

TUFOIC Newsletter

TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE

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

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Edition 76

TUFOIC THIRTY YEARS ON

Thirty years ago last October the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre was founded following a meeting called by Robert Burge to gauge the level of interest in the UFO subject. UFO activity was at a high World wide and there had been an increase in Australian UFO sightings. Tragically Robert Burge was not to see the result of his early work with his untimely death shortly after the Centre's founding.

Stalwarts during the Centre's early years were Eric Bantick and Jeanette Bigwood who kept the group active when interest was at a low ebb during the late sixties and early seventies. Ken Bennetto covered a lot of ground during the same time period following up cases across Southern Tasmania. The Centre's fortunes fluctuated with one meeting of 3 members being held on the stairs of the old State Library building in Argyle Street. Just a few years later meetings in 1974-76 were drawing over 30 plus members.

Sightings of all types have come to our attention over the years, with an unidentified case almost every week in the mid seventies. Reports of cigar objects, discs, car pacings, landings, poltergeist phenomena, ghosts, have all been reported to the Centre. There have been times of humour, rushing to a country landing only to find a heap of burning logs. Witnesses who mistook cars on the newly constructed East Derwent Highway for UFOs, or Police on the old Bailey Bridge at Dowsings Point who reported UFOs that turned out to be scintillating stars. However, the Centre's investigations have developed an expertise over the years so that sightings are investigated in a methodical manner. Investigations Co-ordinator, Keith Roberts, has maintained a log of reports over the years, outside the early RAAF investigations it is the probably Australia's only continuous record of incoming calls from the public, with notations on possible explanations for the sightings. Unidentified cases have been captured in Paul Jackson's TASCAT database. Starting in the early years on a VIC20 it has now found a home on a Microsoft Access database. Any type of query can be run on the database, sighting by location, colour, shape, type, and so on just to mention a few. The Centre publishes 2 Newsletters and an Annual Report each year, together with a number of special publications. We now access the Internet, Paranet and Mufonet networks to provide us with the latest information from around the world, and publicise the presence of the Centre. We have come a long way since the early days when information could only be gained by attending the Centre's meetings. We may ask what of the next thirty years, will we still be chasing the elusive UFO phenomena, who knows?

*Please note our new
Postal Address above*

UFO Events of Note:

1950 January. Port Arthur. First Close Encounter report recorded in TASCAT.

1956 Winter. Lake Highway. Light mass by roadside, possible memory loss reported by witnesses.

1960 October-November. Cressy and North. Cigar object with discs reported by Rev Lionel Browning, other reports in following weeks of lights, explosions, including a sighting by the crew of a high flying USAF jet.

1965 Maatsuyker Island. Light house operators and their families report series of lights near the island during the year.

1969 Southport, Kelvedon, Glenorchy, Mt Lloyd, Paddy Island, and Bronte are all locations of landings or near ground reports.

1971 Norwood, Lynchford, Wilmot, and Triabunna see landings with traces reported in several cases.

1972 December. Lachlan and New Norfolk reports of dome object over hopfields and in second case over town, explosion after second sighting.

1974 February. Two car pace reports near Latrobe, followed by report from Police Officer in the Derwent Valley.

Continued next page.

1974 April to January 1975. North East Tasmania experiences a major flap of UFO events. A yellow banana shaped object haunts the country around Gladstone during the winter. Later in the year auto-stop cases are reported from The Priory, Tayene, and the Sidling plus an array of low level and ariel lights.

1975 January-April. Lake Sorell and the nearby Midlands continue the flap with a run of sightings, figures reported in one case, objects with beams over Lake Sorell, and sightings of lights from a Highland farm.

1975 Later in the year a run of light reports centres about Levendale in South -East Tasmania.

1976 February-April. Maydena has a concentration of light reports over the town with hundreds of witnesses on one occasion, other cases from the Derwent Valley.

1977 March-May. Hobart has a series of erratic light cases mainly over the Northern Suburbs with a multiple report on one night of a whizzing light.

1978 October. King Island sees the Valentich incident which results in the disappearance of both pilot and aircraft after encountering a cigar object with lights.

1979 August. Murchison Highway. A motorist is followed by a green light which effects the control of the car, both the car clock and the witnesses watch loose the same time.

1982 February-September. George Town. A red nocturnal light is reported over the town, on two occasion a tape is made of a sound possibly associated with the sightings.

1982 July. Highclere. Motorist's car stops, witness sees a round object in roadside paddock, the fence nearby is giving off sparks.

1983 November. West Coast. Motorist says he lost control of his car when a round blue object appeared over his car, time for his journey is somehow shortened.

1986 Summer. Derwent Valley farmer reports large oval object with bright lights lands on his property, then re-appears on a number of occasions over the next few months.

1987 December. Northern Midlands. A motorist is followed by lights prior to a white mass landing on the road ahead. His car motor fails, then the object departs with a whistling noise. Series of other reports early in 1988 in the north of the state.

