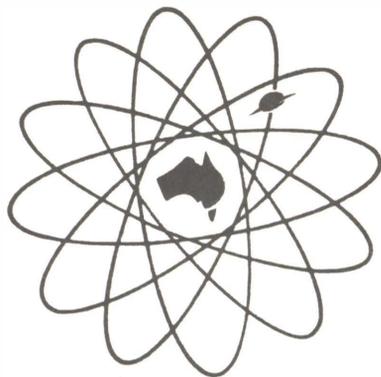


**UFO
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Australia
newsletter**



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editorial

By Keith Basterfield

This is the first issue of the "UFO RESEARCH - AUSTRALIA" Newsletter and is published on behalf of UFO Research (Far North Queensland), UFO Research (New South Wales), UFO Research (South Australia) and UFO Research (Western Australia). It will be distributed to associate members of these four organisations, to all other member organisations of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, as well as the various overseas groups, e.g. MUFON, APRO and CUFOS.

The intention of this Newsletter is to offer a vehicle for the publication of more popular articles, newsclips, reference services, reports etc. by Australian research organisations for their associate members and interested parties. Another Australian publication will concentrate on more in depth scientific style researched articles which may not appeal to the general reader of the subject. This will be produced by the Australian Centre for UFO Studies.

As such we would like to hear from our readers, receive articles, news clippings etc. for possible publications as well as to present material input from the UFO Research organisations mentioned above on whom the Newsletter primarily depends for its content.

Some people will no doubt say that the idea of a Newsletter for several groups put out by one source has been tried before but ultimately failed. This is true but failure came about through non - co-operation, non-participation, and non-input of reliable material. The healthy Newsletters of UFOR (SA), UFOR (NSW), and UFOR (FNQ) prove there is sufficient talent around to support one centralised Newsletter and the untiring effort of Vladimir(Lad) Godic, our publisher in putting out 37 editions of the UFOR(SA) Newsletter over the last four years shows his record as a publisher. He will now act as publisher for this - a national Newsletter.

The time is right for participation and mutual support. One centralised Newsletter means less time, trouble and finance to all participants. Therefore we welcome any other Australian UFO organisations who might wish to participate in this new venture.

To our readers we say that we hope you will support the Newsletter to the fullest. Tell your friends about it, urge your local newsagent to stock copies etc., the bigger the circulation, the more information we will be able to give you the reader. Most of all, give us feedback, tell us what you like, what you dislike, what you would like to see and we will attempt to bring you what you wish.

February 1980

THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

COMMENCING IN JANUARY 1980 THE FORMER "AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION FOR THE CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES" (ACOS) WAS RETITLED "THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES" TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT ITS CHANGING ROLE IN AUSTRALIAN UFO RESEARCH.

THE EMPHASIS OF ACUFOS HAS NOW BEEN PLACED ON PROMOTING RESEARCH INTO THE UFO PHENOMENA, ESPECIALLY WITHIN AUSTRALIA. THIS RESEARCH HAS BEEN GAINING MOMENTUM OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS BUT ACUFOS NOW BELIEVES THE TIME IS RIPE FOR A CONCERTED EFFORT FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. TO THIS END ACUFOS WILL SHORTLY BE MAKING TWO MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OTHER FUNCTIONS OF ACUFOS ARE TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND THE AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER FILE RUN BY ANDY COLE OF UFOR (NSW), ACT AS A CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR COPIES OF AUSTRALIAN REPORTS AND TO ORGANISE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES.

ITS MAIN PUBLICATION IS "THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES" A BI-MONTHLY PRODUCTION DEDICATED TO THE PRESENTATION OF RESEARCHED ARTICLES AND SERVICES FOR THE RESEARCHER BY THE RESEARCHER. DETAILS OF AVAILABILITY, SUBSCRIPTION AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ACUFOS.

ACUFOS IS CURRENTLY RUN BY TWO CO-ORDINATORS, HARRY GRIESBERG AND KEITH BASTERFIELD. HARRY HAS BEEN CO-ORDINATOR SINCE ACOS WAS FOUNDED IN 1974 WITH KEITH JOINING RECENTLY TO REPLACE DAVID SERGEANT ALSO AN ACOS FOUNDATION MEMBER. KEITH WAS PREVIOUSLY CO-ORDINATOR FOR UFO RESEARCH (SA) INC. AND IS PRESENTLY ALSO CONTINENTAL DIRECTOR FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FOR THE MUTUAL UFO NETWORK (MUFON) BASED IN THE U.S.A.

ACUFOS MAY BE CONTACTED AT P.O. BOX 546, GOSFORD,
NSW 2250 - AUSTRALIA .



ARE UFOs BRANCHING OUT IN ANOTHER DIRECTION ?

A rather sensational front page headline in the "News" (Adelaide, South Australia) Friday, February 8, 1980, proclaimed "MYSTERY CRAFT HITS TREE". UFO Research (SA) investigated the scene and interviewed the reporter shortly afterwards.

The main points of the "News" account were that a 70 metre pine tree had a big section of its side demolished by the impact of a "craft". The trunk was said to show several deep gauges and the force of the impact was stated to have loosened the roots and twisted the trunk around almost full circle.

The following is the story as told to investigators Horrie Aspinall, Jane Brooks and Dean Piovesan by Mr Daryl Browne, 21.

Mr Browne was babysitting in a house on the Glenalta Stud property, Old Carey Gully road, Stirling, on the evening of Thursday, February 7, 80.

At about 9.50 p.m. two great dane dogs started howling, whilst he was watching television. He then heard a noise outside which sounded like a loud crash. He didn't know what it could have been so he ran outside to have a look. Nothing could be seen at first. He then walked down the driveway, shone his torch up into the tree, and saw an object. He describes it as a yellow, like a half moon, some 8 metres in diameter. When he had a second look, later, it had gone. He then called the police.

Our investigators viewed the scene in daylight on February 9. The tree was estimated to be nearer 40 metres high and the damage to be about 20 m or so level, facing East.

There was no apparent damage to the main trunk, but several large diameter branches had broken off about 3 metres out from the trunk. These had bent down still attached to the tree.

Little or no debris had fallen to the ground. The branch above the damaged one was about 3 m away from it and it appeared undamaged. One of our investigators climbed the tree to view the damage first hand. He indicated the four lower branches had broken whereas the top damaged one had splintered.

On February 10, Mr Browne was independently interviewed by another interested party who relayed the results to us. Mr Browne initially appeared to have a "not another one" attitude about him, advising that many interested people had been up to see the tree, including people from UFO groups, and scientists who took samples. He added that if he saw anything else he would not bother reporting it.

However, despite this he recounted the incident again. Apparently he has been a stockman for the last five years, or so, and has been at the Glenalta Stud for only four weeks. He doesn't believe in UFOs.

The weather was fine and the sky clear at the time.

The tree incident is not the first one which has been reported. Back in about 1966 near McHarg's Creek, just south of Adelaide a tree was found with all the branches broken on one side.

Also in 1966, at Yundi, again to the south of Adelaide, a stand of trees was demolished by an object which quite possibly was some form of ball lightning.

At 5 p.m. one night in about August the sky was overcast with black clouds which threatened to rain any minute. A farmer looking at these clouds heard a loud roaring noise and strong wind arose, almost gale force in a very short time. He then observed a bright, coloured spherical object drifting slowly down out of these clouds. This light went into the stand of trees and there was tremendous explosion which caused a nearby group of cows to scatter.

Trees over a large area were cut down 5 metres above the ground. Other trees were completely flattened - ones which faced East. A shed was also demolished and problems experienced with power lines.

In 1972, again at McHarg's Creek strangely enough, a group of trees on a hillside was flattened and all fell in the one direction. Wind damage was suspected.

Back to Stirling. We have two possible explanations, namely - (a) an object crashed into the tree and (b) it was damaged due to some other means.

Let's take a look at these alternatives.

- (a) Did an object crash into the tree? There certainly is damage to the tree, this cannot be doubted. Also Mr Browne says he saw something there, up in the tree. However, against this are the facts that no object is/was lying on the ground, no pieces of debris from such an object were noted, no sound from an object was heard, Mr Browne did not see any object leaving, no other trees were affected and no burnt/dead branches or leaves are in evidence.
- (b) What other alternatives are there? Well, could it be that one branch broke due to natural causes and disturbed the others? Our investigator who climbed the tree reports that at the point where the branch broke, there is a large knot hole, i.e. it is a point of weakness. The branch is also splintered, as opposed to saw through or cleanly broken. The branches below certainly could have been broken by the initially broken branch. The tree is an old cypress pine and the branches are living, not dead wood. The most probable alternative is that the damage was consistent with a natural G O N (good old nature cause).

And the object? Mr Browne himself admits it was a momentary view of an ill defined, non luminous yellow something. Remember he walked out into the dark and was viewing the tree with the aid of a torch.

Well, there we are, the facts. We leave it up to you as to what you conclude from this incident.



far north queensland



UFO Research - Far North Queensland is a non-profit making, voluntary, civilian organisation formed officially in 1977. Since that time the group has investigated UFO reports in Far North Queensland to the best of its ability and has attempted to live up to the standard of investigation by other, older UFO Research groups in this country.

The group is run by a permanent committee the members of which have changed a number of times since the group's inception. At present the committee consists of: the Co-ordinator - Mrs. Ivy N.Goriss; the Liaison Officer - Ms. Holly I. Goriss; the Treasurer/Head of Investigation - Mr. Russell Boundy; and Library Officer - Mr. Victor Baczynski. As we are still a small group we have, as yet, no need for a larger committee. This, naturally, may change as the group enlarges.

The entire purpose of UFO Research (FNQ)'s existence is, like that of other UFO Research groups in Australia, the detailed study of the UFO phenomena, -in particular, the collection, using the scientific methods and equipment at our disposal, of data on UFO sightings in the Far North Queensland. The rural nature of the greater percentage of this area seems to have something to do with the quality of UFO reports received by this group. The area is not cluttered with all that 'junk' that rises, flies, drifts, flashes, and hovers (including aircraft etc.) as is in some other areas of Australia, also, a larger percentage of the population of the area lives in semi-rural, or rural areas (where most of UFO sightings are found to occur).

Last year, as in most previous years, the majority of UFO sightings were of the Nocturnal Light type. There was also a definite decline in the number of sightings in Far North Queensland in the year 1979. The reduction in UFO sightings was also experienced by other UFO research groups around Australia.

For the year 1979, UFO Research (FNQ) received a total of twenty-one reports which, after investigation, could be classified "Unidentified", and the majority of these sightings occurred in rural or isolated areas.

As well as processing and investigating UFO reports, the group has also been, among other things, cultivating public awareness of the phenomena by means of public meetings and liaison with the local media. The group was also pleased to hear the suggestion of the production of a newsletter to cover all UFO Research groups in Australia, and gave any assistance it could to help this project on the way. This newsletter is now a reality and we at UFO Research (FNQ) hope for its success.

