



TUFOIC

Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre

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YEAR TO DATE.

The UFO business can be a frustrating affair at times. Recent information indicates events of interest elsewhere in the world. Reports continue to flow at a steady rate out of North America, whilst farmers in Greece on the other side of the world complain that UFOs are landing in their precious crops. Auto-stop cases, a thing of the past in Tasmania, are still occurring in Argentina. In one report from that country in August a farmer was paralysed by an object a mere one to two meters away. As he lay on the ground insult was added to injury as the object hijacked his mobile telephone. Efforts by local Police to call the mobile failed to raise a reply, a case of 'ET phone home". The English summer may not be all that good but the crop circles phenomena marches on with new developments such as pictures of faces on the crop fields.

Locally we are struggling to get beyond the lights in the sky stage. Earlier in the year interest was raised by a number of cases from 2000-2001 in the St Helens area. However, we were unable to overcome a reluctance by witnesses to put

the details down on paper. A sighting in Launceston during July involved the filming of a number of bright orange lights, whether this turns out to be a genuine UFO report or yet another garbage bag hoax is difficult to determine at this stage.

The rate of incoming calls at present to the Centre seem to indicate our lowest investigation levels for 10 years. Who knows, we may have a sudden flap in the months ahead, but looking at the data from other years indicates most reports occur over the winter months. Sightings often tail off with the advent of daylight saving and the longer summer evenings

The phenomena has received a few passing mentions in the press, a meteorite over Northern Tasmania on April 1st, then a mystery balloon over Fern Tree (May 25). Soon after another meteorite burnt up over Southern Tasmania (May 30), then a space debris re-entry was reported off the state's north-west coast

Items may be quoted from this publication provided that TUFOIC is fully credited.

TUFOIC was founded in 1965

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TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS

2001. October 18th. 10.30pm.

Kingston.

One of a number of cases involving 3 star like lights, in all reports no satellites could be uncovered to account for the sightings.

A Kingston witness noticed a star in the south-west that started to move erratically, then looked to approach the witness before hovering in the sky. No shape could be discerned but the light was now yellowish on the top and blue below. The first light was now joined by two more lights, they all moved more to the south-east then went vertically at great speed and disappeared into the night sky. The witness reported seeing similar star like lights on two previous occasions. Case unexplained.

2002. January 14th. 9.10pm.

Launceston.

Just what did Mr P notice for about 6 minutes

in the clear evening sky over Launceston. It could have been an aircraft but Air Traffic say there were no movements in the area at that time.

Approaching from the north-west at a very slow speed was a round dark blob. It looked to be moving up towards a bank of dark cloud over the city. Prior to entering the cloud it became stationary and a solid red light came on below the blob. It then moved up through the cloud and was lost from sight. Mr P waited 20 minutes for the object to reappear but nothing further was sighted. Whilst waiting Mr P saw a commercial flight heading north through the same cloud then out and beyond the same cloud. The evening sky was bright with the evening sunlight which made a sharp contrast between the dark cloud and surrounding blue sky. Case Unexplained.

2002. January 30th. 8.50pm.

Sorell.

Mr S had decided to take some photographs of the clouds lit up in the western sky by the setting sun. Using his digital camera he took a number of photographs as he moved his camera from north-west around to south-west. Later when inspecting the pictures he noticed on the photograph to the south-west there was a bright spot of light below the clouds. A round white spot with a suggestion of a light patch above can be seen, it stands out well below the middle layer orange clouds in the background. The hills and lower clouds below are by this time in the shade. Nothing was noticed at the time the photographs were being taken. Due to the passage of time follow up on aircraft movements was not possible. It is know that light aircraft from time to time perform evening or night circuits

of the nearby airport, some pilots keep their landing lights on whilst on their circuits. The spot is sharp and clear suggesting little if any movement whilst the photograph was being taken, this seems to indicate that an astronomical explanation is remote. The picture is puzzling but with the lack of visual observation we are unable to log the case as unexplained. Insufficient information.

