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TASMANIAN UFO NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
1999
Edition 86

Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre

NOVEMBER UPDATE

If the aim of a UFO group is to find an explanation for UFO sightings, then the Centre has done rather well in the past year.

Almost 50% of reports had an astronomical explanation as their source. Venus during the darker months was prominent in the western sky. The appearance of rotating Iridium satellites has puzzled some observers but Paul Jackson, with Internet and computer programs at his fingertips has been able to track down the culprits. More unusual cases have been due to Soccer ground training lights, lights from the TV buildings on top of Mt Wellington, and the odd orange illumination from 'hoax balloons'.

Most of the Unexplained cases this year have been of nocturnal lights.

Does one have to presume that UFO activity has been at a low level during this time? In other years, we would, sooner or later uncover UFO sightings if there had been a run of reports somewhere in the state. However, some encouragement can be gained from the fact that calls have come in at a steady rate, and a number of investigations have been initiated via the new Australian UFO Telephone Hotline.

Keith Roberts
Investigations Co-ordinator

MEETING

Tuesday, November 16th
7:30 PM
Moonah Community centre
Gormanston Road.

The Ufologist Magazine

This is the first TUFOIC Newsletter to be published since we adopted the Australasian Ufologist as our official publication.

The TUFOIC Newsletter is/was to be phased out and be totally replaced by the Ufologist by the end of 2000, as our members re-subscribed to the new publication.

I am rather disappointed at the take up rate by our members, especially as the response from the recent circular asking for a vote on the matter was totally in favour of the move, yet since then the response from members has been very disappointing to say the least.

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Recent Tasmanian Reports

1998 January. 11.45

Ouse.

Witness reports that whilst loading feed silo on farm a bright "something" caught their attention in the sky above. The two witnesses then realised that the bright thin oval was not moving. It stayed in a vertical position in the sky for some 5 minutes. Then they saw it move erratically northwards before increasing speed into the distance.

1998 August. 03.00

Granton.

A lone witness travelling to New Norfolk notices something bright over the Derwent river. A beam of orange light was seen shining down onto the water. As the witness travelled along, the beam seemed to keep pace and bounce along for several minutes before going out.

1998 December 2nd. 23.00

Eaglehawk Neck.

Witness out giving his dog a walk, looking around overcast sky sees a bright white light stationary to north.

On returning home realises that the light is now moving over head and out across Pirates Bay.

The light seems to change direction and is lost in distance to the south-east.

1999 January 17th. 01.15
Granton.

The witness was some 1-2 kmts north of Granton when noticing four round almost moon sized shapes just above the water over the river. The witness stopped the car and wound down the window. No sound could be heard from the glowing golden circles. They looked like wheels with glowing spokes and bright patches of light all of which pulsed in unison. The witness continued on towards New Norfolk and lost sight of the circles.

1999 February 21st. 05.00

Ouse.

Witness to the report from January 1998 sees strange pulses of light to the north-west. Being up early to milk the cows the witness reported a blue flashing light which seemed to give off pulses of light. After 5 minutes the area near the light had random flashes. It looked like bubbles in boiling water as the flashes pulsed up and burst. The display ceased after the random light bursts.

1999 July 5th. 10.30am.

New Norfolk.

Students brought a teacher's attention to something they had noticed over Peppermint Hill.

A smallish, silver shape was visible against the dark clouds in the sky at that time. It had an oval to bow shape as it moved towards the clouds as if on a current of wind. Whilst the teacher was away calling someone else a second silvery shape was seen by the students. This shape and the first seemed to move upwards and into the clouds. Both had disappeared by the time the teacher returned.

1999 July 5th. 7.40pm

Ross.

The witness turned on an exterior light at an outside shed. Almost at once he noticed to his south something very low beyond trees at a paddock's edge some 200 m distance. It looked like a rectangular structure about the size of a house. It was illuminated by an orange glow. It seemed to have some vapour about it. As he watched for about 10 seconds it seemed to be rising up and tilted at an angle. It just faded out of sight as he watched.

He enquired at a nearby house the next day but no other witnesses were located. The sighting location had no unusual marks or traces.

**1999 August 12th. 6.10pm.
Franklin.**

Initial witness sees what is assumed to be a falling star (Meteor). However, it comes to a halt in the south-east sky at about a 35 degree elevation. The witness calls a friend to come and look at the star like white light. They both watch it move a short distance north then south. Soon it started to gain elevation moving up towards the area of sky where it first appeared. Near 7pm it had risen to a 70 degree elevation and was lost from sight.

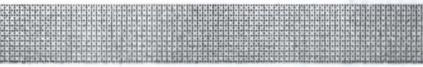
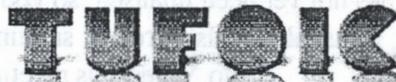
**1999 Sept. 17th. 8.10pm
George Town.**

A George Town resident reported sighting a number of puzzling lights. "I noticed a bright white light over West Head and thought it looked too bright for a star. Then I noticed a green and red flashing light about 10 -15 degrees to the right of the bright white light. The flashing light was moving in the direction of the stationary white light. The green and red light seemed to pass through the white light and turned into a white light. Still travelling in the same direction when there was a gap of 25m between the lights the first white light followed the second light for 3 or 4 seconds. Then they both stopped and went back along the same path to the original position of the first

white light. One light then kept going north, the other stopped and returned south along the top of the Asbestos Range". The lights soon were lost from view, one behind the range, the other travelled north and faded into the distance. Checks on aircraft and astronomical explanations failed to uncover an explanation for the sighting.

