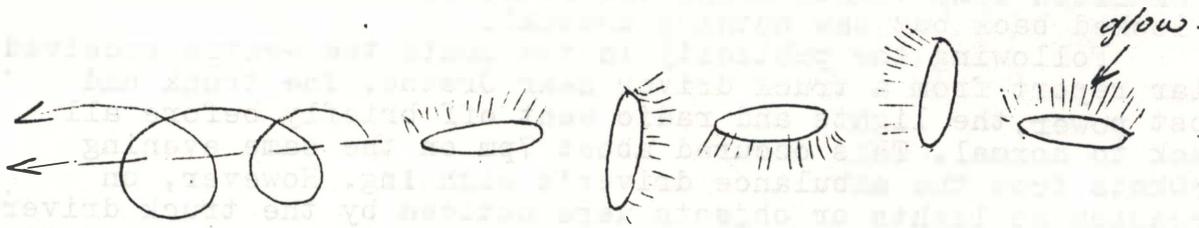
## Tumbling Shape.

The early year drought on cases was broken with a report from Midway Point on March 23rd. The Centre had gone over seven months without an unexplained report, the biggest spell between cases since the Centre was founded in 1965.

Our young witness was inside doing homework when a bright light caught the eye, other members of the family were called to see the object but they arrived too late as it passed out of sight behind a nearby tree. The observation had lasted some 8 seconds. The report was received at the Centre within minutes of the event and an immediate check with nearby Hobart Airport failed to come up with an explanation. Subsequent local contacts also failed to throw any further light on the event.

The object had a width of a half moon and always had a bright orange glow on the one side. It was disc like in appearance, but was tumbling end for end as it travelled from a north east position into the north. The glow could be seen as the object tumbled, being on top, then on the north facing side, and below the disc as it tumbled.

The object remained level in its path across the sky at about 10/15 degree elevation. It was seen above the next door neighbour's house and was blocked out by a tree some 50m distant. No sound was noticed, although the local dogs could be heard barking, they apparently bark at anything?



*UFO Appeared as a disc almost edge on with a tumbling or flipping motion with glow always on same side.*

## " UFO PUZZLE FOR AMBULANCE DRIVER "

"UFO Puzzle for Ambulance Driver" was one of the headlines from a leading Tasmanian daily newspaper as the June 16th report of an ambulance driver's sighting made the paper and radio news.

The driver had taken two passengers from New Norfolk to Ouse some 60kmts up the Derwent Valley. On the trip to Ouse when some 4/5kmts from the little country town the ambulance had lost power for a second or two, the headlights going out briefly. A check under the bonnet at Ouse revealed nothing so the witness set off alone for base at New Norfolk.

It was about 10.05pm as the ambulance was driven along the section of road where the power loss had occurred, once again the vehicle lost power. However, this time the effect was much more pronounced. The headlights went for a few seconds, the motor did not stall but dropped in power then came back to life again.

At this point the witness noticed there was a bright light source to the passenger side of the ambulance. Initially he saw a glow on the hillside above which was a well defined half semi circle shape. At the next glance he could see two rows of bluish/white lights, about four in each row. The lights blinked twice and then went out.

The yellow semi circle shape was still there and was

### UFO puzzle for ambulance driver

Did a UFO cut out the electrical system on an ambulance near Ouse one night last week?

This question is plaguing the ambulanceman driving the unit, Mr Lyle Turnbull, and the UFO Investigation Centre in Hobart.

Mr Turnbull, who doesn't believe in UFOs, said he was driving towards Ouse on a case, and was near the Ellendale turnoff when the vehicle's electrical system, in-

cluding lights, completely cut out for a second or so before coming back on.

Mr Turnbull gave the ambulance a brief check while he was at Ouse, and everything seemed to be in working order.

On his way back to New Norfolk the electrical system failed and came back on again only a short distance from where the first incident happened.

Mr Turnbull looked towards the hills on the passenger side of the ambulance and saw a big illuminated area about twice the size of the moon above the skyline.

Above the illuminated area he saw two rows of small white lights - six or eight in all.

They quickly disappeared, but he watched the illuminated area for more than a minute.

twice moon sized as the witness was able to compare it with the moon which was visible in the south eastern sky. The hillside beneath the shape was illuminated by a glow from above.

