



TUFOIC

*P O Box 174 South Hobart
Tasmania 7004 AUSTRALIA*

TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2002 - Edition 91.

2001 IN REVIEW

The cry for the year could be “where have the UFOs gone”. Calls to the Centre where the lowest in 10 years with the unexplained cases at an all time equal low for the year of 5. The UFO sightings featured mainly just lights with no suggestions of any Close Encounters. There is obviously some satisfaction in uncovering explanations for a tough case but on the other hand the real article seems to have gone away for the moment.

However, all was not doom and gloom. One of the pluses for the year was the appointment of Daniel Lowe as our Northern Representative, lets hope in the year ahead we will have something for Daniel to investigate. Membership has remained steady with good publicity in the UFOlogist Magazine being responsible for a lift in the sale of our publications.

Reports to the Centre via the National UFO Hotline showed an increase during the year, as did reports received via email. The only problem with email reports was making contact with the actual witnesses was not always possible.

The media carried a number of UFO items during the year, some minor coverage of explanations for meteors and the Christmas light display from the Claremont shopping centre in December. The Burnie Advocate covered a video case in June that turned out to be our old enemy, Venus. A well presented article on the Centre appeared in the Launceston Examiner in July. This item brought a good response on old sighting dating back to the Northeast flap of 1974, but as a sign of the times failed to uncover any recent activity.

The year saw a number of videos and photographs come to the Centre's notice. Two of the videos from earlier in the year were probably due to a nearby bird crossing the field of view and Venus caught on camera from Port Sorell. The third case involved a puzzling flashing light seen from Norwood on July 9th. The light was seen moving from high elevation and filmed as it went away into the northern sky. A photograph taken on the afternoon of October 20th near Port Arthur proved a tough nut to crack.

Cont...

Considerable effort was made in investigating the sighting of a small distant white shape moving away to the east. The most likely culprit was a seaplane on a flight in the same area to view the spectacular east coast of Tasman Peninsula, but like many cases there was still an area of doubt in the explanation.

Analysis of cases over the year revealed the stimulus for sightings to be similar to previous years. The bulk of reports being due to astronomical and satellite causes. Hoax calls and night time balloons showed an upward trend, which is disturbing as these reports still take up time and are just nuisance value. The response by the public to the Claremont Shopping Centre's Christmas light display is of some interest. Firstly the wide area the lights were visible from, and the number of motorists who were sure that something was pacing their car, some claiming they almost ran off the road during the encounter!

TASMANIAN STATS 2001

Type	Number
Unidentified	5
Astronomical	22
Aircraft	5
Satellites	15
Meteorological	2
Balloons	5
Ground Lights	11
Other	9
Total Reports	74



P.O. Box 174, South Hobart.
Tasmania. 7004.

Email: tufoic@netspace.net.au

Web site:

www.netspace.net.au/~tufoic

Executive Committee 2002

President	Bill Kelly
Secretary	Keith Roberts
Liaison	Robert Andrews
Membership	Guenther Bissells
Publication Distribution	Alis Jacob
Librarian	Ray Thomas



In this Issue:

- 2001 In Review
- Tasmanian Stats 2001
- Executive Committee 2002
- Tasmanian Sightings
- UFOs and Auto-Stops
- Stop Press
- TUFOIC Publications

TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS

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 north-eastern 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.

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 Wimbeldon 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.

2001. October 9th. 11.00pm.

Geeveston.

Two witnesses had been out walking on a property. On returning home they sat on the verandah looking at the southern sky.

One pointed out to the other a half circle shape just west of the Southern Cross.

It looked opaque inside but had a well defined edge and was two times the size of the moon. The object changed to more of a round shape as it moved

left a short distance before returning to its original position. It then moved slowly to the right and became stationary. The witnesses said it was there a long time before it seemingly just disappeared in mid-air. No other calls were received for what was a sighting of some duration. No astronomical explanations were found to account for the report.

.....

UFOs and AUTO-STOPPS

Many UFO sightings have involved the failure of motor vehicle engines or electrical equipment. Are these effects deliberately produced or the result of a Close Encounter. The puzzle is that the close approach of a UFO seems to have variable effects on nearby vehicles. A notable series of encounters took place near Levelland, Texas, in November 1957. This classic event involved a brilliant oval object, which cause the failure of eight motor vehicles over a period of several hours.

