



TUFOIC

*P O Box 174 South Hobart
Tasmania 7004 AUSTRALIA*

TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2001 - Edition 90

THE YEAR TO DATE

A quite start to the year has been replaced by a rather busy time mid-year for the Centre. Incoming calls to the Centre have remained on a par with last year but the appearance of three cases supported by video evidence has created a deal of interest.

The first video to surface was reported in the Burnie Advocate newspaper on June 21st. Port Sorell sisters had seen a bright light low to the east near dawn the previous day. As it seemed to move higher they had caught the light on video as it faded in the morning sky. Investigation by the Martin George (Launceston Planetarium) and the Centre found Venus as the most likely cause of the sighting.

The next two videos came to the Centre's attention on the same day. A Launceston witness emailed details of flashing red, green, and blue light he saw on July 9th soon after 11pm. The light was moving away and down towards the northwest horizon. Investigation to date has ruled out satellites and planets.

The third video was taken about 5.30pm on March 14th. The witness was filming the arrival of the replica vessel Endeavour as it sailed into Burnie.

A dark blob suddenly appeared in the viewfinder as the witness zoomed in on the approaching vessel. It travelled from east to west out over Bass Strait. It appears to move behind the Endeavour then disappear away from the witness. Simple analysis says it has to be a bird at close range, the vessel having been some 2 km distant from the witness. Should other people have seen the dark blob? It must be said that the blob is only visible for a matter of seconds, so you would have to look the right way at the right time to see it.

Early in July the Launceston Examiner ran a well-presented two-page spread on the Centre. It included panels on sightings from previous years, and a full run down of our report statistics since 1965. We believe this to be the longest run of unbroken statistics in Australia.

The response to the media coverage brought forth a number of older cases (see Tasmanian reports section).

One witness claimed to have monitored some lights at ground level (1999) and then watched them gain elevation into the dawn sky. An older sighting from 1974 near Ledgerwood is of great interest. It occurred during the height of the northeast flap of that year.

The witness's sketch of the object is very similar to the UFO reported at Scamander in August of 1974.

On more recent events Venus has been responsible for a number of sightings, as have stars scintillating various colours in the clear night skies. A couple of possible 'hoax balloon' report appeared in the Lauderdale area in May, a bright red light could be seen rising and drifting in the night sky.

TASMANIAN STATS to JULY 2001

Type	Number
Unidentified	8
Astronomical	20
Aircraft	3
Satellites	13
Meteorological	0
Balloons	2
Other	3
Insufficient Info:	0
Total Reports	49

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Tasmania. 7004

TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED REPORTS

1974. Sept/Oct. 11.30pm.

Ledgerwood.

The witness and a friend were returning to Scottsdale after an evening of fishing. They had taken the Snake Track Road, a short cut from Ledgerwood to the Tasman Highway. The witness who was driving tells how they rounded a sharp curve only to be confronted by an object only 50 mts from the roadside. The witness slowed down the car but his friend said they should get out of there. Hovering just above the ground was a disc shaped object with a dome above around which were a line of portholes or lights. It was estimated to have a diameter around 10 to 15 mts. Coming from beneath the disc was a very bright beam of light, this beam was about 5 mts across at its base on the ground.

The witnesses left the scene at once and are not aware of what happened to the object. The road entered dense bush and on looking back nothing could be seen. The similarity between this and other cases from northeast Tasmania about that time are of great interest. Sketches of an object seen at Scamander complete with beam below are almost identical. Other cases such as Tayene, The Sideling, and near St Helens all had similar features as objects were seen by motorists alongside the road.

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<http://tufoic.n3.net>

1983. Night. Seven Mile Beach.

The witness and her friend were driving home at about 11pm to Seven Mile Beach.

They were almost to the Beach as they headed down the last two straight sections of road. Suddenly a silver/white ball of light with an aura appeared alongside the car. It looked to be about the size of a soccer ball travelling along with the witnesses' car. The ball of light looked to be only a few metres away.