As the driver of the ambulance continued on his way he was able to keep glancing over at the yellow shape on the hill for another two minutes. The road after the initial straight swung to the left and he was still able to view the object as if he had passed it and was looking back. Just before it was lost from sight he had the impression it had moved back from the hilltop. A nearby hill cut off any further view of the UFO.

The night was fine and frosty with some fog patches on the road in the valley bottoms. The witness now ran into one of these fog banks and was not able to view the sighting area until beyond Hamilton some 10kmts along the road. On a hill above the fog he looked back but saw nothing unusual.

Following the publicity in the media the Centre received a similar report from a truck driver near Gretna. The truck had just lost power, the lights and radio went off briefly before all went back to normal. This occurred about 7pm on the same evening about 30kmts from the ambulance driver's sighting. However, on this occasion no lights or objects were noticed by the truck driver.

An East West aircraft landed at Hobart Airport at 10.30pm after passing 15kmts east of the sighting point. It would appear most unlikely for the aircraft to account for the groundlevel yellow shape and glow. The case remains unexplained.

## SIGHTING NEAR AIRPORT.

Practically every light seen in the direction Of Hobart , Airport is due to approaching or departing aircraft. However, on the evening of June 21st witnesses called about a number of lights they had just seen. The Centre was able to contact the Airport ' but there were no aircraft aloft to account for the lights.

The sighting was made just 2kmts from the Airport at 8.35pm on a fine evening with some cloud about the 1500m level. A large bright red/gold flashing light was seen approaching from the north east, this was followed some 30 seconds later by another red light. They were both travelling on the same flight path and went out over Frederick Henry Bay before going away more into the eastern sky. There was no sound discernible from the star sized lights. A third light was now noticed on the same flight path, this light though was not as bright and instead of going to the east it disappeared above the cloud to the south west.

Whilst one of the witnesses was contacting the Centre a light was seen coming from the east and passing away to their north also above the clouds. The lights were seen over a period of some 4 minutes. Soon after an aircraft came into the Airport, the witnesses could hear the engines on the jet but could not see the running lights due to nearby trees blocking their view of the approach path to the Airport.

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## THE CASE WITH FALLING LIGHTS

Following a couple of months with no reports the Centre was to receive a number of sightings in the second half of the year, five incidents occurring in the North of the state. A possible space debris burn up in October across North East Tasmania caught the media's attention and was undoubtedly the reason for the Centre uncovering extra sightings. Just how many UFO events go unreported is something of an Investigator's nightmare.

Our next sighting was at 10.15pm on August 28th not far from the little town of Cressy. The witnesses' mother contacted the Centre the following day after her daughter and a friend had been upset by a UFO sighting.

The two witnesses were in a parked car some 2kmts south of the farmhouse near Cressy. A and B were looking at the clear starlit night sky when B first saw some lights approaching low and fast from the north. The car was facing to the east and the lights were crossing their field of view. A said she saw two very large round lights, a red steady light with a flashing white light beneath. To B there seemed to be a cone of light above the two lights, the cone had dark lines running down to the narrow base above the lights.

A turned off the car radio but no sound could be heard from the lights which were no in front of the witnesses, A now flashed the car lights just to see what would happen. They then saw a red light falling towards the ground whilst the object had become stationary in the sky. The red light neared the ground and just went out. A second light was then seen to fall from the object. This was a yellow/white light but it did not go out, rather it came to halt a metre or more above the paddock. B thinks it was no more than 400mts away. A thought the light was 80mts away.

The witnesses were by now upset by the nearby light plus the lights in the sky. They drove off back to the farm, B , meanwhile kept an eye on the object in the sky. It seemed to circle around behind the car, then moved on ahead to pass over the farm buildings as they arrived. The witnesses called out A's parents but by then only a distant low level light could be seen to the north. The sighting lasted about 5 to 7 minutes.

UFO LANDING ON NORTH WEST

It has been seven years since the Centre had a report of a UFO at ground level, there have been a number of near ground cases but the UFO seen in the early hours of September 6th at Hawley Beach was reported by the witness to be on the ground.

