



TUFOIC NEWSLETTER

October 2003 Edition 94

YEAR TO DATE.

The sightings drought of 2002 has continued on into the current year, even old reports (see elsewhere) seem to be fading away with the passing years. Calls to the Centre have flowed in at a reasonable rate but few cases have remained unexplained.

In recent times we have had reports of three star like lights moving across the sky in a triangle formation. Initially these sightings looked to be puzzling; the lights were seen from each area of the state which suggested some sort of fly-over. Perusal for possible satellite times uncovered the United States Navy as the culprit. Their not so secret Naval Ocean Surveillance System was responsible for the sightings. Three sets of three satellites travel in formation to track the position, speed, and direction of all United States military ships at sea.

May and June saw a number of big meteor burn-ups over the state, the meteor of June 18th making news in the Hobart Mercury.

Many callers believe that someone should be keeping track of these astronomical events.

Another problem to solve was a number lights caught on video by a Southern Tasmanian family. The lights had been filmed over a period of time, usually low in the southern sky as they flashed various colours. However, after viewing the video and investigation on the spot we were able to ascertain that scintillating stars were the cause of the sightings. Stars flashing various colours are often the source of calls to the Centre during the winter months.

The Disclosure Australia Project is now up and running from its Secretariat in Adelaide, have a look on their web site for some interesting information ([HTTP://DISCLOSURE.FREEWEBPAGE.ORG.](http://disclosure.freewebpage.org)).

Action has been taken to search the records held by the National Archives of Australia. The Disclosure newsletters provide interesting reading and

background to official documents on UFO sightings.

TUFOIC has been mentioned in recent articles in the Ufologist magazine. The Australia wide publication has carried a series of special articles on the UFO phenomena in Australia. The Melodale events from the early eighties featured complete with photographs of the valley and house central to the mystery paranormal events.

A negative has been the loss of three Executive members earlier this year, the bulk of the members moving out of the state. Both Janis and Hanna are to be commended for stepping in to fill the gaps.

TUFOIC

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

Email: tufoic@yahoo.com

Web site:

www.geocities.com/tufoic/

Telephone 03 62236009

Executive:

President..Janis Burns

Secretary..Keith Roberts

Liason..Hanna Jenkins.

Librarian..Ray Thomas

TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS

1954. Summer. 05.30. Oyster Cove.

Our witness tells of a UFO sighting when as a young girl she was assisting her father to bring in the cows for milking. At first there was a low whining noise and the area seemed to be illuminated. Looking up she saw to the east a silver oval shape with a dome above, the UFO also had red and white lights, plus a beam shining out from below.

The cows in the cattle pen were now making quite a noise and wanted to get out of the pen. The witness opened the gate to the pen and the cattle took off across the paddock. Meanwhile the witnesses' father had raced up to the house to obtain his camera; he then went down the road closer to the object and took a number of photographs. The noise from the object then increased and it shot off in a second out over the sea. The father had the photographs developed then contacted an Authority to report the sighting. The witness recalls that soon after three men in dark blue serge jackets came in a Humber or Buick car. They demanded that

her father hand over the photograph negatives but he refused to do so. The men became threatening but eventually left with prints of the five photographs.

Some years later the father had a contract to train German shepherd dogs for the Air Force. On a visit by some Air Force men the UFO sighting and its photographs were mentioned; this made the witness think that the original investigators were also from the Air Force. The negatives were put in a safe place but when the 1967 bush fires swept across south-east Tasmania her father's house and contents were destroyed.

1983. Night. King Island.

The witness and a friend were out shooting at night. A round white light above a hill to their east caught their attention. The light was travelling quite fast at tree top height towards the witnesses.

Then it slowed down and appeared to stop before moving upwards some 200m. Next it moved back away to the east before dropping down to its initial elevation, once more it approached the witnesses before stopping for a few seconds. The light then departed to the north at high speed being out of sight in seconds.

2003. March 3. 4.50pm.

Swansea.