The Centre's TASCAT database has over 30 cases where a motor vehicle has been stopped over suffered some sort of electrical interference. A smaller number of 10 reports have involved an auto-stop event. Interestingly the bulk of cases (22 out of 32) occurred during the 1970s, the last auto-stop event was back in 1990.

Although reported to the Centre many years after the event the first auto-stop report dates from 1968. Late one evening several people were travelling in a 1956 Plymouth from Glen Huon to Huonville. The car the witness recalls

just 'conked out' for no apparent reason. The travellers got out to look under the bonnet for the problem. However, instead they found themselves looking for several minutes at an object with lights. About 200m from the road was a spinning top shaped object with lights around the top and base. The lights were a bluish colour on a darker shape. One of the witnesses' mates decided to light a cigarette, as if in response the object was gone in flash towards the south. The amazed travellers returned to the car, which started at once, allowing them to continue on their journey.

The next possible auto-stop came 6 years later in May 1974. The witness wrote, "I was travelling to Smithton on the early morning (5.45am) paper run. I was near Port Latta and doing about 70 mph (110k) when a bright light to the south caught my eye. It was approaching fast and so bright it was like getting the sun in your eyes. It travelled over the road and after about 10 seconds had been obscured by tall trees to the north of the road. I then realised that the van's motor had stopped. The headlights had gone out briefly and the van was slowing to a stop. After stopping the van I re-started the engine at once. The automatic van had never stalled or cut out before, and it hasn't since the sighting".

The mid seventies saw a spate of car pace sightings and other incidents were there was some sort of electrical effect on lights or radio, but our next report seemed to feature the lot.

The North East flap of 1974 climaxed with an event on September 16th some distance north of St Helens near the Priory. A mother with her two children were returning home from a trip to Launceston in their 1968 Toyota. The night was dark with some drizzle as they approached a bridge with a slight incline the other side.

At this point the first sign of trouble was the car radio, which suddenly played up with static. As the car crossed the bridge the sky ahead was lit up by a bright light, the source of which was no apparent to the mother. The car then lost power as it travelled up the incline, everything went dead, car lights, radio, heater, and engine. The surrounds were lit up by a bright area of light ahead. The mother tried to start the car but without success. A deafening vibrating noise then seemed to envelope the car (a report of lights near a car on May 5th involved a vibrating noise). Almost at the same time all three felt electric shocks like vibrations for a minute. As if this was not enough a choking smell filled the car so that the witnesses leapt from the car and fled from the scene, leaving the car and the glow in the sky behind.

About 9.45pm the mother and her children reached a house some 3 k distant.

The resident noticing her alarm returned to the car to see what was wrong.

Apart from a warm bonnet the car appeared OK so that the family although shaken continued on home.

A check at the local garage found water in the radiator low, otherwise both radio and electrical systems were in working order. The mother suffered from swollen arms and fingers the day after the event. She also had a numb right side to her face and red marks above her right eyebrow. The children suffered no apparent after effects.

The next auto-stop case occurred in November (1974) on the Sideling, again in the northeast. The information came to hand a few years after the event, but complemented other reports from the area. The witness was travelling in his 1971 Mitsubishi Colt when he noticed a huge flame coloured glow lighting up the bush to the north, it looked larger than a house in size. The lights, radio, and motor of his car all cut out and he was left watching the glow for several minutes. He noticed his luminous watch dial had become brighter, also the car clock was 2 minutes slower after the sighting. The mass of light moved back and forth, then rose up and away from the witness and disappeared. The witness then found he could start his car and continued on his journey. Afterwards the front left mudguard changed colour from red to more of an orange colour. This may have some connection with the sighting.

Another sighting from nearby Tayene in September involved a Close Encounter where the car radio was effected, and the bonnet was left clean although the rest of the car was dirty.

A sighting with some similarities to the Priory case of 1974 occurred in July 1975. A family was travelling home near Hobart Airport in their 1967 186 Holden when something seemed to go wrong with their car. Initially the interior of the car became hot within a matter of seconds, then the car stalled and rolled to halt. The family could now taste an odd gas but could not smell anything.

