

## TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS



# TUFOIC NEWSLETTER

## February 2005 Edition 97

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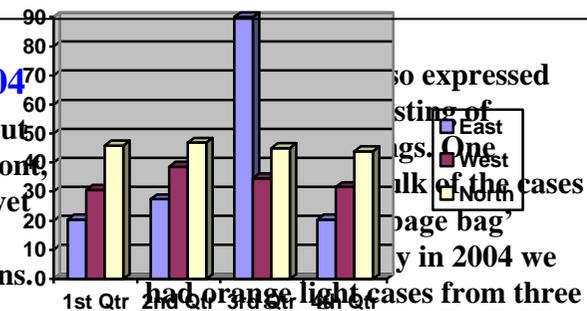
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Official Newsletter of the  
 Tasmanian UFO Investigation  
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### YEAR IN REVIEW 2004

Yet another year passes without hardly a ripple on the UFO front, just three unexplained cases, yet another record low in the 40 years of TUFOIC investigations. The past five years have produced few reports of note. Calls from the public were also down during the year, the lowest number of investigations since 1991. However, something of concern is the number of Tasmanian sightings that end up with reporting bodies elsewhere in the world. One case involving a photograph of an alleged UFO taken during the sighting appeared on an internet site from California, USA. Despite TUFOIC's efforts, no more information could be obtained, a sighting complete with photograph seemingly wasted on a distant site with no investigation of any sort. A number of other cases have appeared elsewhere in Australia, but despite no local investigation, they are still listed under UFO sightings.



so expressed  
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 gs. One  
 West  
 of the cases  
 page bag'  
 y in 2004 we  
 had orange light cases from three  
 country towns plus Launceston.  
 The witnesses from Franklin,  
 Campbell Town, and Cygnet  
 were all baffled by the  
 appearance of the lights. They  
 seemed to make intelligent  
 movements as they floated across  
 the sky, changing formation,  
 flickering, fading away or just  
 disappearing in mid air.  
 However, the Franklin lights  
 were seen rising from near the  
 local football oval. At Campbell  
 Town, the perpetrators were  
 known to local residents, whilst  
 at Cygnet the offending device  
 was found in a paddock where it  
 fell to earth.  
 A positive note is the research  
 work by the Disclosure Australia  
 project. It reveals that the  
 Australian authorities probably  
 had no answers to explain some  
 of the early sightings across the  
 country during the early years of  
 investigations. The research has

also uncovered some interesting information on U2 flights over Tasmania in the early sixties, a number of which at the time created UFO sightings. The U2 aircraft operated out of Victoria on high altitude air sampling. TUFOIC members continue to receive copies of the Australian Ufologist magazine, which, despite the ease of access to the internet, provides a much-needed coverage of Australian events. The Centre has sightings in the Ufologist and also produces an in-house Newsletter twice a year. Copies of our publications are lodged at the Tasmanian State Library, so if all else fails, a record of the Centre's investigations will be on record.

With no sightings of note, there has been virtually nil coverage in the local media. The general interest in the UFO phenomena in the state would be at an all-time low; this no doubt reflected in the membership numbers which have followed suite. Let's hope that 2005 brings sightings of interest; can things get any worse?

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**If you know of a sighting, new or old, tell TUFOIC all about it, call us on 03 62236009.**

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**OBJECTIVES OF TUFOIC**

- **To investigate Tasmanian UFO reports.**
- **To publish details 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.**

**TASMANIAN SIGHTINGS**

**1990. about 5pm. Black Hills**

The two witnesses were in the garden of their Black Hills home, an elevated area with beautiful views out over the Derwent Valley. Mr S. was looking at the view to the west and was surprised to see several circles of light seemingly a short distance away and not very high in the clear sky. He pointed out the aerial display to his wife. They both stood and watched the static display in the sky. There were two circles of blue to white light which seemed to have tubes of light spread out around each circle. The light mass was stationary and silent.