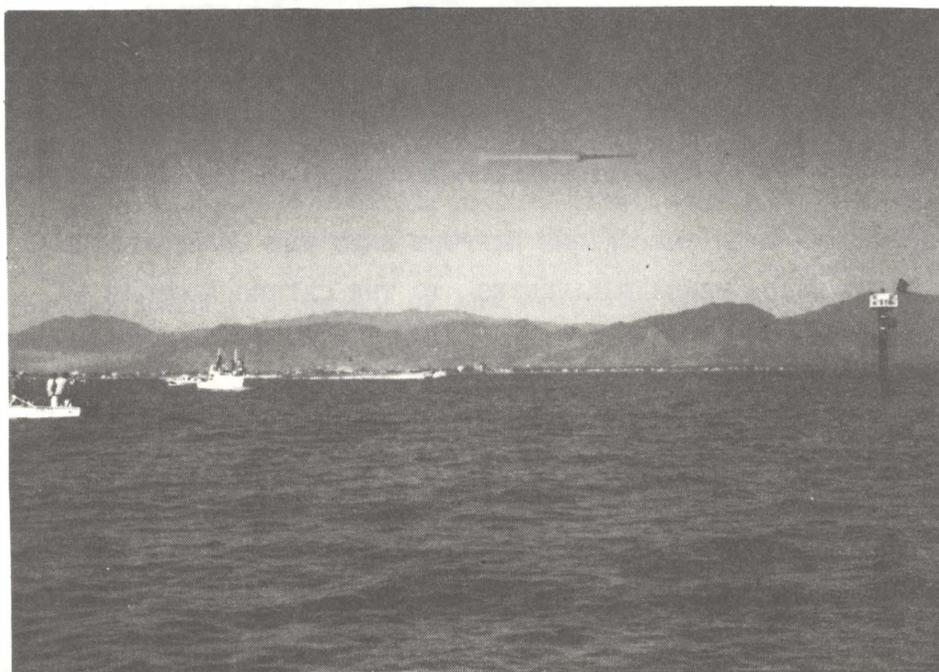
Holly I. Goriss

UFOR (FNQ)

Mystery object on film

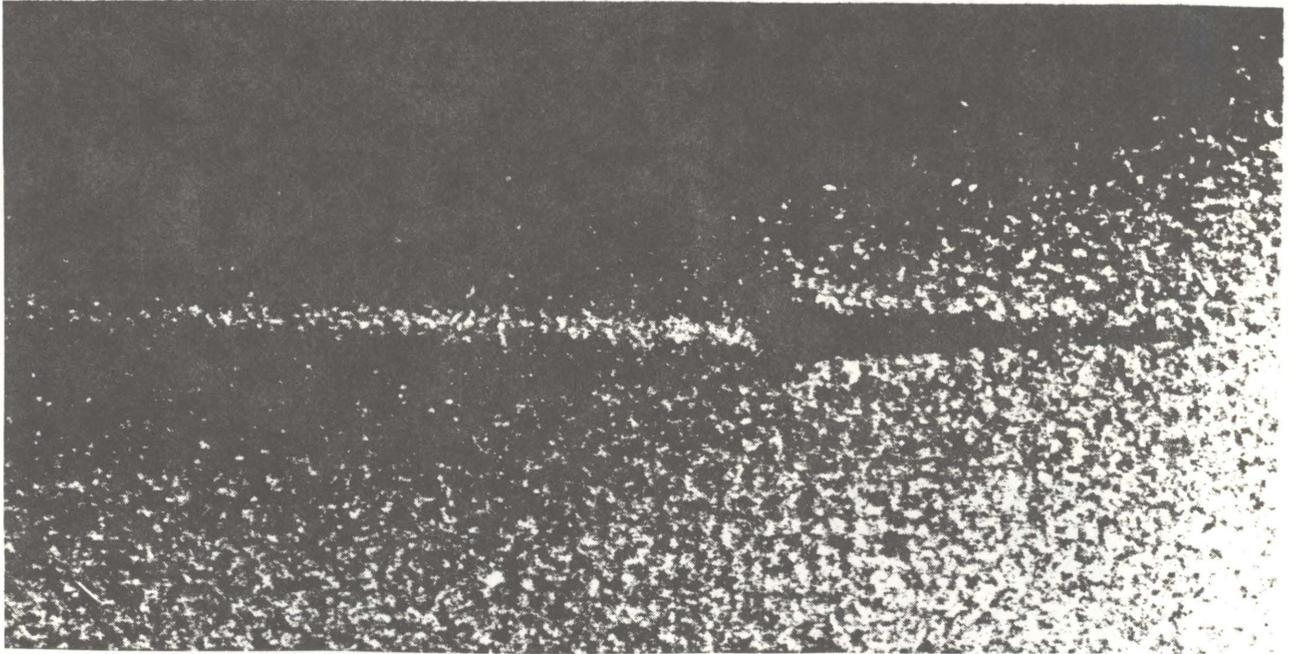
"CAIRNS POST", NOVEMBER 11, 1979

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER, MR HARRY WARD, GOT QUITE A SURPRISE WHEN LOOKING THROUGH HIS RECENTLY DEVELOPED SNAP SHOTS OF THE BEGINNING OF PACIFIC 1000 POWER BOAT RACE.



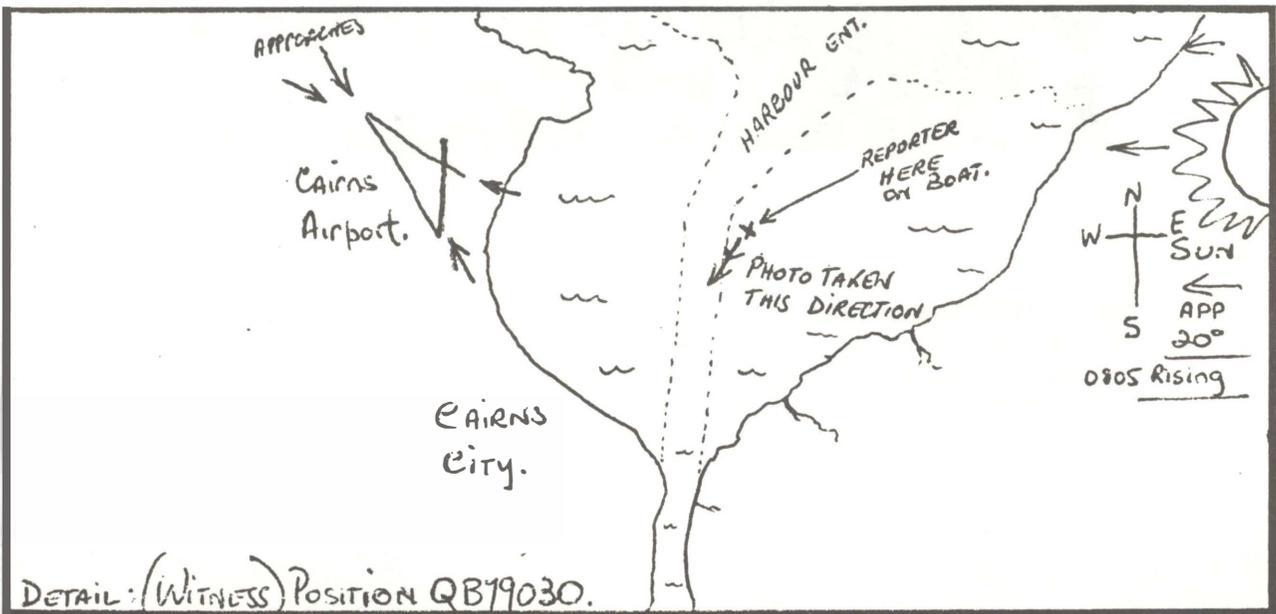
ONE PHOTOGRAPH, TAKEN ON TRINITY BAY, OF THE BOATS WARMING UP ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE 8 AM START OF THE RACE, SHOWS A LOW FLYING OBJECT STREAKING ACROSS THE SKY LEAVING A VAPOR TRAIL BEHIND IT.

MR WARD WAS NOT AWARE THE OBJECT WAS IN THE FRAME WHEN HE TOOK PHOTO. HE SPECULATES THE OBJECT COULD BE A ROCKET.



A SPOKESMAN FROM THE CAIRNS AIRPORT SAID THE OBJECT COULD BE A JET WHICH MAKES DELIVERIES TO THE CAIRNS AIRPORT AT THAT TIME.

A UFO RESEARCH OFFICIAL SAID NO SIGHTINGS OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS WERE REPORTED AROUND THAT TIME.



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

INVESTIGATION NOTES FOR REPORT QB 79030. PHOTOGRAPHIC CASE CAIRNS HARBOUR

INVESTIGATOR: R. BOUNDY for UFO Research (FNQ) - DATE: Saturday, Oct. 20, 79.

TIME: Approximately 0850 hrs EST - PHOTOGRAPH - Image of possible DD

EVIDENCE: One still (and negative) photograph showing blurred, thin object (with what appears to be a vapour trail), flying above harbour scene.

LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHER: (see map) in a boat on eastern side of harbour entrance facing Cairns city.

DETAILS OF CASE: Mr Harry Ward was on his 17ft boat in Trinity inlet to photograph the start of the Pacific 1000 power boat race. The race started at 0800 hrs and by 0805 hrs boats had reached the position at which Mr Ward took his photograph. After having the photo printed, Mr Ward found an unusual image on one of his prints. The image appeared to be of a rocket-shaped object on a horizontal trajectory and producing a vapour trail.

Mr Ward was approached by UFO Research (FNQ) after his photo was printed in the "Cairns Post" newspaper (on November 8, 1979), and he agreed to lend the photograph and negative to UFOR (FNQ) for an evaluation. On the November 12, 1979, Mr Ward presented the negative to the investigator and said that after viewing it, he felt the UFO image was caused by a flaw in the negative. This conclusion was also arrived at after the negative was examined by three separate photographic studios (see "Cairns Post" article, November 16, 1979).

DETAILS OF FAULT: The fault in the photographic negative is noticeably apparent and a very close examination is necessary. Unless the negative is examined, the print seems to show a definite material object. The fault appears as a horizontal depression (5mm long) on the surface of negative. Best description: - as if something has been pressed into the surface - leaving a depression. There is also a slight scratch (3mm long) above the impression, however, this does not show in the print.

IN CONCLUSION: All those who examined the negative felt it extremely rare that the impression occurred in the position, shape and direction of the said fault, making it appear as a 'flying object'. It is considered by UFOR (FNQ) that further analysis of the photograph is not necessary and that the photographic negative clearly shows a fault which caused the 'unidentified object' image.