The witness slowed down and sped up as the ball accompanied them for about 2 minutes on the passenger's side of the car. The ball finally ascended up into the sky at an angle, it did not fade out of sight but seemed to shrink and disappear in the sky in a matter of seconds.

1997. Sept/Oct. 7.30pm. Lillico.

Following publicity in the Advocate newspaper the Centre received a letter from the witness detailing events of a sighting a couple of years earlier.

Mrs L and her husband were travelling to Devonport to drop of a friend. Between Lillico and Don they noticed lights on a low flying object approach from the sea and crossing the highway ahead. It did not look like a usual aircraft but they thought no more about it until on the way home.

Mrs L says that when driving past the same area near Lillico the same or similar object reappeared high to the left (west) of their car. Mrs L opened the car window to obtain a better view. She was rather surprised to see a large triangle shaped object.

There were three coloured lights, one on each corner of the object, which appeared as a dark mass. It was now low and close to the highway.

Mrs L's husband (previously a non-believer in UFOs) could now see the object and accordingly pulled off to the side of the road. The astonished witnesses watched the triangle cross the road and move off towards the sea. As it moved away from the road it suddenly changed shape into a red ball of light. The ball of light looked to be just over the roadside bushes. Mrs L felt scared at the turn of events and asked her husband to drive on. As soon as they pulled onto the highway the red ball disappeared, just like a light being turned off. Mrs L said it was weird experience.

1999 March 29th. Dusk to dawn. Tippogoree Hill

Mr R lived in an isolated area off the Bridport Road when his sighting occurred in early 1999. Following publicity in the Launceston Examiner he sent an excellent illustration of what he saw together with details of the sighting. Initially Mr R thought something was happening in the bush about a kilometre north of his property. He was able to ascertain later that the area was all locked up, as even he was unable to get a close look at this possible landing location.

At first a bright floodlight was seen like a welding type light. On inspection with binoculars he saw a very bright yellow cross, which was coming out of a shell type structure.

The structure looked to be a sphere about 10 m across with a bright blue ball in the centre.

Mr R observed the mass of light for a while and then off and on during the night, it did not seem to change position or appearance. He was fortunate to see its departure when he looked out again near dawn. The object rose up into the sky to about 10 degrees then he found it hard to tell if it faded or got smaller as it receded into the distance.

The landing area was a clear patch in rough scrub, which the witness was unable to visit.

2001. April 5th. 5.15am. Beaconsfield.

Mr W was puzzled to see a bright white light to his east when he set out for work one morning in early April. At first he thought it might be the morning star (Venus).

Then he realised that the star was moving northwards in the sky. He still did not take much notice, as he had to set off for work.

As he headed south towards Launceston on the West Tamar Highway he realised that the large light was moving along a few hundred metres to his east, and just above the trees at about 50 meters. Then to his surprise it accelerated ahead of his car disappearing over the hill ahead. Mr W continued on his usual route to work turning left to cross the Batman Bridge. He could now see the light to his southeast. However, as he travelled east the light once again moved north until it was visible to the north of the Batman Bridge. Mr W tried to take a photograph but it failed to come out.

Mr W now headed through the hills towards Pipers River, the light was now lost from sight due to hills and trees. Once out in the open again near 6.15am he picked up a distant light to the east that looked to elevate and fade in the morning light.

A check on the location of planet Venus on the morning of the sighting shows it did not rise until just before 6am. The light he observed later on from the Pipers River area may well have been Venus, but what then did Mr W spot earlier on at 5.15am?

2001. May 18th. 7.22am. Newstead.

Yet another mystery shape from the north of the state, a bit reminiscent to the cases of 1996 in that area. Several witnesses were outside for a 'smoke' when they spotted a puzzling shape in the northeastern sky. One of the witnesses had time to view the shape through binoculars. The silver metallic shape shone in the clear morning sky as it moved down and away from the witnesses.

It looked at first to be oval like with a rounded top. However, it changed position to present a side on view.

It now was more of an elongated teardrop with an orange to red shield like feature around the object. This shield feature had two balls that rotated around the outside of the shape in a clockwise direction but always on opposite sides to each other. There seemed to be a faint droning sound that could have come from the object.