Two witnesses were fishing on a beach a few kilometres south of Swansea. It was a fine afternoon with a clear blue sky. One of the witnesses noticed something moving out over the water which he took at first to be a pelican.

Then the witnesses took a closer look and saw that their attention had been caught by an object the apparent size of a full moon. The spherical object was bright silver with a dark shadow on its trailing side. The sphere was at an elevation of about 45 degrees as it silently moved steadily north over the water. No wings, tails, or other protuberances could be seen on the sphere. After a couple of minute's one witness said the object just seemed to disappear in the northern sky. However, the second witness thought the object went down then up before stopping in the sky and disappearing.

2003. March 31. 9.15pm.

Tunbridge.

A lone motorist travelling north on the Midland Highway caught sight of some lights just after passing the little town of Tunbridge. Two bright white flashing lights were visible to the right (north-east) of the highway, the lights were side by side and at

a fair elevation. As the witness slowed down for a close look the few cars ahead disappeared into the distance. The witness opened the driver's window and watched as the lights in one continuous movement became one and streaked downward like a shooting star. The same or similar lights were now visible just above a paddock not far from the roadside. However, as the witness continued slowly up the road the lights were obscured by a rise in the ground. The witness hurried on home and contacted the Centre that evening. No aircraft movements or local explanations have been uncovered to explain the presence of the two lights.

**2003. June 24. 3.00am.
Kingston.**

Credit VUFORS to whom this sighting was emailed.

The observer reports that he and another saw the following events on a clear cold night, while looking eastward at an elevation of 30 degrees. The object first appeared as a circular disc while they viewed its base, and later as a cone when it reoriented itself giving a side view. Coloured lights associated with the object changed intensity and colour, and any sound emanating from the object would not have been

audible due to the distance to the object.

The observer reports, "I was letting the dog out before bed when I noticed a brighter than usual star in the sky. At first I thought it was a plane since it appeared to have a central white light and coloured light on either side. However, I am a pilot and know that one would be red and the other white. These lights changed colour and grew brighter as if getting closer. I decided to get my video camcorder out so I could use the 150 X zoom. This revealed two circles, one inside the other.

These appeared to change colour and the craft appeared to grow larger and then smaller as if changing distance. Then at one point it appeared to rotate from showing its underneath profile to a side-on profile. At this point it resembled a child's spinning top. This has all been captured on video; however, the quality is poor as the camera was not designed for this use. The object was also at least 15 km away, probably a lot more. I believe my video is worth seeing as I cannot explain what I saw.

TUFOIC TASMANIAN STATS 2003 (to Sept)

Unidentified	3.
Astronomical	29.
Aircraft	2.
Satellites	9.
Ground Lights	4.
Others/Investigating	8.
Total Reports	55.

**2003. June 27. 5.45am.
Powranna.**

It was a fine clear morning as our witness set out for work from Campbell Town. It was still dark as he headed north on the Midland Highway to Evandale. Initially he noticed the glare of car deadlights approaching over a rise in the road ahead. He checked his rear vision mirror and the long straight behind was empty. However, before the car ahead came into view he checked his mirror again and was surprised to see a bright blue light only 100-150m to his rear. The witness was puzzled and able to glance back to see a round light about 1m across and about 1m above the road. The witness now dipped his lights and the oncoming vehicle went past, now when he looked in his mirrors again there was no light to be seen.

The witness drove on for several kilometres when once more he caught sight of the blue light coming around a curve behind and moving up fast to the rear of his vehicle. The witness was puzzled that the light did not emit any glare to light up his car interior as you would expect when followed by a vehicle. He now slowed down to 80 kph or less to allow the speeding light to go past but it just maintained position to his rear.

The witness was now approaching an intersection where he would be turning right. As he slowed down and turned the corner he had an opportunity to look back down the highway. He was rather surprised to see nothing to account for the blue light as the highway was deserted.

The witness's brother came along the same road some 10 minutes later but saw nothing to explain the light. The Centre heard third hand of other similar events on the highway but we were unable to follow up these reports.