POINTS ARISING FROM INVESTIGATION:

1. The newspaper published the photograph without even looking at the negative. They were so positive it was not a scratch or flaw in the negative.
2. Without the negative, the image is easily mistaken for a real flying object.
3. The photograph was taken five minutes after the start of the race, not before, as stated in the newspaper.

4. The reporter had not looked at his photographic negative before mentioning it to the newspaper.
5. The "airport spokesman" was wrong. The Lear jet mentioned, did not arrive at Cairns airport the day the photograph was taken.
6. When our investigator visited the newspaper, they were preparing a story on UFOs using a cropped enlargement ("blow up") of the unidentified image.

CONCLUSION: - The photograph may have remained a "mystery" had it not been checked.

ROCKET A FILM FLAW ?

A rocket-like object on photograph published in "The Cairns Post" last week may have been caused by a flaw in the negative.

The photograph , taken by Mr Harry Ward at the start of the Pacific 1000 power boat race last month, appeared to show an object streaking across the sky.

However, Mr George Lisha, of Lisha Studios, said he believed the "rocket" was an indentation in the emulsion of the negative.

He said it looked as if the roller transport process had a hair or spot on the roller which caused the flaw when the photograph was printed.

A spokesman for the Far North Queensland UFO Research said an American group examining objects in photographs fail to find explanation for only 30 out of 1000.

CAIRNS POST, November 16, 1979.

FLAW FINDING

By Holly I. Goriss (UFOR - FNQ)

This is an example of another kind of photographic flaw that needs watching. We all know about external influences on the camera itself (e.g. sunflares, dirt on the lens, etc.), that will cause strange objects to appear on your final print. But, what about things that could happen during processing

of your film, (such as happened in the previous report). Just as your camera needs care and proper handling, so, too, does your film, - more so in fact. Film emulsion is very easily damaged, so let us have a little more respect for that film.

And a LOT more care taken with those photographic negatives. Why do we hold them by their edges, for example. Answer - to stop getting dirty great greasy fingerprints all over them. (Human skin is normally oily to varying degrees, and you will get fingerprints on your negatives even if you have just washed your hands). These fingerprints can be seen in your final print, thus ruining a good photograph. So remember - by the edges !

Most of us will know of the little white dots or spirals which are common on a photographic print. These are caused by dust, and / or fluf and hair that has got onto the negative while its image is being projected onto photographic paper to make the final print. The dust and other particles are solid objects which, when light is projected through the negative, will leave white 'shadow' on the photographic paper. Hence your little white marks on the print.

Then we have fuzzy blotches or streaks on your precious print. You know the ones which look like someone dropped water on the print and allowed it to dry. Close ! It's actually some of the developing chemicals which haven't been properly washed off the negatives.

Then we actual scarring of the negative itself, like our "rocket" photograph from Cairns. Merely an indentation in the negative with some possible emulsion damage. Bends and other indentation in your photographic negative will show in the final print, so watch out.

And last, but not least, and certainly the most common - scratches on your negative. This can be done to a film inside the camera by faulty winding mechanisms, pressure plate problems (e.g. it being dirty), and such like. Or, if you put your negative on just about any surface, the minutest amount of dust will cut away at it. Your end product can vary from fine white lines to deep gouges. Of course scratches can be useful. Japanese film producers have been using deliberate scratching of movie film to produce a "ray gun bolt" effect for years.

But, if yo are just an average photographer, whose aim is good photographs, and we have no aspiration of going into the Science Fiction movie business, then please take care of that film and those negatives.



FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

NOTE BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

Russ Boundy of UFOR(FNQ) kindly sent me down a copy of the Cairns photograph, and talk of a photographic memory, click went my mental filing cabinet !

It took me a few moments to locate details of an earlier photograph showing a very, very similar object. A copy of the English magazine "SPACELINK", (now defunct) volume 6, number 1, of July 1969, revealed the following text and photograph:

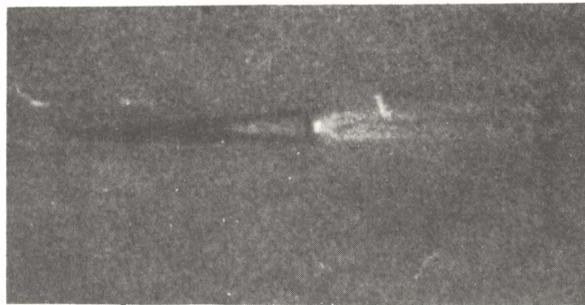


PHOTO CREDIT: K.S. McKern of A.P.I.C.
AUSTRALIA

"This rocket-like object was photographed in Australia by K.S. McKern at 5 pm on May 10, 1968. The object rose out of the water off Coogee Beach (New South Wales) rotated 360 degrees, inclined and shot off to the north. The photograph was taken with a cheap camera (Click-Japanese), Panchromatic 11 mm film, exposure 25th second maximum. The negative has been examined by the photographers of several newspapers, who say that there is probably something there. The object has been enlarged many times, and the background is sky".

The photo shows an enlargement of the object. It is a slender elongated delta shape with what appears to be an exhaust coming out of it, almost identical to the Cairns picture.

One wonders if this photograph might also be a fault on the negative ?

Anyone heard of this photograph and report? I would certainly like to hear from you.

UFO Research (NSW) - The group and its activities

UFO Research (NSW) is an organisation centred at Lane Cove, Sydney, NSW, devoted to the aim of quality scientific investigation into unidentified flying objects (UFO) reports.

The organisation has its history rooted in the formative years of UFO investigation in Australia. An informal group operating in Sydney began in 1950 and expanded into a public group called the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (AFSB) in 1952, headed by pioneer researcher Edgar Jarrold. In 1955, The Ufo Investigation Centre (UFOIC) was formed from this organisation and in turn in May 1977, a new revitalised research group emerged from this background - UFO RESEARCH (NSW). This history makes UFOR (NSW), through its various "reincarnations", the oldest UFO research group in the world - a tradition matched only by the excellent American organisation, APRO - the Aerial Phenomen Research Organisation. This has been acknowledged in Paris Flammonde's book, "UFO Exists!" (1976) when he points out that UFOIC (AFSB) is the oldest group amongst those still viable throughout the world.

While history is worth recording, it is the present that is of the most concern. In UFO Research (NSW), we have a group of dedicated individuals undertaking serious investigation and research into UFO reports - a position shared by the groups represented in this publication and those groups and individuals affiliated with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies.

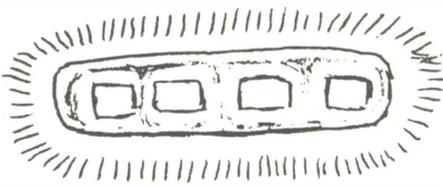
In recent years UFO Research (NSW) has undertaken investigation into many fascinating cases. Here are brief summaries of a few of them:

22nd March, 1976, 0545 hrs, Nemingha - A couple in a parked car and later a utility driver observed a large bright light source descend and envelope a small car. The car's light went out and the vehicle came to a stop on the wrong side of the road. The woman driver of the car got out and wiped the windscreen clear of white material that had completely covered the car. The cloth used ignited, when thrown away and the car's headlights came back on by themselves. The woman then drove slowly away. At about the same time a woman living nearby saw a greenish yellowish ball of light pass by at low level and disappear behind a hill, in the vicinity of the above incident.

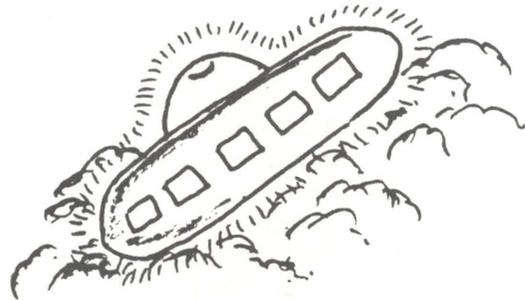
12th April, 1976, 2300 hrs, Penrith - A woman, alerted by a strange noise, observed a large black sphere approaching in an adjacent paddock. Then soon after, she, her mother and two other witnesses observed the object, now a pulsating ball of orange light, travelling across the sky, trailing "white vapour". Subsequently, a large "grass trace" and four "pod marks" were found in the paddock.

26th May, 1977, ca. midnight, near Orange - A boy observed a bright elongated light source on or near the ground, near his home. His mother investigated and subsequently saw a bright ground illumination in a nearby paddock, apparently emanating from a bright elongated rectangular object.

The object appeared to then slowly move over a hill and out of sight. Four small imprints were found at the apparent "landing site". Thermoluminescence tests indicated that there were no significant levels of heat and radiation involved.



UFO near Orange - May 26, 77



UFO at Bakers Creek Falls - January 10, 78

10th January, 1978, - Bakers Creek Falls - During the early hours a single witness observed two nocturnal lights, one of which approached and appeared to issue an intermittent rain of "sparks". A few hours later he observed a large object hovering off the road and surrounded by a "mist". The witness ran into the field after the object, but lost sight of it. The "mist" and an unusual auditory phenomenon compounded the strange encounter.

23rd October, 1976 - Taollo Point, near Eden - Just prior to filming the total eclipse of the sun 3 young men observed a formation of disc-shaped objects hovering out to sea. The objects were described as being grey in colour and the closest appeared to be revolving. Still photographs and a motion picture film were taken. The objects had disappeared when the witnesses looked for them again after the eclipse. An American computer analysis of the film suggests that at least one of the anomalous images represents "a structured object of unknown origin, without any sign of a misinterpretation of a conventional object or phenomenon".

While these and other sightings are suggestive of some "other technology", ostensibly beyond our own, UFO Research (NSW) does not suggest that they represent "extraterrestrial craft". Rather the group - in common with most groups affiliated with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies - is promoting the need for much more good quality investigation and research of these sightings before we start to draw definite conclusions. Much more investigation is required before we can begin to speculate with some validity about the possible stimulus (or stimuli) involved.

UFO Research (NSW) has made the results of its research activities known and available to the general public through public meetings and its publication outlets (formerly the "Australian UFO Researcher").

We will carry on this tradition and now join with other Australian groups to continue educating public, through this present combined publication endeavour. UFO Research (NSW) wishes the national publication well and also extends to you the reader and public group member, the offer to stay with us within these pages, for a future enlightened scrutiny of the UFO enigma as it manifests to all of us.

Bill Chalker

Director, UFO Research (NSW)

UFO SIGHTED AT BENBOYD NATIONAL PARK ON OCTOBER 23, 1976

MOVIE FILM TAKEN

"At approximately 4 p.m. on the 23rd October, 1976, three young men were preparing their cameras for the coming eclipse of the Sun. They were located on top of a large cliff face and had an unobstructed view in all directions.

Suddenly, one of them yelled out that a group of strange objects were hovering above the water close to their horizon and they all gathered to watch as the elliptically shaped objects began to move towards and away from them, slowly and in a controlled manner.

