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Australian Centre for UFO Studies

PO BOX 546, GOSFORD NSW 2250



UFO Research (FNQ) Far North Queensland

PO BOX 1585, CAIRNS QLD 4870



UFO Research (QLD) Queensland

PO BOX 111, NORTH QUAY QLD 4000



UFO Research (NSW) New South Wales

PO BOX 6, LANE COVE NSW 2066



UFO Research (CC) Central Coast

81 GLENROCK PARADE, KOOLEWONG NSW 2256



UFO Research (SC) South Coast

8 WIRRI PLACE, BERKELEY NSW 2506



Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (TUFOIC)

PO BOX 99, NORTH HOBART TAS 7002



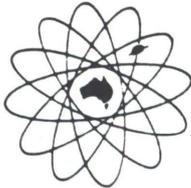
UFO Research (SA) Inc. South Australia

18 FRANCIS AVENUE, PARA HILLS SA 5096



UFO Research (WA) Western Australia

84 ACTON AVENUE, RIVERVALE WA 6103



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EDITOR - PUBLISHER:

Vladimir Godic
PO Box 229
Prospect, South Australia 5082

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Pony Barenson

CORRESPONDENTS:

Australia: Keith Basterfield
Jeff Bell
Russell Boundy
Holly Goriss
Michael Hough
Paul Jackson
Paul & Cassandra Sowiak-Rudej

France: Jean Bastide

New Zealand: John Knapman

Rumania: Tiberius Topor

ILLUSTRATOR: John Miels

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editorial

RESPONSIBILITY IN UFO RESEARCH

(Guest Editorial by Mark Moravec)

Ufologists deal with people - people who report their UFO experiences; and fellow researchers with whom they exchange their findings. Given this situation, how should the UFO investigator conduct his investigation? What responsibility does he have towards the UFO witness? And what responsibility does he have to his colleagues in UFO research?

Let us first look at the ufologist's ethical responsibility to the witness. The first and most important consideration is the rights and well-being of the witness. This means looking at such questions as: Will the witness give his permission to be interviewed? Does the witness want his name to remain confidential? Should children who have had a traumatic close encounter be involved in an in-depth investigation? What attention should be paid to that minority of UFO witnesses who might be psychologically disturbed? Is it advisable to have a close encounter witness undergo hypnotic age regression, and if so, what procedures should be followed? What precautions should the investigator take to prevent his own beliefs about UFOs from unduly influencing the witness and his testimony?

Ethical issues are particularly important in cases where a person has undergone a traumatic close encounter. A distraught person's first need is for someone to help calm them down. Scientific probing of the percipient's experiences comes later and need not negate empathy and reassurance. Whilst the UFO investigator is quite justified in presenting his case for a scientific investigation of the witness' UFO experience, it is ultimately up to the witness to decide how far he will participate in the investigation. And that decision must be respected.

Secondly, the ufologist also has a responsibility to other UFO researchers. For there to be progress in UFO research, there must be effort and honesty in documenting reports, a free and open exchange of information, and a respect and open-mindedness towards the reasonable ideas of others. Investigation of an interesting UFO report requires more than an interview of the witness. It requires documentation of the details, an honest appraisal of all possible explanations, and the dissemination of a written report. The circulation of written reports to interested researchers is an essential part of the free and open exchange of information between ufologists.

Finally, we must recognise the diversity of viewpoints in ufology. In a subject where there are few scientifically verified facts and patterns, most ideas and hypotheses are open to challenge. People being people, criticism of one's own ideas is sometimes misinterpreted as a personal attack. And on the other hand, unjustified attacks on a person's character are no substitute for constructive criticism. Ufology, thus far divorced from the entrenched conservatism of mainstream science, has the potential for breaking new ideas and new scientific paradigms. Free debate should be encouraged, not stifled.

Fortunately, most Australian researchers (notably those associated with the Australian Centre for UFO Studies) maintain a responsible attitude to both the witnesses they interview and to their colleagues in UFO research. But any exceptions should be of concern. I suggest a code of ethics in UFO research be recognised and adopted. It can only result in greater esteem and respect in the eyes of both the public and science.

The following Close Encounter of the Third Kind was witnessed by a mother and son both of whom wish to remain anonymous, therefore, we shall refer to the witnesses as Mrs T and Mr T.

Mrs T, a respected resident of Christchurch is an honest and intelligent 82 year old. Her son, who is also well respected in the community, has a small farm on the south side of Dunedin. The countryside in this area consists of rolling hills with neighbours seldom being closer than a half mile to each other.

The event occurred at 6.15 p.m. on the evening of July 11, 1981, while Mrs T was stopping with her son on his property.*

Mrs T retired early intending to have an early night, however, when she entered her bedroom she saw a very bright light shining through the window. Going to the window Mrs T observed a football shaped object in an adjacent paddock which was approximately the size of a compact car.

This object, which glowed and pulsated, had a light on its lower half which was as bright as a searchlight. Two entities were clearly visible within the craft, one appeared to be piloting from a clear "glass" cabin in the nose whilst the other was stan-

ding in a central "glass" tube which extended beyond the top of the craft, this being using an instrument which resembled a telephone. Both entities were dressed in grey coveralls, had white skin and no hair. The object emitted neither sound nor smell and was approximately 80 metres from Mrs T in the south - a second smaller object was visible in the distance, also in the south.

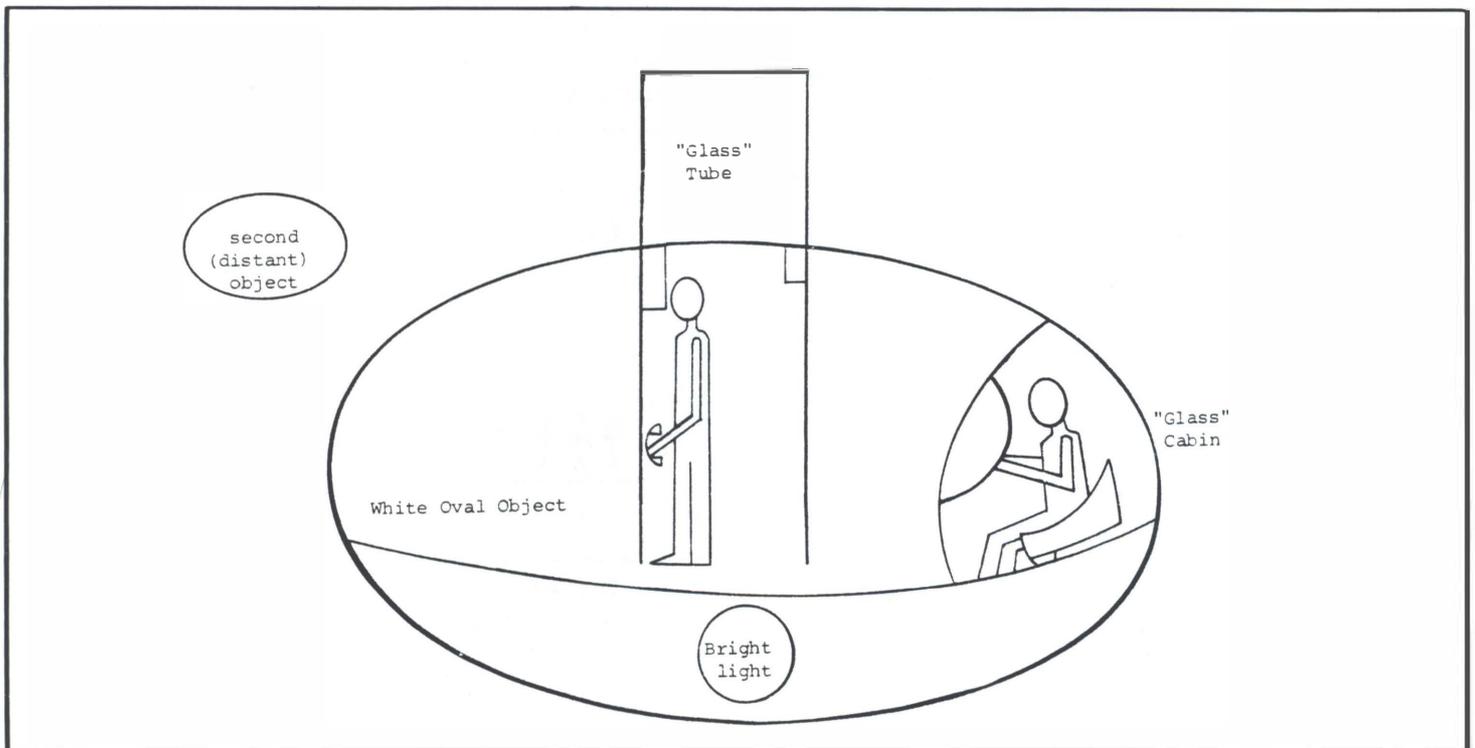
Mrs T called her son who came to the window and observed the object for approximately six minutes before telling his mother to go to bed and tell no-one what she had seen.

Mr T went to bed but his mother spent the next eight hours watching the two objects manoeuvre about the fields and sky; they descended, hovered, changed direction, ascended, even vibrated, in a random manner throughout the night - many of these manoeuvres were performed at great speed. Mrs T eventually lost sight of the objects when they ascended "straight up".

The objects were viewed on a clear cloudless night, and did not leave a discernible physical trace.

Unfortunately neither Mrs T or her son had a camera, however, Mr T has confirmed that he also witnessed the two objects, but is extremely anxious to avoid publicity and the possibility of ridicule and, therefore, does not wish to pursue the subject.

*Editor's note: This case was reported to John Knapman on November 29, 1981.



A PROPOSAL FOR A NETWORK LINKING THE INFORMATION RESOURCES OF AUSTRALIAN UFO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

by
John Prytz

PART ONE:

Group/Individual Co-Operation and the Concept of a Network.

Throughout the world there has been an historical trend from the "simple" to the "complex" which has cut across all areas of knowledge and human society. Further, that trend is increasing at an even faster rate. Politics and government; the law; economics; science and technology; the social sciences, etc., and the issues central to and confronting those fields, are increasingly less comprehensible not only to outsiders, but to those considered experts in those fields. Thus, all policy, research, and development organisations, whether international, national or local; formal or informal, find it increasingly difficult to function at their ideal levels.

Ufology in general and Australian ufology in particular (for purposes of this paper) is not isolated from the world at large. Ufology too is faced, through no fault of its own, with an ever-widening complexity gap between what it would like to do and its ability to do it. How has Australian ufology coped in terms of retaining the status-quo or even in narrowing the gap, and what can it do in the short term to further offset the evolution of the "complexity" syndrome?

One response has been the efforts to improve the effectiveness of UFO groups through central co-ordination via the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS) and internal reform of their procedures and methods. For example, the establishment of "annual" UFOCONS; and ACUFOS committee system to consider complex issues surrounding UFO entity reports, UFO physical trace cases, photographic evidence for UFOs, or UFO ranking schemes; the establishment of UFORAN; UFOCAT, which contains UFO reports in a centralized computer data bank, etc.

But improvements and reforms such as these may not be enough. UFO groups/individuals are faced with increasing quantities of information to digest — even a decade ago, world-wide, within the broad fields of science and technology, roughly 500,000 PAGES of reports, journal articles and books were produced EVERY MINUTE — and have relatively static resources of finance, capacity and time. To enable UFO groups/individuals to meet the many commitments on their finance, time; to think through issues and ideas; to come to grips with various proposals and to try to assess alternative approaches to complex problems requires more than the status quo.

These issues are now particularly relevant as UFO groups/individuals tackle the increasingly complex issues involved in ufology, most of which require detailed knowledge central to other areas of social, biological and physical science, which have arisen in recent times. For example, the Imagery Theory is a case in point. Have UFO groups/individuals the information resources at their disposal to assess matters such as this? Have the committee systems added to the pressure on our existing information systems?

Part of the crisis belongs to the "information explosion" and the almost impossible task faced by UFO groups/individuals of being aware of the relevant material on any topic. What are the latest research findings? What ideas and/or solutions have been tried elsewhere and with what success? What is the opinion on this issue? The "information explosion" has led to an information overload, and we have little knowledge of what is available, what form it is in, what the quality of it is, and where it can be found.

UFO groups/individuals have, to varying degrees, attempted to provide themselves, usually on an ad hoc and informal basis, with expertise in the marshalling and organisation of information resources and it converting available information into a form and quantity which is directly relevant to the needs of those UFO groups/individuals and convenient for them to use.