**2002. February 17th. 11.30pm.
Launceston.**

The three lights were back this time over Launceston. The witness reported three small star like lights in the western sky. The lights were moving easterly in a triangle formation. This lasted for two minutes before the leading light moved out of formation. The witness lost sight of that lights but followed the remaining two lights until buildings to the east obscured the view. The night was fine and clear and there was no noise from the lights. Whilst not the strangest of cases it still remains unexplained.

**2002 February 23rd. 10.42pm.
Mountain River.**

Yet another three lights report as a Huon Valley resident and his partner followed the nocturnal lights for over five minutes.

Mr D had taken his dog out into the garden when he noticed three star like lights moving through the Orion constellation and heading towards the south-east as they gained elevation in the sky. He ran inside to alert his partner and look for his video camera (no video was shot). Returning outside the lights were now over the Longley area and in a triangle formation. Soon after a shooting star shot across the sky and almost at once the

three lights went straight up and disappeared into the sky in a matter of seconds.

Out with his dog early the next morning (3.50am) D was surprised to spot the same or similar formation of three lights in the southern sky moving across to the east. Once again a shooting star went through the formation which seemed to precipitate an immediate departure upwards by the lights. They were gone so fast it was hard to follow reported the witness. Case unexplained.

**2002. May 14th. 5.24am
Lauderdale.**

Did something pass over the Kingston to Lauderdale locations on the morning of May 14th, were the two reports to the Centre connected?

Mr R had taken his dog for an early morning walk on Lauderdale beach. This was a practice he had done for many years despite the weather conditions, on this particular day it was fine. He had been to the southern end of the beach and was returning northwards when he noticed about 25 m ahead on the beach a distinct circle of white light. The light was about 10-12 m across and seemed to be connected to a beam up onto the sky.

Mr R looked up at once and briefly saw a stationary object above trees and houses to his left (west to south-west). At once the object moved over the beach ahead and as it did so the circle of light disappeared. The object went out over Frederick Henry Bay and seemed to disappear. Mr R had the impression the UFO turned away from him and the light source was no longer visible. No noise was noticed during the 6 second sighting.

The object was described as shaped like a

torch with a rounded dark area at the front and light from inside along the body of the object, it looked to taper towards the rear. No flashing or individual lights were noticed. The witness gave an apparent size of about 3 moon widths.

A stunned Mr R continued on up the beach, he recalls passing another early walker who asked if had seen the object lit up like a house and making a faint 'sizzling sound'. Mr R some time after the sighting tells that he has not met the other witness and does not know who it was.

Meanwhile at almost the same time a Kingston witness reported a strange light source in their garden. The bright light lit up an area on the patio outside the house. The strange thing was that the sun umbrella on the patio looked to be spinning and flapping. The bright area of light flickered for a moment, and then went out. The witness thought it may have been the moon and wind causing the strange impression. However, inspection revealed the moon was not out and it was all calm outside. Case remains unexplained.

2002. May 17th. 9.15pm. New Norfolk.

Another one of those lights that at first could be due to astronomical causes but then it departs in a manner that cannot be explained. Two New Norfolk witnesses noticed a bright light in the south-west sky, it looked bright and white and changing colour to red and orange. It remained stationary in the sky for about three to four minutes whilst under observation. However, the disappearance of the lights was more spectacular. It just shot off towards the north-west, zipping across the top of the skyline and out of sight in a matter

of seconds. The case remains unexplained.

2002 July 27th. 9pm. Riverside.

The witness was outside briefly and happened to notice that there two orange lights moving south out over the Tamar River. She hurried inside and was in time to take a couple of minutes of video before the lights were lost to view behind trees and house towards the city. Much to her surprise a similar lone orange light was seen briefly on the same path about 9.30pm. Follow up with local media and the airport failed to uncover any other light reports. However, the witness says other residents in her street saw the orange lights.

POLICE SIGHTING OF UFO.

Sunraysia Daily, Saturday, May 18, 2002.

"We've just seen a UFO" was the radio call received at the Mildura Police Station during the early hours of yesterday morning.