Remembering that they had a movie camera loaded beside them one man quickly picked it up, checked that the settings were right, and immediately began to film the objects as they continued to hover over the sea.

The other man by this time had grabbed his loaded still picture camera and took a series of photographs of one particular object that seemed to be nearer than the rest. The motion picture camera was panned over a large area taking in the closer object and including two others which appeared smaller or further away.

While the camera was at the zoom position the operator noticed that the closest object was revolving and appeared to be dull grey in colour".

FULL STORY BY DAVID RENEKE, SIGHTINGS AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF UFO RESEARCH - NEW SOUTH WALES, PHOTOGRAPHS AND COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF THE 8 MM MOTION PICTURE FILM BY "GROUND SAUCER WATCH", WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER.



UFO Research (SA) Incorporated was founded in 1968 by five people, members of the investigation team of a well known (at the time) Adelaide "Flying Saucer Group", in order to investigate the UFO phenomena in the orderly and scientific manner. The founders of UFOR (SA) felt that there was a need for an organisation of this kind in South Australia especially since the sane and scientific approach to the subject was almost non-existent in this State.

Two out of five people, who founded the organisation, resigned at a later date due to business commitment but the organisation was kept 'alive' by the remaining three foundation members. In the meantime few other UFO organisations came into the existence in South Australia, however, none of them survived for too long.

In 1973, five other UFO researchers joined the UFOR (SA) and with their help and support the group was then reorganised into its present form. UFOR (SA) is an autocratic organisation, run by the executive elected by the Investigation Team members. The staff is permanent, there are no annual elections and therefore no interruptions to the smooth running of the organisation.

The individual view of our staff members vary on just what the phenomenon actually is. These views range from a healthy scepticism as to the physical reality of the "unknown" reports to a leaning towards the interdimensional or extraterrestrial hypothesis. However, and this must be stressed, the group as a whole, because it disseminates information to associate members and the general public, maintains a strict middle line approach. Officially we state that we do not know what is behind the "unknown" reports but that it appears to be worthy of scientific study.

MAN FILMS UFO OVER ADELAIDE

On January 29, 1980, an article by John Pinkney was featured on the front page of the "NEWS", (Adelaide, South Australia), under the headline "Man Films UFO Over Adelaide". Such sensationalism is what we have come to expect from the mass media, but rarely is it wasted on such uninteresting material as this film, taken by Jose Luis Durant on January 22, 1979, and studied by the UFO Research (SA) team about four months later. The team recommended to Mr. Duran that the film should be checked by Ground Saucer Watch, the acknowledged experts in computer analysis; but their recommendation was rejected.

The film was almost entirely an unrelieved black; but rather less than 20 isolated frames had a pinhead sized blob, such as would be caused by severe overexposure of a small bright light source. On one such frame, two blobs were close enough so that they merged together; and the composite image was further modified by what was obviously a wisp of some fibre on the surface of the film. Mr Duran interpreted this image as being a "little man" who

somehow appeared in the sky for a small fraction of a second, brightly illuminated in the dark by an invisible source of light. The essentially similar blob in the other frames, he considered to be picture of an immense spaceship, complete with smaller craft, and living beings inside.

Mr Duran claims that Venus appears on his film. This could well be true, as Venus was low over the Adelaide Hills at the time of filming; and it is quite possible that the remaining images were the lights of cars glimpsed through the trees lining the Hills roads. Whatever these images may be, there is no doubt that the film has little or no value as documentation of a UFO; and it is certainly not worth the million dollars that Mr Duran hopes to make from it.

U.S. MYSTERY BOOMS

You may recall some time ago reading of mysterious booming noises heard from the Eastern Coast of the U.S.A. Explanations abounded and inevitably someone suggested that UFOs were involved.

Two more realistic explanations headed the list, these being either a) aircraft sonic booms and/or advanced warning of an earthquake.

Investigations were conducted by the Naval Research Laboratory and the Federation of American Scientists. Reports showed that the noise was a loud, sharp detonation. It didn't appear to be direct sound but noise of the overpressure of a shock wave hitting a structure. There was no seismic activity accompanying them.

The Naval Research Laboratory reported that the booms were probably caused by military aircraft carrying out manoeuvres off the coast, whilst the FAS concurred with this finding but added Concorde sonic booms for those noises heard in Nova Scotia. Both dismissed the earthquake movement hypothesis.

The reason for people at a distance hearing sonic booms which shouldn't ordinarily have been audible at that range was unusual weather patterns. The aircraft booms were reflected from high in the stratosphere when planes were 120 to 200 kilometres away. Richard Wood, a meteorologist of the US Weather Service's Tuscon office found that when jet stream winds in excess of 200 kms per hour coincided with military flight operations, the maximum number of reports were made.

"Science" Vol 199 p 1416 31.3. 78

"Science" Vol 203 p 256 19.1. 79

UFO Research (Western Australia), was formed in September 1975 and became a member of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies in the same year.

Although only a small, as far as members are concerned, we do represent a vast area of Australia and form a part of the Australia wide network that is dedicated to serious scientific UFO research.

During the past year, good close encounter type reports have been few and far between in this State, which appears to be the case elsewhere in the country. Quite a few NL cases were reported to the organisation, but they hold little scientific value, with the majority being identified anyway.

With the help of Steve Briggs and ably supported by our secretary Leeanne Ryan, we intend to increase our membership and thus coverage of Western Australia, in the near future, as well as maintain very close ties with all other members of the ACUFOS, who have kindly assisted us in the past. Also contacts with overseas UFO organisations will be increased and is most welcome. Those overseas organisation or individuals who wish to exchange UFO data etc., and who have adopted a serious and unbiased approach to the UFO phenomena can write to the address below.

All correspondence will be answered.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL TO:

Mr. Jeff Bell
UFO RESEARCH (Western Australia)
84 Acton Avenue
RIVERVALE
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6103

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to clarify a few points made by Frank Gillespie in the latest newsletter put out by UFO Research (SA) Inc. I understand that most UFO periodicals gradually find their way around the country into the hands of other groups, so I am hoping that what I have to say will correct the inaccuracies in Frank's report.

I have no desire to begin sniping away at UFO groups as I believe they perform an important and largely thankless task in the community. However, it does concern me when such a group, or an individual in this case, falls into same trap as the debunkers and goes into print without having access to all the information.

Frank makes the point that because the conversation on the plane (my taped commentary) and the radio messages (between the plane and the radar operators at Wellington) cannot be synchronised to the film, then "it is not possible to correlate with certainty a particular film sequence with particular comments and events". Although this is true in some respects, I should point out that Dr. Bruce Maccabee made an exhaustive and detailed study of my commentary and the radio messages, and from long interviews he did with everyone onboard the plane he was able to correlate a major part of my commentary with radar tapes, and he was also able to relate this to segments of the film. There isn't space here to tell you how he went about this, but I am sure that when his full investigation is published you will see exactly what I mean.

Frank also accuses Dr. Maccabee of making "two glaring errors" in his analysis of the film. I can only repeat that if Frank had had access to all the information then he wouldn't have come out with such a declaration. As he should well know, it is an extremely dangerous practice to make such dogmatic statements without having access to all the data. When he finally reads what Maccabee has to say about the "big orange thing bouncing around" and the "smaller, cleaner edged images", he will probably wish he waited a little longer before rushing into print.

I can't really comment on the television news item that went to air in Adelaide on March 15 as I wasn't there and I didn't see it - However, some of the Frank's claims do need clarification. He says that a number of alleged computer blow-ups shown on the screen had all the characteristics of normal enlargements and he says he doubts that computer enhancement would achieve anything in this case anyway because "the photography is so poor".

Maybe what he saw on screen were normal enlargements, but I can assure him that a number of computer enhancements were done with the original film and the results, contrary to his pessimism, were quite remarkable. I know that some of those enhanced colour prints have been shown on television in Melbourne and Sydney and I can only assume that the item shown in Adelaide was either re-scripted or re-edited for some reason and the commentary didn't match what was shown. It might also be the case that because the computer enhanced prints were so good and clear that Frank mistook them for normal enlargements. I did have some black and white copies of those prints with me at UFOCON 4 in Sydney and I showed them to a number of delegates. It's a pity that Frank didn't bother to see them as they totally destroy his false assumption that computer

enhancement would not have achieved anything in this case. It did. I seem to have spent all my time of late correcting mis-reporting, false statements, and fictionalised accounts of the December 31 sightings. I make only one plea to those who want to leap into print about the case.... please wait until you have read Maccabee's findings.

From QUENTIN FOGARTY

SOURCE: Australian UFO Bulletin - published by the Victorian UFO Research Society, November-December 1979.

That New Zealand UFO Film Again

By Frank Gillespie

Those of us who attended UFOCON 4 in Sydney in October, were fortunate in being able to view a copy of the entire unedited New Zealand UFO film; and also to discuss the case at length with Quentin Fogarty, the Channel '0' reporter on the plane. As a result, I now firmly believe that the film was a genuine attempt to photograph an object or series of objects, whose behaviour and appearance were beyond the limits of conventional explanation. I also believe that nobody, not even Dr Bruce Maccabee, has made an entirely correct analysis of the film.

In addition to the film, there are a number of records relevant to the sighting. There are the accounts given by the eyewitnesses, the reports of conversations on plane, and a tape recording of radio messages to and from the plane. Unfortunately these are not, and cannot be synchronised to the film, so that it is not possible to correlate with certainty a particular film sequence with particular comments and events. There are, for instance, three brief scenes on the film which may have caused David Crockett's description of a 'saucer with a dome on top' ; but 'top' would more accurately have been stated as 'side', because the 'saucer' was slightly tilted in each case; and the attribute of 3 dimensionality could well have existed in Crockett's mind.

Of all the 'authorities' who have previously made public comment on the film, only Dr Maccabee has had access to the complete film. He is, therefore, the only one whose comments can be regarded as informed. Unfortunately he has made two glaring errors in his analysis. The 'big orange thing bouncing around' that he regarded as a defocussed image, actually exhibited very clean and sharp edges; whereas the 'smaller cleaner - edged images' that he favoured showed signs of having been grossly overexposed, so that the object's shape was hidden in flare on the film. Also, the claim was made that a computer had been used to produce the blow-ups shown on March 15, 1979 on Adelaide TV, although those blow-ups had all the characteristics of normal enlargements, rather than computerised images. In defence of Dr Maccabee, firstly I have no evidence that he personally claimed that a computer had been used; and secondly, I doubt that computer enhancement would achieve anything in this case, because

the photography is so poor. However, it may be possible to obtain enhanced images from the original film using optical techniques, and it will be a great pity if this is not attempted.