Mrs A had come to stay with her daughter for her grandsons' wedding. Also staying at her daughter's home was another friend who on the night in question came back to the house after everyone else had gone to bed, sometime after midnight. We now take up Mrs A's account of the incident.

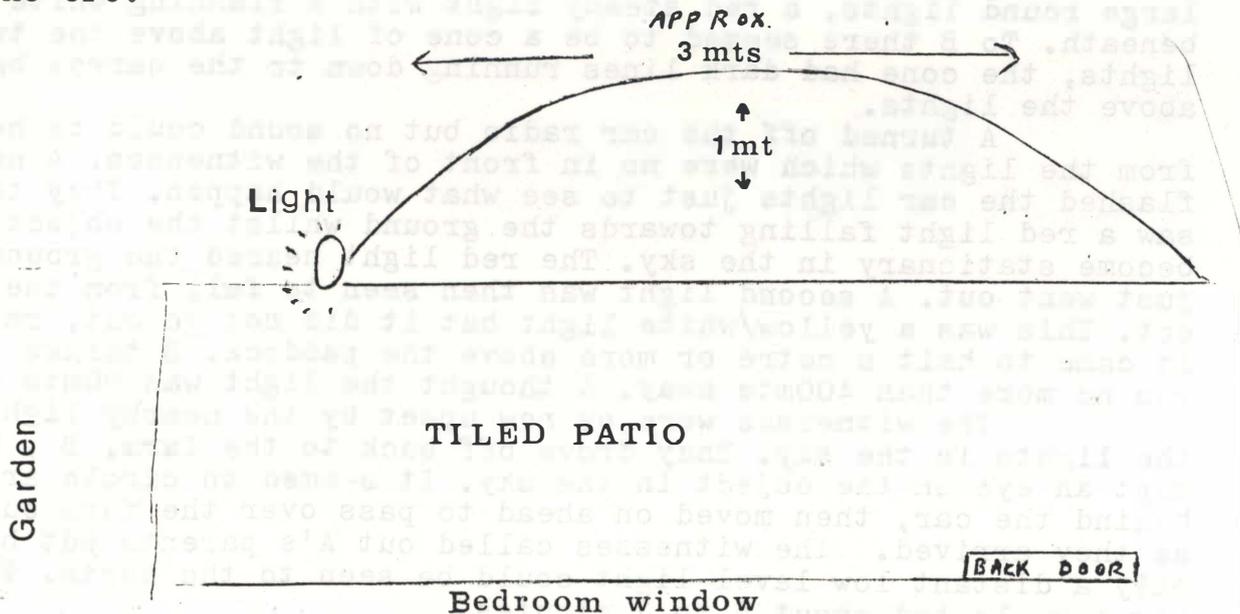
"Now R who is staying at my daughter's and has been next door decides that it is time he came home. He had got as far as the back patio when he is startled to see this object hovering about 1mt or more from the ground. He did not investigate - I gather he decided he'd had too much to drink, but didn't really think so. Anyway, he came in and went straight to bed."

"I knew nothing of the foregoing until next morning".

"I woke and went to the bathroom and glancing out the window (quite large - no drapes pulled) on returning to the bedroom was attracted by an unusual form and light. I can remember well, thinking what on earth is that anyway. Now, how can I describe it, oval - yes almost like a large turtle. I stood, stared and looked from all angles. It was stationary - the light roughly two thirds the size of a car's headlamp, it did not blink at all. I thought it could be a reflection, but there was nothing around to cause it. After standing watching for 2 to 3 minutes it never moved in anyway so I went back to bed. (I've been furious with myself ever since-why didn't I watch longer?)"

"On Sunday morning I went through to the kitchen, got as far as saying I have a strange experience to tell you, I saw etc. At this stage R literally yelled I knew I wasn't over-indulged. Then I got to hear all that had gone before. Incidentally on checking where R saw it hovering, was exactly above where I saw it on the ground."

Mrs A's son checked the area of the landing at once but there was nothing to indicate the presence of the nocturnal visitor. No other cars could have got up the drive to the location of the object in the back garden. It was only some 10mts from the witnesses. Both witnesses gave the same estimate of its size, something over 3mts in length and over a metre tall in the centre. The shape was semi circular with a flat base. Mrs A described it as brown in colour with a light on the left hand corner. No sound was noticed by the witnesses. Due to the hidden location of the object and lateness of the hour no other witnesses are believed to have seen the UFO.