Two officers on a routine patrol through Apex Park were stunned to see a silver shape hovering above the river.

"At 5am this morning, Mildura divisional van crew members Kate and Greg patrolling Apex Park when their jaws dropped at the sight of a very bright lit up UFO hovering over the NSW side of the river," a police spokesperson said.

"It appeared the UFO spotted them at the same time as it shot off in the direction of Gol Gol. They attempted to give chase, but it had gone in the blink of an eye." The spokesperson said.

"One of the officers commented over the air

'we've just seen a UFO' and received the reply 'we've just boiled the kettle, you had better come in for a cup of tea and a lie down.'

The spokesperson said one of the officers had seen a similar sighting in the same area several months ago. "Her first sighting was the source of much mirth and mess room humour among her colleagues" he said.

Victorian UFO Research Society's Mildura representative Allan Wilson said sightings around the water are a frequent occurrence.

"I have not had any reports about this particular sighting but I can tell you that UFO sightings around bodies of water are extremely common," Mr Wilson said. "I have heard of many stories similar to this one. "One call I had was in regard to a man who lived on a property with a large water tank. He reported seeing a blue haze hovering over the tank at night. When he went to

A STRANGE DREAM?

A Hobart resident contacted the Centre following a strange dream like event that occurred to him about April 17th (2002).

He went retired for the night as per usual but when he awoke the next morning he had a sore nose. It was then he recalled a strange dream had during the night.

As he was lying on the bed a beam of light appeared through the ceiling above. The light came down to the bed and at once he seemed to rise up through the light. He then found he was in a white room and lying on a table of some sort. This table just seemed to be floating on nothing. Around the table he could make out figures. However, details were hard to discern as there seemed to be a

grey light that obscured the figures. The next thing he knew was that something had been pushed up his nose and he was almost at the same instance waking up in the morning.

His wife confirmed he seemed to have an abrasion just inside his left nostril. Twice during the day he fainted, something that has never happened to him before. The sore nose improved rapidly and after a few hours it was much better. He had a prior appointment with his doctor that day, so he had his nose checked, but the doctor could not find any problem.

The witness says he had no particular interest in the UFO phenomena other than seeing the usual shows on TV. He found it hard to explain why he should have such a realistic dream about something he has no interest in. Following the dream he checked the internet and was able to contact the Centre.

Landings of 1969

Reports of UFO landings in the early years of the Centre were practically non-existent so that six low level cases in the year 1969 were something of a turning point on the local scene. Before that only a couple of low-level cases were on record. Most of the sightings became known well after the event; it was not the practice to report such cases in those days (maybe it still isn't). Doubtless there are many unreported sightings that would quicken the pulse of the UFO investigator.

1. Southport Lagoon. March 1969 **(Investigation: Tattersall, Roberts)**

Southport Lagoon is 72km South west of Hobart and is 6km South of the small town of Southport. The lagoon is saltwater fed with an entrance to the sea on its eastern face. There

is a track to the lagoon which is relatively isolated

One weekend in March at 3pm our main witness and 5 other friends were on a fishing trip to the lagoon. They were on the lagoon's north-eastern shore when something reflecting the sun on the opposite (South western) shore caught their eye. It was about 2km across the water to the other shore. There seemed to be a round silver object sitting on the beach. It had an aluminium-type appearance. An effort was made to wade closer to the opposite shore but deep water halted this when they were over a kilometre from the ball.

As it got darker the group noted that the object assumed an orange-red glow that remained constant and with an even intensity. The object remained stationary on the opposite shore until near midnight when it took off into a dark clear sky.

The witness thought there was a slight swish as the object took off. It appeared the same in the air above the bay except the bay was lit up with an orange-white light. The light appeared to come from the underpart of the object, furthermore as it moved along there was an apparent tail of light. It rose at an extreme rate to an estimated 1600/1700m, then levelled off and went away to the SSW being finally obscured by the hills.

Coincidence-but two years later on April 4 two fishermen at the same lagoon were followed by a yellow cigar shape with a glow.