1993 Only four unexplained cases during the year, an all time low since the Centre was founded in 1965.

1994-1995 Hobart in keeping with other major Australian cities is plagued by reports of orange lights probably due to hoax hot air garbage bags.



INTERNET ADDRESS

TUFOIC now has a new Internet Email address.

Email regarding Sightings, Membership Information, and Correspondence should be addressed to:

tufoic@ice.net.au

SKYWATCH

VENUS, "The Evening Star" as it is sometimes called, currently sets at dusk in the south-western sky. In the new year the early Evening sky will be dominated by this brilliant white planet as it shines low in the south-west after twilight. Each week it will get a little higher in the sky, until Autumn. Venus will be visible in the evening sky until June 1996.

SATURN is currently in the constellation Aquarius, about 40 degrees Altitude, in the NNW, at about 10 PM. Saturn will become lower and lower in the West as the days go by and will set in twilight by the end of January. Although Saturn is not very bright, it should be easy to locate as there are few bright stars in its region of the sky.

The other naked eye planets: MERCURY, MARS and JUPITER, are positioned too close to the Sun and are currently hidden in its glare.

Look out for the planets Saturn and Venus, as they will be very close (apparently) to each other in the early evening of February 2nd 1996. Look in the Western sky, 15 Degrees up, at around 9PM.

Comet Hale-Bopp, which was Discovered mid year by two American amateur astronomers, is currently too distant and too faint for naked eye observers, but, if predictions are correct (they are very difficult with Comets) it should become visible to the naked eye early in 1997. Visible in Binoculars during 1996.

Hale-Bopp may become the brightest comet this century, unfortunately it will be best viewed from the northern hemisphere when at its predicted brightest (March 97).

Start saving now for that holiday in Europe or North America, as Comets of this class come once in a lifetime.

If the comet lives up to expectations it will be something very special indeed.

November Review

At the time of writing the number of unidentified cases for the year still stands at 3, the last UFO case being in April. If the figure does not alter by years end it will be an all time low for a January to December period. A fourth case has recently come to hand, a Snug family reporting two flashing lights that moved around each other, the lights were low over Bruny Island. Civil Aviation had no recorded aircraft in the area.

A number of older cases have been reported, a 1981 encounter south of Perth on the Midlands Highway, the occupants of a car said a bright light approached, then hovered above their car. Following the departure of the light it was noted that the witnesses had an hour of missing time they could not account for. Yet another report from the early 80s this time mid 1983, the witness at the time lived on a property north of Westbury. He awoke in the night to find a figure leaning over his bed, the figure was dressed in a faint creamy white material, and had a complexion of much the same colouring. The witness says he was terrified and could not speak, as the figure disappeared he woke his wife. The room was still lit by a light from outside, the wife recalls a circle of bright light was shining on the bedroom wall. She went to the window to locate the source of the light, while she watched it moved to a vertical position shining onto the concrete pathway, it moved slowly along the terrace following the contours of the house then disappeared.

A third report occurred in 1989 in St Peters Pass, a motorist reported a large circular light just below the top of the hills, as they travelled through the pass the whole road and surrounding trees were lit up from

above the car, then source of the light just went out.

The major news is still the Roswell Alien Figure film shown to the public at large in August. The big question of course, is an alien or human body viewed in the film, maybe it is even a hoax dummy. Some articles have suggested that Ray Santilli has been tricked, there is nothing alien in the body, it has all the required limbs, they are to proportion, the extra digits is not unknown, in fact the body it seems is more human than alien. We await further developments.

The Centre's contact with UFO information on the Internet is a new bonus, sightings that don't rate a mention locally are picked up in the masses of information made available to the user, see this newsletter for example with coverage on incidents in Argentina.

TASCAT 1995

Tasmanian UFO Catalogue

Now available - \$2.50

Contains brief details of
over 500 investigated
Tasmanian UFO Reports.

LATE NEWS...LATE NEWS

After a prolonged period without any sightings of high strangeness the Centre has in recent weeks received two reports, one involving a possible auto-stop, and the second a Close Encounter in the Hobart suburb of Warrane. Mr W says he was travelling to Port Arthur from Nubeena late in August to pick up his two young children. En route to Port Arthur he noticed that his car was playing up, at the same time he noticed a bright light in the sky ahead, the light disappeared and his car seemed to recover. However,

the experience was repeated on the way home about 9pm, he was on the Nubeena Road near Radnor when he spotted the light again. It was a bright white cigar like light about half moon in width. His motor vehicle once again played up only this time the engine cut out, then all the electric's went dead, he tried the interior light but it would not come on. He was a bit concerned as he had his children with him. Being something of a mechanic he got out of the car and noted that the light was stationery in the sky ahead. He looked under the bonnet with his torch but could not find anything amiss, all the fuses were in order and the new battery connected. He now noticed the light was moving away, accordingly he returned to the car, turned on the ignition and the car started. The light now increased in speed and disappeared to the West.