Several problems are apparent and have a bearing on the concept of a network:

1. No single UFO group/individual in Australia is self-sufficient or could be self-sufficient in the information resources it commands or is available, yet ...
2. The issues which confront many UFO groups/individuals are common to others and there is also frequent overlap between ACUFOS and group/individual interests.
3. Do we know what is or will be available?
4. All too frequently no one group/individual knows what any other group/individual already has.
5. In this time of high information output, and high costs, are we duplicating our collective resources and maybe allowing a high percentage of relevant material to slip through our fingers?

The 1980s are likely to be a period of rapid change. This will inevitably bring with it a degree of uncertainty, even of threat to traditional information structures. It will also be a period of challenge and a time for decision. The vital element in a period of change is the opportunity it presents to those with the vision to take advantage of it. Thus, when we consider the ramifications of the basic observations mentioned previously and bearing in mind that the UFO groups/individuals have in common the goal to provide themselves with better access to information and a better overall distribution of information, we might ask what are the barriers, possibly institutional in character, which might check our progress.

If UFO groups/individuals are to fulfil their own expectations, and the expectations of other UFO groups/individuals, and effectively exercise the delegation given to them to select a relevant subset of all available documentation and to convert it into a directly usable form, the filtering process should be based upon access to a large data base. Co-operation between UFO groups/individuals in building the data base and in sharing the filtering process may be one of the major opportunities presented by the 1980s.

Underlying such co-operation is the need for a shared use of common terminology or symbols with which to identify information and its element. Without a common language it will be quite impossible to draw from a common data base with any degree of accuracy.

As independent units, UFO groups/individuals, like other special interest groups with relatively fixed resources, find it difficult to achieve and maintain better research quality in the face of increasing pressures for research quantity. Often, research is rationed indirectly through limitations imposed by available staff, funds, time, and information. The pursuit of information further cuts into the facets of time and funds. Through a network, and with the added benefit of the technology now becoming available for the provision of information services, much of this may change. For example, the major part of the costs of any computerised information system is not in the information itself but in storing it, searching for it, the transmission of data and reproducing hard copies. The shared use of the new technology with its benefits of decreasing unit costs of operation should enable UFO groups/individuals to offer a better information service to other UFO groups/individuals at lower cost, than via the "chain parcel" manual/postal system. But whether through a manual, or technological system, it is almost certain that during the 1980s it will become cost beneficial for UFO groups/individuals to work together, to increase the availability of material to other UFO groups/individuals and to reduce the unit of costs of the participating UFO groups/individuals.

One advantage for inter-UFO group/individual co-operation centres on the advantages to be gained in terms of collection building. On a national basis more titles would be acquired and at least one copy of many obscure works retained for research purposes somewhere in the country. Concurrently, development of a national catalogue make possible this collective use of information resources, in that we each would not only know what is available, but in what location(s) it can be obtained from. There are obvious benefits for individual UFO groups/individuals especially in terms of access to a greater range of resources.

The push toward co-operation is apparent when individual UFO groups/individuals face rapidly rising costs and levels of demand on their research capacity. Co-operation appears an attractive option especially if the elements of co-operative action are present. These elements include:

1. Co-operation is desirable when it benefits the UFO group/individual individually and makes them more effective collectively.
2. Each participating UFO group/individual must derive some benefit. No individual UFO group/individual can be expected simply to be co-operative.
3. Co-operation must be seen as a voluntary act by each partner.
4. Because benefits cannot always be precisely judged in advance, partners must be prepared to experiment and to take some risks.
5. There must be a willingness to undertake objective appraisal of the co-operative activities.
6. The co-operative network must allow for the present state and legitimate aspirations of individual UFO groups/individuals. All or most UFO groups/individuals in a co-operative network may have special interests, needs, collections or strengths which may be part of their individual contribution to the network as a whole.
7. There must be a willingness to implement common standards and practices in relation to the shared development of data bases in particular.

Therefore, a co-operative network linking the resources of the UFO groups/individuals of Australia, which would enable the available information resources to be used more effectively, increase the level of resources available, and reduce duplication of effort (and cost), would appear to have distinct advantages and deserve immediate consideration.

A distinguishing characteristic of the proposed network from many others is that it would not be based solely on a common bibliographical data base and improved resource lending arrangements. The distinguishing feature would be the shared use of the information-filtering products referred to earlier. Significant service improvements would be derived from the shared use of information searches and document evaluation when issues are common to more than one UFO group/individual. Computers will allow much of the information to be available in on-line data bases and the telecommunications network should enable fast information and document delivery, should the traditional paper and postal methodologies be considered inadequate.

A PROPOSAL FOR A NETWORK LINKING THE INFORMATION RESOURCES OF AUSTRALIAN UFO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

PART TWO: A Network Scenario

1.) The Information Needs of UFO Groups/Individuals: Information is needed for quality research, effective debating, the raising of appropriate questions, contributions to ACUFOS committees, supporting activities such as in public relations and media contact, effectively representing the interests of the group/individual, background knowledge, keeping up-to-date, etc.

Information must be readily accessible, timely, concise, accurate, reliable, free of bias or partisan views (as much as is humanly possible and understandable).

Information must be available on all ufological issues and capable of being selectively used to support a point of view. It should be available in relation to both the facts and ufologists et.al. opinions about those facts, and accessible in a form which will allow the ufologist to keep up-to-date with their special interests. Information should often be in summary or digest form.

Information analysis services are also desirable which will provide a pro and con analysis; assess, forecast and interpret developments in relation to ufological matters; present the benefits, costs and indirect effects of proposed action(s) on those matters; consider alternatives; and draw out the long-term implications. The ACUFOS committee system is a step in the right direction toward this sort of service.

2.) The Sources of Information Available to UFO Groups/Individuals: There are many sources available most of which will supply information in considerable quantities with little encouragement. This adds to the "information explosion" and the information overload under which many ufologists work. Major sources include the media, newspapers, radio, television, etc.; colleagues; Government Departments and official publications; debates, research papers, proceedings of UFOCONS, etc.; the public; professional organizations, academics, etc.; and of course the special and commercial publications such as books, journals, etc.

Most of these sources meet some of the needs of ufologists some of the time, but would meet most of the needs most of the time if the sum total were integrated by the holders of these bits and pieces. Hence the need for special information services of, by, and for all of the various UFO groups/individuals and responsive to the particular needs of other UFO groups/individuals.

UFO groups/individuals should be a principal source of information and research services on all subjects of interest and concern. UFO groups/individuals should have on tap information resources and provide an information service to others which is balanced, impartial, objective confidential (if need be), and available equally to all UFO groups and individuals that from part of the overall network. Ufology is such a highly specialized, inter-disciplinary, and yet "untouchable" subject that ufologists cannot rely on more traditional information networks and services, such as public and academic libraries, providing them the quality and quantity of data they need.

3.) Problems Common To All UFO Groups/Individuals: Among the problems which are affecting the capacity of individual UFO groups/individuals effectively carry out their role(s) are the growing complexity and raising of issues facing them which require the application of additional resources of staff, time, finance and resource collections; the inability of any UFO group/individual to reach a point of relative self-sufficiency in its collections and information resources; the rapidly increasing costs of printed and other resources; rapidly increasing levels of demand from UFO groups/individuals on their own resources and the resources of other UFO groups/individuals relevant to the needs for research, etc.; and the development of ACUFOS (and perhaps internal group) committees.

4.) The Solutions of the Technological Age: In common with many other organisations which are expected to face increasing levels of information acquisition, storage, retrieval and dissemination with relatively static resources, UFO groups/individuals can turn to technology. Existing and potential applications include automation of the group's/individual's routines associated with the acquisition and cataloguing of material; the management of periodical, document and book collections; use of on-line information retrieval from computerized data bases held on publicly accessible information networks in Australia and the United States of America. Telecom Australia's MIDAS satellite communication link makes access to the USA relatively cheap. ACUFOS could also have a central computerized on-line data base which UFO groups/individuals could plug into at cost. The design and creation of such a central ACUFOS data base, perhaps on a computer, would consist of internal information resources (input from the various groups/individuals), including indexes and abstracts to current periodicals, papers, etc. Other technological applications include word processing equipment to facilitate text-editing and repetitive typing operations; monitoring of current affairs programs on radio and television plus news services (including telex and videotex information); maximum utilization of telecommunication systems; and applications of microform technology.

Technical applications, in particular electronic ones, are highly useful, in particular to Australia, given this country's geographical isolation, large surface area, and small population density.

Although UFO group/individual operations have had a 35 year history without much aid from the new technology, the cost of computers (for example) has fallen steadily during the past few years, so that mini or micro computers are now within the reach of just about all UFO groups and individuals.

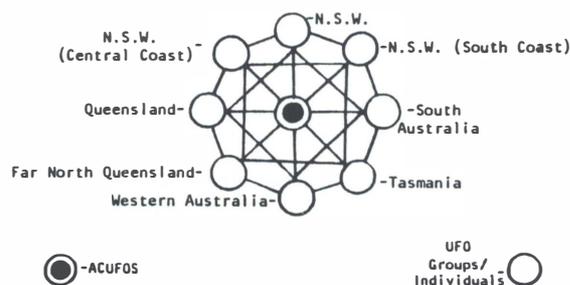
5.) A Co-Operative Network System: The concept of a co-operative or shared resource is pertinent because most UFO groups/individuals are on the threshold of coming to grips with the "information explosion" and information overloads; all UFO groups/individuals are dealing with some subject matter or forms of material in common with other UFO groups/individuals; each UFO group/individual is keen to learn from the experience of others, to develop the largest possible set of information resources at the least cost and to avoid overlap and duplication of effort; and a resource-sharing network brings both individual and network-wide benefits.

There are many opportunities for joint activity including the prompt indexing of files from all UFO groups/individuals, digests of research done, abstracting of papers written, the shared indexing of periodical and newspaper material which is relevant to ufological affairs, and the building of tools which provide access to UFO reports and subsidiary documentation.

A common thesaurus of terms appropriate to ufology is essential and work on its compilation should begin as soon as possible.

A study by each UFO group/individual of the needs they have in terms of information resources, and their capacity to contribute to a shared system should be done promptly.

The shape of the network may resemble a wheel.



This implies that each UFO group/individual will develop its own system and be dependent upon its own current files to a large extent. Files of older data can be stored centrally if desired, in either hard copy and/or electronic form, and both the current and older files would be accessible to other UFO groups/individuals with blocks preventing access to confidential material. Similar sorts of arrangements would exist for journals, books, films, recordings. Perhaps all material older than say five years before the present date could be converted to microform, with each UFO group/individual having a full set, and ACUFOS holding in a central place the originals, at least for printed materials (and assuming problems of copyright can be solved). The same could be said for storage of printed material in electronic form. But whether stored in microform or in electronic form, the cost of printers must be weighed against the benefits of Australia-wide access, savings in storage space, etc. Items such as films, recordings, video-discs, etc. are another matter entirely. But problems aside for the moment, there are benefits which could offset these. Are the benefits worth the costs of the solutions to the problems?

The benefits of the co-operative network would include access to much larger resource files; access to UFO group/individual indexes; increased capacity to expand services and research; possible increase in group/individual resources from information pursuit and sifting to research; and with flexible planning and the gradual introduction of new UFO groups/individuals and expanded involvement of other established participants there will be opportunities for sharing experiences other than through the currently methods of UFOCONS, writing articles, and exchanging letters.

The costs will depend on the level of technology desired and on the scale of services to be provided.

PART THREE:

A Suggested Policy Statement Concerning the Development of A Network Between Australia's UFO Groups and/or Individuals

1.) ACUFOS accepts as a general goal the establishment of a co-operative network between the UFO groups/individuals in Australia in order to ensure that members of all groups and individuals have access to a full range of authoritative information in relation to their needs.

2.) The adoption of this goal is seen as a necessary response to the rapidly increasing costs of information resources and services; the increasing levels of demand for information resources and services which flow from the higher expectations of UFO groups/individuals and the increasing range and complexity of the issues facing UFO groups/individuals; and the inability of any UFO group/individual to reach a point of relative self-sufficiency in terms of its collections and information resources.

3.) In general terms, ACUFOS supports the establishment of a co-operative network because it believes that all participating UFO groups/individuals will benefit in the following ways: access will be provided to greatly expanded resources; indexes and other information tools will be specifically produced related to the interests of UFO groups/individuals; each UFO group/individual will have the opportunity to expand existing research and to develop new and improved research, benefiting from the experience of others; and the rapid advances in computer and telecommunications technology will be introduced more rapidly than might otherwise be the case.

