

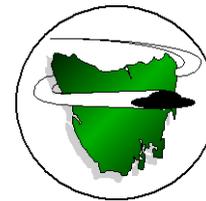
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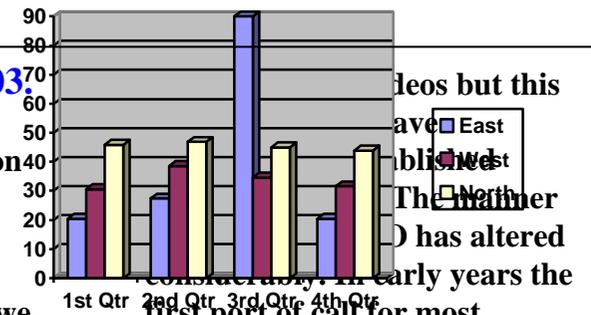


# TUFOIC NEWSLETTER

February 2004 Edition 95

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2003

Time moves on as the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre enters its 40<sup>th</sup> year, equivalent almost to the working lifetime for most people. One has to ask have we achieved the aims of the original members. The Centre's purpose was to investigate Tasmanian UFO sightings and record their details. We believe that this aim has been achieved via our 95 publications, special reports, and the Tascat database. The full gambit of UFO sightings and events from prior to the Centre's foundation in 1965 have been recorded. The Centre has accumulated a wealth of information on local UFO events that present a strong case for the UFO visitations during the 60s and 70s. The sightings started to tail off during the 80s and 90s and one could now almost argue that at the present they have all but faded away. In recent years the UFO phenomena has been presented



leas but this ave East West North The number has altered considerably. In early years the first port of call for most witnesses was the local newspaper. These days, the local press appears to receive few reports. Sightings to the Centre in recent years have arrived in a variety of forms. Telephone contact is still the most frequent source for sightings. However, via the electronic media sightings are now received by email, sent to other groups, or even overseas UFO sighting agencies. Many interesting events are occurring world wide; albeit on a lower level that some years ago. The bulk of the cases are now to be sought on the internet, the local press no longer seems to pick up on UFO stories. The only local events in the news in the past year related to space-debris burn ups or meteors. Many night time events are now

being caught on video footage. However, unless the witness has had some experience in operating their video the results tend to distract from rather than enhance the sighting. The Centre received a number of videos during 2003 but the lights recorded would seem to have had astronomical sources. Once again sightings were few and far between. However, in most of the reports the unexplained lights were at a fairly low level. The report from a motorist who reported a blue light that approached his vehicle was the first sighting of this type in over 5 years. Calls to the Centre during 2003 had a small rise on the previous year. As always astronomical and satellite explanations accounted for over 60% of the investigations. The only other point of note was the appearance of some hoax calls, possibly connected with our placement in the telephone directory at the top of the page! On a serious note it must be commented that membership of the Centre has declined quite sharply in the past 18 months. Most of the executive at the start of 2003 resigned as they moved interstate or returned to overseas homes. Janis and

Hanna both capably filled the vacant positions. However, a further fall in membership will force the Centre to consider a re-structure of the manner in which it operates. Scenarios may include an in-house newsletter and some meetings, or maybe a network of investigators with an occasional get together. Meetings were held every 2 months during 2003, no decisions have been made as yet for the year ahead.

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**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.**

**LYNCHFORD Continued**

TUFOIC contacted the Weather Bureau for meteorological data. There had been a lack of wind although the previous month had been rainy. No stray cattle had been seen or were known to have been in the area. Samples of grass and earth were collected by the witnesses and sent to the University of Tasmania; however, nothing unusual was noted from their tests.

The heightened interest in UFOs had the witnesses at Lynchford scanning the skies. They reported watching a strange light on Saturday night (May 29<sup>th</sup>). A bright light was seen in south-east sky, from this light a red light was seen to move in a rectangular pattern across the sky. The red light would return along a shaft of light to the parent body.

On a subsequent sighting the witnesses called one of the media reporters to view a bright light. This light the reporter says was just one of the planets.

A number of other low level UFO sighting occurred across the state about the same time as the Lynchford event. A motorist saw lights settle amongst trees in a Norwood paddock, then take off in flash like a sky rocket. The Launceston based Tasmanian

UFO Bureau found a 3 metre diameter area of flattened undergrowth.

In the following weeks near Wilmot (North West) a motorist was paced by a round red ball. Then on two occasions a white object was seen to land in open paddocks.

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**WHATS IN A PICTURE**

A picture is worth a thousand words, so the saying goes. However, a photograph passed onto the Centre from UFOR (NSW) is one of many were the photo is taken and later something is noted in the sky.

