

# TUFOIC NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL

The main objective of the centre is to investigate UFO sightings in the State, new or old, and to add the unidentified reports to our TASCAT Computer file.

Print outs and statistics are available from the centre on data in the Tascat file.

Almost of as much interest as the unexplained cases are some of the stimulus for the explained reports. Recent reports have included the misidentification of vessels on the Tamar River and out in Storm Bay. Distant lighting and hilltop buildings have also brought calls to the Centre.

The past year has seen a number of photographs come to our attention, however, once again all but one appear to have mundane explanations. One photograph had a processing fault, another was possible dust on the lens, whilst a third was a light reflection in a window.

Twelve months ago we had something of a minor flap in September/October, whilst Australia as a whole had numerous reports. Sightings across the country have fallen considerably whilst Tasmania has a very low level of activity.

On the International scene we have not monitored any major "flaps". The abduction scene featuring the Linda Neapolitana case simmers on in the United States, but of the English Crop



Circle scene we have not had any word. The story of the 1970's Travis Walton abduction recently came to Tasmania via the movie "Fire in the Sky". However, the original story was not good enough for the producers, terrifying Aliens were created to give the movie goer his monies worth and to continue the Hollywood mode of never getting the story quite right. But that's another story.

## PARANET

Due to increasing access costs, TUFOIC has unfortunately been forced to withdraw from the ParaNet Computer Email network. Our annual income is insufficient after servicing our members to pay the estimated \$270 per year. The initial cost was projected at around \$100 per year. The steep increase is due to the length of phone calls increasing by a factor of 3 during the year.

The executive will keep an eye on the system and will re-evaluate it when access times are cut, or we have sufficient funds to be in a position to request re-admittance.

## ENGLAND

### LUFOS TEAM MEMBERS FILM UFO

On Saturday 1 August, Roy Lake received a phone call from Mr Stephen Trench, a LUFOS investigator who was on holiday with his family in Wiltshire.

Stephen related that his wife, Gillian, had video-recorded a UFO at 02.20 am that day over an isolated area called Tawsmead Copse, which lies near Woodborough, and they were the only observers.

The video recording clearly shows a bright manoeuvring LITS (light in the sky) which changes brightness, distance and direction of movement. This is certainly a rare occurrence and most members were given a private showing of this spectacle on 21 August while at a committee meeting held at Julia Moss's home (and very many thanks to Julia and her husband for allowing LUFOS meetings to be held in her home), and all agreed that the film is very interesting indeed - well done, Gillian!

Having already appreciated the importance of this event, Roy had placed a call to SKY Television a few weeks previous and allowed them to view it too,

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**Sperry deBomford**

TUFOIC was very saddened to learn of the death of Sperry deBomford on September 4th 1993, at Queenstown. Aged 85. Sperry joined TUFOIC in 1978 and

despite living on the West coast of Tasmania, He made the effort to attend meetings and social events in Hobart as often as possible, until illness prevented him doing so. Sperry had a very good knowledge of unusual atmospheric phenomena.

He would often write detailed letters describing his observations of the planet Venus low over the Queenstown hills and the unusual visual effects on the planet caused by the atmosphere. He will be sadly missed by us all.

**ASTRONOMY and SPACE**

**SKY WATCH**

Welcome to the first edition of the Sky Watch column.

In coming editions we will be bringing you brief details of up and coming Astronomical and Space related events that we hope will be of interest to our readers.

The planet Venus often gives rise to reports of bright lights in the sky, hence its position in the sky is always of interest to the UFOlogist. Venus is currently visible as a very bright white star-like light in the early morning sky and will continue to be seen low to the east until December. The planet will then be too close to the sun to be seen.

Venus will become an evening object (in the Western sky) early in the new year.

A partial eclipse of the Sun will occur on the morning November 14th. It will be visible from most parts of S. E. Australia, Including Tasmania. Keep an eye on local papers for the exact times of this event, and remember **NEVER** to look directly at the sun.

Auroral activity is now declining and should remain low for the next few years, but there is still the odd spectacular display to be seen, so keep looking. Paul Jackson reports seeing a very spectacular display on the night of September 19th. lasting for some hours.

The Mars Observer space probe has not been heard from since it lost radio transmission on August 25th. The probe is now thought to be either totally disabled, or to have exploded, and is not expected to be recovered.

The clip at right, which appeared in a recent edition of the New Scientist, has an alternative answer.

**TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS Continued.**

**EVANDALE**

January 12th 1993

Our next witness was sitting in his lounge about 9.50pm when he noticed a rapidly spinning series of lights out to his east. Through binoculars the lights seemed to be on a round shape. They were stationary for a fair time before receding away to the north east. The lights seemed to go blurry before fading from view. The sighting had lasted about 15 minutes. Launceston Air Traffic Control had no knowledge of any air traffic in the area.