## FISHERMEN GET A FRIGHT.

Four witnesses got more than they had bargained for when they went fishing in two boats off Tasmania's North Coast in the early hours of October 23rd. The duo were out to pull up their nets in the area of Two Mile Reef some kilometre plus off Bellbuoy Beach near the heads of the Tamar River. The night was fine with some scattered light cloud about the 1500mt level.

D was the first person to notice the lights, his boat was facing south when he saw a group of red and white lights low over the shore. He called the attention of his fishing friends to the lights. G says when he first looked he saw two large red oval lights then after a few minutes two white lights appeared on the outside of the red lights to make up a set of four.

D recalls that they could not make out what the lights were and they were dumfounded by the sighting. The two white lights now went out and the red lights moved down towards the shore. The ground below was now lit up by the red glare from the lights, the scrub and dunes could be seen below the lights. The lights were of some size and the witnesses estimated them at half moon sized in appearance.

The red lights now moved back up to their initial position and much to the fishermen's surprise the white lights came back on. The performance was repeated a number of times with the witnesses too suprised to keep count of how many times that the up and down movement occured. No object was seen at any time by the witnesses as the red and white lights came on and off.

The first light of dawn was now in the sky as the red lights went off yet again, this time however, the white lights came on and made a rapid departure towards the south east and were in some 8/10 seconds out of sight. A soft white vapour was left in the sky where the lights had last been seen. At this point the witnesses decided it was time to leave and that the nets could be picked up another day. The sighting had lasted about 10 minutes.

The next day quite a number of people went out to the beach at Bellbuoy Bay but nothing could be seen to account for the events of the previous night. D said he had been fishing out at sea for years and had never seen anything like this before. The witnesses contacted the Centre following publicity on a possible space debris burn up some nights earlier.

The Centre ascertained that there were no aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting. Follow up was also made with the Army in relation to their range at Stony Head some 20kmts to the east. The Army could not account for the report in terms of any activity on their range.

George Town area featured in our last Annual Report with a casebook report on the sightings about the town. In 1982 a number of puzzling red lights with possible associated sound were investigated by the Centre. The run of reports in 1982 have been the only ripple on the quiet surface of the 1980s. Interestingly the 1987 cases have originated manily from the northern half of the state and the Tamar Valley.

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### 'Little green men' land again

"Martians" landed again yesterday in Grovers Mill, New Jersey, the same village made famous 49 years ago by a group of young actors who convinced an American radio audience the planet had been invaded by marauding aliens. About 20 schoolchildren wearing green face paint and dressed in garbage bags adorned with tinfoil antennae chanted "Beep-beep-beep," as townsfolk gathered in a rare commemoration of "The War of the Worlds" broadcast. Many older residents who fled into the hills on that night in 1938 would just as well forget it all.

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Published by: ACUFOS. P.O. Box 728, Lane Cove NSW 2066.

In this edition, we focus on the events, publications and issues arising after 40 years of UFO investigations...

1947 - 1987 : FORTY YEARS OF UFO RESEARCH

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by Mark Moravec

*24 June, 1947: Private pilot and businessman, Kenneth Arnold, joined in an air search for a missing airplane near Mt Rainier, Washington. He reported sighting nine, crescent-shaped objects which flew like a saucer skipping over water.*

The 24th of June marks the 40th anniversary of the commencement of the modern era of ufology. Since 1947, we have seen governments and military forces establish projects to study UFO reports, the rise of civilian UFO groups, and assorted commentary, sometimes accurate and sober, often inaccurate and sensationalist, by believers, sceptics and the mass media.