**KNOW OF A SIGHTING,
RING TUFOIC ON**

03 62236009

HISTORY from the FILES

The modern UFO phenomena has been around since the close of World War Two, but little if any information has been published on early Tasmanian cases.

The crew of a Bristol Beaufort of the RAAF clashed with a UFO in February of 1942 when ordered to patrol Bass Strait after fishermen had reported mysterious lights on the sea at night.

The actual sighting location is given as some miles east of the Tasman Peninsula. About 5.50pm an unidentified object came out of a cloud bank, it was described as a glistening bronze colour. The object which was estimated at 45m long with a 15m diameter had a dome on top that was reflecting the sunlight. The UFO flew parallel with the aircraft for some minutes, then turned away to reveal four things like fins on its belly-side.

The amazed crew then watched as the UFO dived down straight into the ocean below, throwing up a regular whirlpool of waves.

(Australian UFO Bulletin, Flying Saucers Uncensored, H T Wilkins 1955).

Bill Chalker in his book "The OZ Files" recounts information on a similar tale from February 1944 over Bass Strait. The crew of another Beaufort flying at 1400 m

were witnesses to the electromagnetic effects from a UFO. About 2.30am whilst on patrol over the Strait a dark shadow appeared alongside the aircraft, it was a mere 35m away with the Beaufort travelling at 400 kph.

The object appeared to have a flickering light and a flame from its rear end. The object paced the plane for 20 minutes during which time all radio and direction-finding instruments refused to function. It finally accelerated away at three times the speed of the Beaufort.

Upon landing the pilot reported the incident but claimed he was laughed at. Maybe no one was in a position to compare the two sightings by the Beaufort crews. Many early cases only appeared as news items in the local newspapers, two sightings from the 1950s provide tantalising information.

A Cooee resident and his 10 year old son saw a dazzling object over Burnie one Saturday evening in October 1951 (Hobart Mercury). Both are positive the object was not an aeroplane. It was flying higher and faster than an aeroplane. They could not discern a shape but it was zig-zagging and diving about. At one stage it hovered for a short while, then

HISTORY Continued

floated off again, it was far to bright to be a star so early in the evening. It was visible for about a minute and a half then disappeared to the east. The father and son were the only two to report the object.

About January 1st 1951 another saucer was seen over the North West (Hobart Mercury).

Three members of the Wynyard Aero Club claimed they saw a dark object circling Mt Hicks at terrific speed about midday Sunday. The men said they watched the object which varied in shape from round to elliptical sweep over Mt Hicks in circles at a height of about 300m. They said the object made no sound, left no vapour trails and disappeared into a cloud bank at each weep. They watched it for about three minutes

Another early case of interest comes from the RAAF UFO files and is dated September 27, 1957.

A strong white light was sighted to the east from Launceston Airport Tower.

The bright light was moving south at DC3 aircraft speed and although observed with binoculars no additional features could be discerned. The light was travelling at a low altitude as the sky was overcast with a cloud base at 1200m.

The light passed away over the lights of the Evandale township, the witness losing sight of the light as he had to attend to other duties.

However, Hobart Airport Tower was made aware of the light travelling in their direction and they in turn alerted the radar operator at the Airport's Meteorological Department.

The radar returned an echo approaching from the northern sky; it was at a distance of some 30k and an elevation of around 3000 m.

The echo continued southwards but then gave a terrific burst of speed and seemed to disintegrate. The echo was lost, scanning continued for some time but no further trace could be located.

+++++

OBJECTIVES OF TUFOIC

- To investigate Tasmanian UFO reports.
- To publish detail of UFO reports and maintain a UFO database.
- To distribute authentic information to members and fellow UFO organisations.
- Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Centre.

^^

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

TUFOIC
PUBLICATIONS

• **TASMANIAN U.F.O.
SIGHTINGS
CATALOGUE TASCAT
2000**

.....\$3.00

A register of over 500
Tasmanian UFO Cases.

• **TASMANIAN UFO
LANDINGS
CATALOGUE - Fourth
Edition (2000)**

.....\$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 North-
East 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.