It disappeared as the witness was watching through the binoculars. It looked to just disappear in the middle of a clear blue sky. Despite checks with media and Police no other reports of the object were forthcoming.

2001 May 31st. 6.30pm. East Devonport.

Mrs K tells how she and her daughter were just leaving Devonport en-route to Port Sorell. Her daughter noticed two very bright objects coming towards them from the northeast. She quickly pulled over to the side of the road as her daughter insisted it was something strange. The objects were travelling fast but at the same time moving in unison in a zigzag pattern. They moved across the road ahead and went away more to the west out over Bass Strait. The objects were perfectly round, very bright and metallic coloured. They were about 2 moons apart as they travelled across the sky.

**Welcome to our new
Northern Representative**

Daniel Lowe

Daniel can be contacted on: 6331 2124

Mobile: 0419 357 345

Advocate Video.

The Burnie newspaper ran an item complete with picture on June 21st of a video of a 'mystery light'. However, investigation by the Centre and Martin George of the Launceston Planetarium revealed the light to be planet Venus

**TASMANIAN UFO
INVESTIGATION CENTRE**

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- Publication distribution.. Alis Jacob
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2001. July 9th. 11.14pm.

Norwood.

The Centre received some interesting images copied from a video of a flashing, moving light seen from a Norwood residence.

The witness had been watching the tennis final from Wimbledon and had gone outside for a spell of fresh air.

Turning to go back inside he noticed a very bright star high in the sky moving towards the NNW horizon.

What really caught the eye though was the flashing light from the star. The witness said you simply couldn't miss it. It seemed to be cycling through a pattern of red, green, and blue colours. The witness was aware of stars that scintillate but this star was moving from the edge of the Milky Way past stars that remained static in colour. The witness went quickly inside to grab his Sony video camera and start shooting a picture of the star before it disappeared.

Physically he said it appeared in the sky bigger than Mars but very bright.

It travelled from high in the sky (60/70 degrees) towards the horizon until lost

from view behind a house on the top side of the street (25 degrees).

The witness first watched the star for about a minute, taped it for a bit more than a minute, then tried to get his wife out to see the light by which time it had disappeared. It probably took 3 minutes to cover some 40 degrees of sky.

Investigation into possible satellites eliminated this explanation as none could be seen after 8pm that evening due to the earth's rotation.

The light did not appear to be commercial aircraft as Launceston Airport had closed and there were no overflights from Hobart. Checks on high altitude air traffic is not possible.

However, a close look at the video reveals it is about 1 1/2 minutes long and in that time the star moves about 1 degree to the witnesses left. It is doubtful an aircraft would have remained in the same location.

Useful Information for Observers



Height above the Horizon in Degrees.

Many observers overestimate the height of objects in the sky. When they view objects above about 30-40 degrees, they tend to assume that it is much higher in the sky.

Try pointing your arm up at an angle of 45 degrees. Without moving the angle of your arm, turn your head around so that is more side on to your arm – It will most likely be pointing at 25-30 degrees. Be aware of this when reporting, or investigating a sighting.

Norwood Video





PUBLICATIONS

TASMANIAN U.F.O. SIGHTINGS CATALOGUE TASCAT 2000.. \$3.00
A register of over 500 Tasmanian UFO Cases.

TASMANIAN UFO LANDINGS CATALOGUE - Third Edition \$3.00
A compilation of Tasmanian UFOs seen on or near Ground level.

CRESSY DOCUMENT \$3.00
The town of Cressy was the scene of one of the states most significant UFO Sightings.

MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT \$3.00
This lonely island, off the southern tip of Tasmania, Has seen of many UFO reports.

NORTH-EAST TASMANIA - 1974 DOCUMENT \$3.00
The largest Tasmanian UFO flap ever, occurred in the North-East of the state in 1974.