SOURCE: UFO Research (SA) Inc Newsletter, Volume 6, No. 4&5, Sept-Oct 79

The Editor,
Australian UFO Bulletin

Dear Sir,

For two reasons, I am disappointed that Quentin Fogarty chose to take issue with my article in the UFO Research (SA) Newsletter regarding the December 31 New Zealand film and associated events. Firstly, I thought I had made it clear in the article, that I was not fully informed, and that I did not regard the mass media as a reliable source of information. Secondly, I have no desire to carry on a slanging match with anyone, and at least of all with Quentin Fogarty. However, I have my duty as a consultant for ACUFOS, and I cannot allow misleading statements to pass unchallenged, even from a source with eyewitness authority.

After reading his full report, I can only agree with Quentin that Dr Bruce Maccabee did an excellent job of correlating events, particularly the two taped records, where the timing could be specified with some certainty. He was not able to relate the film sequences to the other events with the same completeness or degree of certainty, which was exactly the situation I proposed !

Dr Maccabee was badly misreported in the two media quotes which I unfortunately chose to use; and as a result, I did malign him somewhat. However, he does dismiss the large pentagonal images with the words "apparently an out-of-focus version", and he is wrong to do so, even though I think there is a different, but very good reason for not bothering with those images. He does choose to study the smaller images, but with the full realisation that they were, as I said, grossly overexposed. In fact, the photography was so poor, that Dr Maccabee was able to obtain useful measurements only from images that were badly streaked, through movement of either the camera or the light source.

It is a pity, when Dr Maccabee has taken the trouble to be scrupulously accurate in his report, that those quoting it as an authority do not maintain the same accuracy. Quentin claims that computer enhancements were done with the original film, whereas Dr Maccabee states quite clearly that he worked in U.S.A. only on a copy, after viewing the original film, and later studying it again in Australia. He also says that "images enhancements" were done in California, but nowhere mentions the word "computer". Now I stand to be corrected by Dr Maccabee himself, but I still opine that no computer enhancement have yet been released; and I base that opinion very largely on the prints Quentin had at UFOCON 4, which he seems to think prove the opposite, I still

F O R U M

believe that little can be achieved by computer study of the film; but that some unorthodox optical techniques might produce useful information. These are my opinions, to which I am entitled as a scientist, with considerable experience in working on films not dissimilar to this one. Quentin also has his opinions, as is his right; and I respect those opinions, particularly because of his status as a reporter and an eyewitness. Until such time as one of us is proved right, I ask Quentin to extend the same courtesy to me.

Finally, I would like to inject into the discussion, a possibility that I believe has occurred to very few people. What if the "light" is not the object, but, as with most identifiable light sources, just a small part of the complete object? What then would be served by computer production of perfect images of the light, if these were possible? Surely it would be better to study the surrounding black areas, to see if some faint traces of the real object have been recorded. With ASA 400 film used at f 1.9, there just might be something there!

Yours faithfully,

Frank Gillespie

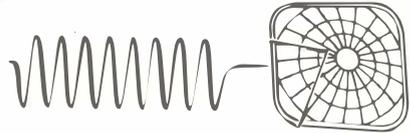
S T O P P R E S S

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DR MACCABEE STATES THAT COMPUTER ENHANCEMENTS OF A COPY OF THE NEW ZEALAND FILM WERE DONE IN PASADENA, AND THAT QUENTIN'S PRINTS WERE MADE FROM THESE ENHANCEMENTS.

IN THAT RESPECT, AT LEAST, QUENTIN WAS RIGHT, AND FRANK WAS WRONG.

ED.





By Bill Chalker

The activities of the official French UFO research group - GEPAN - "Groupe d'Etudes des Phenomenes Aerspatiaux Identifies" - operating under the auspices of the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) stand as a "turning point" for all groups and individuals interested in serious UFO research.

During 1977, GEPAN carried out evaluations of 354 observation reports brought to its attention by the Gendarmerie. Of these, GEPAN, had by the beginning of 1978, determined that 89 were "Type D phenomena" ie. "phenomena which the experts cannot identify in spite of relatively precise and complete reports". The breakdown of these reports into categories was as follows:

- 42% Nocturnal Lights
- 4% Daylight Discs
- 1% Radar Case
- 21% CE 1
- 28% CE 2
- 4% CE 3

However, GEPAN only regarded about 23% of the 89 cases as being of high credibility. Detailed enquiries were undertaken on 2 nocturnal light cases (ie. 5th November, 1976, Rives - Isera - and 7th March, 1974, Coberouger - Tarn & Garonne) and it was concluded for both that "the objective nature of the observations has been confirmed and attempts to relate them to a phenomenon or to a known device have failed".

During 1978, GEPAN's activities expanded and a seven-level structure was adopted, namely: rapid interventions procedures, physical trace analyses, radar alert group, qualified expert evaluation group, national card index group, statistical analyses group Sim-UFO group. The first 6 are self evident activities, however, the latter requires clarification. Sim-UFO refers to a contraction of optical simulation of UFO, through which the deployment of a piece of optical equipment with "identikit" -style slides are used to derive and quantify the witnesses' "binocular" view of the sighting environment. During 1978, GEPAN undertook detailed analyses of about ten cases from 1977 relations document released in February 1979, by GEPAN; "Le Gapan; et l'etude du: phenomene OVNI", I quote the following:

"At the end of these ten inquiries and the thorough analysis which they were given, two cases were eliminated (one, at Draguinan, due to lack of coherence in the accounts of the witnesses; the other at Saint-Ciers - d' Abzac, due to a definite identification of the phenomenon as the planet Mars), and the eight others were considered to be "unidentified".

The final conclusions of the GEPAN investigators and analysts were as follows:

- (1) "We assessed which of the witnesses whom we interviewed had really observed the happenings they reported (the case at Draguinan, however, we have doubts in this regard)".
- (2) "We have not been able to identify happenings by witnesses as phenomena known precisely to us despite our important efforts with this aim (except St-Ciers - d'Abzac, of course)".
- (3) "Taking into account the elements which we collected in the presence of the observers, at the site of their observations, we are convinced that a physical phenomenon is at the root of almost all the observations".
- (4) "The study of the phenomenon concerned appears to us to have the potential to acquire new knowledge".

It was quoted widely in the literature that GEPAN had concluded that the witnesses appear to have seen material phenomenon, "relative to a flying machine of which the lifting forces and propulsion means are entirely unknown to our knowledge", however, Dr. Esterle, GEPAN's new head, clarified GEPAN's actual conclusion in the following way;

"Considering the elements we have collected from the observers at the very place of their observations, we are convinced that a material phenomenon originates the quasi totality of the observations and notice that the description of these phenomena is similar (in particular in the following cases: Gondrecourt, Bize, Lucon, Bolazec, Sauvigny) to that of a flying machine whose origin and propulsion and/or sustenance modes are totally out of our knowledge".

These findings of GEPAN are pivotal in significance, with respect to the standing of the UFO phenomenon as a legitimate area of scientific enquiry. Contrary to the hollow findings of the Condon Report, the UFO reports appear to be the stuff of scientific "paydirt".

It is now up to the UFO research community to follow the course GEPAN has set. We must investigate reports in a truly scientific manner, and perhaps then we may be able to extract legitimate valid patterns rather than those that are the stuff of delusion.

To quote Benjamin Franklin :

"THE MOST EXQUISITE FOLLY IS MADE OF WISDOM
SPUN TO FINE".

NEW IDEAS IN DATA EQUIPMENT



By HOLLY I. GORISS

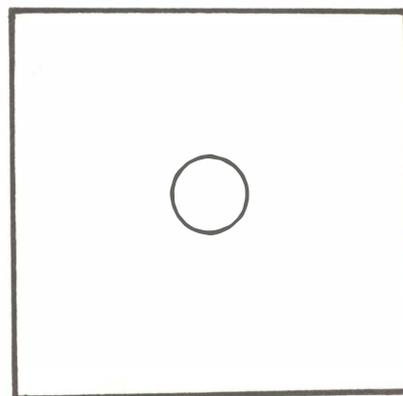
Some time ago it came to the attention of UFO Research (FNQ) investigator Russell Boundy, that there must be a better way of estimating the size of an unidentified object than our usual "coin or orange (whose size varies) held at arms length" method. So he came up with the idea that our investigators have been using for a number of months with much success.

The idea is to use a set of square white cards on which is marked various shapes of known size. These shapes correspond with the most common UFO shapes, and these cards held at arms length, gave accurate data as to the size of the object.

It must be remembered, however, that these cards are most effective with objects within 150 metres of the witness, after that all size estimation deteriorates with increasing distance. The sets of cards include a series of circular, elliptical and rectangular shapes of varying sizes. Each shape has five sizes (each on separate cards). The sizes at present in use are 10 mm diameter, 16 mm diameter, 20 mm, 28 mm and 32 mm diameter.

In the case of rectangle the "diameter" is the length of the rectangle. In the case of the ellipse the "diameter" refers to the major axis.

We realise that these cards will probably need modification and standardization in order to be utilised by all investigators in Australia.



10 mm

However, we feel that the basic idea is sound, and in our experience we have found that these cards are accepted quite readily by witnesses. They also have the added psychological aspect of giving us a more professional image than our use of coin or orange would.



THE AESG COMPUTER FILE



A Tandy Radio Shack TRS - 80 micro-computer has been utilised to create a computer listing of entity cases reported to the Australian Entity Study Group.

The computer can provide a listing of more than 100 cases under date order and a separate access file provides date, location, time of event, type of event, number of entities, description of object, description of event and a source of information. A further refined programme is being investigated which should store a much more detailed description of the reported entity, behaviour, reporter's reaction etc., although this would of necessity be in a coded format due to limitations in memory space available in the machine. Later on it is hoped to acquire a printer to enable details to be presented in hard copy. Presently information is displayed on a standard 30 cm TV style monitor.

A typical displayed entry reads: -

1	Date	44/45
2	Location	Christchurch NZ
3	Time (local)	1620
4	Type	ERA 2
5	No Ent	Sev
6	Height (cm)	N -
7	Object	A01 1
8	Event	Landed
9	Source	APRGJOURN24N01 P 11-14

Translated this means that in 1944 or 1945 near Christchurch, New Zealand, at 4.20 p.m. local time a disc shaped object was seen on the ground. Also observed in association with this object were several smaller than normal (N-) humanoid entities (ERA 2). This information is from the Journal of the APRG 1974 No 1 pages 11-14.

Or:

1	Date	0251
2	Location	Cent Aust
3	Time (local)	N/R
4	Type	ERA 2
5	No. Ent	1
6	Height (cm)	N-
7	Object	A01 2
8	Event	Landed ent from tu other
9	Source	Fly Sau Ser Bus p 16

Which reads - an event occurred in Central Australia somewhere in February 1951, although neither the exact date nor time are known. One smaller than average (average being taken as 6-) entity was seen to move from one landed disc shaped object to another disc. The entity was humanoid. Source 'Flying Saucers Serious Business' page 169 .

