

# T.U.F.O.I.C. NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1988 - Publication No. 55

## SIGHTINGS RETURN ?

After complaining in Newsletter after Newsletter about the lack of UFO action, we can at long last report that since our October 1987 Newsletter things have taken a turn for the better. The past twelve months has seen activity at the highest level since the end of the 1970s.

Do we have a genuine increase in UFO cases or have the sightings come to us due to recent media attention on the subject. Last October we pointed out that the first part of 1987 had seen quite a number of general UFO stories but no change at that time with UFO sightings. It takes time to collect information on sightings but now that we have sorted things out we can see that the second half of last year and into 1988 has produced an increase in sightings. Some of the sightings came to us following news reports on what proved to be space debris re-entries, but other cases came to our attention second hand and the detail has been obtained following contact with the witnesses.

Sightings so we believe have also seen something of a rise both elsewhere in Australia and Overseas. Doubtless it will take time for the information to come through but more maybe in our next Newsletter. To put everyone in the picture a brief listing is given below of the main events since March 87 when a sighting at Midway Point broke what had been our longest UFO "drought".

1987	Mar 23	Midway Point	Tumbling disc with glow seen.
	Jun 18	Lawrenny	Oval object/glow near road, ambulance loses power.
	21	Seven MI Beach	Erratic lits seen crossing sky.
	Jul	CapePortland	Cigar obj dives out of cloud to low level (Investgtg)
	Aug 28	Cressy	Cone object seen to drop lits to near ground.
	Sep 6	Hawley Beach	UFO lands near house, 2 witnesses.
	Oct 18	Holwell (AM)	Cigar object passes low in front of hills.
	18	Hillwood (PM)	Motorist reports that flashing lits pace car.
	23	Bellbuoy Bch	Large red lits light up sandunes, several witnesses.
	Dec 14	Nthn Tas	Witness says car stopped, traces, noise from UFO.
1988	Jan 25	Grey	Orange oval object low over hill, goes west.
	29	Hob-Snug	Reports of erratic lits to Police/Media.
	29	Geeveston	Dark cigar object seen near town.
	31	Cygnat	Two lits with white oval below seen going south.
	Feb 3	Kingston	Cone of light near hill, shoots off to east.
	Mar 5	Lonnavale	Three lits travel up valley beneath low cloud.
	20	Youngtown	Light seen moving around plane, goes off NE (Investgtg)
	23	EastTamarHwy	Car loses power as lits/beam seen at roadside.
	Apr 4	Waverley	Oval object with beam lights up 7EX Relay station.

Reports of a space-debris burn up over the State in mid October brought the UFO subject to the media's attention, then again in January events on the Nullabor created even more interest from the public. However, the spread of the sightings is of some interest. Most of the sightings have occurred in the North of the state, certainly the low level cases have been in that part of Tasmania. Most of the reports from the Hobart area have just involved lights.

On January 29th, the local Radio stations and Police in Hobart received calls about erratic lights that it seems upset a number of callers with their close approach. No names were taken and despite further publicity by the Centre none of the witnesses came forward with detail on the sightings.

The recent interest in the UFO subject has brought to light a number of older UFO sightings. The first such case dates back to 1981 and occurred at Robigana in the Tamar Valley. Mrs B had risen early to feed her baby daughter, she was sitting in a dark dining room looking out at the northern sky when a bright object caught her attention. Unable to get up she called her husband who was able to obtain a clear view of what occurred. Mr B said he saw an orange/red football shaped object moving slowly downwards as it headed up the Tamar Valley. (south) The moon sized object was in view for a couple of minutes as it passed in front of the distant skyline before disappearing behind some trees about 2kmts away.

Following our sighting by an Ambulance driver near Lawrenny (June 87) a further case has been uncovered in the area from August 1982. The witness was at Meadowbank Dam for a spot of fishing with his grandfather when they both noticed a large light in the eastern sky. The light was just above some hills a few kilometers distant. It was a deep red colour which would pulse to orange then back to red. At first they thought the light was stationary but after a while they realised it was moving slowly south above the hilltops. It seemed to move on, then stop before making another move to the south. The light was in view for some half an hour before going out of sight behind the hills.