After 40 years of research, what have we discovered about the UFO experience? In a field as controversial as ufology, few absolutist statements remain unchallenged. But I would suggest that we have discovered:

1. Some 90 percent of UFO sighting reports are easily explicable as misidentifications of various natural and man-made phenomena plus the occasional hoax or delusion. Some 10 percent of reports remain in contention.
2. The UFO phenomenon is real in the psychological and sociological senses. People from all walks of life have reported sightings of UFOs. The reports involve the psychological processes of perception and belief, and have led to the development of social myths and cult movements.
3. The UFO phenomenon is real in the physical sense. A subset of UFO reports feature as yet unexplained physical effects on the environment or on the witnesses. For example, the multiple car stops of Levelland, Texas, 1957; the physical traces at Socorro, New Mexico, 1964 and Tully, Queensland, 1966; and the severe, radiation-like, physiological effects experienced near Huffman, Texas, 1980.
4. The UFO phenomenon is international in character. UFO sightings have been reported from all continents.
5. The UFO phenomenon has often been the focus for emotional and belief-based debate. It is almost as if the UFO functions as a Rorschach blot on which individuals superimpose their own, preconceived beliefs.

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#### UFOs in Israel

HAIFA, Israel: UFOs have been seen near this Mediterranean city in northern Israel and traces of one have been found on the beach. Israeli radio said yesterday, quoting police.

Alerted by an Israeli motorist who claimed he saw a UFO land south of Haifa on Tuesday, two police officers accompanied the man to the location and, after wandering about for nearly an hour, found a spot 8m in diameter where sand and vegetation had been carbonised.

AUST  
9.10.1987

6. The mass media have generally concentrated on an inaccurate and sensationalist portrayal of UFO reports. With only the occasional exception, most media reports have done little to elucidate the nature of UFO phenomena.
7. Government and military studies have generally been handicapped by political and "national security" considerations, hence producing data of little scientific worth or credibility. (Their raw source data is, however, worth preserving.)
8. Many civilian UFO groups have produced valuable records of UFO sightings, and some investigators have produced a high standard of research. Some groups have been handicapped by their members being caught up in their own strongly-held beliefs which has placed limitations on their credibility. All civilian groups have been hampered by lack of funds, media-generated ridicule and the silly statements of contactees and armchair theorists.
9. As in any field on the margins of science and generating considerable controversy, a number of myths have arisen and been subsequently knocked down. We now know that witnesses' beliefs can sometimes significantly colour their testimony; that most UFO photographs are hoaxes; that radar is subject to numerous limitations including false targets induced by weather and equipment malfunctions; that many claimed statistical periodicities are artifacts; that witness reactions do not necessarily corroborate the inexplicability of their reported experience; and that hypnosis and lie detectors are not reliable determiners of truth.
10. The UFO phenomenon, as represented by the 10 percent residue of puzzling reports, is most likely due to multiple sources, including natural phenomena and psychological processes. The natural phenomena may include ball lightning and assorted meteorological effects; possibly also some kind of "earth lights" (though the supporting evidence for the latter is currently inadequate). The psychological processes include imagery hallucinated during altered states of consciousness and the influence of pre-conceived beliefs. A few reports are indicative of some phenomenon capable of producing anomalous physical effects. Whether these effects are due to government "secret weapons", ETs, or something else - I, for one, do not know!

These, I suggest, are some of the discoveries we have made about UFO phenomena after 40 years of research. Significantly, most of these insights have been gained by the voluntary and mostly-unrewarded efforts of the relatively small number of individuals involved in civilian UFO research. The findings contained in such publications as The UFO Handbook by Allan Hendry and the international anthology, UFOs 1947-1987, are far more significant than any produced by the half-hearted efforts by governments, military, media or sceptics over the last four decades.

There are still many tasks which remain to be done. We need to continue to thoroughly document significant sighting reports; to develop a true rapid response investigation capability; to ensure the availability of sufficient technological and human resources backup for the scientific analysis of physical trace data; to increasingly focus our attention on psychological, sociological and medical studies of the UFO percipient; to promote the publication of high-quality research through established, mainstream scientific journals or our own refereed specialist journals; to promote a more cautious, less sensationalist approach by media and public to UFO reports and research; to ensure the preservation of historical UFO data and archives; and to encourage increasing input by individual scientists and scholars.

But after 40 years of UFO research, I believe that we have indeed made some progress in elucidating the nature of this most fascinating of mysteries.