At this point something was noticed over the middle of the road ahead. The object appeared round and looked grey to white in colour. It seemed metallic like or had an iridescence sort of glow of its own. There seemed to be an appendage below, they could only recall a line and a squiggle. It was silent and looked to be about 5 mts in diameter.

No other traffic was seen as they sat there for about 2 minutes waiting for something to happen. Then the object moved off very fast to the south or southwest, going up any way at speed. The husband a mechanic by trade got out to check the car but could not locate any problem. The family continued on a few kilometres to their home. Searching the sky they saw a diminishing light moving away high in the southwest.

Our next report is from an anonymous source but appears consistent with similar cases and activity in the Central Highlands at that time. A lone motorist one winter evening in 1978 noticed a mass of light rising just to the north of the highland road.

Tasmanian UFO Report Stats

YEAR	REPORTS	UFOs
Pre 1965	154	32
1965	39	13
1966	30	15
1967	14	5
1968	35	8
1969	65	15
1970	47	8
1971	96	23
1972	69	15
1973	135	27
1974	161	58
1975	173	50
1976	193	43
1977	156	39
1978	180	32
1979	154	19
1980	64	12
1981	88	11
1982	62	18
1983	69	13
1984	46	9
1985	89	12
1986	86	12
1987	73	12
1988	108	19
1989	92	11
1990	46	7
1991	47	5
1992	78	15
1993	86	6
1994	94	11
1995	95	16
1996	179	50
1997	110	11
1998	155	23
1999	103	6
2000	97	9
2001	74	5

Almost at once his vehicle's lights, radio, and motor all failed. The mass of light meanwhile had become stationary to the south of the road and briefly shone a beam of light on the car. The object was described as about 30m across. There was a red light on top, a rotating mass of light below, and what

looked like landing skids at the bottom. The skids retracted and the object rose up and away into the distance southeast. The motorist noticed the radio and car lights were now back on so he continued his journey home.

The evening of February 5th, 1979 was one Mr X will remember for a long time. Returning home from Hamilton to Hobart his car failed, it was enveloped in a mass of light, then he seems to have lost his memory.

Travelling along the Lyell Highway near Lawitta at 9.50pm X noticed that his car radio had died out. Then in the following seconds the car lights went out, the motor failed, and the whole of the car seemed to be enveloped in a dazzling white light

From this point on X's memory of events is hazy, he thinks he tried to restart the car, and recalls going up the rise into Lawitta.

Following this he can only recall the junction with the Midland Highway and then being pulled over by Police in Hobart city centre for driving without lights.

X was taken home by the Police, then his friends took him to hospital for a check, it was here that he was able to remember some of the evenings events.

His car, a 1971 Cortina was then collected. However, the battery was flat, the oil was low, and the wires to the headlights were bubbled as if overheated.. Subsequently the switch in the alternator needed replacing.

The mass of white light sounds like the Priory case of 1974 and a report from

1997 near Hagley when a bright light zoomed in at a car and enveloped it in light. In this case the witnesses also could not recall driving along the next section of road.

Hampshire is a rural area 30km south of Burnie on Tasmania's northwest coast. On July 6th, 1982 about 7.30pm a lone motorist in his 1982 Toyota experienced a very strange event.

His car started to loose power and thought there must be some electrical fault even though the headlights remained on. Once the car rolled to a halt he decided to get out for a look under the bonnet. It was at this point he noticed that the barbed wire fence alongside the road was throwing off sparks and making a fizzing sound. The he realised there was an object in the paddock beyond. There seemed to be no features on a dark cigar shape surrounded by a blue haze.

The object was 5 to 7m off the ground and looked to be 7 to 10m long.

It seemed to turn away from the witness and move away at low elevation to the west until had faded from sight.

The witness noticed the sparking on the fence had ceased. He decided to try and start his car, it responded at once so he hurried away from the area.

Sighting in North of State ran the Launceston Examiner headlines of January 23rd, 1988. The article gave details of an auto-stop event not far from Launceston on the evening of December 14th (1987). The case was claimed to have similarities to the

recent Knowles family's encounter on the

Nullarbor Plain (a dazzling object had picked up their car and left a coating of ash and dents on the car). The Examiner item said the local sighting had involved a 'sooty sort of carbon'. Subsequent investigation ruled this out but the sighting was as strange as they come.