4.) In adopting this goal, ACUFOS recognises that each UFO group/individual is independent with its own priorities and aspirations. These must be protected within the network structure.

5.) However, in areas where, by common agreement between the participants, the co-operative development of data basis is to be pursued, ACUFOS is willing to assist in the development of common formats, standards and indexing language, and to use the common standards in data base creation.

A PROPOSAL FOR A NETWORK LINKING THE INFORMATION RESOURCES OF AUSTRALIAN UFO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

6.) Prior to a commitment to participate in any particular network project ACUFOS would wish to carry out studies to ensure that ACUFOS and UFO groups individuals will derive benefits. Where benefits cannot be fully assessed in advance ACUFOS will generally be prepared to accept an element of risk in relation to the success of the venture. Necessary approvals will be required from the ACUFOS Co-Ordinators.

7.) ACUFOS reserves the right to refrain from participating in certain proposed network ventures where, following the detailed evaluation of the proposal, no direct benefit to UFO groups/individuals is to be derived. ACUFOS respects the right for all other partners to make similar decisions if they wish to do so.

8.) ACUFOS would expect to participate in an on-going review of network operations and in the long-term planning for its development. ACUFOS would undertake studies and research projects to assist network planning.

9.) ACUFOS will, in all future projects, keep the interests of network partners in mind and keep them fully informed of plans and developments in all aspects of development. This applies in particular to technological developments.

Conclusion:

These are only some of my preliminary thoughts on the subject. The issues raised, specific problems, solutions/options, costs/benefits, etc., will be detailed by the ACUFOS committee delegated at UFOCON 6 to look into the matter in depth, and report back at UFOCON 7. Meantime, interested readers can make any submissions on this topic to the author at P.O. Box 1703, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

Where the Natural Meets the Supernatural

A new concept has brought many physicists to the threshold of discarding all known theories of their science — or perhaps the science itself.

The cause of the dilemma is known as a 'naked singularity', and the notion of its existence has been described as the ultimate crisis in physics.

Professor Paul Davies, a Professor of Physics at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, described a singularity as 'a sort of non-place, such as at the centre of a black hole, where all known physical laws and structure break down; where gravity is so intense that it literally tears time and space apart.' A naked singularity is the (posited) existence of such a non-place outside a black hole.

Professor Davies, a leading astrophysicist and author of many popular books on physics, including *The Runaway Universe*, said:

'Gravity manifests itself in a warp of space and time, yet gravity can escalate without limit, smashing the barriers of space and time to bits. A singularity is an edge of space and time.

'It is very worrying to the physicist if a singularity exists outside a black hole because it represents a breakdown of known physics. It is unpredictable: the end of science as we know it because it could occur without prior causes. It is the interface between the natural and the supernatural.

'Different attitudes have been adopted: either we have to rewrite the whole of physics to take naked singularities into account — which is the most popular alternative — or we, must accept that even the physics we don't know will break down.

'I believe in the former, and that the new physics will not be based on space and time — notions which are currently fundamental to our description of the universe. Space and time will be found to be made up of more primitive components. If we could see a naked singularity, we could see what space and time are made of.'

Professor Davies said he took naked singularities seriously in that, even if they did not actually exist, they were possible in principle.

'The sort of physics that gives rise to black holes also gives rise to naked singularities. Both occur with the collapse of an extremely compact, perhaps rapidly spinning star. Quasars have some of the features of naked singularities. If you take black holes seriously, you must accept the possibility of naked singularities too.'

Like black holes, naked singularities are consequences of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity which, Professor Davies said, contains within it the seeds of its own destruction (unlike any other theory of physics). 'It is as if the theory were saying "Look into me closely and I will show you how I become unworkable".'

Because the notion of a naked singularity is so worrying to physicists they have formulated a so-called cosmic censorship hypothesis. 'This is a picturesque way of saying there can never be a naked singularity because such things are so awful. But the hypothesis clearly fails for the creation of the universe, because the 'big bang' theory of the origin of the universe is a type of naked singularity.

An international expert on black holes and singularities, Professor Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University, believes that a naked singularity would spew out matter and radiation in a totally chaotic and unpredictable way — rather like white noise, Professor Davies said.

However though a naked singularity could, by definition, destroy the orderly operation of the universe, its existence might actually turn out to be no worse than that of a quasar — interesting, but not alarming.

WA University News

THE FEDERAL HYPOTHESIS

BY WILLIAM H. SPAULDING (*Director of Ground Saucer Watch Inc.*)

With each new month of researching the perplexing UFO phenomenon more information and logic is surfacing to seriously consider that the CIA involvement with the subject is one that was established to promote a pro-saucer viewpoint rather than suppress interest. The Federal Hypothesis is a conspiracy theory originating from the basic covert operational technique of the intelligence agencies. Prior to expounding upon the reasoning of this relatively new theory and how/why it could work, let's review what has transpired during the past thirty plus years. To the acknowledgement of most UFO researchers the following items are considered factual:

1. 1947 is the conception date of modern-day UFO sightings.
2. The Air Corps (predecessor to the Air Force) started its first in-a-series of investigative programs in 1948.
3. The military investigations were primarily established for a case by case "study" with a bi-monthly capsulation of the data with emphasis on demographic distribution, volume of incidents and a meager attempt at pattern recognition.
4. Many of the early documents from the government reveal data that show most observations of this phenomenon were over/near military installations. This could be a bad interpretation of data, void of significance, as many of the reports involved military personnel who just happened to be near a base, due to their vocation. This leaves us with two questions - How many civilians have had sightings near a strategic installation/base, but did not report the incident; and were UFOs truly interested in the military strength or preparedness of this country as suggested by the UFO researchers?
5. Many of the documents from the intelligence community relate to UFO activity in foreign countries. Does this imply that we are dealing with a global phenomenon or is it simply a matter of misinterpretations occurring over foreign air space? Surely, if the United States can have close to 85% of all the reported sightings related to conventional explanations, i.e., astronomical phenomena/bodies, aircraft, balloons, et al, then it is highly probable that misinterpretations can and have permeated the entire globe.
6. Most UFO data is empirical, therefore, the event or the reality of the event is based solely on the unsupported word of the witness(es). Yet in many instances, this type of report is immediately labeled "authentic" by the pro-UFO community based on a not-so-indepth conversation with the witness. A question now arises concerning believability and possible biased judgement. Would the same investigators "believe" a report from the same witnesses if they had reported a conversation with a group of elves?
7. All UFO data can not be identified as hoaxes, rare natural phenomena or misinterpretations. It is too easy to stereotype all incidents as identifiable, as categorizing is a violation of the scientific investigative methodology consisting of initial research, cataloging, testing and final conclusions.
8. The investigations of UFO events by both the civilian and military present evidence of foul-up. Many cases have been improperly investigated due to time, money, and most likely the technique of the involved parties.
9. As early as 1952 the CIA, with blessings from the National Security Council (NSC), took command of the entire UFO investigation. Documents reveal that

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- the CIA diplomatically convinced the NSC that UFOs could have serious ramifications if used as a psychological warfare weapon and that a sufficient quantity of events have not been properly explained by the existing investigative efforts of the U.S. Air Force.
10. The covert interplay of the intelligence community coupled with the feeble effort of the Air Force lead many civilian UFO researchers to "believe" that a massive conspiracy was existing with the sole purpose to cover-up visitations from outer space. Was there a deliberate cover-up or were misinformation tactics being used to mis-direct the body politic's thinking on the subject? The latter is highly possible to rationalize, once we can fully understand the how's and why's and remember that the end always justifies the means in the philosophy of the intelligence community.
 11. To date, no data presented represents visitations from outer space. Granted, there are some unexplained cases which appear extremely bizarre, yet they have not been fully investigated to appease the physical scientific method.
 12. The data appears to substantiate that a small residue of events are being caused by a "real" phenomenon/object or what seems like a real object. The statistical data from the Air Force during the closure of Project Blue Book, states that less than 3% of the incidents are "unknowns", while the civilian data banks place the figure closer to 8%. The true calculations are most likely somewhere in between.
 13. Since few physical experiments can be carried out in the laboratory on UFO evidence, the hard-core scientist cannot study UFOs the same way testing could transpire on new medicines.
 14. Where is the middle ground? The scientists explain that the distances between the stars are too vast for outer space connections, yet many researchers of UFOs over-look this point and refer to the volume of unsolved events! Are they both half-right?

15. UFO incidents appear to be cyclic, yet new studies show that the theories also have a periodicity rate about them. For example, in the early fifties it was the stories of crashed saucers, in the sixties it was the abductions and contacts. Now years later we are going through the same syndrome once again with numerous crashed saucer rumors.

The Federal Hypothesis is a plausible theory and the following is in accordance with the basic saucer facts, previously established.

How can it happen? The Federal Hypothesis was not an idea initiated by the Government with the sole purpose to create a conspiracy. From the conception of modern day sightings the reports of these unusual events posed a real mystery to the military/intelligence experts. The initial investigative attempts by the Air Force, via Projects Saucer & Grudge, tried to find an all-encompassing answer while maintaining secrecy on key events. In documented evidence from these "early" projects, there are two important items - the elusive saucers were not space ships sent to Earth by alien powers and that the UFOs did not represent weapons directed by a foreign power.

Then, at some point in time, most likely prior to 1952, the flying saucer syndrome generated a popular movement and the intelligence community thought of "saucers" in a new way. This new method of thinking was to promote, enhance and manipulate the UFO story, rather than just publicly opposing the entire subject. The opposition and debunking characteristics were considered passive resistance and actually aided in the creation of a modern day controversy.

The documents now show that the organization doing the investigation of saucer events was not the same involved with this new thinking, although the two programs proceeded concurrently. For the Federal Hypothesis to work properly, the investigative group was unaware of the covert organization. Most likely the clandestine group knew about, infiltrated and utilized the investigation group to justify "their" goals.

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In many documents obtained from the CIA, through usage of the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), there is specific mention of use of "flying saucers" for psychological purposes. The following scenario could have easily transpired and included:

- A. The Intelligence organizations nurtured the idea of a massive cover-up through intentional leaks of highly classified reports, investigations and conclusions.
- B. The deliberate funneling of misinformation generated interest and was a gauge of the public's reactions.
- C. The encouragement of the subject via direct agent interface and indirect funding of certain saucer organizations, publications and civilian researchers.
- D. The creation of UFO hysteria, well-publicized in previously released CIA documents, by concocting events, playing-up reports from the general public and staging sensational saucer encounters.

The staging reference includes close-encounters-of-the-third-kind by witness manipulation. The possibility of a psychological manifestation accounting for some of the reported "contact" cases is extremely high. How many times have we all heard a researcher say that a specific close encounter event was "real in the mind of the witness", although there wasn't any collaborating evidence to support the occurrence.

For this scenario to be effective, it would not require hundreds of conspirators creating hundreds of saucer incidents. Nor would it be necessary to control/direct the saucer situation each and every step. The facts would be to the contrary, very little direct interference would be required. All that would be required would be the staging and enhancing of "special" saucer claims and encounters and in the field of saucer research, it would be comparatively easy due to the strong belief in the extra-terrestrial hypothesis based on a lack of positive proof to substantiate most sensational saucer events. The saucer underground network of enthusiasts would take care of the rest. The researchers would start with investigations of these "special" events, publish their findings, then rumors

would be circulated.

Just a few staged events would not only start renewed interest in the subject, but would generate dozens of new incidents. It is the domino effect carried to the tenth power. Thus, the total saucer situation may be composed of less than five percent staged events and the balance due to pandemic commotion in the form of psychic experiences, fantasies, misinterpretations and outright hoaxes.

Scientific tests have shown that induced hysteria is highly possible and works well with the proper stimuli. The body politic of any society contains a significant proportion of disturbed and suggestible individuals who will respond to ideological stimuli in a most predictable way. The actuation of these "suggestions" can be performed remotely.

If and when UFO researchers ponder the questions of government manipulation, they will find indications of covert intervention. Some specific incidents that deserve additional study include:

- (a) The formation of NICAP and its board members, who appear to have ties to the intelligence community.
- (b) The contact reports of the early 1950s and the resurgence of this subject in the 1970s.
- (c) The abduction syndrome of the 1970s and the extreme interest by the UFO organization - APR0.
- (d) The continual "leaking" of UFO material to "key" researchers.
- (e) The cyclic resurrection of the crashed saucer stories.