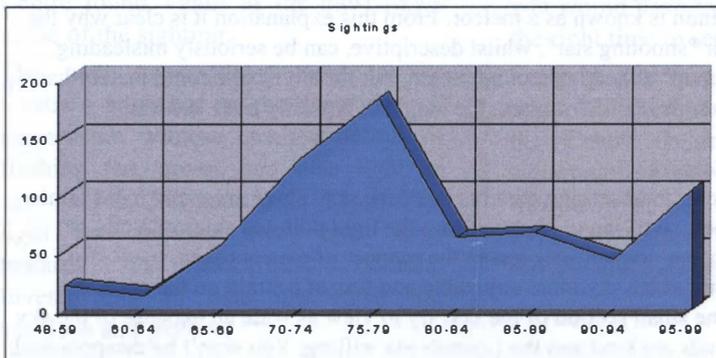
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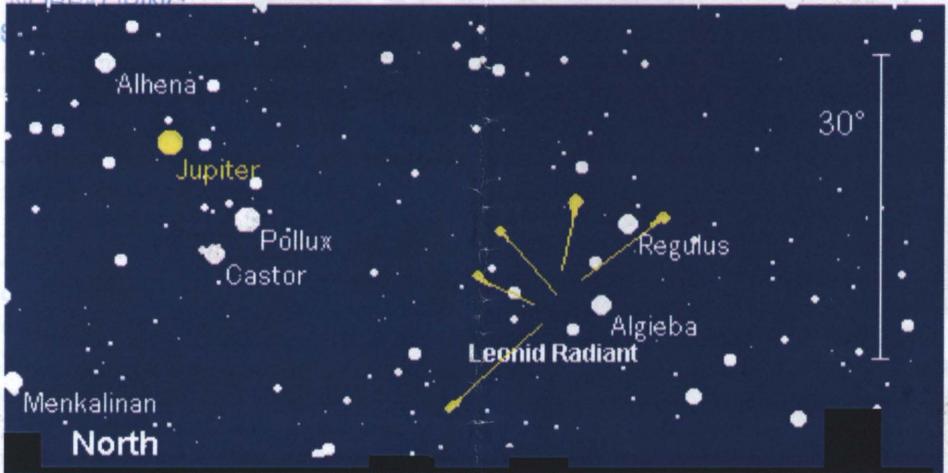
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**Tasmanian
UFO
Sightings**

**During
5 year periods
From
1948 - 1999**

LEONID Meteor Shower - November 2001



The Leonid Meteor shower should provide a good display this year, and possibly even a Meteor storm. Although Tasmania is not well placed to view any storm, it should still be worth venturing out in the early hours of the morning of November 19th.

Northern Australia is most favoured, having the Leonid radiant in the sky for three hours or more before dawn. When the Leonid radiant is below the horizon, the Leonids won't be visible. In southern Australia the period of visibility is the two hours before dawn, with Leo rising in the northeast about 3AM in Tasmania.

Best Time to view is on November 19th, 3:30 AM until Dawn.

Look to the Northeast part of the sky, about 20 degrees above the horizon.

A meteor results when a small particle (typically only millimetres in size) of dust collides with the Earth's atmosphere. Velocities of collision are between 11 and 72 km/sec (40,000 - 260,000 km/hr). At these immense speeds, the particles are intensely heated in collision with atoms and molecules in the upper atmosphere causing both the particle and air surrounding it to glow. This phenomenon is known as a meteor. From this explanation it is clear why the phrases "falling star" or "shooting star", whilst descriptive, can be seriously misleading. Meteors typically "burn up" at heights around 90 km, but for a typical Leonid meteor having a near head-on collision speed of 71 km/sec, the height is typically over 100 km.

Tips on Observing Meteors

The most important factor in observing meteors is a dark sky. There are many more faint meteors than bright ones; so trying to observe from the light polluted skies of a city or moderate to large town can dramatically lessen the number of meteors seen.

Reclining makes looking at the sky more enjoyable and less of a strain on the neck.

Do not focus on just one small section of the sky, try to view as wide an expanse of the sky as possible – If the clouds are kind and the Leonids are willing, You won't be disappointed.