This style of program with data in a micro computer can be adopted to suit any body of material in catalogue form, providing an electronic storage system with ease of editing and sorting facilities and no doubt in future many uses will be found for this excellent storage and retrieval aid.

IN NEXT ISSUE:

YES, AUSTRALIA, UFOs DO EXIST

ARE THE RUSSIANS FLYING UFOs OVER AUSTRALIA ?

A CARAVELLE WAS PERSECUTED BY ONE OR MORE UFOs

INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE OF A MAJORCAN COUPLE

REPORTED OBSERVATIONS FROM AIRCRAFT
OVER AUSTRALASIA, 1977 - 1978



By KEITH BASTERFIELD

There have been at least six reported UFO observations from observers in aircraft over Australasia within the last two years. Two made major headlines around the world, namely the Valentich ⁽¹⁾ (Victoria 21.10 78) and the New Zealand ⁽²⁾ (Dec 78) aircraft/radar/visual/ film cases, and I will not review these here. Four other observations have been reported of unusual objects in the sky worthy of our attention. These reported are Goondiwindi ⁽³⁾ (Qld 77), Kunanurra ⁽⁴⁾ (NT 77), Port Augusta ⁽⁵⁾ (SA May 77) and Whyalla ⁽⁶⁾ (SA Dec 78). Investigations are still continuing into the last named.

Goondiwindi:

The reporter was travelling as a passenger on a B.P.A. trilander flying between Cunnamulla and Brisbane in Queensland, when the incident occurred at about 3 a.m. on September 10, 1977. Mr. H. was sitting next to the pilot of the trilander when approaching the Goondiwindi airport, both noticed what they first took to be another aircraft approaching on a similar but opposite course.

The pilot confirmed through air traffic control (Brisbane and Sydney) that no other traffic was known to be in the area as they made their final approach to land.

As the aircraft and the unknown were on what appeared to be an eventual collision course the trilander pilot took evasive action and Mr H. on the starboard side saw the unknown approach the airport, pass low over the runway and move away to a position SW of the runway.

They landed, but while refuelling they observed that the object "hovered" and "moved erratically" to the SW. Meanwhile Mr H. in discussing the object with waiting passengers found they had seen it pass soundlessly at low altitude over the runway.

Half an hour later the B.P.A. flight continued on to Brisbane. Sitting once again by the pilot, as they ascended, Mr H. watched the unknown move toward the aircraft, then pace it at a similar rate of speed on the starboard side, before it turned away from the plane in a SE direction, disappearing into the distance. Mr H. said that at no time was any shape discernible, only two bright lights positioned above and below (at an angle) what seemed to be a "thick body". The "lights" were not the usual type fitted to aircraft, being described as changing colour from orange- white in a "psychedelic" manner.

The incident was apparently not reported to any authority.

REPORTED OBSERVATION FROM AIRCRAFT

Kunanurra

At 5.30 p.m. on December 9, 1977, a Mr Lindsay McKenzie-Smith and his wife Helen were flying in a light aircraft at a position approximately 100 km East of Kunanurra, Northern Territory (some 370 km SSW of Darwin). The plane was piloted by Mr McKenzie-Smith who had 750 flying hours experience.

On that day they had already made several flights within the NT since starting at about 9.30 a.m. that morning, and were on their way from Legune to Victoria River Downs (VRD). The terrain in the area is extremely rugged and isolated and both people were feeling tired after commencing this last leg at about 4.30 p.m.

The aircraft a Cessna 206, was cruising at 1675 metres, just after passing over the Pinkerton Ranges (300-340 m high), when Helen Mc Kenzie-Smith told her husband that another aircraft was coming down towards them. Helen estimated that she first noted the "object" when it was about 5 km distant, flying at a lower altitude below the visible horizon. It was easily picked up against the green-brown background. Both of them logically expected the "object" to be a plane but realized it wasn't as it approached.

The object passed below and behind the plane at an estimated 1370 m (making it about 300 m below them).

In order to observe the object further the pilot banked the aircraft approximately 90°, but upon turning, the object had apparently disappeared from sight. The plane then continued on its former course and within 5 minutes of the observation attempted to report its position as is normal practice at this stage of flight. (They also planned to ask if there were any traffic in the area).

Mr McKenzie-Smith tried several times but could not transmit on VHF or HF for the following 20-30 minutes. He eventually raised Darwin (VHF) before approaching and landing at VRD.

The object appears to have come no less than 300 m from the aircraft, and Lindsay says that "the object gave no depth perception, its size and height were hard to estimate" as he only saw it for some 30-40 seconds. It was an oval or lenticular shape, appearing metallic and at an estimated 300 m seemed to be 9 m long, by 2.75 - 3 m wide and probably 1 m thick. It had well defined edges and a dull or non-reflecting surface, similar to anodising (white-grey). Both viewers thought it peculiar that there was no shadow on it - the Sun was setting behind them and should have reflected on the leading edge of the object but didn't.

The incident was not officially reported but came to the notice of UFOR(FNQ) who interviewed the observers.

Port Augusta

Our third case presents us with somewhat a mystery. A light aircraft pilot who was flying from Mount Gambier to Adelaide (South Australia), overheard a radio conversation concerning a UFO, whilst en route. It was the evening of May 3, 1978 (although the exact time is not known) when his radio came to life and he heard an aircraft near Port Augusta calling the Adelaide airport to report a visual sighting of a bright light, which had, it seems, also been picked up on the plane's radar. The entire story wasn't known

REPORTED OBSERVATIONS FROM AIRCRAFT

as our informant was landing at the time. Investigations were initiated by UFOR(SA) and a check made of the two airlines flying in the area plus the local St John Ambulance Service based near Port Augusta, also the Department of the Transport and the Royal Australian Air Force were contacted. There were two planes in the area at the time, neither of which reportedly had observed any unusual phenomena. A search of the Airport flight service records revealed a police report of two red flares being sighted at 8 n.m. South of Whyalla at 8.58 p.m. but nothing else. An advertisement placed in several local papers failed to solicit any response for visual observations. The RAAF declined to answer our query for any details they might have.

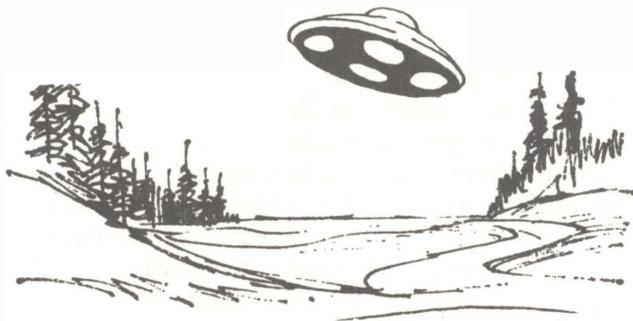


Overall we were left with not being able to do much more than record a possible event.

Whyalla

This case came to ears of UFOR(FNQ) who forwarded it to UFOR(SA) for investigations, which have not yet been finalised. A man was piloting a light aircraft from Whyalla, South Australia, on December 30 1978, at about 11 p.m. flying at 2800 m, speed 220 knots. Over Alford he noticed what to him appeared another aircraft flying parallel at an estimated 24 km distance.

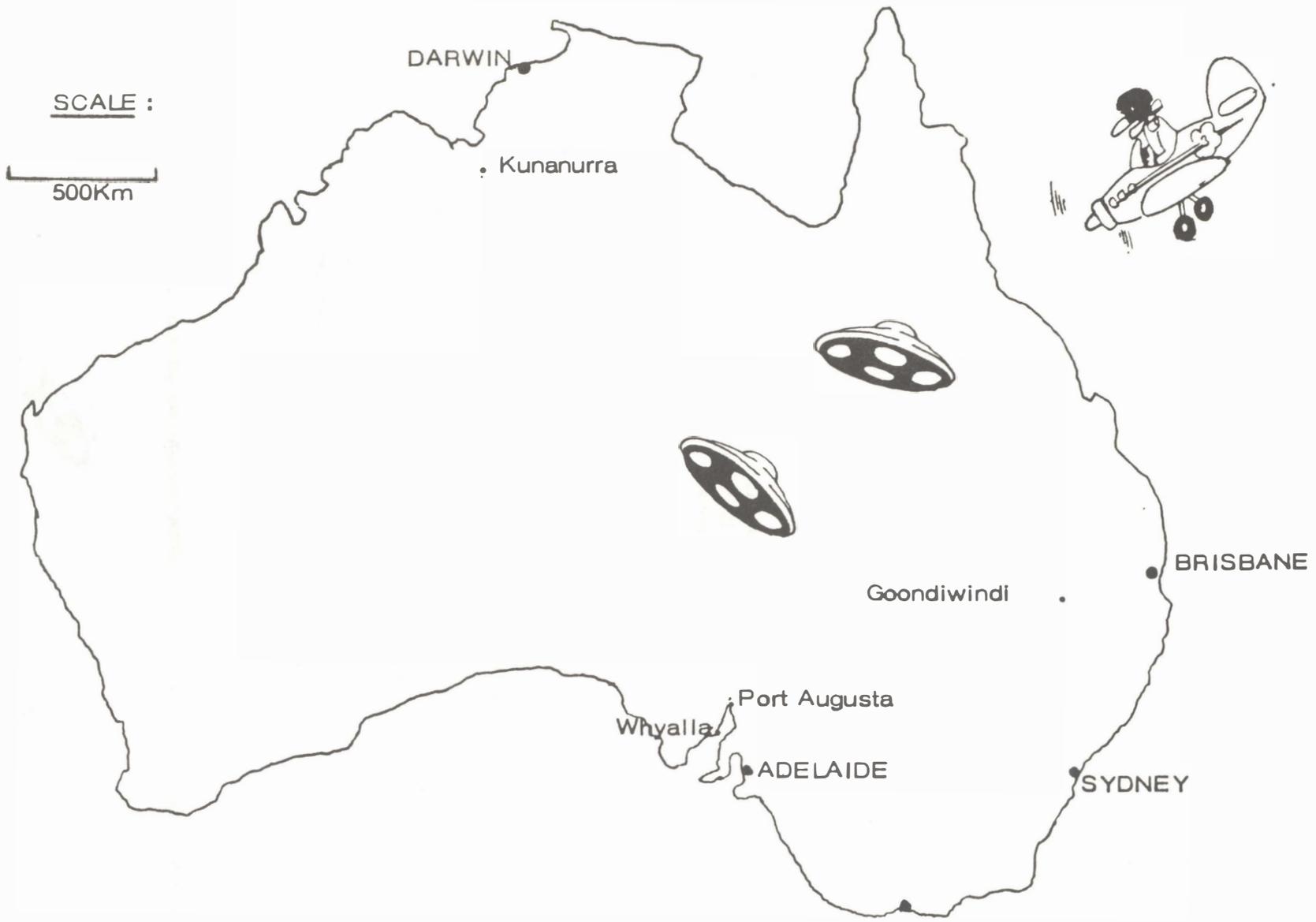
He checked with Adelaide but was advised that there was no traffic in the area. Looking back to the object he realised that there were no navigation lights on it, it was merely an elongated white light with a blue tinge around the edge. It stayed with him until he turned left in the Whyalla circuit area, and it stopped moving until the plane came down on the downwind leg on the circuit. At this stage it closed in on the plane very quickly, so the pilot landed as fast as he could. The object turned away and disappeared.