UFO researchers are highly susceptible to contrived manipulations. Most ufologists have continually denounced the information they interpret as official secrecy, yet even GSW's past Director of Research has jumped at the chance to establish "secret" contacts with apparently official sources. This situation poses some interesting questions: Why was the ufologists picked as the person to receive the "secret" information? Who is the source of information working for?

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What motives are behind the reasons for releasing the information? Also, why are certain UFO researchers given information/leads on crashed saucer incidents? Answering these questions will certainly provide some of the missing evidence in the bizarre saucer mystery.

Who is behind the saucer saga? Once again, for the Federal Hypothesis to work the persons behind such a movement can not originate from a branch of the military or a single office from the intelligence community. Documents show that the saucer story transverses too many organizations and the suggestion of a massive government body supporting a conspiracy is too far-reaching and illogical. However, a group or small component of the CIA could easily direct such an operation. Or possibly some other private, yet powerful intelligence body could administrate a program of confusion. For this effort to be successful in their objectives, this group must have a liaison with other government groups. Whether or not, this conspiracy group is from the CIA or other intelligence networks, is not important at this time. To show reason and purpose is the point, prior to attempting to find the guilty.

This group would most likely have the following objectives and motivations:

- i Concealment of secret government programs and projects such as nerve/germ warfare testing, a cover for technology advancement such as the stealth aircraft, effectively hidden in many of the UFO-radar cases, and diversion of public/government scrutiny of specific political incidents by creation of a ruse, i.e., a saucer event.
- ii Psychological games for in-depth study of the populous to certain stimuli, i.e. to gauge the thinking, reactions, tensions, etc. with this type of mind (control) testing.
- iii Manipulate public opinion by staging events such as the situation in November of 1957. During this time Russia had successfully launched satellites that were orbiting the globe and receiving international headlines. This situation was enhanced due to the continued failure of the American Vanguard rockets.

Within hours of a second successful Russian launch, UFOs appeared over Texas and New Mexico and immediately "stripped" the Russians of their glory and the saucers became the headline topic. Many persons "believed" that the UFOs were from outer space because the Earth was on the brink of space exploration and others thought it was all due to misinterpretations because of our "space awareness".

Regardless, the event was overwhelming and the bad publicity generated on America's failures and Russia's success was temporarily forgotten by something more newsworthy or at least interesting.

To make these things happen, the agents of the group must act as a link between the "source" of the conspiracy and the saucer researchers and certain media who are not offended by open contact and collaboration for "new" information pertaining to the mystery. Most likely the agent wouldn't even know the real purpose behind the information they gave to the receiver(s). The source of our Federal Hypothesis would not be even interested in UFOs. Pragmatically, the achievement of obtaining the goals would necessitate that they interface with the personage of the fringe elements of ufology or those who are sympathetic to it. The purpose of the Federal Hypothesis is the main-point of which we must define. Since the "believers" of saucers all have their own pet theories ranging from outer space to secret Earth weapons, they will have little appreciation for the purpose of the conspiracy. The following questions must be asked: How important are flying saucers? How important is the saucer movement? How does the scientific community look at the proof so far collected by the UFO research?

Unfortunately, the answers in many cases will be negative and the endeared subject is merely a means to an elaborate conclusion. It very well might be that UFO researchers have been unknowingly engaged in a psychological experiment that has nothing to do with the frontiers of research.

The reaction to the Federal Hypothesis, by the seasoned UFO researchers most assuredly will be negative. Both the pro and anti-ufologists have spent such an exorbitant amount of time pursuing the elusive saucers

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that most of them, including the writer, had to believe these efforts were of the utmost importance to mankind, science or monetary gain. The idle thought that the search for truth-in-saucers was part of a deliberate manipulation will most likely offend many of the participants.

The source behind the manipulations must have exact reasons for the effort. The basic motivation for such an exercise therefore must be ideological and possibly sinister. By creating and enhancing certain beliefs, the establishment of public responses could be triggered, by parties twice removed from the suspect, under specific conditions and/or conditioning!

What could be some of the exact reasons for a manipulative effort? Consider the following:

- A. Social control to shape social attitudes to "direct" public opinion.
- B. Real-time testing of our national defenses - to analyze reactions of systems and personnel.
- C. Germ/nerve warfare testing via the cattle mutilations - to check both the effect(s) of substances in demographic environments and the psychological responses of the public, by creation of a mystery to "cover" the real modus operandi.
- D. A cover for rocket testing, fired across state lines over populous areas. Some of these tests already have been misinterpreted or deliberately falsified to create the "aura of crashed saucers".
- E. Technology development and a means to cover or hide advanced systems such as: remote drones, "invisible" aircraft, unusual airfoils, etc. As an example, a "good" UFO event was generated due to one of the above and left as an "unidentified" in the official files to hide the source/cause. This does not imply that the investigative body was involved in a cover-up, it only points to a real possibility of an "unknown" not being properly identified by the controlling group in an effort to keep their cover.
- F. A staged event used as a psychological test to gather data on the responses to

mind control.

- G. Political manoeuvring - to offset a political situation or crisis especially in a foreign country.
- H. To further shape the public attitudes and conceptions concerning economic and foreign policy issues. This portion of the manipulation would be predicated on the need of the authorities to contain the actions and ideas of the citizens.

As history has proven, even at the time of this writing, a percentage of any government's population will not be satisfied with conventional philosophy and will seek non-conventional movements/thoughts. Example: The Woman's Lib movement for the development of unisex status, the purported oppression in Poland for less socialistic control over jobs and lives etc. If government control of some type does not interfere, then these individuals may become a strong anti-establishment force.

Managerically speaking, the best method to stop these movements, is not to eradicate it. Rather than use a big stick and "beat the dog", offer strong encouragement and control the situation by non-forcibly shaping the belief, and if the belief is aerial phenomena, then don't totally stop the idea, but use it for your end goals and benefit.

Other UFO researchers are looking into the question of a government conspiracy and it is becoming more plausible each year. Each time we regress back to the outerspace visitor hypothesis all of us make "big" assumptions that we have the "big" proof. We tend to study the means and purposes of these visitations and overlook the aspects of the belief. If aliens are visiting Earth, how does one logically explain the lack of positive contact, the absence of evidence and why someone or thing, would travel the vast distance of space to only covertly survey the planet? If the government has absolute proof of flying saucers, why are they hiding the facts? Could it be the truth about aliens is hideous? Is Big Brother protecting us from a sinister evil? If the readership has the answers to these questions then the Federal Hypothesis will fall by the wayside and be discarded forever.

However, this writer is of the opinion

that the Federal Hypothesis will only retreat when the forces behind the game have met their objectives. To objectively finalize the study of the conspiracy theory, a newer dimension of inquiry into the saucers is necessitated. The outlined reasons must be further studied for their social, and technological content and further scientific research into the implications of the "fly-ins saucer belief" system is warranted and absolutely necessary.■

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forum

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Say it in FORUM in 500 words or less. Constructive criticism and discussion is welcomed and will be published whenever space permits. - Ed.

ORGANISATION FOR SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF AERIAL PHENOMENA (OSEAP)

A new organisation has been formed in the United Kingdom which is composed of a small number of regional organisations and widely dispersed individuals who strive to look at the UFO phenomena clearly through the evolvement of a system of investigation, research and evaluation that is both scientific and practical.

Towards this end MAPIT, FUFOR and Anthony Pace have amalgamated into the Organisation for Scientific Evaluation of Aerial Phenomena. The respective publications "Skywatch", "UFO Insight" and "J-Tap" will be superseded by two publications which will appear twice yearly:

The "OSEAP Journal" will reflect OSEAP's scientific aims and research achievements. This Journal will be co-edited by Mark Tyrrell, David Rees and Anthony Pace.

The companion publication to the OSEAP Journal will be the "Centre Update" which will consist of book reviews, abstracts of important articles from other journals and a complete rundown, for researchers, of material received at the OSEAP Resource Centre. This publication will be compiled by David Rees.

For further information contact: OSEAP Resource Centre, 92 Hillcrest Road, Stockport SK2 5SE, Cheshire, U.K. - Ed.

UFO RESEARCH PUBLICITY BOARD

Since its inception in October, 1981, the UFO Research Publicity Board has been actively corresponding with the media in response to accurate and inaccurate coverage of UFO events.

To-date the media have been very responsive and, for example, the Board has succeeded in having an important retraction published. Also, certain journalists, when taken to task, have greatly improved the standard of their material.

Likewise the Board has written to newspapers and magazines with a high standard of UFO journalism and expressed their appreciation.

Any enquiries about the function and activities of the UFO Research Publicity Board can be addressed to: PO Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082. - Ed.



UFOs AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE — THE INSIDE STORY

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BY BILL CHALKER



The author with RAAF files in the Russell Offices of the Department of Defence

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INTRODUCTION

On Monday morning, January 11, 1982, I arrived at the Russell Offices of the Department of Defence, in Canberra, to undertake a review of the RAAF/Department of Defence UFO files.

This was the first time that a civilian

researcher had been afforded this sort of access.

For almost thirty years, the RAAF has been the official body invested with the responsibility of investigating reports of UFOs or unusual aerial sighting (UAS) reports in Australia and its territories (1). No clear and unambiguous picture has emerged

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about the role the RAAF plays in the UFO controversy in Australia.

On one hand there are supporters of the "cover-up" scenario. That is, the RAAF is covering up its high level involvement, perhaps in concert with the alleged United States Air Force censorship conspiracy (2). On the other hand, we have the position that suggests that the RAAF is bureaucratically locked into a responsibility it has long since decided is a waste of time, but continues as a service to the general public.

The only public record of case investigations by the RAAF has been the "Summaries of Unusual Aerial Sightings". These consist of date, time, location, very brief details of the event and "possible cause". Nine of these were produced, covering the years from 1960 up to and including 1977. However, the 1977 Summary was the last to appear and it was not until 1980 that the Department of Defence advised interested parties that *"the practice of compiling annual summaries of UAS reports was discontinued in 1978. This was in line with the Department of Defence policy of the RAAF now investigating reports purely as a 'service to the general public'. All reports are still retained for record purposes and are available to whoever seeks access to them"*. (3)

However, "access" did not mean direct access, but instead referred to the often unpredictable and incomplete compliance to requests, with the despatch of individual reports (in which the personal details of witnesses are normally deleted) and/or standard public relation replies.

PART 1 - GETTING ACCESS

Desirous of obtaining a better understanding of the RAAF's role I set about trying to achieve direct access to their UFO files. However, it took quite some time to bring this situation to fruition.

I eventually received the kind of response I was working towards in a letter from Mr W. Smither, of Defence Public Relations (Air Office), dated September 15, 1981.

It stated that *"the position that normally deals with UAS reporting has been*

vacant for sometime. For this reason unfortunately your letters have remained unanswered.

"In your letter you requested access to the RAAF UAS files at some convenient time in Canberra. While it is true that the RAAF has nothing to hide on UAS in its files, you must appreciate that retrieval of the files, some from archives, is a time consuming process and is one which we would prefer not to do that often. Consequently we are prepared to allow you a review of the files as the official representative of your organisation. The sole reason for insisting on only one visit from your organisation is to remove the possibility of multiple requests which we would, in all probability, have to refuse purely through workload commitments in other areas".

After further communication, Mr Smither sent me a letter dated October 6, 1981:

"Confirming our telephone conversation of today's date, it would be acceptable for you to visit this Department between 11 - 15 January, 1982, as requested.

"Squadron Leader Ian Frame, who is responsible for the compilation of UFO sightings, will be on leave, but he will make arrangements to have all unclassified files available for you to study".

In a detailed acknowledgement dated December 3, 1981, I provided *"a list of my expectations of a valid review of the RAAF/Department of Defence UAS (UFO) files"*. (4)

PART 2 - INSIDE

On Monday, January 11, 1982, after signing in at the police desk, I was escorted from Building A to Building C of the Russell Offices Defence complex in Canberra, by Mr Noel Tanswell of Defence Public Relations - Research Press.

In the office of the Directorate of Public Relations - Press Section, Mr Tanswell, showed me the files that had been made available. There were 18 all together.

Four were given to me to examine first. Mr Tanswell explained that while all the UFO files were now unclassified, these were still stamped with classified designations. Two were Enquiry files classified as

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CONFIDENTIAL and the other two - Reports of Sightings files - were designated RESTRICTED. (5) According to Mr Tanswell, bureaucracy had not caught up with declassified activities. However, routine security within the building required files with classified designations to be placed under lock and key, when not in use or under authorised inspection.