DATE	STATE	TIME	TYPE	LOCATION	SHAPE	NOTES	SOURCE
Oct 30	Qld	0215	NL	Maryborough	Lit	Blue lit follows trucks	1
	WA			Patience		Series events May/Oct with EMF, sound, traces.	2
Nov 16	WA	0630	DD	Laverton	Round	Objects high elv, rapid descent.	3
	Qld	1900	NL	Brisbane	Lits	3 lits move about in cloud.	1
	WA	nite	NL	Kununurra	Round	Car paced for 40 kmts.	4
Dec 9	WA	1940	NL	Koongamia	Lit	Lit approaches, then stops.	3
	WA	1915	NL	Mt Hawthorn	Oblong	8 witnesses see lits go nth.	3
	WA	2320	CE2	Guilderton	Lit	Yellow lit near house, dogs react to presence.	3
	WA	2000	NL	Bassendean	Lit	2 lits zig-zag across sky.	3
	NT	nite	CE2	Holmes Jungle	Round	Wind from 5 obj going over.	2
Jan 7	SA	0022	NL	Auburn	Dome	Orange obj low over hills.	5
	Qld	2035	NL	Fraser Island	Lits	10 lits in triangle shape.	2
	WA	nite	CE2	Kununurra	Lits	Noise/lits/burn marks.	6
	VIC	0300	NL	Corryong	Lit	Mystery light paces aircraft.	4
	SA	0020	NL	Adelaide	Lit	Oval with brit lits/ray.	5
	NSW	0300	NL	Orange	Lits	Row green lits zoom away.	4
Feb Mid	NT	day	CE3	Top Bore	Figure	Ape figure scares family.	7
	Qld		CE2	Euramo	Traces	Flattened circles in lagoon at site of "Tully Nests".	2
	WA	nite	CE1	Lake Gregory	Saucer	Lits follow truck, photo.	2
Mar23	Tas	2015	DD	Midway Point	Ellip	Tumbling object seen.	8
	SA		CE2	Eyre Pen.	Traces	Circle marks in paddock.	5
Apr 25	SA	0015	NL	Willow Springs	Lits	Row of lits near ground.	5
May 1	NSW	2020	NL	Parramatta	Oblong	Object with row brit lits.	2
Jun 1	Qld	2130	NL	Maidenhead	Oval	Separate witns to obj/lits.	1
	WA	1900	CE2?	Learmonth	Lit	Erratic lit over airfield, radio affected.	4
	Tas	2205	CE2	Lawrenny	Dome	Obj and glow/car power loss.	8
	Tas	2030	NL	7 Mile Beach	Lits	Erratic lits in sky.	8
	SA	1800	NL	Cook (130m nth)	Dome	Obj with lits/beam, erratic.	5
	SA	nite	NL	Cook (100m nth)	Lit	Erratic large lit/haze.	5
Jul 8	Vic	0815	DD	Nth Balwyn	Shaft	Two objects rotating together.	9
	SA	1935	CE1	Port Loncoln	Triangle	Object with red/blue & white lits over car.	5
	SA	2245	CE2?	Ramco	Lits	Series of lits, car moved.	5
	Qld	1125	DD	West Brisbane	Cigar	Obj with smoke trail seen.	1
Aug 12	SA	0005	NL	Lyndock	Lit	Brit lit paces car 60kph.	5
	Vic	nite	NL	Kilmore		Huge object with many lights.	4
	Vic	2010	CE1?	Reedy Creek	Dome	Large obj with flashing lits. seen atop hill.	7
	Tas	2015	NL	Cressy	Top	Obj dropping lits to ground.	8
Sep 5	Tas	0200	CE1	Hawley Beach	Dome	Obj landed in back yard.	8
	NT	0415	NL	Ti Tree	Lits	8 large lits crossing sky.	5
	SA	2000	CE2?	Summerton	Lit	Erratic lit filmed on video. but video loses power.	5
	NSW	0100	CE1	Harcourt St.	Round	Large obj with lits passes o'head rapid disappearance.	5
Oct 2	NSW	1815	NL	Narrabeen	Dome	Obj with lits & beam flickering	4
	NSW	1930	NL	Castlehill	Lit	Yellow semi-circle of lits.	4
	Tas	0040	NL	Holwell	Cigar	With lits at low level.	8
	Tas	2000	NL	Hillwood	Lits	Flashing lits move with car.	8
	Tas	0330	NL	Bellbuoy Beach	Lits	Large red lits, lit up dunes.	8

1. UFORQ, 2. ACUFOS, 3. WAUFOIC, 4. VUFORS, 5. AIUFOFSR, 6. PEOPLE, 7. MERCURY, 8. TUFOIC, 9. HERALD

A 'wedding cake' UFO proves an eye opener for Broadford

# Flying in the face of fiction

**A** RMY exercise searchlights? A plummeting, exploding meteor? Neither, says Cheryl Kerslake of Reedy Creek, near Broadford.

