

"WHAT ARE WE DOING"

HOW DO WE LEARN OF UFOs? The Centre's telephone numbers are available from the media, police, telephone information, and a variety of other organisations such as CSIRO, University, Weather Bureau and even DCA.

We have representatives in the North, also on the North West and West Coast, not forgetting one of our most energetic members Geoff Marshall at Maydena. Sales of our Annual Report to the public have also helped to make us better known and resulted in a number of sightings being reported.

Most of the sightings with a high strangeness content tend to come on the "grapevine." It is suprising how many witnesses who may have reported an IFO (Identified Flying Object) know of someone else who has seen something strange or heard a rumour of a sighting in a rural area.

A lot of follow up is sometimes required to track down witnesses but the past few months have illustrated that there is "gold in them there hills".

As a result of second and even third hand information we have this year been able to follow up stories of sightings involving occupants and landings from earlier years. How many such other events are waiting to be uncovered???

HOW DO WE DEFINE UFOs. With the co-operation and exchange of information amongst Australian (and overseas) UFO groups, Prof Hynek's method of classifying UFO sightings is becoming the norm. Now that we are passing on sightings explained and unexplained to the ACOS computer programme in Sydney Hynek's system is being used to define reports.

A UFO is an anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and behaviour can not be ascribed to conventional objects and effects. Not only by the original witness but by the Centre's investigators after a commonsense investigation.

DEFINITIONS..Nocturnal light: distant anomalous lights seen in night sky.

DD: Daylight disc, distant disc-like objects or lights seen during the day.

RV..Radar/Visual, UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously.

CE 1..Close encounter of the First Kind, UFO seen within 500feet.

CE 2..Close encounter of the Second Kind. CE 1's that leave traces, ground marks, auto stops, animal reactionetc.

CE 3..Close encounter of the Third Kind, CE 1 with humanoid or occupant seen.

All cases now receive a number referring to the year of investigation and the order it was received during the year. The first sighting for this year will go into the computer as TA 77001. TA stands for the source Tas UFO Investigation Centre.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT ALL...In early years sightings were reported to the Centre then just left in the files and probably forgotten. The initial aim of the Centre was to record and publish UFO information. It is only in recent years that our Annual Report first printed in 1969 has become available to the general public. Not to forget that eventually all the Centre's unexplaineds stretching back to 1948 will go into the computer.

Tasmanian sightings have already been included in Australian Catalogues such as the Entity Catalogue, CE 2 Sightings, and hopefully, when all the information is to hand, a Car Pace Catalogue is being prepared by Paul Jackson. A check of our files has produced over 50 car pace sightings in the state, most of them occurring in the past 3 years. Did this type of sighting occur before the early 70s, if so they have not been reported, or this a new phase on the local scene?

WHO DOES WHAT...The majority of sightings are phoned into Jeanette Bigwood (President) or Keith Roberts (Sec:). Quite often there appears to be a ready explanation for some of the reports, a quick check with DCA for aircraft, or Paul Jackson's astronomical tables for planet locations eliminates a large proportion of the cases.

After this, leg work and writing, not to mention telephone calls are required to obtain full details and check out points before a decision is made whether the case involves something unexplained, or it has been an IFO that had everyone temporarily puzzled.

Quite a number of members have been involved one way or another investigating sightings in the past 2 years. Maybe you know of a friend or neighbour who has had a sighting or talked about some one who has???

After this comes all the "red tape", reports checked out, summaries of sighting and investigation prepared, then Computer input form completed before details are passed onto Paul Jackson(Liason) to be forwarded to ACOS and other groups. Members being informed via Newletters and Annual Report.

"WHAT ARE THEY"..Just about every witness gets around to the question during the course of an interview. The answer is that we just don't know at this stage, and it looks like it may stay that way for a long time to come. The UFO phenomena comes in a bewildering array of shapes and colours. There is no easy answer as some would have us believe. Who knows, the phenomena whatever it is may be having a hard time working out just what we represent??

If it wasn't for some old interesting cases things would have been very quiet this year. During the first 4 months of this year we have received 34 sightings to investigate, plus 7 reports from earlier years. Compare this with 1976, we handled 77 investigations plus a few old sightings in the same period. Unidentifieds for the year are 3, 1976's figure for the same period was 19.