No such restriction was applied to the other 14 files, which consisted of 9 sightings files and 5 enquiry files.

I was shown to a desk in a quiet corner by a window, which looked out into the rest of the Russell Offices complex. During that day and for the next 3 (the latter in the office of the Director of Public Relations, the director being on leave) I conducted an exhaustive examination of the RAAF UFO files. I was given free access to a photocopier and was allowed to make notes, both written and with a tape recorder. In short, I was permitted a completely open review of the 18 files made available.

Two types of files have been maintained by the RAAF/Department of Defence, namely:

1. *"Unidentified Flying Objects - Reports of Sightings"*, and
2. *"UFOs - Enquiries from members of the public and Flying Saucer organisations"*.

The first type - "Sightings" - largely consist of RAAF report forms (generally containing the standard 3 part forms, namely Part 1 - Report by Observer, Part 2 - Unit Report, and Part 3 - Investigating Officer's Evaluation), covering memorandums, letters, telexes and communications from other Government bodies (e.g. Department of Transport, Meteorological Bureau and police).

The latter - "Enquiries" - mainly hold letters of enquiry from the general public, civilian UFO groups, individuals, and others, documentation searches, internal memorandums and minute papers, draft replies to requests and miscellaneous documents.

The files made available to me during my January, 1982, visit, consisted of 7 Enquiry files covering the period from April, 1966, to date and 11 sighting files containing



Some of the UFO files examined by the author

Photo - Copyright 1982 - Bill Chalker

reports from 1975 to 1981.

Although the Enquiry files (through documentation searches to answer questions) and my own research prior to this officially sanctioned review (6) provided me with considerable information on RAAF investigations prior to 1975, I was disappointed with the lack of pre 1975 Sighting files.

Sq. Ldr. Ian Fram, the Air Force Liaison Officer, responsible for the handling and compilation of UFO sightings, in Canberra, (7) gave this explanation of the situation, in a letter enclosed with the files given to me for review:

"These are all the files readily available. We are hampered by the fact that the Department changed from Melbourne to Canberra in the early 60s. Files prior to this period have been very hard to locate.

"I hope that you appreciate that the RAAF examines UASs primarily for their Defence content. If occurrences have no obvious import we have very few resources available for checks other than initial cursory examinations. I hope that you are not too disappointed. I'm afraid that UAS are only a very minor secondary role for all people involved in the chain.

"Best of luck with your endeavours but these files are all that I have been able to recover from our system".

To obtain these files, requests had to

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be made to Central Registry, but the actual file series numbers are required. The files I examined during January were ostensibly the extent of Sq. Ldr. Frame's knowledge of the appropriate file series' numbers at the time. Since then, he and I have discussed this further and subsequently additional file series' numbers have been established. I hope to examine these files in the near future. My research suggests that since 1955, 48 RAAF files have been raised on the subject of UFOs. So, if this is correct, my review of January, 1982, may have covered a little over a third of the file holdings.

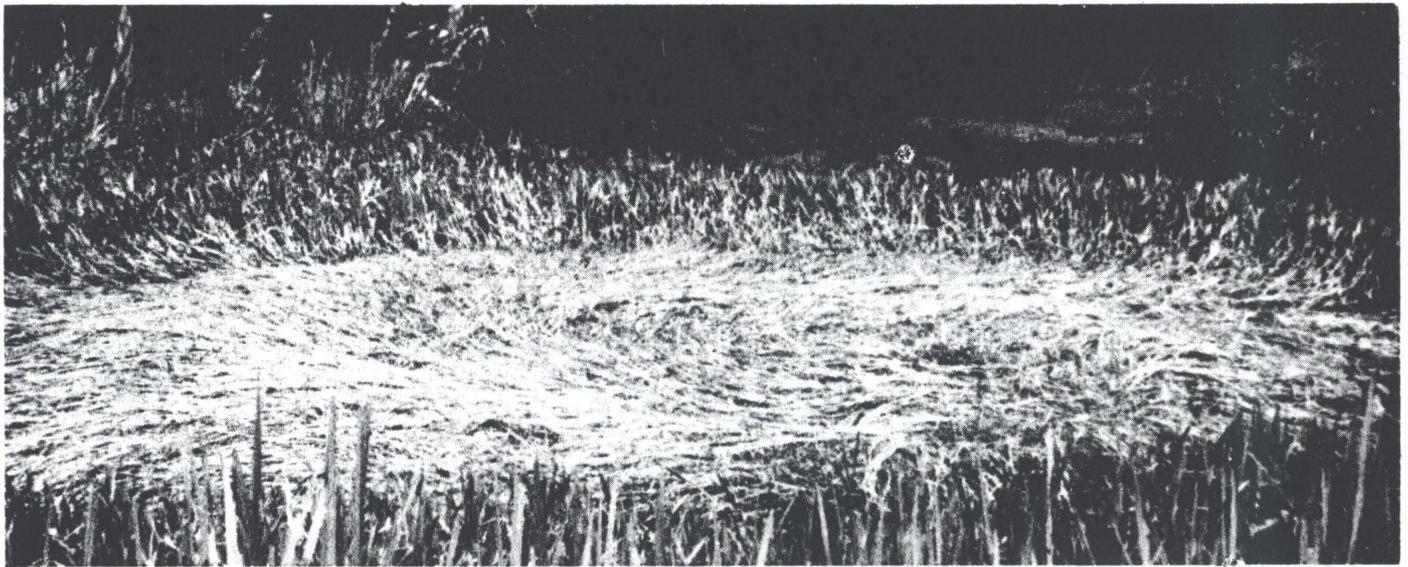
Of particular interest was that copies of previously unavailable Department of Defence (Air Force Office) Unusual Aerial Sightings Summaries for reports in 1978, 1979 and 1980 (Summary Nos. 10, 11 & 12 respectively) were provided for me. This is despite the previously mentioned policy change which discontinued the summaries in 1978.

These documents allow me to provide an updated summary of the RAAF's investigation of UFOs:

BREAKDOWN OF RAAF UFO INVESTIGATIONS

Year	Total no. of reports	No. "Unknowns"*	% "Unknowns"	Source of Information
1960	20	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1961	14	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1962	25	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1963	17	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1964	17	1	5.9	Summary No. 1
1965	52	2	3.9	Summary No. 1
1966	74	1	1.4	Summary No. 1
1967	95	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1968	101	0	0.0	Summary No. 1
1969	94	2	2.1	Summary No. 2
1970	37	4	10.8	Summary No. 3
1971	52	6	11.5	Summary No. 3
1972	87	11	12.6	Summary No. 4
1973	193	4	2.1	Summary No. 5
1974	67	2	3.0	Summary No. 6
1975	39	4	10.2	Summary No. 7
1976	39	4	10.2	Summary No. 8
1977	25	6	24.0	Summary No. 9
1978	118	30	25.4	Summary No. 10
1979	45	15	33.3	Summary No. 11
1980	47	10	21.3	Summary No. 12
TOTAL:	1258	102	8.1%	

*Some "unknowns" are not included due to low weight status, i.e. insufficient information or possible explanation provided was probable.



T u l l y " n e s t "

PART 3 - THE RAAF "UFOs - ENQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND FLYING SAUCER ORGANISATION" FILES.

It is interesting to see what the RAAF files say about "classic" cases. The "enquiry" files contained information on a number of these due to file searches undertaken to answer requests for information from various sources.

For example the controversial Drury film affair of 1953, was covered in the files with some surprising details, which included evidence for ASIO* involvement (albeit perhaps cursory) and the presence of several copies of frames of the film*.

The RAAF files described the famous Tully incident in the following manner:

"At about 9.00 a.m. on 19th January 1966, Mr G.A. Pedley, a banana grower of Tully, Qld, observed a light grey non reflecting dull object, reported to be about 25 feet long and 8 feet deep, rise vertically then

*ASIO - Australian Security Intelligence Organisation: responsible for internal security within Australia including counter espionage. See, for example, Richard Hall's "The Secret State - Australia's Spy Industry" Cassell Australia, 1978.

*To be the subject of a forthcoming paper by this author.

climb on an angle of 45° from a height of about 30 feet above marshland which was situated about 25 yards away from his position. There was an associated hissing noise which decreased as the 'object' rose. The apparent shape was described as 'two saucers, face to face', but no structural detail was observed. The duration of the observation was approximately 15 seconds and it disappeared in mid air whilst receding into the distance (not assessed).

"A clearly defined near circular depression remained in evidence in swamp grass at the point from which the object was seen rising, and measured about 32 feet long by 25 feet wide. The grass was flattened in clockwise curves to water level within the circle and the reeds had been uprooted from the mud. There was no scorching of grass or surrounding trees and the observer stated that there was no smell of combustion...

"Although a conclusive determination could not be made, the most probable explanation was that the sighting was of a 'willy willy' or circular wind phenomenon which flattened the reeds and sucked up debris to a height of about 30 feet, thus forming what appeared to be a 'flying saucer', before moving off and dissipating. Hissing noises are known to be associated with 'willy willies' and the theory is also substantiated by the clockwise circular configuration of the depression".

I summarised the controversy about the

Tully incident in "Tully (Australia) saucer nests", pgs 370-371, "The Encyclopaedia of UFOs" (8).

Other documents in the Enquiry files were requested for information on cases, which ostensibly it seems the RAAF did not know about.

For example, a 1967 enquiry related to an alleged UFO event, thought to have taken place over Butterworth RAAF airfield, Malaysia, back in the first week of July, 1959, would be extraordinary if it was true. The enquiry referred to two F86 fighters being scrambled to investigate a UFO. The aircraft fired on the UFO, which exploded and ash fell to the ground. The ash was allegedly retrieved and sent to Canberra for analysis. Another UFO appeared the following day, apparently looking for its "lost mate". When two F86 fighters were again sent up, the planes allegedly disintegrated within a mile of the UFO. According to the story, the aircraft and pilots were never found. The files contain internal memorandums between Butterworth RAAF base and Canberra in 1967, which appear to indicate that they were unaware of the events. My own enquiries, ably assisted by John Prytz of Canberra, have failed to elicit any further information or confirm whether any aircraft were lost at the time. I would certainly be fascinated to hear whether anyone has anything concrete on this diverting tale.

Even the book "Alien Honeycomb" (9) had some references to it in the files. An internal memorandum dated August 1, 1980, from DEFAIR CANBERRA to HQOC -SOINT regarding "Confirmation of Data in Book 'Alien Honeycomb'", stated:

"The text of the book is sufficiently vague to make tracing information from service records a very tiring and difficult task. A check of files held at Air Force Office has proven negative.

"Unfortunately, a 'no comment' or 'no information' response from the RAAF is only going to encourage this type of journalism. Accordingly, it is requested that HQOC initiate a check of records (including those at HQ AMB (HQ Amberley - B.C.) for data which could relate to this matter".

In a telex dated September 5, 1980, and categorised as "unclassified/routine", from HQOC to DEFAIR Canberra, the following information was given:

"Further to ref A the following is retrans of info received from HQ AMB. Quote:

- 1. Summaries of unidentified aerial sightings prepared by Dept of Air between mid 1968 and mid 1969 have been checked for mention of the case. No mention of that particular sighting appears in the summaries.*
- 2. This is unusual because it is our understanding that the summaries were comprehensive and not edited lists of reported sightings.*
- 3. Unless requested by command the HQ does not propose to take this matter further".*

As it turned out it appears nothing further was done. My own opinions on "Alien Honeycomb" are well known (10). The "Enquiry" files contain documents related to what appear to be retrievals of mundane debris, but none of them relate to the "Alien Honeycomb" affair (e.g. "Suspect Air Vehicle Wreckage - Perenjori, W.A. - 1947). More than likely the key to "alien honeycomb" (subsequently identified as predominantly woven fibreglass!) lies not in a UFO (or UAS) file, but in files related to aircraft accidents and investigations.

Several surprising finds were made in the files, most notably documents which gave insights into RAAF and Australian government policies on the UFO subject.

To be continued - see the next issue of UFORAN for part 2.

Future highlights of "UFOs and the RAAF - the Inside Story" will be:

Restricted minute papers on RAAF UFO policy.

Criticism of the RAAF approach to UFO investigations from a scientific point of view.

"Unknowns" from the RAAF UFO files including military reports and close encounters.

Is there a cover-up?