Either, say the skeptics. But how, Mrs Kerslake asks, could either look like this (right)? It was certainly unidentified, perhaps not flying but clearly hovering, and definitely an object. A classic UFO.

Mrs Kerslake and her husband, Trevor, saw the phenomenon near Broadford on Tuesday night. It was, she said, in three layers, like a wedding cake.

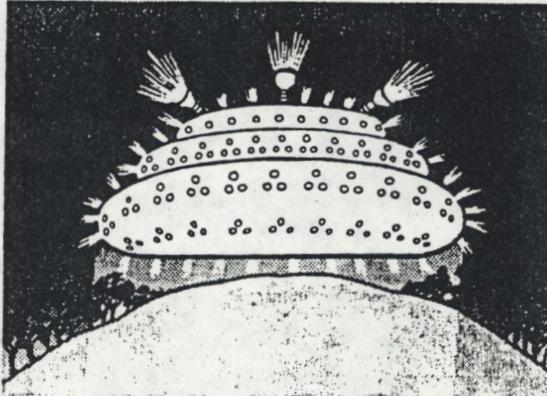
It did not appear to be touching the ground, but resting just above it.

At least six locals say they saw the object about 10 pm.

The Army denied it was connected to a defence operation.

"We didn't have any rehearsals at Puckapunyal which fitted with the descriptions people gave. We did have tanks on the range with searchlights but they were about 20 km away so the lights would have easily diffused," a spokeswoman said today.

A Seymour policeman today said he was treating the sightings as genuine even though the UFO left no trace.



An artist's drawing of the object based on Cheryl Kerslake's sketch.

"They (the witnesses) all seem to be exceptionally genuine. They weren't just people who would come out of the blue and they were genuinely distressed about what they saw," he said.

HV McKay Planetarium director Dr Robin H rat said the UFO may well have been a bolide or exploding meteor. "I got a call from a pilot who

was coming down over Cooma and the way he described it, the objects sounded very much like a meteor which split into several pieces."

The Australian Skeptics' Mr James Gerrard said there was no scientific explanation for possible UFO sightings.

"(But) people should look for explanations within the realms of science," he said.

THE HERALD THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 1987

The News, Friday, October 2, 1987

## Hills family films

By Sean Whittington

A UFO has been filmed on a home video camera by an Adelaide Hills doctor.

Dr Peter Tunbridge, 38, his wife, Lynn, and their son, Guy, 5, of Summertown, about 20 km east of Adelaide, were sitting outside their home about 8pm last Friday when a "pure white" light appeared on the horizon.

"It was a bright speck of light... it made no sound at all," Dr Tunbridge said.

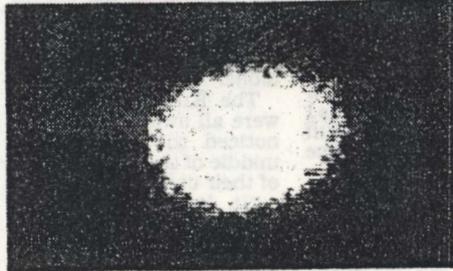
He went inside for his video camera, hoping it would pick up the light.

But when he returned outside the UFO was too far away to film.

"Then the object suddenly reappeared about 4km away," Dr Tunbridge said.

"It was a very bright flashing light, then it moved off at an incredible speed... It would just hover in one position then disappear, then come back again.

"And amazingly, just like on television, after about a



How the UFO comes up on tape

minute and a half of filming all the power just died out of my video camera."

Dr Tunbridge said the two-hour battery was fully charged, and even when nearly flat and a warning device is activated, lasts for about 10 minutes.

When played back the video showed a bright dome shape which hovered then disappeared.

The film was viewed by the Australian International UFO Research president, Mr Colin Morris, who agreed the Tunbridge family saw a UFO.