Maybe Tasmania's great flap of sightings starting back in 1974 has tailed off at last. There were no unexplained reports between November 76 and early February 77, the longest period without an unidentified report since early 1973.

The respite could not have come at a better time as a lot of work has been going into details on Australian Catalogues, and old sightings information for the computer.

SIGHTINGS

First some brief notes on old cases to hand or being checked out; we hope a better coverage may appear in our Annual Reports.

In November 1972 a mother and daughter were in a parked car at Campania, they were facing west. What looked like a row of bright yellow windows weren't noticed over nearby hills, the lights were moving steadily north. In the windows the witnesses saw what appeared as figures sitting side on, they stood out as grey shapes against the lighted outline of the windows. No movement was seen. The lights went away to the north receding into distant dots.

A father has reported to the Centre that his two children spotted a roadside UFO in the summer of 1974. They were accompanying him on a trip to Richmond via the Grasstree Hill road. The children noticed the object over the gully alongside the road, by the time the father pulled up his car (he was towing a trailer) he only saw a light disappearing over the nearby hill. Time of the sighting was about 9pm.

The elliptical shaped object had a spinning base and windows in the upper half. It was grey coloured with flashing lights. In one of the windows the children said they saw a shape that seemed to turn before the object moved away. Whilst stationary over the gully it wobbled but stabilised when it increased speed.

A landing south of Hobart has come to our attention, it occurred in the early hours of one day in late February 1976. The lone witness saw a light descending from the eastern sky. On going out to investigate a dome shaped object with windows was seen just above a grassy slope. The witness who came within 70mts of the UFO heard a whinnying noise. Through the windows he saw shapes like seats and something likened to a cylinder. The object increased its noise and took off into the eastern sky. Traces were allegedly left but samples taken by the Centre a year later proved negative.

Ref: TA 77036. Seven Mile Beach. 3.2.77 Investigation. K. Roberts, J. Drew, N. Russel-Green.

Michelle Russel-Green was at a Youth Camp when she heard a buzzing sound, she saw other children look up and spotted a dome shaped object in the eastern sky. It was about 9.30pm. She described the object as white with a red blinking light on top and yellow lights on a spinning disc below the dome. There was a row of windows in the dome with a shape in the centre window. It looked rather thin with a rounded bump on top, it moved back and forth. The object was stationary at first then moved north and maybe up into cloud.

The Centre has been able to contact two other children present at the time of the sighting. A second girl thought the whole object was spinning but she also describes seeing a shape in the centre window, it seemed to move an arm. A boy that we interviewed only recalls seeing a spinning football shape with coloured lights on it; he ran to tell others but it moved away before the camp leaders could arrive. There is some confusion about the sighting date so that investigations are yet to be finalised.

TA 77013 Brighton. 19.2.77. Investigation. K. Roberts

Miss M was up early to tend to her horse before the day's competition. At once her attention was caught by a bright circle of steady orange lights south east of the farm. The lights were near Brighton Army camp about a kilometer away. The lights estimated at 300mts elevation moved slowly across the southern sky, stopping two or three times before diminishing to a dot. Then they came back to the west increasing in size and going away over the hills. The sighting lasted 3 minutes.

TA 77024 and TA 77034. Mt Stuart-NewTown. 28.3.77 Investigation. J. Bigwood, K. Roberts.

Something puzzling certainly occurred in the Mt Stuart area on March 28th. Mrs M. Carr of New Town heard a crackling noise near 7pm, then found her hall flooded by orange light. Going outside she watched a light dart about for 6secs. It was moon sized and an apricot/orange colour. It went away north, then came back and seemed to bathe her with bright coloured light for a second. Finally it shot off to the north east.

At almost the same time a Mt Stuart student saw what seems to be the same light. He described it as moon sized and dashing back and forth across the sky. It came south, went north, then returned lower and closer making a whistling noise. It was red, orange, and purple colours.

At the time of writing we have just found another witness at Mt Stuart who saw the light. He describes as yellow/white and moving around in a zig zag manner. He says it came over Mt Stuart before disappearing and made a whistling noise.

Investigating.

May 9th. Lone motorist reports seeing a white light over NewTown, it splits into two lights which go north. Seen for 10mins. A mention of the sighting in the paper has brought calls about other lights seen breaking up. A Geilston Bay lady in Feb saw 2 light merge and a Montrose man in April saw a light split in two and zig zag off.