# Flashing lights hover over Darwin

December 6, 2004

EVEN the sceptics are questioning the origins of a strange light that hovered over Darwin on Saturday night. Several readers phoned the *Northern Territory News* late on Saturday night to describe the unidentified flying object that captured their attention. But neither the RAAF nor the airport were able to shed any light on the flashing green, blue and red lights witnesses saw. Laboratory technician Julie Lynn was relaxing on the balcony with husband Nigel at their Leanyer home when they noticed the UFO about 8.30pm. A self-described sceptic, Mrs Lynn believes there is a perfectly reasonable explanation as to why the UFO hovered above Darwin; she just has no idea what it could be. "It was fascinating to watch," she said. "I was quite looking forward to curling up on the couch and watching a movie but it had our attention until we went to bed after midnight. "It hovered in the one place for at least two

hours but had moved significantly when we checked on it again before we went to bed. "I can't believe there are UFOs or little green men out there; there must be an obvious explanation. "And we weren't drinking so it wasn't something we imagined." The UFO was described as being shaped like three connected ball-shaped spheres that flashed blue, green and red from as many as six different light sources. It first appeared in a south-easterly direction and was moving northeast. Department of Defence spokeswoman Kelly Cooper said the UFO was definitely not a secret military aircraft nor RAAF-related. The airport also denied the UFO could have been a plane waiting to land in Darwin.

*Northern Territory News*

**TUFOIC STATISTICS 2004**

<b>Unidentified</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Astronomical</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Satellites</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Balloon Hoaxes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

Mr R Woodbury, plus another four unnamed witnesses. The machine was reported to have a missing engine, and then it wobbled and dived to the ground near the Gog Ridge.

A search of the area by locals on horseback failed to find anything. Whilst the search was being conducted, a shiny object could be seen on the east side of the Gog Range. After the sun went in, searchers were unable to find anything on the hillside.

The Controller at Western Junction airfield said that no aircraft were up at the time of the incident. The RAAF said that none of their planes had been to Tasmania, and no Victorian planes had been reported missing. "A trip to the state would not be easy," said the RAAF. "It required a fuelling stop on the way across Bass Strait".

Fanciful claims were made that it was mainland criminals escaping with the proceeds of a recent Hobart robbery. A spate of mystery plane reports followed on the following day (Monday 14<sup>th</sup>) from Ulverstone, Symmons Plains, Tamar Valley and Jetsonville.

No official action was ever initiated to solve the mystery aeroplane reports which bear a marked resemblance to mystery aeroplanes reported elsewhere in the world pre World War Two.

## STOP PRESS.

The New Year has seen a complete reversal in UFO sightings (making remarks from the Year in Review obsolete).

Following publicity we have sightings from Poatina (May), Molesworth and Richmond (December).

Then a host of cases under investigation from Melton Mowbray, Mangalore, Tea Tree, Epping Forest, and Brighton.

The bulk of the sightings occurred during a 24 hour period from the early hours of February 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

A number of cases have appeared in the media; however, the Centre will need time to investigate the sightings. Detail will appear in the Ufologist Magazine and the next TUFOIC Newsletter.

## Tasmanian Sightings Contd:

However, a light beam suddenly appeared from the centre of the light mass and spread down towards the ground below. Mr S felt uneasy at this point feeling the beam had an aura of menace about it. Both he and his wife retreated indoors and did not look outside for sometime. Finally Mr S ventured out but was unable to locate the blue to white light mass anywhere in the sky or for that matter anything to account for what they had seen.

Although not many UFO cases occurred in 1990 it is interesting to note that one report came from nearby Magra in February.

**1998. About Winter. 1.30am. Plenty Valley.**

The witness with a companion had been to repair a tyre on a truck carting pine to Boyer from the Plenty Valley. Being about mid-year he recalls that the night, although fine, was dark. They set off for home in the early hours using a road that was well above the valley floor. There were no other roads in the immediate area. They noticed two very large round bright white lights travelling up the valley. The lights were visible below the valley skyline as they moved side by side, then as they

came closer the gap between the lights widened.

The lights passed the witnesses' truck about 300 to 400 m distant. The lights passed over a deep ravine and as they drew level with the witnesses' position, the lights just turned off. The silent lights were in view a few minutes

**.2000. September. 11.00pm.**

**Arve Valley.**

The witness to the Plenty Valley case was once again driving a truck, this time returning on the Arve Valley road on a dark fine night.

A huge moon- sized white light appeared in the driver's mirror. The road at this point has a number of curves. Despite this, the light remained visible in the truck's mirror.