THE UFO PHENOMENA AND ITS INVESTIGATION BY UFO GROUPS WITHIN AUSTRALIA

BY KEITH BASTERFIELD

This article is intended to provide a review of the UFO phenomena in an Australian context. It describes some of our more interesting cases and takes a look at the history of investigations by UFO groups in this country.

The impetus for writing this article initially came from Maurizio Verga of Italy who, several months ago, wrote and asked if I would be prepared to exchange information with a group of European researchers (the European Working Team - EWT) who were pursuing indepth research into type one (Vallee classification) reports.

Type one events were defined by Vallee (1) as reports of UFOs on or near the ground. In this situation it should be easier to dismiss a report if the stimulus is a conventional or natural one, easier than say with an object seen high up in the sky. There is, of course, a problem that a type one event could possibly be of an object near the ground but, say, 5 km in the distance which still falls under this classification. Hynek's close encounter classification overcomes this by relating to an object within a relatively short range. Notwithstanding this difficulty, type one events should be expected to contain a high number of "unknowns".

In response to Maurizio Verga's proposal, I decided to research Australian type one cases utilizing the resources of ACUFOS, its member organisations and my own files. Some 560 events were collected which included 70 UFO-related entity cases, 70 photographic events, 28 aircraft crew observations, 60 vehicle interference reports, with the remainder being of nocturnal lights and close

encounters of various types.

These 560 cases were scrutinised for those which described more than the usual nocturnal light but yet still fitted the Vallee classification of objects reported on or near the ground (maximum tree top height) - this examination reduced the 560 to just over 100.

From this research a document titled "A Catalogue of the More Interesting Close Encounters" (2) has been compiled. Some of this document's cases are included in this article.

THE OVERVIEW

Perhaps an obvious starting point in our review of the UFO phenomena in Australia is with the people who have been here the longest - the Aborigines.

The Aborigines are thought to have lived in this country for at least 38,000 years and are believed to have originated from South-East Asia. In 1788, when the first European settlers arrived, there were an estimated 300,000 Aborigines living in Australia. The Aboriginal lifestyle was simple, these people never became farmers, they were hunters. Aborigines held, and still hold in some parts, a mythological belief that before their time "beings" created the land as they know it - this period is referred to as the "Dreamtime". The Aborigines have left a legacy of rock carvings that record both their past lifestyle and also the Dreamtime. Today these people are fast becoming integrated into western society and hence there is a decline in the numbers of those living

as their ancestors once lived.

Do Aborigines have any evidence of what we believe may be UFOs? Very little indepth research has been conducted into this subject although it is interesting to note that, as early as 1957, an article (3) appeared in an Australian magazine about rock carvings found at Woomera, South Australia. In an anonymously authored article the "Australian Saucer Record" also gave descriptions of rock carvings which are of unusual "figures" found in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Some more recent studies have been independently undertaken by John Prytz of Canberra and Bill Chalker of Sydney.

Bill Chalker in an ACUFOS Journal (4) article stated:

"The legends and lore of the indigenous Aborigines also provides material suggestive of interactions with anomalous aerial phenomena, but, of course, in speculation about such data, it should be realised that the accounts are of an historical and anthropological nature, and, therefore, care should be taken not to interpolate too much into them".

In a paper presented at UFOCON 6 held in Adelaide in October, 1981, John Prytz wrote:

"Although no unequivocal references were found, enough was uncovered to suggest that this was a fruitful area of research..."

Later (UFORAN Vol.2 No.6), Prytz wrote after researching the article presented at UFOCON 6:

"This effort serves to reinforce my basic premise that enough information exists to suggest that at some time in the past, there could have been some degree of interaction, maybe major, maybe minor, between the Australian Aboriginal and 'Ancient Astronauts'".

In short, the answer to my own query posed earlier "is there any early evidence" is a tantalising "maybe".

From the early to the late 19th century

we come across items which are more suggestive of the types of events we read about today. The objects reported by the general population were balls of light, mainly viewed from a distance, but occasionally at closer range - although even in instances of close encounters there are no records of "captures".

Mark Moravec of Sydney presented a study of "ghostlights" at UFOCON 6. His research found that:

"In Australia, ghostlights had been commonly known by such names as Min lights, Dead Men's camp-fires, Jack-o-lanterns, and Debil-Debil".

Reports of these were found to have been made as early as 1883 and to be continuing todate. Most describe a ball of light either stationary or moving at low speed. Distribution of the 48 cases collected were Queensland 30, New South Wales 8, Western Australia 4, Victoria 2, South Australia 1, Tasmania 1, Northern Territory 1 and one unknown.

In reviewing explanations Moravec noted that:

"Many explanations have been suggested ranging from misidentification of natural phenomena to paranormal projections to extraterrestrial visitors".

He ventured to suggest that a number of cases bore the mark of misidentifications but there remained a residue of unexplained events.

Within South Australia an elderly relative of John Burford recalled a history of balls of light which were frequently seen in the mid north of the state and were often mistaken for bicycle lamps. These lights floated around at fence top level and although attempts were made to catch them, they were unsuccessful.

During the 19th century we have found two reports which, to state the least, are of startling dimensions for their time, in fact they could have come straight out of our own era. Set against the background of distant observations of balls of light, they stand out rather conspicuously.

The first account has been closely investigated by Bill Chalker of Sydney and the most significant segment may be summarised as:

July 25, 1868, Parramatta, New South Wales.

A surveyor experienced a vision involving head floating by him and subsequently observed an "ark" moving along the same path and landing in Parramatta Park, Sydney. A voice spoke to him and asked if he wished to enter the ark. The witness replied that he did and was "floated" to the object.

A "spirit" appeared like a "neutral tint shade and the shape of a man in his usual frock dress" and showed him around the ark before disappearing. The witness awoke next morning, "deeply impressed with the vision of the night".*

Our second event was reported to have occurred in 1893 and goes as follows:

1893, Central New South Wales.

A farmer claimed that a saucer shaped object landed in one of his paddocks. As the farmer approached the object a man in strange clothing emerged from it. The witness walked towards the man who shone a "torch" at him which threw him stunned to the ground. When the farmer came to, the man and the object had left. His hand which had been hit by the "torch beam" was paralysed for life.

Moving into the 20th century - in 1909 we find an almost epidemic proportion of reports of nocturnal lights and celestial visitors to the shores of both islands of neighbouring New Zealand. Excellent studies of the era have already appeared in a multitude of sources, as well as in contemporary newspapers. Amongst these were some of the earliest entity reports for the region.

In the Australian context we learn of similar events around 1910 and 1911. Paul Norman of Melbourne wrote a short "Flying Saucer Review" (5) article based on an account published in a 1910 edition of

*Editor's note: see the UFO Research Australia Newsletter Vol.3 No.1

"The West Australian" which described a nocturnal observation from a boat. The captain, and two others, of the coastal steamer "Wookata" reported seeing a variety of lights in the sky 200 to 300 metres ahead of the vessel.

Although there are more and more pre 1947 reports being unearthed each year, perhaps a few will illustrate the types of events people have said happened prior to the great "flying saucer" episodes of 1947 and onwards.

1919, Central New South Wales.

Whilst travelling down a country road, a man came across an artifact resting near the roadside. He saw a "man" who was apparently working on it and went to offer assistance. The stranger turned as if surprised and pointed something at the witness which knocked him senseless. When he came to, the man and the object had gone.

1925, Moora, Western Australia.

Two young men came across an object resting in a paddock. It was like two saucers on edge, with oval shaped "windows" and four "legs". The men beat a hasty retreat and did not return for several days. When they did, they found the earth scuffed about.

About March-April, 1932 or 1933, Nambour, Queensland.

A boy observed a small UFO within a metre range and, after a whitish mist appeared between him and the object, he experienced a "tight feeling in the head" and felt stunned. That night the boy developed large white blisters on both hands and felt "out of sorts". The blisters burst during the night and the following day secreted a clear watery fluid - after this the boy felt better.

Winter, 1947, Maffra, Victoria.

While driving home with her son a woman almost collided with a "dazzling golden ball" hovering just above the road. The woman could not stop the car which was buffeted by wind. At the point of impact the ball rolled to one side over a high embankment and disappeared behind tall maize. The wind then ceased.

1947

THE YEAR OF THE 'FLYING SAUCER'

Although there was a world wide upsurge of interest in the subject of "saucers", particularly in America during 1947, Australia remained fairly quiet. A review of the Australian press of the day enables one to make the general comment that the phenomena of flying saucers was viewed as purely American, both in scope and origin. A few isolated reports were received in the early 1950s but it was not until the global wave of 1954 that Australia experienced a small "flap". The state of Victoria was the scene of scores of events, including observations by airline pilots. Ray Fischer and Les Bristol, of Melbourne, undertook a massive review of most of the Victorian newspapers for 1954 and unearthed some 200 sighting reports (6). Although most would be classified as nocturnal lights and daylight discs a few did involve close encounters. No photographic events or landing cases came to light.

A perusal of records of the time held by Australian UFO groups indicates very little activity between the mid 1950s and early 1960s compared to 1954. From hereon Australia recorded every type of event except abduction.

Some of the best known cases of the era would be:

January 1, 1954, Melbourne, Victoria.

An ANA pilot, Captain D. Barker, reported seeing an unusual object at 10.15 a.m. which was semi-transparent and shaped roughly like a disc. This object flew speedily past at a distance of 3 to 4 km.

June 5, 1954, Dandenong, Victoria.

Miss Brown, a 16 year old, and her friend, said they were terrified when an object hovered 20 metres above them. It was cylindrical in shape, some 10 metres long by 5 metres high, with a window on top and each end. The object cast a bluish, silver-grey, light and hovered in mid air issuing a loud drumming noise. It was reported that Miss Brown's watch had stopped at 1823 hours, her torch battery was drained and her hand

bag and belt clasps were magnetised as was an iron fence over which the object hovered.

Surprisingly the Superintendent of Air Traffic Control for the Department of Civil Aviation in Melbourne requested people to report UFOs because: "We do not regard this business as a joke. People are definitely seeing objects, some of which have not been explained (7)".

Early Australian UFO magazines contained such articles as: "Life on Mars", "Do Saucers Have Bases on Earth"? and "The Cartright Saucer Detector". Books in circulation included: "Flying Saucers Have Landed", "Flying Saucers from Mars", "Venus Speaks", "Flying Saucers on the Moon", "Aboard a Flying Saucer" and "The Secret of the Saucers".

The general opinion of those days was one where the media and the general public, together with many of the early UFO investigators, tended to support the extra-terrestrial hypothesis as the stimulus at the core of the phenomena. The opinion that we were being visited by aliens from space seemed to prevail.

MOVING TOWARDS THE 1960s

Although America experienced a flap of reports around the time of the first Russian Sputnik launch, it was not until 1959 that UFO activity increased remarkably in Australia. That year's reports included:

March 13, 1959, Purnong Landing, South Australia.

Cresting a hill two men in a truck came upon a dome illuminated by coloured lights. They stopped 100 metres from the dome and watched as the 10 metre diameter object went through a regular sequence of colour changes before its lights went out. The men decided to approach the object but as they did so it took off.

March 31, 1959, Port Elliott, South Australia.

Mr Barry Neale was driving home from Goolwa when he saw a glowing reddish-orange object, with a row of portholes, resting

on the ground about 100 metres from the road-side. The 2 metre wide object illuminated the trees. Mr Neale drove around a wooded area in time to see the object take off at high speed as he came within 300 metres of its position.

May 17, 1959, Cooktown, Queensland.

Three men, out crocodile hunting, saw a huge circular object at tree top height, 100 metres away, which was football shaped with a band of half moon shaped windows and issued a 50 metre wide band of vapour. The witnesses observed this object for 20 minutes and at one point during the observation two of the men stood up to get a better look. Later, one of these men allegedly suffered severe physical effects and the other died.

September, 1959, Euramo, Queensland.

Mr Max Mencil reported that whilst driving a tractor he saw a brilliant, large, conical shaped object, about 10 metres long, hovering just above the cane tops. Its vivid red and orange coloured lights illuminated a nearby house.

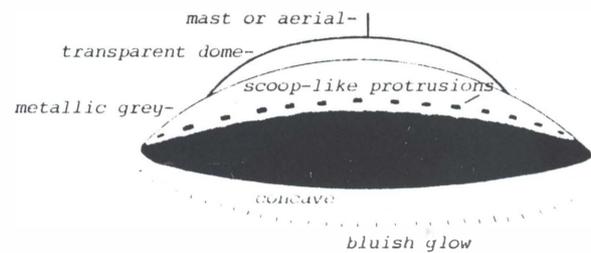
THE 1960s

The years 1960, 1961 and 1962, were barren. In an editorial dated December, 1961, Fred Stone, of Adelaide, wrote (8): "From the UFO point of view the year has been moderately quiet until the last four months when there began a steady but sure build up of sightings..."