Policy

Well, there we have our four cases from the past two years. The Goondiwindi, Kunanurra, Port Augusta and Whyalla incidents have all come to our knowledge privately. None have appeared in the media and only Whyalla can be substantiated from official records.

The Department of Transport is the government department responsible for the oversighting of all aspects of civilian air movements and safety. Its policy is clear. Enquirers are usually referred to the RAAF (7). The RAAF's policy is that there is no such thing as a genuine UFO (8), thus getting official confirmation of a UFO/aircraft incident remains difficult.



LOCATION OF AUSTRALASIAN UFO/AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS 77 - 79

REPORTED OBSERVATIONS FROM AIRCRAFT

There are two main airlines within Australia and their attitude seems to be that individual pilots are free to talk about such observations they make, unlike the RAAF.

Private pilots are under no apparent restrictions but it would seem they make no official report because of the attitude of the Department of Transport and RAAF.

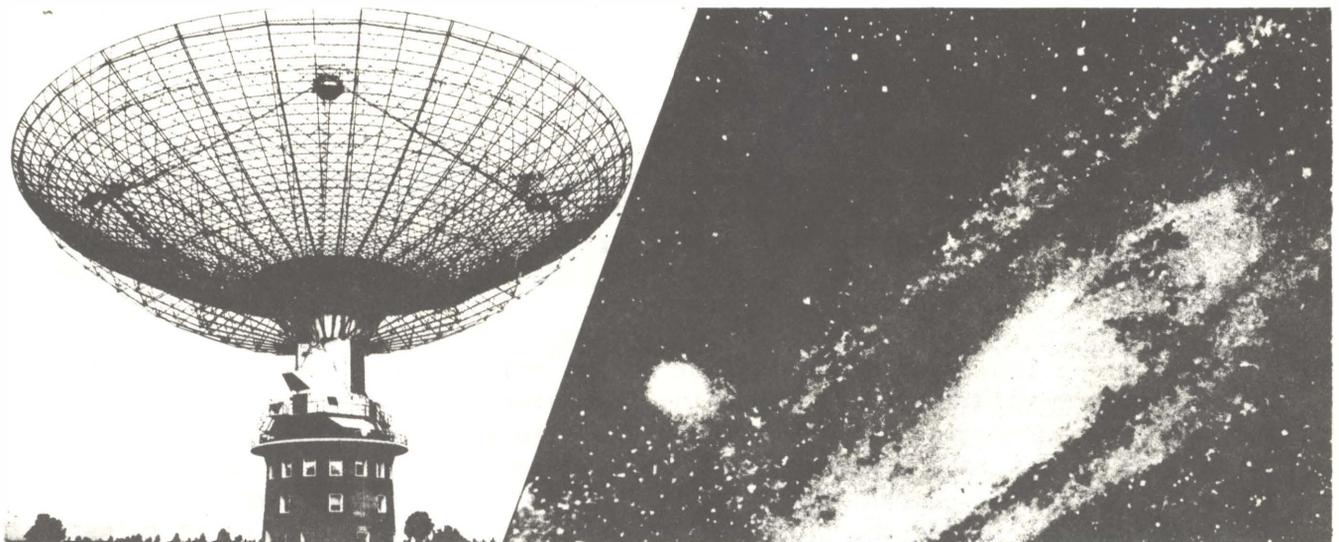
In summary, some interesting air encounters have occurred over the past two years but a complete investigation is extremely difficult due to official policies. (9,10)

Notes and references:

1. See "The missing Cessna and the UFO" W. Chalker, FSR Vol 24 No 5 pp 3-5 and "Pilot disappears after reporting UFO" MUFON Journal No 129. Aug 78 pp 3-5.
2. See "New Zealand radar-visual and film cases" K. Basterfield MUFON Journal No 132, Nov/Dec 78 pp 3-5 and B. MacCabee's excellent analysis in the May and June 1979 issues of MUFON Journal.
3. Report details courtesy UFO Research(FNQ) PO Box 1585 Cairns QLD 4870.
4. As for 3.
5. Investigation by G. Bolton, S.Bolton, J.Burford and this author.
6. Initial report via UFOR(FNQ), investigated by UFOR(SA).
7. Letter from Department of Transport to UFOR(SA).
8. Letter from RAAF to ACOS 1975.
9. Previously reported encounters with no conventional explanations are:-
1953 near Sydney (V), 1954 Melbourne (V), 4.1.54 Melbourne (V),
28.5.65 off Bouganville Reef (V,P), Jul/Aug 68 near Cairns (V,P).

V= visual, P= photographic.





THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL

INTELLIGENCE - S E T I

By Jane L. Brooks

Ever since early childhood I have been fascinated by space exploration and the possibility of discovering intelligent life originating in other star systems. I have a scrapbook dating back to 1961 with Yuri Gagarin's first historic flight, but it is only in the last year that I have begun learning about various aspects of space research with great enthusiasm. This urge to try to find out about the nature of the Universe was triggered off by seeing "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" which stirred my curiosity to find out for myself what had really been reported about the UFO phenomenon. I visited the State Library and begun borrowing UFO books, and as a result developed a thirst for knowledge of astronomy, cosmology and space research. One thing I discovered early was that although most astronomers do not think there is any possibility that we may have been visited by, or are presently being visited by intelligent beings (E T I's), they do believe that the existence of such beings is very likely.

Some believe this as strongly that they are now engaged in a search for absolute proof of intelligent life elsewhere by using the radio astronomy technology and facilities now available in the more developed countries. I became very interested in this exciting search for extraterrestrial intelligence (S E T I), read several books on the subject, and subscribed to an American scientific journal entitled "Cosmic Search" which is the first magazine devoted entirely to that aspect of space research.

While I was impatiently waiting for the delivery of the first issue, I had the good fortune to notice a letter to the editor of "The Advertiser" written by Mr. John Prytz of Canberra, pointing out why it would be an excellent idea for Australian radio astronomers to join with current American, Canadian and Russian SETI programmes by starting our own project. I immediately wrote to Mr. Prytz, telling him of my interest and offering my assistance, if help from a non-scientist could be of any use in his campaign.

Although Mr. Prytz is a graduate of the State University of New York in Earth and Space sciences, he was very pleased to get my letter and gave me plenty of encouragement and instructions on how to become involved in the quest for Australian SETI through letter writing to politicians, scientific bodies, the media and collecting signatures for a petition to Senator Webster (Minister for Science and the Environment).

Of course, radio astronomy may not be the only or best method of searching for ETI's, but unfortunately, searching for evidence of this existence here on Earth via the detection of artifacts or ETI's in person has been so discredited by much sensationalism and falsehood, that the government almost certainly would not lend its support to any other search other than that with the use of radiotelescopes. It looks as if SETI in our home environment will be left to the dedicated amateurs unless someone comes with that essential absolute proof of past or present visit that cannot be refuted. Searching for artificial radio signals from space is a method of SETI which can be done with current technology. Radioastronomy has developed rapidly since World War II and a great deal is being learnt about the Universe because of it. Encouragement of any form of radiophysical research will lead to a greater understanding of the cosmos and our significance in it, even if SETI is not successful.

Prior to the 1960's, any discussion of the existence of ETI's was ridiculed, and only science fiction writers dared speculate, at least in print, on the topic of alien intelligence. In 1959, the first scientific SETI paper was published in the prestigious British journal of science "Nature" (19th Sept. 1959) entitled "Searching for Interstellar Communications" and has since become classic. The authors were Drs. Giuseppe Cocconi and Phillip Morrison, and they put forward idea on how to detect alien intelligences, our equals or better technologically. The basic methodology proposed was to search for artificial radio waves rippling out from an alien world, intentionally or not, much like our own radio / TV/ radar waves are enveloping an ever greater volume of the Milky Way Galaxy's interstellar regions with each passing year. It is only since 1959 that mankind has developed the capability with equipment (radiotelescopes) sensitive enough to pick up this type of radio transmission. Therefore it is the first time we have had the opportunity to answer the question of our aloneness using scientific methods, rather than just wondering, in the whole of mankind history.

The advantage of this search strategy is that we do not have to wait until the ETI's or we can build interstellar spaceships to travel through space physically to find each other. We can search right now from the Earth! Radio waves travel at the speed of light (186,000 m.p. sec) and are the ideal medium for sending the maximum amount of information in the fastest possible time at the cheapest possible cost, and with the minimum amount of natural interference and absorption. There may be some better type of radiation we have yet to discover, but we may as well look for what we can detect until that time. An artificial radio signal will stand out amongs all the natural interstellar radio hiss, and its detection by us would achieve much just by giving proof of intelligence elsewhere. Of course, to understand any messages would be much harder, but our scientists have worked out a "dot-dash-dot" in the form of a picture made up of dark patches and blank which they hope could convey something about us and could be deciphered at the receiving end, so they are hoping that any beings trying to communicate with us would send a similarly easily decodable message.

Bearing that in mind, every major search from the first attempt, (Project Ozma) at Greenbank Radio-observatory, West Virginia, in 1960 until now has been listening for that artificial and intelligent "dot-dash-dot" from somewhere out there. There have been some exciting and embarrassing false alarms (e.g. discovery of pulsars) in the twenty years of searching, but we are still waiting for the great occasion. The negative results should not make people give up, because we must remember that with 100 thousand million stars in our galaxy alone, we would have to search 100,000 stars to have a statistically reasonable chance of success, and less than 1% of likely target stars have been searched.