The Waterhouse Road runs across North East Tasmania some distance in from the coast, it was on this long lonely stretch of road that our next case occurred in early 1984. Mrs C was at the wheel of her Volvo driving home from the East Coast, she had a passenger who was asleep at the time of the sighting in the early hours of the morning. Mrs C confessed to finding it hard to give exact times/distances on the sighting but it probably occurred over some 20kmts of road. (10/20mins duration). Initially Mrs C noticed a bright light low to the east and seemingly a long way off. The mass of light seemed to get closer to the car as the witness eventually had to look through the top of the car's windscreen to see the frying pan shaped bright white light.

The mass of light after some minutes moved off ahead of the car and seemed to pulse or shimmer in the distance before once more coming back towards the witnesses car. When at its closest the light was nearly the size of a full moon. The light was viewed in front of distant cloud, and also at various times passed in front of hills and trees. Mrs C also lost sight of the mass of light on corners and dips in the road. The lights came and went a number of times and on one occasion Mrs C was disturbed to round a curve and find the light seemingly very close. She finally decided to wake her passenger. The light mass had disappeared as they went downhill to a corner, but when they went around the curve there was nothing to be seen.

Mrs C reported the event, but she can't remember who too, whoever it was said other reports of lights had come from that area. The Centre has no cases from the North East in 1984 so we are left wondering what the other lights were all about.

Hobart  
Mercury

#### That's odd

UFO hunters in Britain have urged people to keep their eyes peeled — for flying oranges as big as houses. A report in London this week said dozens of terrified witnesses had reported the unidentified flying Jaffa oranges which are said to hum and glow bright orange. One woman claims to have seen several of the strange craft zooming low over Nottinghamshire, according to the *Sun* newspaper. "They were the size of a pair of semi-detached houses," she said.

## SIGHTINGS NEW AND OLD

A number of 1987 sightings failed to make it into our Annual report, mainly due to the time taken to finalise sighting details. Holwell is the location of the first report.

Mr H reported seeing in company with his wife a low level cylinder or cigar type object at 12.40am on October 18th. He was able to place the time with confidence as he had been on the telephone and had checked the time just before the sighting occurred. Mr H was looking out of his bedroom window towards the north west, two bright yellow lights appeared in the distance to come towards the witness. One light seemed to be behind the other but they maintained their position.

Mr H says the lights eventually came close enough to reveal acylinder type object with the bright yellow lights at the front and rear of the object. By now the object was passing to the north of H's house and was that low it was in front of Stewarts Hill (400m). Mr H thinks the UFO came within some 400mts distance as travelled eastward some 70/80m off the ground. At this point a bright white light could be seen centrally situated on top with small white lights along the side. The UFO continued on towards the Tamar Valley then seemed to pick up speed and turn more towards the south east before it disappeared into the distance.

Mr H was a R.A.N. trained observer of aircraft and surface craft but said that this sighting was like nothing he had ever seen before.

Our next report is also from the Tamar Valley with the sighting occurring again on October 18th but at 7.40pm. The witnesses were a driver and passenger in a car with two children, they were travelling from Hillwood to GeorgeTown. The passenger noticed a bright light to the north east, it looked star like but to one side could be seen a flashing blue light.

In a matter of seconds it became brighter and seemed to have more lights around it. Thinking it could be a helicopter the witnesses stopped. They could hear no sound but the lights were moving slowly north. They drove on keeping an eye on the lights, stopping another two times for a closer look. On the final halt a few kilometers from George Town they saw the lights change direction and move away towards the south. The lights were last seen out of the back window of the car as they faded away into the distance. A check revealed there were no aircraft in the area.

### CREDIT *The New England Aerial Phenomena Report*

On March 21, 1988 I received an unconfirmed report from Dave H. of Duxbury, MA. While listening to Boston WRKO radio talk program, a UFO report was mentioned on the 1:00 p.m. newscast on Sunday, March 20. It was announced that an airline travelling along the South Carolina coast was paced by an unknown object. The crew and passengers all observed the object. The pilot took evasive action and asked the air traffic controllers if they had an object on radar. They responded "negative". Both the crew and passengers lost sight of the object when the pilot maneuvered the aircraft away from the object.