"They really saw an extra-

terrestrial object," Mr Norris said.

"The fact his battery was entirely drained and the movements of the object are similar to other UFOs which have been photographed over the years."

## UFO



Dr Tunbridge

By GRAEME WALKER

~~THE~~ dust covering the car involved in the Nullarbor UFO "encounter" was an unknown substance, police said yesterday.

And as the puzzle deepened, more people claimed yesterday to have seen the object a Perth family say attacked them near the SA-WA border on Wednesday.

Forensic police were quoted in Adelaide as saying the substance allegedly deposited on and inside the car was not ash.

And the crew of a tuna boat fishing about 300 km off the SA coast were among a number of people credited with independent sightings of a UFO matching the description of the Nullarbor nasty.

The tuna boat Empress Lady, from the Australian Southern Bluefin fleet, reported a bright light hovering overhead around the same time the Knowles family claim they were attacked.

And Sgt Jim Furnell, of Ceduna, in the far west of South Australia, said police had had calls from two other people claiming to have seen a light in the past week, but had been reluctant to report it for fear of ridicule.

Police had also had another report from a motorist in WA, he said.

But other police believe the UFO sighting, by Perth woman Mrs Faye Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, may yet turn out to be a gigantic hoax.

And an Australian Southern Bluefin fleet spokesman said details of the tuna boat sighting had been exaggerated.

Chief Insp Barry Willoughby, of Port Lincoln, said the desert sighting was in the same area of WA where the "Nullarbor Nymph" created a worldwide sensation about 30 years ago.

Police at Eucla said they had been out on the highway but were unable to find the spot where the encounter allegedly happened.

But Mrs Faye Knowles and her three sons were still insisting last night that their experience was real.

They told last night how they endured nearly two hours of terror in a desperate bid to flee what they are convinced was a UFO.

Still recovering from what they claim was a horrifying encounter, the family appeared distressed and shaken in an exclusive interview on Hinch at Seven.

Mrs Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21 and Wayne, 18, said their car was engulfed by a glowing ball and lifted into



● Mrs Knowles ... visibly shaken by yesterday's alleged UFO sighting. Picture: CHANNEL SEVEN

the air.

"We were in a state of shock," said Mrs Knowles.

"All of a sudden this thing was on our roof and lifted the car up."

"I said I didn't know what to do and as soon as I said that this smoke stuff started coming into the car."

"It was like a soot ... coming in on top of us," she said.

"We thought we were dying so we got out of the car and stood behind a little tree in the bushes.

"It couldn't find us but it was still there waiting for us and looking for us."

Mrs Knowles said she and her sons stayed in the bushes for about 15 minutes.

"Then all of a sudden it

took off again and when we hopped in the car to take off it came after us again.

"It wouldn't leave us alone."

The Knowles said they were all awake when they noticed the UFO in the middle of the road, in front of their car, at about 5am.

"It looked like truck lights so we didn't take much notice at first," Patrick said.

"It was terrible," Mrs Knowles said.

The Knowles were adamant that what they saw was real and not a ball of lightning as has been claimed.

"No that's not true," said Sean.

## Tasmanian 'had similar incident'

By CAROLYN JONES

UFO researchers believe the Knowles family's sighting is somehow linked to a similar incident a Tasmanian man experienced last month.

Details of the December 14 sighting by a prominent Launceston businessman only came to light yesterday when the Victorian UFO Research Society confirmed the two cases could be connected.

"In both cases, the object described is exactly

the same," society field officer Mr Pat Gildea said.

The man — who said he did not want to be identified for professional reasons — claimed he saw a colored egg shaped object while driving along a deserted country road in his white Mercedes about 10.30 pm.

Thinking the "bright white light" hovering above him was a helicopter, he drove on but then noticed the light following him.

After a few kilometres, the light landed on the road in front of him.

The man stopped the car and put the handbrake on but the engine stopped and the lights went out.

"He panicked and ran back down the road but then stopped to look back," Mr Gildea said.

"He noticed the car was being dragged towards the light. All he could make out of it was an oval shaped object."

Another driver came up soon after — in time to see the object take off on an angle and "disappear into the night sky".



● The Knowles family ... Patrick (left), 24, Faye, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18.

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