Target stars are chosen assuming that Earth-like conditions are necessary for the evolution of intelligent life, and knowledge of the evolution, size, temperature and grouping (single or binary etc.) of stars gained through optical and radio astronomy tells us which stars are sun-like and most likely to have Earth-like planets orbiting them. If life can arise without earth-like conditions, that increases our chances of success! It is now believed that planetary formation is common result of star formation, but unfortunately, the equipment sensitive enough to detect a planet orbiting another star has not yet been developed. It is thought that such equipment is likely to become available to us in the next decade or so. Other astronomical research has led to the discovery of molecules existing in interstellar space ranging from hydrogen to ethyl alcohol, and also that the elements essential for life on Earth are the most abundant elements throughout observable universe. Research into the origin of life has shown that the building blocks of life, organic molecules like amino acids, can be created from water vapour mixed with hydrogen, ammonia and methane. This was done experimentally by a student of Harold Urey's in 1952-3. We do not understand how living things would evolve out of this primeval soup, but it seems possible that life will evolve anywhere that these conditions are found on a planet. It has been calculated that for a relatively small protein molecule with 100 amino acid residues to form by chance alone would require 10^{130} trial assemblies, meaning that the probability of hitting upon the correct one is infinitesimally small. However, we do exist, why not someone elsewhere? If we evolved despite impossible odds, maybe chance is not the only factor involved. Because of the difficulty in deciding where to look, what frequency to listen at, and what sort of signal to expect, the search for ETI's may take generations. However, the philosophical, scientific and religious significance of getting an answer to the question of the existence of other intelligent life makes it more essential to begin S E T I now. Many of the experts believe a positive answer will be found during the life times of most of us. To paraphrase Professor Carl Sagan of Cornell University (author of "Cosmic Connection, Dragons of Eden, and designer of the communicative plaques on spacecraft Pioneer 10 and 11) all earlier generations have wondered and never found out, all later generations have found out and never wondered. There is only this one current generation in the whole history of mankind who will do both.

The wavelength considered by Earth scientist to be the most logical for interstellar radio communications is that between the natural emission lines of hydrogen (H) 21cm, and the hydrogen radical (OH) 18cm, which together form water (H₂O). Because water is thought to be necessary for all life, this region has been romantically named "The Waterhole" - a universal meeting place for beings of all kinds.

However, aliens may not think like that, so failure to detect signals at these wavelengths does not mean that there are no E T I signals.

Some of the other problems facing S E T I are; radio being a long way out of date, a lack of desire by the ETI's to communicate, everybody listening and no one sending; but it would be silly to let such things stop us from trying. It is natural for us to wish to find other starfolk, because we are made of star dust, and we are part of the universe. All the atoms that are in us were once cooked up in the nuclear furnaces in the interior of stars that later exploded to scatter their elements through interstellar space. Our own solar system was formed from the gas and dust clouds. No matter how different the ETI's may be from us, they, too, are made of star dust, and their atoms would be the same as ours, but in different combinations. Some people



"The universe is put together in such a way as to permit, if not guarantee, the origin of life and the development of complex creatures.

There are 250 billion suns in our Milky Way galaxy, and billions of other galaxies in the heavens. Perhaps half of these stars have planets at biologically appropriate distances from the local sun. The initial chemical constituents for the origin of life are the most abundant molecules in the universe. Something like the processes that on Earth led to man must have happened billions of other times in the history of our galaxy.

There must be other starfolk".

PROFESSOR CARL SAGAN OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

are against SETI because they fear invasion from outer space and the destruction of mankind - they must have seen too many horror movies! Also some fear the cultural shock which would result from contact with superior beings. They are forgetting that change does not have to be all bad, and anyway some of our culture we could perhaps be better without! Considering the problem will at least help us cope with it better and when the time comes, communication with ETI's could lead to a huge advance in knowledge just as the great sea voyages of Magellan and Columbus led to an expansion of knowledge after the 16th century.

Australia would be the first country to receive an interstellar message, because we are in the Southern Hemisphere, and no other Southern Hemisphere country has the technology to join in - all countries presently searching are

in the Northern Hemisphere. We already have the facilities (Parkes Radio Telescope) and scientists in CSIRO who wish to begin SETI programme, but it has not gone ahead because the Federal Government has cut funds to the CSIRO division of radiophysics. John Prytz and I have been working hard to try to convince our politicians that not only is this form of space research of benefit to Australia, it is essential. We may not be able to afford space probes to other planets, but we can contribute greatly through astronomy. Some people are against space exploration because of its cost, and fear that technology will destroy our civilization. Technology is not good or bad in itself, it is only the way in which it is used which determines how it will affect us. Although the knowledge and techniques developed from space research could destroy us if used wrongly, collapse of our civilization is inevitable if we do NOT go ahead and tap the resources of space. We would then return to the law of jungle because of failure to support the demands of worlds massive population. Detection of ETI's would help by proving to us that technology can be survived and lead to return to the stars, and not to the jungle. Finally, the cosmic perspective it would give us, may bring the maturity we so badly need to deal with the problems facing the world today.

For those people who would like some background scientific knowledge on the subject of SETI, Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Research, I have made up a list of books which can be read, understood and enjoyed by non-scientists, like me, without mathematical knowledge.

Many thanks to Mr. John Prytz for his encouragement and use of article "The Search of a Subject" - An Australian SETI programme, and "The Quest for an Alien Intelligence".

RECOMMENDED READING:

S.E.T.I. / C.E.T.I. (C.E.T.I. is communication with ETI not search for ETI)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Intelligent Life in the Universe</u> | - C. Sagan - Published first 1966
Picador edition 1977 |
| <u>Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence</u> | - C. Sagan - MIT Press Cambridge Mass. 1973* |
| <u>The Cosmic Connection</u> | - C. Sagan - Coronet 1975 |
| <u>Messages from the Stars</u> | - I. Ridpath- Fontana 1978 |
| <u>The Galactic Club</u> | - R.N. Bracewell - W.H. Froman 1975* |
| <u>Man and the Stars</u> | - Duncan Lunan - Corgi 1978
First published 1974 |
| <u>Cosmic Search</u> | - Robert S. Dixon (bi-monthly scientific journal from Ohio)* |
| <u>Road to the Stars</u> | - Iain Nicholson - Cassell 1978 |
| <u>SETI publications</u> | - NASA* |

(* Only available by subscription or in libraries)

reference library

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

The "New Zealand UFO Studies Centre" which is a division of Earth Colonisation Research Association published its fourth special issue publication in September 1979.

This issue is devoted to the "Kaikoura UFO Controversy" and covers events which occurred in New Zealand in December 1978. It is intended to set the record straight on the facts of the now famous sightings and film taken of the coast of that country.

Contributing to the 24 page offset printed document are Dr. J.F. DeBock, Director of NUSC, Dr. B.S. Maccabee, of MUFON and Dr. Wood, President NUSC. Priced at NZ \$ 2.50 (includes surface postage) the document is available from New Zealand UFO Studies Centre, 53 Jubilee Road, Khandallah, New Zealand.

Highly recommended for those wishing more of the inside story on the NZ events.

The 1979 MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings are now available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155 USA, for US \$ 9.00

The 226 page volume contains eleven papers presented at the tenth annual UFO Symposium held on July 7 and 8, 1979, in California.

Titles of some of the eleven interesting papers are as follows:

- "Information Retrievals: a Case for UFO Cover-up" by William H. Spaulding,
- "A review of selected sightings from aircraft - 1973 to 1978" by Richard F. Haines, PhD,
- "The Legion of the bewildered silent and related topics" by J. Allen Hynek

Mandatory reading for those who like to keep up with current thinking and the latest information.

BOOK REVIEW - By Jane L. Brooks

MURMURS OF THE EARTH - The Voyager Interstellar Record

By Carl Sagan, F.D. Drake, Ann Druyan, Timothy Ferris, Jon Lomborg, Linda Sagan.

(C) 1978 Hodder and Stoughton. ISBN 0340244232 \$ 23.95

This beautiful book is dedicated "To The Makers Of Music, All Worlds, All Times". It is an account of the phonograph record fixed to the exteriors

REFERENCE LIBRARY

of the NASA spacecraft Voyager 1 and 2, written by those people responsible for the selection of the pictures, sounds, messages and music which have been recorded.

Because of their planned trajectories, the two Voyagers will travel out of our Solar System into interstellar space after completing their missions of exploration of the outer planets, and probably will still be intact millions of years into the future. There is remote chance that the spacecraft may be found by a spacefaring extraterrestrial civilization, and the record has been designed to convey to its finders what we human and our home planet and Solar System were like when the spacecraft was launched. Even though it may not be understood, our goodwill and greetings to the other inhabitants of the Universe are expressed. The record also has a message to ourselves: We wish to have something we have created survive into the future. We wish there could be lasting friendship and cooperation between Earthlings. We have an urge to explore and make contact with cosmos.

"Murmurs of The Earth" is an inspiring and moving book; one that would be a worthwhile addition to any home collection or library. Unfortunately, it does not contain recent photographs of Jupiter and its moons, because it was published before these were available. However, what it does contain is something the World could do with a lot more right now; goodwill and the hope that there will be a future for Humankind, - one in which we will become members of an interstellar community.

SPACE TRAVELLERS HANDBOOK Michael Freeman
Golden Press (C) 1979. ISBN 08558 5137 \$ 12.95

This book is a must for anyone who is interested in manned spaceflight! It is written from the viewpoint of people of 2061 looking back on the first Century of Space Travel. It contains details of past, present (to us) and future space craft and missions, with many clear diagrams, illustrations and photographs, including those of Jupiter and its moons taken by Voyager 1 and 2.

The book also includes the answers to those awkward questions that are usually passed over concerning normal bodily functions. The impression that space travel will be eventually within the reach of ordinary people in good health is given to reader, and that although some of the mystery is taken out of it, great adventure awaits in a future of space exploration.

PUBLICATIONS

"A Source catalogue of Australasian UFO and related reports". A 53 page offset printed catalogue providing brief summaries of 350 close encounter cases. Price Aust. \$ 4.50 includes surface postage.

"Basic investigator's guide". An invaluable 69 page offset and photocopied guide in techniques of investigating UFOs. Provides basic hints on astronomy, meteorology etc. Appendices include sample specialist report forms. Available only to UFO Research organisations. Price A\$ 4.00 includes surface postage.

PUBLICATIONS

The following items have run out of print. However photocopies can be made available at cost price of copying plus postage.

"An Australian catalogue of Close Encounter type three reports".

A collection and analysis of 36 CE3 reports. 49 pages. Duplicated price \$ 5.50 includes surface postage.

"Supplements 1 - 11 to "An Australian catalogue of Close Encounter type three reports". 34 pages. Duplicated price \$ 4.00 includes surface postage.

Australian Entity Study Group "Case Documents". So far nine documents have been published. Each provides details of one close encounter type three report, includes descriptions, some sketches, tape transcripts etc. Total set of nine, 64 pages duplicated and printed. Price \$ 7.50 includes surface postage.

"A Catalogue of reported Close Encounters - South Australia". Current to March 1978. Contains brief description and sources for 54 reported Close Encounters within S.A. and N.T. Plus "Physical Trace Cases - South Australia". A listing current to February 1978. Total 18 pages. Price A \$ 2.00 includes surface postage.

The above publications may be ordered from 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale, South Australia 5127. Please make cheques, money orders etc. payable to 'Keith Basterfield' as the organisation does not run a separate bank account.