Mr A worked for a car dealer at the time and was driving a Mercedes (14 months old) back home following a sale. It was about 9.30pm as he travelled on a side road some 2k from the Evandale Main Road. Initially he noticed some lights behind his car, then soon after a mass of light passed over the vehicle and came to rest on the road ahead. At the same time the car lights, and the motor stopped. A pulled on the handbrake and observed a cigar to egg like object blocking the road, it was about 5/6 mts wide but no more than 2 mts high. There were very bright glary lights along the base of the UFO, which made it hard to discern the body of the object.

A to say the least was disturbed by the turn in event and left his car to hide behind some roadside bushes.

Despite the handbrake being on the car looked to be dragged towards the UFO, in all it was moved 10mts leaving marks on the road and scuffing the tyres.

After a few minutes another vehicle approached, it was a Landcruiser on which the lights failed but the motor kept running. A went over to the driver

who thought there had been an accident. However, as they talked about the incident there was a high pitched whine and the UFO moved up and away to the south.

The Landcruiser driver said they should not tell anyone about the event. A went back to his car which started at once. A thought the road looked as it had melted and there was some bitumen on the front of the car. The car subsequently had some electrical problems that had to be fixed before it was re-sold.

A returned home and was surprised to find it was near midnight, he should have been home a couple of hours earlier. A did nothing at first but the event worried. Finally he found the contact number for VUFORS, who in turn passed the sighting onto the Centre for investigation.

The sighting location was visited and the witness interviewed.

The car by now had been sold so no checks could be made on the vehicle. The melted bitumen it seems was fresh repairs on that section of the road laid by the local council only days before the sighting. The second witness never came forward but the event still remains a mystery.

The last but no least of the auto-stop cases to come to the Centre's attention occurred back in the summer of 1990.

C and his friends had been to a sporting event and they were returning to Hobart in the early hours (about 2am) via the Lake Highway. The sky was clear with a good view of the stars

overhead. Something that was not a star caught C's attention as the headed out along Liawenee Moor. They could all see out over the Great Lake a silver luminous cylindrical object. The cylinder was in a horizontal position, as it seemed to be moving back and forth over the lake. The UFO was bright enough to illuminate the water below.

They continued heading south along the road but when the 1972 Datsun 180B was opposite the object the car lights, radio, then motor all failed. The amazed witnesses wound down the windows and stared at the silent UFO. It seemed they were there for several minutes until the object took up a vertical position. It shot up higher then lost elevation and went away towards the eastern side of the Great Lake. In almost an instant it returned across the lake to its close approach to the witnesses at about 1 km.

C said it looked like it was showing off as it then went upwards and disappeared in a second.

The radio, lights, and ignition all came back n following the departure of the cylinder. The startled witnesses continued on their journey home, C thought they got back a bit later than normal for this trip.

The Centre has more than twenty other reports from motorist who experienced electrical effects on their motor vehicles, mostly during the 70s.

The most interesting would be the 1974 encounter at Tayene. Just 6 days after the Priory auto-stop a witness in a parked car was confronted by an object

just over the road. The car radio emitted a high pitched sound during this daylight sighting of an domed object that hovered in front of the frightened witness then climbed away into the clouds.

Another strange case was the motorist travelling near Waratah on the Murchison Highway in 1979. A bright green light appeared behind the car and seemed to take over the vehicles control. The witness who lost time during the encounter could not make her car speed up or slow down. Once the light disappeared she regained control of the car.

.....

STOP PRESS

A brief mention of UFO lights from Tasmania's east coast last December in the Launceston Examiner. Then a call to the UFO Network indicated that some sightings had occurred in the Binalong Bay area.

Follow up with contacts in the area and witnesses revealed reports going back over the last couple of years. What had started as a single case grew into about a dozen events with varying degrees of information. Some of the reports can not be fully investigated due to the passage of time and contact with the witnesses being no longer possible. At the present most cases are yet to be finalised, nonetheless all the information collected has been listed below.....