1963, however, began with a rash of tantalising reports, even by today's standards:

February 15, 1963, Moe, Victoria.

Mr Charles Brew and his son Trevor were at work when a strange object came out of the east and descended slowly towards their cattle pens at a 45° angle and hovered about 25 to 30 metres above the ground over a tree for a few seconds. The object was 8 metres in diameter and 3 metres high and emitted a swishing noise. Mr Brew was outside a shed and saw the object, but his son, who was inside, only heard it. After hovering a few seconds, the object climbed at a 45° angle into the west and went into clouds.



FEBRUARY, 1963, MOE, VICTORIA

(Source: "Australian UFO Sketchbook" by David Reneke)

May 19, 1963, Mount Gambier, South Australia.

A 17 year old youth, out driving, encountered an object by the side of the road. When his car was within 6 metres, a bright light, cast by the object, dazzled him. The youth pulled up. As the 5 metre wide and 3 metre high, oval shaped, object moved across the road he drove his car under it.

June 28, 1963, Sandy Creek, South Australia.

Driving round a corner, a man came upon a blood red object blocking the road. He applied his brakes and was within 3 metres before the object suddenly rose from the road and, after ascending 100 metres or so, turned on its side and sped off trailing vapour. Described as 8 metres across and 4 metres high with a concave top and flat base, the object glowed blood red when close to the ground and appeared to change to a lighter red-yellow as it gathered speed and flew away.

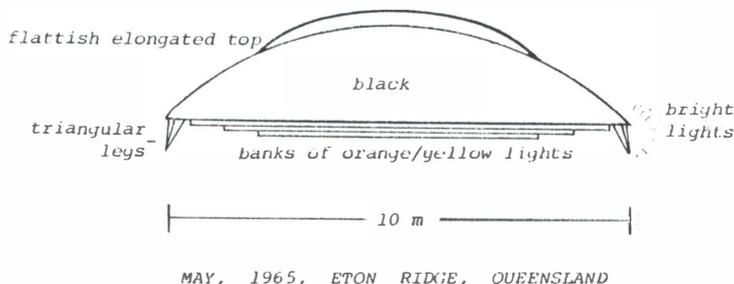
1964 was again quiet but in 1965, in conjunction with a world wide flood of sightings, two extremely high merit Australian events occurred, although for reasons best known to ufologists of the time the cases were poorly documented.

May 24, 1965, Eton Ridge, Queensland.

Three men noticed a strange luminous machine hovering above trees and approximately 70 metres above the ground and 500 metres away. The object was a black disc 7.5 to 10 metres across and 26 cm thick with a 4.5 metre understructure. Banks of brilliant lights shone from underneath the object illuminating the ground. This

strange machine performed several manoeuvres and approached fairly close to the witness before it finally sped away. Two of the men thought they heard a "buzz" or low pitched "hissing" noise.

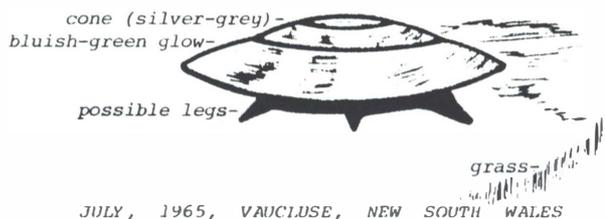
Physical traces were reportedly found the next day.



(Source: "Australian UFO Sketchbook" by David Reneke)

July 19, 1965, Vaucluse Beach, New South Wales.

Whilst walking along the beach, a man encountered a 7 metre diameter disc resting on the sand. When he was about 16 metres away from the disc it rose with a noise like air being released from a balloon.



(Source: "Australian UFO Sketchbook" by David Reneke)

OUR FIRST 'FLAP AREA'

During the following year, 1966, Australia experienced its first flap area. A flap area is when one or two isolated reports in a particular location are quickly followed by a flood of others which occurred within 25 to 30 km from the originals. The publicity given to these events is very often only local for it has been by chance that the extent of the flap has been noticed.

Upon closer investigation, and random interviews, quite often a continuous history of accounts comes to light. If, however, the sheer number of reports, or indeed the magnitude of some is high then the national press and media may then hear of them. The 1966 flap centering around Tully, Queensland was an internationally known flap.

The most famous report of this flap would undoubtedly be that made by Mr George Pedley who heard a sharp hissing noise while driving his tractor and then saw a blue-grey saucer, 8 metres across and 3 metres high, rising from near the ground. Mr Pedley found a 10 metre diameter circle of dead reeds on the surface of an adjacent lagoon swirled in a clockwise direction. To this day no-one has been able to provide a satisfactory answer to this puzzling event.

Following the Tully sighting a relatively quiet period ensued until yet another flap started near the town of Clare, in the mid north of South Australia. Numerous events were reported ranging from balls of light to more defined objects which were witnessed in broad daylight. The flap was well documented by John Burford et al.

The period from 1971 to 1973 saw only a few meritable cases of high strangeness, including:

August 8, 1971, Kadina, South Australia.

A PMG employee's car engine stopped after the area in which he was driving became illuminated by an orange glow. Leaving his car the witness saw an orange disc with two red and one green light. The object seemed to be 50 metres up and emitted a "buzzing" or "purring" sound.

July 3 & 25, 1972, Frankston, Victoria.

Returning home on July 3, a woman observed a blue disc hovering over the road. On July 25, the same or a similar object appeared and took "control" of her car and stopped it at the side of the road. After a voice spoke to the witness her car started itself and the object left the area. Other events followed these two experiences including a "psychic" abduction.



FRANKSTON LOCATION

July, 1972.

November 30, 1972, Murray Bridge, South Australia.

Whilst out testing a car a mechanic noticed its lights and engine playing up so he stopped to see what was wrong. The radio made a "beep-beep" sound and the engine would not restart. The mechanic became aware of a diamond shaped object with red, purple and green lights 45 metres away in a paddock. After 30 to 40 minutes it lifted off the ground and left the area and the mechanic found he could restart the car. Three holes were later found in the soil.

December 31, 1973, Lymington, Tasmania.

During thundery conditions four people saw a moon-like object in the sky, then a large yellow cigar effect in a paddock by the house - when its glow faded little lights were observed. Subsequent claims were made of damage to a tree, house paint, fridge etc., plus effects on two of the reporters. Investigations of the tree did not reveal any alleged damage. The lights may have been an electrical phenomena.

MORE FLAP AREAS

Australia, during 1973, experienced a third flap area, this time around Tyringham in New South Wales. The events of this period have been well documented by Bill Chalker of Sydney.

Our fourth flap occurred during the next year, 1974, but this time in north-eastern Tasmania. TUF0IC were on hand to record a

multitude of reports including two extremely startling ones:

September 16, 1974, St Helens, Tasmania.

Weird effects such as static on the radio, car stopping, lights going out, a vibrant deafening noise, electric shocks and an invisible choking smell were experienced by a woman after the sky ahead became brightly illuminated. The woman and her children fled the car in fright.

September 22, 1974, Tayene, Tasmania.

A woman was sitting in her car with the radio on when the whole area lit up, including the inside of her car, and her radio developed a very high pitched whistle. Slowly, a glowing orange-silver object approached descending from approximately 20 metres. The witness started her vehicle with no trouble and backed up the road while her radio continued to whistle. The object moved closer and was 20 to 30 metres distant and 3 metres above the middle of the road where it hung stationary for a while before moving quickly away. The woman was shaken for days



TAYENE LOCATION

September, 1974.

The following two years passed by with a number of cases worthy of investigation, including the May 26, 1977, close encounter at Orange, New South Wales, where the thermoluminescence testing method was used for the first time in Australia.

From 1979 to date we have experienced a decline in the number of good cases being

reported to the Australian Centre for UFO Studies. Extensive reports of the more worthwhile cases have been carried in such publications as the ACOS Bulletin, ACUFOS Journal and UFORAN so they will not be repeated here.

Figures in recent years for these types of reports show:

1979	15
1980	8
1981	6

This decline in activity appears to be of a global nature. Isolated high merit reports are continuing to occur but at a much slower rate than in the good old days.

SUMMARY

In summary, Australia does have some extremely tantalising UFO reports which rank with those of world interest. We have had cases of every kind: nocturnal lights, daylight discs, close encounters one to three, radar/visual and photographic events. One very notable exception is in the field of abduction, as this is written we do not have a single fully fledged abduction case to hand. There have been cases involving memory loss but none of aliens physically abducting anyone. There may be a variety of explanations for this ranging from random sampling methods by the UFO phenomena, to a sociological/psychological cause. Only time will tell.

Here finishes our brief view of the phenomena in Australia. Next, we will examine investigation methods.

INVESTIGATION

The subject of investigation into the UFO phenomena in Australia is invariably tied up with the history of Australian research organisations. Looking back, from my viewpoint in 1982, over a stretch of 30 years, as opposed to my own 13 years of involvement, the story of groups here is a little hard to unravel. With this reservation noted I will press on.

Edgar Jarrold of Sydney began the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" (AFSB) in

1951 after sighting two strange fast moving yellow lights in the sky over Fairfield. Quite a few people interested in UFO activity at that time joined the Bureau which functioned between 1951 and 1955. Two personalities involved in these early days were a retired bank officer, Gordon Deller and accountant Andrew Thomas who had written a book in 1935 titled "The Planetary Doctrine".

In March, 1954, a letter was received by Jarrold inviting the AFSB to a conference on UFOs to be held in Melbourne with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). At this conference Jarrold met with an officer of the RAAF for one and a half hours. The "Australian Flying Saucer Review" (AFSR) commenting many years later on the meeting stated: "It became clear during the one and a half hour interview that the RAAF kept an open mind on the possibility of approaches to Earth by extra-terrestrial craft (9)".

In the meantime, in South Australia during 1953, Fred Stone started the "Australian Flying Saucer Club" (AFSC) which commenced as a small local state group but later joined with Jarrold as a state branch of the AFSB. In Victoria a group was formed called the "Australian Flying Saucer Investigation Committee" (AFSIC). This organisation investigated the 1954 flap in that state, then faded away during 1955.

In 1955 Jarrold resigned his post as Director of the AFSB and handed the running of this organisation over to Andrew Thomas and David Moore. The re-organisation of the Bureau was assisted by Stone who in the meantime had changed the name of his group to the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" (AFSRS).

The available history gets a little bit cloudy here and I rely to a large extent on the records of the magazine "Australian Saucer Record" (ASR) edited by Fred Stone which was billed as the "Official organ of the AFSRS". Volume 1, Number 2, of this magazine was dated Second Quarter 1955 and, therefore, suggests the AFSRS was definitely a goer by the beginning of 1955.

Some insight into the beliefs of these early investigators is derived from the

public relations paperwork on the rear cover of the ASR which read: "The AFSRS was formed to investigate and encourage research into the subject of Flying Saucers and interplanetary phenomena, to receive all reports of such phenomena and to evaluate each intelligently on its own merits and to disseminate available information to members and those of the public who are sincerely interested.

The AFSRS appears to have been quite well organised for its time. It had its own report form, lectures by such people as Keith Cartright who described how to take azimuth and elevation angle readings. The AFSRS also discussed such topics as "Are Saucers Manmade"?

Re-organisation of the AFSB was for a while achieved by the group being a New South Wales (NSW) branch of the AFSRS. However, sometime in 1956, the NSW branch adopted the new name of "UFO Investigation Centre" (UFOIC) and with such persons as Dr M. Lindtner, F. Phillips, T. Dutton, J. Matasin, J. Thomas and T. Homan, UFOIC took off as a new viable group.

This break with the AFSRS came after a dispute over whether to include the religious approach as well as other issues.

Meanwhile, also around this period, a group calling itself the "Interplanetary Group of Tasmania" was in existence but became defunct in 1957. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any information about them. Perhaps their title speaks of their beliefs.

Following the demise of the AFSIC in Victoria, a group of concerned people gathered around a Mr R.M. Foriam in that state and in late 1956 were visited by the AFSRS President Fred Stone. A Victorian branch of the AFSRS was then formed. Later, following yet another dispute over approaches to the subject, the Victorian branch became an independent organisation called the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" (VFSRS).