Then the light altered its position and became visible to the right of the truck. At times the nearby trees and bushes obscured the light but despite the changing direction of the road it remained in view. The light was visible for at least five minutes before it seemed to travel away into the south-west sky and was not observed again.

**2002. Winter. 8.30pm Scamander.**

Mr H, retired, of Scamander had developed the habit over the years to go out for a breath of fresh air.

However, this time he saw something hard to explain.

High in the sky, in fact almost overhead was a bright group of lights. The lights seemed to be contained in a rectangular to diamond shape. He watched for a good two minutes but could not detect any sound or movement. He was then surprised to see the lights being turned off, apparently one row at a time. Every two seconds another row of lights would go out, the nearest row being the first to go out.

He felt that the 'thing' was being operated by an intelligent source. It was a dark moonless night so that he could not discern any shape during the 2 minute sighting.

**2004. January 23. 2.30am**

**Near Forth.**

The witness lives on a rural property inland from Forth on the North West Coast.

The witness says about 2.30am he went out onto the back porch of his house to have a look at the stars in the clear night sky. He noticed that the ducks from a nearby pond had burst into life with loud quacks and squawks. This noise is not uncommon but almost at once the witness noticed there was something through the trees towards the south. He saw a large bright, eye-shaped object, slowly travelling westwards at a crawling

speed, as if it was 'scanning' the countryside. He estimated it was about 100 m off the ground and about 300 m distant. It was roughly the size of a half-moon and had a very bright white colour. Its outline shimmered, as it moved silently over the paddock. The object moved in a straight line passing behind some trees. All the while the witness felt uneasy, as if being watched. After 15 to 30 seconds viewing, the witness retreated indoors. He did not look out again that night so is not aware what became of the UFO. No other reports were received.

**2004. August. 2.30am.**

**Scottsdale.**

Mrs L of Scottsdale is often up during the early hours due to health problems. She makes herself a hot drink and goes out on the porch to view the night sky. On this occasion it was a clear starry night when she noticed something bright in the northern sky.

The light gradually approached over the period of a few minutes until it resolved into a silent silver oval, about half- moon sized apparent. There was a band of light with lights in it around the object's centre.

The object passed almost overhead and was then obscured by the corner of her house. She hurried around the corner in time to see the

object still heading south. Then after a second or two it slowed right down, then changed course and disappeared

into the north-west sky at increased speed. In fact it travelled so fast it was out of sight in a matter of seconds.

### **STRANGE EVENTS OF YESTERYEAR**

Reports of mystery airships, planes and lights date back to the start of the last century. A search of old newspaper items has revealed a number of mystery events in Tasmania.

Mystery airships were reported in New Zealand in the early 1900s. One case was mentioned in the Hobart Mercury of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1908. A number of Colebrook residents reported a torpedo to umbrella shaped object low over the hills south-east of the town about 9pm. It carried head or side lights which flashed like a searchlight. It gyrated in a strange manner then disappeared mysteriously.

Maybe not as spectacular but more puzzling was the light seen by Messrs Drum and Ware at Silver Bell Siding on the state's West Coast in October 1914.

A peculiar light was seen travelling from the vicinity of Macquarie Heads towards Mt Dundas where it finally disappeared. At the time

two lights were distinctly visible. They intermittently disappeared and rays were thrown to the earth. We can say with some confidence it was not an aircraft or satellite.

The Mercury told of another mystery from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1928. Three men working north-east of Whitemark heard the unmistakable hum of an aircraft engine. Mr E. Brown and his children also heard the same sound followed by a crash like lots of kerosene tins being thrown around. A search of the area revealed nothing. It was suggested it was a missing flight from Sydney to New Zealand, even though this plane had been seen off the North Island. Hobart residents reported mystery planes at the same time over the Eastern shore hills; both object and sound were reported.

Maybe strangest of all was the story that first appeared in the Hobart Mercury on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1931. An aircraft had been seen from the Needles near Mole Creek.

The weather that morning was boisterous as the aircraft flew from south to north- west from the Western Tiers. The noise of a plane was also heard that morning from Deloraine. Two children from Red Hills reported the mystery plane, as did a Mr H Butler of Caveside,

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