1999. Sept/Oct. 2am. St Helens.

The witness was awoken in the early hours by a strange 'thud thud' noise. Then she noticed her telephone was ringing, this was strange because the telephone had no number and was not connected to the system. Getting up the witness answered the phone to find it was dead. The telephone continued to ring as she then noticed in the window a reflection of gold/white square lights in the window. Suddenly the lights went out, the noise stopped, and the phone went quiet.

Not long after her daughter arrived home in a panic, She said that something had followed her as she walked home, she did not see anything but there was a 'thud thud' noise.

2000 Winter. 10pm. Binalong Bay.

Single witness sees bright white light come out of the north. It moves to the west and then moved up and down, then becomes stationary for several minutes before going away to the west very fast.

2000 Winter. Bay of Fires.

Examiner report says that Jack of Huonville was camping when one evening he spotted a large bright yellow light. The silent light loomed up nearby, was stationary for a few seconds, then just switched off.

2000. Nov 18. Douglas River.

Object approaches and hovers over hill, lights up trees. Goes down then rises up and away. TUFOIC unable to complete investigation.

2000 Dec 4. St Peters Pass.

Motorist notices lights by road, seem to zigzag and keep pace with car. Witness leaves address no follow up possible.

2001. Easter (April) about 9pm. Binalong Bay.

Several witnesses at differing locations notice a bright light appear to the east to southeast. Descriptions of the event vary but all agree the light approaches, grows in size, and gains elevation.

The white to yellow light then becomes stationary and sparkles seems to fall from it. Then it either goes up out of sight or away to the northeast. The light disappears in less than a minute.

2001. Late April.

Motorist driving on coast road from Bicheno to Scamander.

A large white light is seen ahead just over the land. It is visible for about 5 minutes before blinking out. No further information available.

2001. Winter. St Helens area.

Third hand story of auto-stop event. A farmer is reported to have encountered a landed object on the road. The farmers truck is dragged towards the UFO so he leaves the truck and dashes home. Soon after he returns in a 4 wheel drive to recover the truck. This story maybe a garbled version of two cases, one from near StHelens in 1974 and the second near Launceston in 1987.

2001 October. 2am. Binalong Bay.

Another report of a large white light over the area that just switches off. No more information available.

2001 Dec 8th. 11.30am. Binalong Bay

Examiner carries an item on Eric's sighting. A bright amber light was noticed approaching from the west. It had 5 points on it, the longest one being below the light. The silent light seemed to pass nearby just to the west before turning and heading away to the south. It gained elevation and faded into the distance.

2001 Dec 26th. 9.55am. Bay of Fires.

Second Examiner item reports on Morgan's report. A bright red light was

seen out over the sea as it moved north. However, the light moved up and down in an erratic manner for 5 minutes before it blinked out.

2002 Jan 25th. 9.30pm Binalong Bay.

Brief sighting at a BBQ of a reddish light to the south. The light looks to be moving further away and after a few minutes fades into the distance.

There may well be an explanation for some of the lights reported, but it shows how much occurs that never reaches the ears of any UFO group.

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS

- **TASMANIAN U.F.O. SIGHTINGS CATALOGUE-TASCAT 2000 .. \$3.00**
A register of over 500 Tasmanian UFO Cases.
- **TASMANIAN UFO LANDINGS CATALOGUE – 3rd Edition (1995). \$3.00**
A compilation of Tasmanian UFOs seen on or near Ground level.
- **CRESSY DOCUMENT \$3.00**
The small Town of Cressy was the scene of one of the states most significant UFO Sightings.
- **MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT\$3.00**
The lonely Lighthouse Island, off the southern tip of Tasmania, Has been the scene of many UFO reports.
- **NORTH-EAST TASMANIA - 1974 DOCUMENT\$3.00**
The largest Tasmanian UFO flap ever, occurred in the Northeast of the state in 1974.
- **UFO TASMANIA Magazines:**
The TUFOIC Annual Report Magazine. Single editions are available at \$.1.00
- **MYSTERIOUS MELODALE\$3.00**
Strange paranormal events over a period of years, a baffling series of events recorded by the Centre.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE RETURN POSTAGE (surface mail only)

Overseas Air Mail rates available on request.

Payment:

Australia - via Money order or Bank cheque.

Overseas - via International Money order, or Bank cheque.