By 1957 groups called the "Perth UFO Research Group" (PUFORG) and the "Queensland Flying Saucer Research Bureau" (QFSRB) - both apparently started by Gordon Deller - were off and going.

UFOIC was gathering strength by 1957 and became active during the years 1957 to 1959 collecting and documenting Australian reports.

The year 1959 saw the establishment of a Darwin Branch of the AFSRS, whose duration of existence remains a mystery to this author. It is evident, however, that with the majority of the Australian population living in coastal towns and cities, reports were coming mainly from, and being investigated by, suburban, or near suburban, people.

The first Australian UFO convention was held in Adelaide between December 28, and December 30, 1959, with the Reverend B. Gill (main percipient of the Boinai CE3K) as guest speaker. Convention subjects were divided into three areas, (a) the validity and value of contactee stories, (b) the value of the psychic and realistic approaches, and (c) the reason and the purpose of the UFO visitations. About 200 people attended the conference and it can be seen by these section headings just where the interests of the era lay.

Recapping then, in 1959 there were at least AFSRS, UFOIC, VFSRS, QFSRB and PUFORG in action. Each of these organisations had a fairly similar internal social structure of president, secretary, sightings officer etc. and a similar approach to investigating reports, although some had decided religious overtones.

By early 1962 Fred Stone had resigned as president of the AFSRS and by February 1963 had emerged as editor of "UFO Phenomena in Australia" productions which subsequently led to the unveiling of "Unidentified Flying Objects Phenomena Investigation Australia" (UFOPIA) as a new South Australian group.

These organisations based on a state level continued to flourish and investigate mainly along scientific lines but included a good deal of social style events in their activities. However, what was missing was a national picture. There was just no co-ordination or countrywide access to reports on a common basis. Various magazines were born, lived and died. With these magazines came a little sharing of information at various times, but there was also a denial to share at other times. The reasons for this denial appear varied though personality

differences predominate in addition to the different approaches adopted by various groups and individuals.

One attempt, at least, was actually made to form a single united research body. A group called "Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation" (CAPIO) resulted from a UFO conference convened by the Ballarat Astronomical Society in 1965. CAPIO was formed to deal with the government and public using one voice. The organisation began in the right spirit but due to internal differences, mainly personalities, it never really got going and hence folded.

In 1966 a new Tasmanian group was formed called "Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre" (TUFOIC) which was based in Hobart.

Then in 1967 "Unidentified Phenomena Investigation Australia (UPIA) - not to be confused with UFOPIA - formed in South Australia out of members of AFSRS. UPIA did not last very long.

In 1968 another group, but one with a difference, was founded in South Australia by Vladimir Godic and Crystal Walsh. This group, named UFO Research, had very definite ideas about applying scientific method to the subject and also of running the organisation along business lines, as opposed to the then existing club structured organisations.

Later in South Australia, during 1971, the "Aerial Phenomena Research Group" (APRG) was formed by this author and D. McConnell. Also at this time "UFO Research and Investigation" (UFORI) was begun by P. Powell. In 1972 the "Special Phenomena and Celestial Research Society" (SPACERS) came into being. So, at this time groups existing in South Australia were AFSRS, UFOPIA, UFO Research, APRG, UFORI and SPACERS.

In August 1973, members of the AFSRS, APRG and others who were concerned about the future of investigations in general, and in South Australia in particular, merged with UFO Research. This enlarged organisation introduced the positions of Co-ordinator and Liaison Officer to better cope with information demands and research needs. This structure, along business lines, was very much consistent with Vladimir Godic's 1968 thinking. It can be

said that within Australia, UFO Research was the first research group for it concentrated on investigation and research as its first priority.

Hereafter name changes followed as other groups also interested in applying scientific methods retitled themselves accordingly. QFSRB became QFSRS and then UFO Research (Queensland), UFOIC became UFO Research (New South Wales), etc.

Going back to 1972 - in New South Wales the group "Central Coast UFO Research Bureau" was formed by H. Griesberg and D. Owen.

Following the establishment of the Centre for UFO Studies in America and a visit to Australia by J. Allen Hynek in 1974 an Australian Co-ordination Section (ACOS) for the Centre was founded by Harry Griesberg and David Seargent in Gosford, NSW. Other groups joined with ACOS in an attempt to co-ordinate and disseminate information.

In 1977 UFO Research (Far North Queensland) formed, so, at this time the following groups were also in existence: UFO Research (Queensland), UFO Research (Central Coast), UFO Research (New South Wales), VUFORS, TUFOIC, UFO Research (South Australia) and UFO Research (Western Australia). Many of these organisations adopted a similar internal structure and style of thinking to that of UFO Research (SA).

ACOS representing CUFOS was established to channel Australian reports to CUFOS in the U.S.A., however, groups retained their independence.

Annual conferences have been held by ACOS since 1975, and have gathered Australian researchers together, generating a vast amount of interesting research work with a great deal of this faithfully recorded in the ACOS Bulletin.

Sensing the need to concentrate more on research into the subject and less on the actual dissemination of information, which had by this time been taken up by the ACOS Bulletin and UFORAN, groups began to change. UFO Research (SA) ceased to have associate members in 1980 and was followed shortly thereafter by UFO Research (NSW).

There has recently been a world-wide swing towards the better documentation of UFO reports, and the involvement of more and more professionals in the subject. In recognition of this ACOS changed its name to "The Australian Centre for UFO Studies" (ACUFOS) in January 1980, and the ACOS Bulletin became the "ACUFOS Journal".

REFERENCES

- 1) See, amongst others: "Challenge to Science" J. & J. Vallee, Neville Spearman, London, 1966.
- 2) Available from the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, PO Box 546, Gosford, NSW 2250.
- 3) ASR Vol.3 No.3 pp.9-10.
- 4) "Historical Reports in Australia" part 1, W. Chalker ACUFOS Journal Vol.2 No.1 p.15.

The aim of ACUFOS was also changed from being a feeder to the U.S. to that of promoting Australian research into the topic.

If one could summarise the present position one would say that we are more than ever now attempting to lift the investigation and research of UFOs to the realm of a science.

- 5) FSR Vol.22 No.5 p.15.
- 6) "The Victorian UFO Report 1954. A Compilation of Reports from the Victorian Press", R. Fischer & L. Bristol, 1978.
- 7) "Herald" Melbourne, January 5, 1954.
- 8) ASR Vol.8 No.4 p.1.
- 9) AFSR No.8 p.30, June, 1965.

PROFILE



Keith Basterfield

Born in 1950 and raised in the middle of England, Keith's early years were spent on the move because his parents changed houses several times.

At the age of 10, and suffering from asthma which kept him up at night, Keith developed two interests - firstly reading books and secondly astronomy. His first astronomical recollection is of gazing at the Moon and studying the features visible to the naked eye. Keith's hobby was assisted by living in a small country village of 8 houses, one telephone box, one bus a week and 175 dogs! The air was exceptionally clear, with excellent "seeing". This interest in astronomy has never left Keith whose other recollections are of waking up at 4 a.m. to study events involving the satellites of Jupiter while standing in a metre of snow and of waiting, in vain, all night for the comet Ikeya-Seki to pass over in 1965.

KEITH BASTERFIELD

Keith's interest in astronomy led him to read a few books on UFOs which almost caused him to abandon the subject as obviously "nutty". However, Jacque Vallee's books came to the rescue and Keith began to see a conflict between his astronomical knowledge and UFO accounts.

In 1967 a big UFO flap occurred in the U.K. which led Keith to develop a growing interest in the subject. However, at this time Keith and his family moved to Australia where they have lived ever since.

Studying for matriculation and then a B.Sc. degree at Adelaide University took up the next couple of years of Keith's life, however, fate intervened and he "bombed out" at university and began work with the Australian Post Office as a clerk.

From 1972 to 1976 Keith became actively involved with local UFO groups and spent his time trekking all over South Australia, and interstate, investigating UFO reports. He totalled hundreds of interviews in this way and acquired his background in investigation techniques. His travels ranged from Cairns in Queensland to north-eastern Tasmania. During his wanderings Keith heard

some exceptional stories and had some unusual experiences, however, we have space for only one: Keith and an associate from Adelaide took a holiday in Queensland to pursue an intriguing story of a "catwoman" supposedly seen by a miner in a remote area of forest near Cairns. After being warned that the miner would shoot on sight Keith and his friend drove and walked to the miner's camp only to have the story fall to pieces when so investigated.

Humour? Yes, Keith says there's humour whilst investigating. There was an occasion when he walked across a paddock at 2 a.m. in the deserted flap area of Clare, South Australia, and was surprised to hear a sudden cough nearby. A quick flash of torchlight caught a pair of shiny eyes just above the ground which turned out to be a sheep!

Keith married in 1976 and continued to live in Adelaide, South Australia, with his wife Jane.

Through the years Keith has maintained his association with UFO Research (SA) investigating reports and acting at various times as research officer, co-ordinator and liaison officer with this organisation.

In 1979 when David Seargent withdrew from ACUFOS Keith was invited to join Harry Griesberg as an ACUFOS Co-ordinator and he accepted this position.

Over the years Keith has been a frequent contributor to the ACOS Bulletin, ACUFOS Journal, MUFON Journal and UFORAN. Articles have also appeared in Canadian, English, American and European magazines and Newsletters. In July 1981, Keith's first book "UFOs - The Image Hypothesis - Close Encounters of an Australian Kind" was published. This book reflects Keith's developing interest in the possibilities of a psychological approach to the subject.

Keith's current viewpoint on the UFO phenomena is that after all the conventional causes have been removed from the sum total of incoming UFO reports, and after the percentage caused by psychological and other human related effects is removed there remains a residue (albeit small) which is currently inexplicable. He is not, however, committed to any hypothesis to explain this residue.

Keith feels some ufologists need to "clean up" their act. One should not say a case is still good, no matter how good it first appeared, if a logical explanation is found. Such ufologists cannot talk about government coverups if they themselves coverup explanations. Keith believes we need a much healthier, open to all, debating forum than we have at present. He feels Australian researchers have adopted an attitude of professionalism and points to the great number of well researched articles by fellow Australians appearing in UFORAN and various overseas journals as proof of this. In Australia co-operation between research organisations and the Australian Centre for UFO Studies is high.

When not researching UFOs Keith's other interests are tinkering with his Tandy TRS-80 microcomputer (getting beaten at chess by an artificial intelligence), reading science fiction and spy novels, stamp collecting, and travelling (Keith and his wife Jane have visited the west coast of U.S.A., Hawaii, Fiji and New Zealand of late).

Keith resigned from UFO Research (SA) in 1981 to concentrate on his ACUFOS role. His future plans are to help make the achievements of Australian ufology well known in other countries, and hopefully to personally contribute to solving the UFO enigma - Keith believes a solution is not too far away. ■

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AUSTRALIAN BOOKS ON UFOs

(Reviewed by Mark Moravec)

PART 4 - FINAL

Over the years, a number of Australian books on UFOs have been published. The books, which vary greatly in quality, are briefly reviewed below.

THE DEVIL'S MERIDIAN by Kevin Killey and Gary Lester. Sydney: Lester-Townsend, 1980, The title refers to Bass Strait, the scene (so say the authors) of many unusual disappearances of aircraft, ships and people. A thorough coverage is given to the Valentich disappearance of October, 1978. As most people interested in the UFO subject would now be aware, the young pilot reported a strange object "hovering" above him, shortly before he and his plane vanished. Countless speculations followed, ranging from pilot disorientation, hoax, suicide to abduction by an UFO. The case is likely to remain unresolved so long as no traces of the aircraft and its pilot are found. The authors benefit from the ufological community's more rational discussions of the Valentich case, but at other times display a naive and uncritical attitude to the UFO subject. In summary, a good account of the Valentich case but a poor attempt at creating a "Bass Strait Triangle".

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF AN AUSTRALIAN KIND by Keith Basterfield. Sydney: Reed, 1981. One of Australia's foremost UFO researchers advances a hypothesis to explain certain close encounters with UFO phenomena. Briefly, the author suggests that many UFO entity reports, i.e. close encounters of the third kind, are instances of hypnopompic and hypnaeogic imagery. The hypnopompic state is the state between sleep and wakefulness and sleep. Psychologists researching these states of mind have found that many subjects report experiencing subjective imagery ranging from simple flashes of light to complex visual scenes. The author presents a convincing case that the same psychological process may be involved in many of the stranger UFO reports. The book includes a catalogue of nearly 350 close encounter cases. Highly recommended.

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