On January 4<sup>th</sup> (2004) about 2pm two visitors were travelling on the Lyell Highway near the Alma River. They stopped to take a picture of the road and surrounds. In the right corner a small round something with sunlight above and shadow below has been caught on the film. The difficult question is what is it? Maybe a bird caught in the field of view but not noticed by the photographer. A similar picture was taken on January 15<sup>th</sup> near Whittlesea (Melbourne); do we have two UFOs or two birds?

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## LYNCHFORD Continued

May 25<sup>th</sup> and flattened areas found the next day.

The Hobart Mercury told how “Bluey” Archer was awakened at 2am by a loud humming noise. It sounded like a big powerful generator. Archer sat up in bed and looked out his window; he did not see anything to account for the noise. It was later ascertained that the window did not face the location of the flattened areas, also his car outside also obstructed his view. The noise faded away after about half an hour.

Next day the children at the house called him to view a flattened area of rough grass about 150 m distant across the river. The flattened area had not been noticed prior to this.

The grass around the area was about 30 to 40 cm high; it looked like a giant force had pushed the grass and blackberries over. The area measured about 10 x 5 metres.

The area was likened to a three-leaf clover of swirled grass with six indentations.

Following publicity about the event the area was visited by many people and some of the swirls were trampled flat.

In all six flattened areas were found, two near the original site and three to the north of the house and on the same side of the river.

Witnesses claimed that the later 3 metre diameter areas had three 20 cm deep indentations in each spaced in a triangle. None of these later areas were viewed by the media or Police.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> it was claimed a number of strange events occurred. A car stopped on the track 45 metres from the site, two friends said their watches stopped when they visited the “landing area”. Then the family kitten went “queer” and dropped dead. The dogs at the house which usually went off hunting just stayed around the house for a week and generally seemed dopey.

Police said that an electrical fault was found in the vehicle whilst an autopsy on the cat failed to reveal anything other than a normal healthy kitten.

Numerous explanations were put forward to account for the flattened areas. Heavy dews, wind gusts, rotting roots, stray cattle, and maybe UFO activity. No one was sure just which was the correct answer.

## TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS

**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 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 headlights 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

## SIGHTINGS Continued

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.

### **2003. September 22. 11.00pm Copping**

Our next witness was baffled by a strange area of light seen low down near the road just west of Copping on the Arthur Highway. There had been rain earlier but it was clear at the time of the sighting. No other motorist was on that section of road when something caught the witness's attention near the skyline to the north west of the highway. At first it was a bit hard to make out a shape but the witness slowed the car then stopped at the roadside and put the driver's window down.

She could see a glowing yellow to white box shape, about the same width as a full moon. The inside of the box was dark but the perimeter had this flowing line of light around it. The object remained silent and stationary above the hill. After watching for about 30 seconds since the car stopped the witness then saw the silent object depart. The box just went up so fast that it was out of sight in a few seconds. It was like watching a line of light going up

before it resolved into a star and then it was gone. Contact was made with local business and for air traffic movements, also astronomical explanations but the Centre drew a blank in each enquiry.

### **2003. November 28. 2.15pm Bell Bay.**

The witness in our final sighting for the year went to great lengths to uncover an explanation. He contacted Launceston and Devonport air traffic control, followed up with local helicopter movements, and even placed flyers in the area to ask for other witnesses to call him.

Our witness was working in a large open yard on a beautiful fine clear afternoon. A glitter to the west over the Tamar River caught his eye. Taking a closer look he was surprised to see a silver metallic cigar shaped object, he did not observe any protruding parts. He estimated the silent cigar was some 8-10 km distant as it commenced a southward movement. It travelled in this direction for about 10 seconds then angled up into the sky and shot off in an instant.

No other witness came forward to report the sighting.

## TUFOIC TASMANIAN STATS

2003

<b>Unidentified</b>	<b>5.</b>
<b>Astronomical</b>	<b>36.</b>
<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>4.</b>
<b>Satellites</b>	<b>13.</b>
<b>Ground Lights</b>	<b>4.</b>
<b>Others/Investigating</b>	<b>12.</b>
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>74.</b>

**KNOW OF A SIGHTING,  
RING TUFOIC ON  
03 62236009**

## **WHAT CAUSED THE LYNCHFORD NESTS ????????**

Lynchford on Tasmania's West Coast is now a busy tourist stop on the re-constructed Queenstown to Strahan Abt railway line. It wasn't always like this back in 1971 when it was just an abandoned halt on a derelict line with a few houses, only one of which was occupied.

Lynchford made the news for a now long forgotten event which made the headlines on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Tasmania's three leading newspapers. The lonely halt was the possible site of a UFO landing following noises on the night of