Sightings investigations by:

- Keith Roberts
- Bill Kelly
- Paul Jackson



The Ufologist Magazine

cont. from front page

The first edition of the Ufologist has now been posted out to those members who have subscribed. We still have copies available to post out immediately to those members who subscribe now.

If you are unsure if it is worth it, come along to the Meeting and pick up a copy of the current edition for just \$4.00, or we can post you out a copy for only \$5.00 (Includes postage to Australian Members).

Without membership support an organisation such as ours will not be able to continue.

*Paul Jackson
Coordinator*

**EVIDENCE OF
TRANSIENT LUNAR
PHENOMENA**

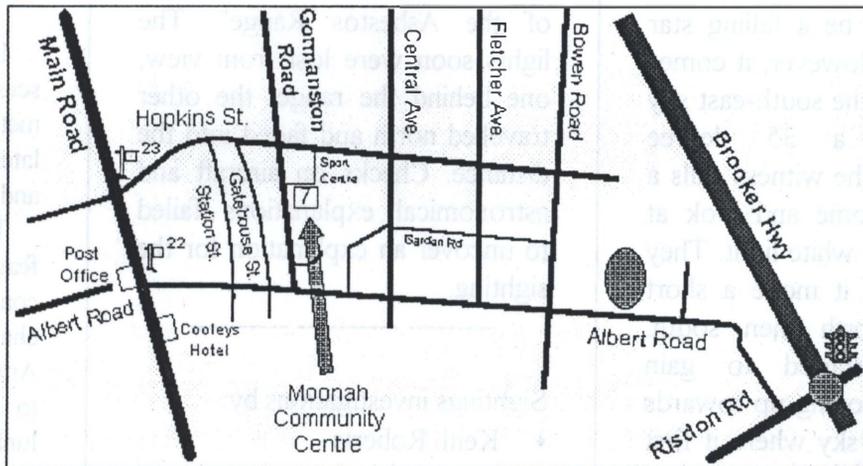
During October, planetary scientists from around the world met in Italy, to present their latest observations from ground and space based instruments

The week-long meeting also featured the first unambiguous confirmation of a spontaneous change in a feature on the Moon. Amateur observers have claimed to witness dozens of transient lunar phenomenon (TLPs) for decades, but most professionals found the reports unconvincing because the events were almost always seen only visually. Now, however, a group led by Bonnie Buratti (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) has found "before" and "after" images from the Clementine spacecraft for an TLP reported last April 23rd. The area in question, the "cobra head" at the beginning of Schroter's Valley near the crater Aristarchus, is covered by relatively young volcanic flows, and it has often been the location of TLP sightings. Buratti says two bright spots along the valley's western wall are distinctly redder in the Clementine "after" images from April 27th -- a clear indication that some kind of change took place subsequent to the "before" images taken March 3rd.

*SKY & TELESCOPE
NEWS BULLETIN
OCTOBER 15, 1999*

MEETING

Tuesday, November 16th, 7:30 PM, Moonah Community Centre, Gormanston Road.



Off street Parking at Centre

OUR FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR

The agenda has not yet been finalised, so you can expect some surprises!
and, as usual, details of recent sightings and UFO news.
No Video this meeting.

SKYWATCH NOVEMBER

VENUS dominates the eastern morning sky where it is visible about half way up the sky just before sunrise. The dazzling planet reached greatest elongation from the Sun on October 30 and it is still about 45 degrees west of the Sun at the end of November.

MARS is visible in the north-western evening sky, travelling from Sagittarius into Capricornus at the end of November. It is readily identified by its Red/orange colour.

JUPITER is a very prominent object in the north-eastern evening sky and is visible all night.

The gas giant's oblate disc and four brightest satellites (Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto) can be seen in binoculars, and a small telescope reveals a variety of changing detail (such as bands and spots) and colour in its atmosphere.

SATURN is also visible in the north-eastern evening sky, rising about an hour after Jupiter and reaching opposition on November 6; it, too, is now at its best for observation.

Appearing as a bright whitish object below and to the right of Jupiter. A small telescope easily reveals the planet's disc, ring system and brightest satellite, Titan. The gas giant's magnificent rings are now tilted at around 20 degrees.

The nearly full Moon appears nearby Saturn and Jupiter on November 21/22.

Leonid meteor shower. There seems to be plenty of room for debate about the upcoming Leonid meteor shower. The exact timing of the display, the number of fireballs vs. fainter meteors, and the best observing sites are all uncertain. Nevertheless, even the most pessimistic predictions for 1999 anticipate a memorable show.

One thing seems sure, no matter where you live: The Leonids are coming and, on Nov 17, 1999 the place to be is outside, looking up!

In Tasmanian, The best time for viewing should be from about 3 AM 'till dawn Looking towards the North-East.

The Aurora. Tasmania is well favoured to see Auroral displays due to its southerly latitude. Aurora are generally seen in the southern sky, but on rare occasions may cover the entire sky. Displays tend to be centred on the magnetic pole, which is about 19 deg. to the west of the geographic pole.

With solar activity expected to reach a maximum in its 11 year cycle during 2000, we can expect some wonderful displays. During the coming months, as solar activity rises, it is worth taking a look at the southern sky on every Moonless night!, You will not be disappointed.