The second case comes from the early hours of October 29th, about 4am Mr A and his wife were awoken by their dogs barking loudly. A went to a rear window in his house to find the area lit up by a bright orange flickering light, at that moment his wife called him back to the front of the house as the light was also shining in the bedroom accompanied by a whistling sound. Mr A went out the front door in time to see an orange streak move off to the west, the sky went dark and the dogs quietened down.

Two other cases have come to our attention from the same area, a light to the north of Warrane on the 27th of October that shot off and upwards at speed, then a red flashing light seen at low level over Rosny Hill in the early hours of November 9th.

SIGHTING in ARGENTINA

A flight crew for the Aerolineas Argentinas and aviation officials on the ground observed a luminous object that approached the aircraft as it was about to land at Bariloche airport, about 870 miles from Buenos Aires.

Flight captain Jorge Polanco told reporters that all of the lights in and around the airport went out just as the object departed and he was about to land. Control tower personnel reported that all of their instruments started behaving strangely at about the same time. Ground observers said the UFO appeared to have shining lights on its belly.

San Francisco Chronicle
Aug. 12, 1995

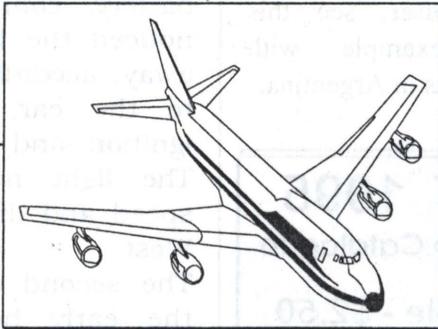
He said that as he frantically manoeuvred his plane, which was carrying 103 passengers, the UFO took a bizarre turn so that it could follow the airliner and flew in tandem with it for about 100 metres.

Air Force Major Jorge Oviedo said he and several others also witnessed the UFO and that there was a simultaneous power outage throughout the entire city.

The pilot said he was forced to pull up when the runway lights went out and that the flying object about the size of a jetliner with two green lights and a flashing orange light, "changed colours", followed him for a little while longer and then took off at "an unnatural speed".

Officials were investigating the sighting.

Information Via the Internet



ARGENTINA AGOG OVER UFO

SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE, Aug 1 - AFP.

Argentina was nervously watching the skies today, a day after an airliner narrowly missed hitting a UFO which darted in its path.

Jorge Polanco was piloting an Aerolinas Argentinas jet headed for this south-west winter resort town at around midnight yesterday when he was forced to pull the plane up short to avoid what witnesses described as a "spaceship".

"As I was making the final approach, I suddenly saw in front of the plane a white light which was bearing right down on us really fast before it halted about 100 metres away," he said.

LATEST ON DR. MACK

BOSTON (Reuter) - After a bizarre secret probe, Harvard Medical School has decided against censuring a tenured professor, who believes that extraterrestrial beings have visited this planet and abducted earthlings.

Dr. John Mack, a psychiatrist and nationally known UFO researcher, was told last week by the dean of Harvard Medical School that a review of his activities had ended and no action would be taken against him.

Harvard Medical School dean Daniel Tosteson had "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom to study what he wishes and to state his opinions without impediment," the university said in a statement issued Thursday.

Mack, who has publicly stated that aliens from outer space have "invaded

our physical reality and (are) affecting the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people," had been under investigation by a peer committee convened by Tosteson.

The review, a highly unusual probe of activities of a tenured professor conducted behind closed doors, was sharply criticised by some academics at the university as an assault on academic freedom.

Mack, who won a Pulitzer Prize for a biography of T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and has taught at Harvard for more than three decades, was not available for comment.

Last year he burst into the limelight with the publication of his book "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens," which drew sharp attacks from the media and prompted headlines like "E.T. Call Harvard."

Despite the adverse publicity, Harvard's investigation of Mack deeply divided the academic community, with many arguing that the probe was a violation of the academic freedom that tenure is supposed to protect.

Others contended that the review was a legitimate attempt to establish whether Mack was conducting his research in accordance with Harvard's standards, or whether he was exploiting his patients.

Harvard Medical School said Tosteson "has urged Dr. Mack that, in his enthusiasm to care for and study this group of individuals, he should be careful not, in any way, to violate the high standards for the conduct of clinical practice and clinical investigation that have been the hallmark of this faculty."

Arnold Relman, chairman of the review committee, said the university had never intended to revoke Mack's tenure. "Harvard University isn't going to take action against someone who takes unorthodox views and with whom it may disagree," the Boston Globe quoted Relman as saying. "John Mack may win the Nobel Prize and go down in history as the modern Galileo."

Reuters 03-08-95