**BICHENO**

May 10th 1993

A local tourist guide and accompanying tourists saw more than penguins on their trip to Redhill Beach. A light appeared over the sea to the east about 6.45pm. It was changing colours from red to yellow to green, and blue. The light arced over in the north eastern sky, then spiralled down to perform a figure of eight movement and some circular movements. The light was visible for some 10 minutes before it faded out.

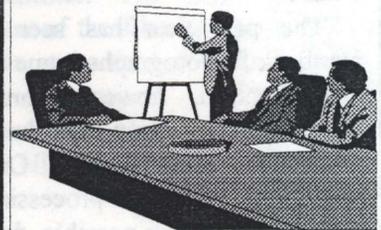
**LAUNCESTON**

May 29th 1993

Three Launceston witnesses were in the city centre at 1am when they saw two bright orange lights moving in from the north. Deciding to get a better look the witnesses drove to Talbot Road Look Out. They watched the silent orange lights moving in unison as they turned over the city and headed away to the south. The witness followed in their car out to Youngtown but lost sight of the lights as they moved up into the overcast sky.

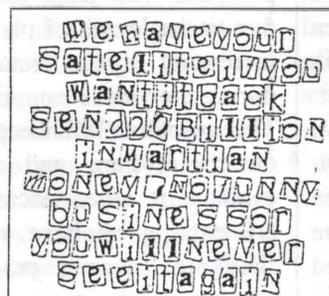
**MEMBERS MEETING**

**Wednesday  
December 1st.**



Featured will be the Video "Recollections of Roswell" from the USA. Not shown on TV in Australia. Meeting notices will be sent.

**Your money or your satellite . . .**



NASA has a new lead in its search for the billion-dollar Mars Observer, the probe that was due to survey the topography of the Red Planet, and which was poised to enter Martian orbit when its radio transmitter fell silent last month.

This note was received recently by scientists at the agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. However, according to NASA spokeswoman Paula Clegget-Haleim, the Martian ransom hypothesis is not among those being considered by the independent panel investigating the ill-fated mission. □

**MISSING ITEMS**

Two VHS Video tapes owned by TUFOIC have not been returned and have not been seen for some time. One of the tapes contains various TV programmes on Crop circles. The other tape is on loan

from a member, it contains UFO and related programmes.

Also missing is the Folder containing the UFO Investigation manuals, it has also dipped into the Black hole and has not been seen for some time. These are our only copies, and are needed.

If you have any of these items, *PLEASE* get in touch with any member of the executive, Bring them to the next meeting, or leave them at the ABC CENTRE, in Hobart, Addressed to: Paul Jackson. Or, Phone Paul on: 35 3322 (B), or 73 0079 (H). *WE NEED THEM*

**TASMANIA****SIGHTINGS****FORCET  
1983**

The witness was staying with friends on a farm just out of Forcet. It was late afternoon on a mid winters day when they noticed a bright light approaching from the north west, the witness felt compelled to go outside for a closer inspection.

The light resolved itself on closer approach into a silvery/grey rectangle shape with a central square area above. The area above had a window through which a number of dark figures were visible. The object continued its movement towards the south making no sound at all. It lost elevation and disappeared towards hills and trees in that direction.

**North East of  
FLINDERS ISLAND  
June 21. 1985**

The witness was on watch on a ketch sailing north across Bass Strait, it was about one in the morning. He noticed six lights shinning clearly under the water about 100m ahead of the vessel. The areas of bright light green colour were all about 6m each across. They maintained their positions as the ketch approached the lights. The

witness felt it would be prudent to pass around the lights. They seemed to fade out, they had been in view for some 10 minutes. The witness had experience with the Navy as a diver and could not account for the lights, he also contacted the CSIRO at the time but they could not offer a ready explanation either.

**TAMAR VALLEY  
February 21st. 1989**

From the sea we move of course to the sky with this next report from a light aircraft pilot. The pilot was on night circuits at Launceston Airport about 10pm on a clear evening. The local Tower brought their attention to a light in the northern sky which may have been illegal entry into the Airport airspace. The pilot followed the light which seemed to stay ahead of the aircraft as it flew north over the Tamar Valley. At one point evasive action had to be taken as the light seemed to approach and a collision could be possible. The pursuit was broken off over Bass Strait with the alternating red and green light still moving north.