A second airline, destination Boston, was travelling north along the South Carolina coast and was monitoring the transmissions. When the air traffic controller asked the first airliner if the object was still pacing the aircraft, the pilot responded "negative". The object then appeared along side the second aircraft and was observed by that crew and all the passengers. Duration of sighting was 15 minutes. End of report. We are attempting to locate more data on this report.

In our Annual Report was a press clipping referring to a Close Encounter by a motorist near Launceston on December 14th. The Centre has yet to finalise this case which if unexplained has many strange features.

The incident took place about 9.30pm some 30km outside of Launceston. The witness says that lights had followed his car for a while, then something passed overhead and landed on the road ahead. The car lights and motor all failed, he pulled on the handbrake and halted some 15mts from a grey elliptical object with very bright lights. The witness was frightened by the incident and left the car to hide behind some roadside bush. Despite the handbrake being on he says the car was pulled 10mts up the road.

A second vehicle now arrived on the scene halting by the witness. The second witness though there had been an accident but his headlights had also failed. The main witness told him what had happened, then they both saw the object take off with a high pitched whine as it curved up and away to the south.

The witness was able to start the car and drive on, but it has since required electrical repairs. The witness was sick the following day. The front of the car had some bitumen splashed on it possibly from the road surface which the witness thought had been melted. The case was reported initially to the Victorian UFO Research Society. In turn it came to the attention of the national press at the time of the Nullabor sightings. Hopefully more in our next report.

The New Year brought more sensations with big news coverage on the Nullabor reports, regretfully we can only tell what has been in the newspapers, once again maybe more later. (see sample cutting below). Meanwhile events continued in Tassie. On January 25th about 10pm an orange red oval was seen at hilltop level before it moved off west. This was followed by cases near Hobart. An HEC architect sighted a dark oval shape stationary near his Geeveston home in the early hours of January 29th, he was able to go outside and view the dark shape for some minutes. Then just across the valley on the 31st at Cygnet a witness saw two lights with an oval shape below. The lights and oval were all moving together to the south. A few days later (Feb 3rd) a Kingston caller saw a cone of light at hilltop level, it changed to a white light and shot off east. More lights were reported from down the Huon at Lonnvale on March 5th. However, the scene shifted north on March 20th with a witness reporting a light following an aircraft, the light went away to the north east. Dept of Aviation could not offer an explanation. Even stranger things happened on the East Tamar Highway on March 23rd when a car lost power as a beam of light lit up the roadside, four square lights were seen above the beam. The car radio went off and the car refused to go over 30kph. April 4th saw another beam of light this time from an oval object over the 7EX Relay tower. A Waverley witness saw the object move off to the north.

## Meteorite 'not UFO answer'

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE, SA

1.2.1988

A LEADING UFO researcher has dismissed claims that a meteorite "attacked" the Knowles family's car on the Nullabor Plain.

Mr Paul Norman, vice president of the Victorian UFO Society, said these and other similar explanations were "hogwash".

"They watched it fly off - what sort of meteorite does that?" he said.

Mr Norman and fellow researcher Mr John Auchterl were in Adelaide to carry out a series of tests on the Knowles' car.

Although the encounter took place 12 days ago, the men were satisfied the results of their tests would reveal

By Carolyn Collins

evidence of a UFO encounter. The car has been impounded by Channel 7 since it arrived in Adelaide from Ceduna.

Mr Auchterl said the dents on the roof could not have been caused by the car rolling, as some reports have suggested.

"The probability of getting them so evenly spaced is very rare. It is not like someone has walked over it," he said.

The blown-out tyre was also "very unusual" because there were no signs

of wear and tear and it would be sent to its manufacturer for analysis.

The pair collected dust samples from inside the car and from the brake linings, and tested the car for radioactivity and changes to the its magnetic field.

Mrs Faye Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 13, claimed their car was picked up by a bright white object near the WA-SA border on January 21.

They told police their car was covered with ash before being dropped, bursting a tyre.