2. Kelvedon, May 7 (Investigation: Dunbabin, Bennetto)

The Examiner of May 10 (1969) reported that 2 boys had spotted a UFO near Swansea on Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Moore and Cotton had seen an oval object near ground

level on a slope just above the shoreline. Its width was estimated at 10 to 15 metres. It glowed an orange colour and had red lights below and holes with white lights near its edge. The boys watched for a minute then left in a hurry going back to their boat on the lagoon behind the beach. They had just got into the boat when the object now green in colour was seen moving at rapid speed over the sea and away to the North. It is not known if a check was made for traces. Sighting details were obtained by the Tasmanian Flying Saucer Observers Association (now defunct) and for TUFOIC some years later.

3. Glenorchy, May 22 (Investigation: Bantick, Bigwood, Dunbabin)

"Saw UFO take off he says." So read the Mercury article of 25th of May 1969. Referring to a claim by Mr G.Longey that he had seen a UFO. He had seen the UFO at about 11:30pm through a louvred window at the rear of his house.

The elliptical shaped object with brilliant lit areas in the top section was seen for a few seconds as it took off from his back lawn. Mr Longey notified the Police and RAAF. He said it was difficult to get somebody to believe him, but he knew what he saw. On the back lawn he found an elliptical shaped ring of scorched grass and broken limbs on a small tree at the edge of the burn. He estimated the object was larger than the ring.

TUFOIC and the now-defunct Tasmanian Flying Saucer Observers Association both investigated the case. Apart from varying measurements (Imperial) for the ring of 5 to 6". Its size was (TUFOIC) 18 x 12ft, (TFSOA) 21 x 10ft.

A radioactivity test proved negative and nothing further came to light.

It was suggested someone had played a prank on the witness or the whole thing was a hoax. However, no one could quite work out how the scorched ring had appeared that evening. Mr Longey certainly gained nothing from the publicity apart from a ribbing by his workmates. He was still shaken by the event when investigators called two days later.

4. Mt. Lloyd, May 23 (Investigation: Roberts)

During investigations into a sighting some years later an incident that had occurred the day after the Glenorchy landing was uncovered. The sighting at Mt Lloyd lasting some hours involved a round red light seen by a family.

About 7:30pm on the evening of May 23rd, a light was noticed over the road near the witnesses' house. The witnesses had to go out to remove a tree that had fallen across the road nearby. The red light drifted away as they approached, gaining elevation to about 10m. It moved across the paddocks and bush and the witnesses took no more notice until they returned some time later. They then saw the light which had the appearance of a street light, which was now back above the road again. It was stationary and after watching for a while the family went back inside and did not bother to look out again.

5. Central Plateau, Winter Time (Investigation: Roberts)

A lone motorist heading south on a highland road on a frosty evening noticed a bright glow some 400m west of the road. At first he thought a car had somehow run off into the button-grass. Soon he was able to view the source of the light, there appeared to be a large dome-shape object on the ground. As he pulled up the object was stationary and

emitting a bright orange glow into the surrounding bush. The object then rose slowly, emitting a glow from beneath. It gradually gained elevation and receded into the distance. It had been in sight for some 3 to 4 minutes.

6. Paddy Island, October 28 (Investigation: Roberts, TUFOB (now defunct))

Two scallop boats were off Paddy Island nearly 3km from the coast between Scamander and St Helens. The men on one of the boats had noticed a bright light in the sky, and when they looked $\frac{3}{4}$ an hour later they saw an object to the North east. It was estimated to be a kilometre away and about 100m high.

The well-defined object was red-orange in colour and disc-like with a dome or rounded area on top. There were two dim orange squares on the body of the object, and a bright orange glow coming from below at the outer edges. The object had approached slowly and now remained stationary. The witnesses aroused the persons on the second scallop boat. They all watched the object with its light reflecting on to the sea below until about 4:50am. Then the object rose up, changed to a purple colour and was gone at terrific speed to the north-west.

The defunct group TUFOB had the sighting on their newspaper file after it had appeared in the Examiner. Investigation was made by the Centre some months later.

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