**SCAMANDER**

December 29th. 1991

Mr K was in for a surprise whilst on holiday over Christmas New Year 1991. He took his dog out in the back yard for a run about 9.30pm. Suddenly the area seemed to light up and he observed up above a circular area of reddish light with green and blue flashes. Circling around the edge of the mass were a number of orange lights, Mr K raced inside to get his camera, returning outside he took three photographs, one of which came out. The object which seemed low and large. after a couple of minutes suddenly shot off to the east, disappearing out over the sea.

**MT NELSON**

January 11th 1993

Mrs H keeps dogs at her Mt Nelson home, but they woke her up about 2am early on January 11th. looking out to the west from her bedroom window she noticed a very bright shinning yellow light just above the treeline. She thought it could be a star but then realised that the sky was completely overcast. She watched for 10 minutes but apart from rocking back and forth the light remained in the same position. She returned to bed but couldn't get it out of her mind, so she looked out again and the light was no longer there.



**GUEST SPEAKERS****June meeting:**

Parapsychologist, Dr. Jurgen Keil,  
Spoke on the subjects of:  
Perception, Hallucination, Missing  
time and the value of hypnosis in  
relation to UFO events.

**September meeting:**

The President of the Astronomical  
Society of Tasmania,  
Martin George, Presented a talk on  
general aspects of Astronomy,  
illustrated with slides, entitled  
"ASTRONOMY IS LOOKING UP".

TUFOIC wishes to express our  
sincere appreciation to both of our  
guest speakers for their time and  
effort in making these nights  
available to speak to our members,  
and for making each of them such a  
great success. **Thank you.**

**ENGLAND****A FLYING SAUCER  
ABOVE THE BACK  
GARDEN!**

Mrs Jane Black  
(pseudonym) of Upper Fant  
Road, Maidstone, Kent was  
awoken by her husband At 05.30  
am on 8 April, 1992. He, too,  
had just been awoken by a very  
bright light that swept around the  
bedroom. Mr Black got out of  
bed and went to the bathroom to  
get a better view of what was  
outside, and then called his wife.  
Jane looked too and was so  
shocked she exclaimed, "Bloody  
hell, a flying saucer!"

Outside and stationery  
over their garden and roughly at  
rooftop level was a large cigar-  
shaped "fluorescent tube-  
coloured solid light with a  
smaller pulsating light on top."

Jane called her son who  
ran into the garden, and once  
there both of them just stood  
and stared. After about 10  
minutes Jane returned indoors.  
Her son remained outside and  
when, after a few minutes, she  
returned, she found the object  
"had moved a few yards across  
the sky".

Her son said it looked as  
if it had juddered just before the  
move.

Since Jane and her  
husband had to get ready for  
work, they ceased observation.

"Don't worry" she told her  
son, "we will read about it in the

papers; nobody could miss that!  
There was no report, however  
and Jane asked everyone at her  
work-place hoping someone had  
seen the UFO, "but they only  
laughed!"

Jane scanned the sky  
thereafter in the hope she would  
see the object again, but has not  
done so far as LUFOS is aware

**LONDON UFO SOCIETY  
(Case 1992-4-4).****LIGHTS IN THE SKY  
VIDEO-RECORDED  
OVER CORNWALL**

Three times during 1992,  
sightings of flashing orange  
lights were reported over S.E.  
Cornwall. On two of those  
occasions - 14 January and early  
December 1992 - a family living  
near Liskeard was quick enough  
to video record them.  
Camcorder operator Geoffrey  
Hall said the lights blinked off  
and on during both sightings,  
but when they reappeared they  
were in another position. He  
said the lights themselves didn't  
move, rather, it was as if they  
had to switch themselves off in  
order to move, and then they  
would turn back on, having  
moved to a different position.  
The video recordings last for  
about 12 minutes each.

Plymouth UFO Research  
Group, who are analysing the  
video tapes, have reported that  
the lights were flashing on and  
off several times every second,

and that the cases are not  
hoaxes.

Evening Herald  
Plymouth, Devon,  
2 December, 1992.

Cr Patricia Finch, Axminster,

**LUFOS  
TEAM MEMBERS  
FILM UFO**

*From page 1*

and because of this film crew  
descended on Head Office to  
film both the witnesses and Roy.  
The same unit also filmed them  
at Pole Hill and again at Head  
Office where they interviewed  
the witnesses. The crew then left  
to film another ufologist (Harry  
Harris) the next day in  
Manchester. The final edited  
edition of the film has yet to be  
shown at the time of writing, but  
was promised for an  
August/September edition of  
SKY NEWS.

**Note:**

Anyone reading the above who  
desires to attend a skywatch  
should contact the Chairman at  
Head Office. Skywatches are  
not made public knowledge due  
to the possibility of some  
undesirable participants spoiling  
the evening. The local police are  
informed of the organisations  
activities as a matter of course.

**Credit**

LONDON UFO SOCIETY  
(LUFOS)