

Australia

U.F.O.I.C. NEWSLETTER

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This is the first Newsletter for 1968 - and it is a delayed issue of one month. Our readers were also promised The Australian Flying Saucer Review No. 10, however it is regretted that the Review is not yet completed due to the large volume of material to be published - but is in the last stages of preparation before printing.

The year 1968 has started with numerous UFO sightings all over the world, including Australia, suggesting that this year's activity may be a continuation of the extremely exciting 1967 period which marked the twentieth anniversary of the "modern" flying saucer era. In Australia alone two landings have already been reported and numerous short-range sightings, also similar reports have been received from overseas, but of which details are not fully available.

It is anticipated that this trend of UFO activity shall continue for, if the deductions of the 1966-67 period are correct, suggesting that UFOs have reached the phase of provoking us into their recognition, then a succession of spectacular events should follow until such aims are achieved - and before the next step, probably the contact phase could begin.

However, in spite of the impact that UFO persistence in our skies exerts upon the public mind, reasoning in ever greater numbers in terms of space visitations - no impression whatsoever has yet been made upon our official circles. In fact, the Colorado Project which was expected to become an eye-opener for the authorities concerned with UFO problem, has until now, rejected any evidence supporting an extra-terrestrial and intelligent background of these objects and has bogged down in negative attitudes. The stories of tricksters and hoaxers are much more appreciated than the hard facts reported by highly trained pilots. None of the UFO cases seems to be complete enough to withstand criticism, or that an element of mistrust could not be found. The present situation at Colorado is disappointing to such an extent that a former Air Force UFO consultant, Dr. A. Hynek, who originally himself was debunking UFOs but has since changed the camp, warned that unless the Condon's final report should make justice to UFO facts, he will publish a number of classified cases over which he has been forced in the past to remain silent.

A similar situation exists also in the USSR. When the Moscow UFO Research Group was formed and its strong positive views became known, a great hope and relief permeated the minds of all UFO researchers in the world. The bold statements released to the press were suggestive indeed that the USSR had achieved a break-through in UFO research and that soon the extra-terrestrial space craft theory would be confirmed. However, this was a misconception for the Moscow UFO Group is not an official body, it is only a civilian UFO investigation organization having amongst its members great names of military and scientific reputation, similar to NICAP of the United States, and therefore as such, has no power to represent the official views of USSR on the subject. Unfortunately, in the USSR too, as in the USA, there are two camps of opinion backed by top scientists and locked in an intellectual conflict for supremacy of views. It is however interesting to note that although both camps subscribe to the concept that the Universe is populated by other cosmic races and civilisations than ours, only the Moscow group grants to some of these civilisations technological achievements enabling them to reach our planet. While the contest of ideas about UFOs is continuing and is expressed by contradictory statements of official Soviet press. It appears to us that official USSR views are repeatedly changing. The official policy towards UFOs has definitely not changed and continues to remain negative, although the hypothesis of UFOs being a secret device of an terrestrial power has been discarded.

AUSTRALIAN SCENE

Near Landing at Sydney Beach

* EYC -

During the weekend of 13th January this year, four youths, Messrs. A. Tory, J. Rizzo, J. Smith and M. Zines went camping at Wattamolla Beach, 13 miles south of Sydney. Since it was raining for a few days the water started to collect in puddles around their tent. It was just an opportunity between showers at 2 a.m. to dig a trench which would re-channel the water back to the sea. They were shovelling sand by hand and Andrew Tory was shining the torch for light, suddenly a bright light was noted in the Northern Sky, not high above the hill extending across their view. They thought it to be a plane or helicopter at first but a jerky movement of the light in its descent towards and behind the hill, with no sound, did not fit this assumption. The light reappeared on the other side of the crest of the hill and then began approaching them. It grew bigger and brighter

as it came closer. At this stage it was evident that the light was actually composed of two lights, one bright and large on the front and one smaller and red on the back. It also appeared that they were part of an object having a triangular or rather bell-like shape. As the object glided silently closer and closer, the whole area beneath of bush and rocks suddenly became brightly illuminated in a diameter of some hundreds of feet as though being lit by a spotlight. The boys were now frightened but soon became composed. The object had stopped switched off the lights and hovered about 400 yards away and 200 feet high. Silhouetted on the dark background of the sky there was still a darker shape, triangular with a base of about 50 feet and a small dome at the apex. Along the sides of the object there was a dim reddish light reflecting from the surface and coming out of a row of small lights situated along the edge. "There were possibly ten red lights in the row at each side, but none at the surface facing us, on top, or on the bottom" all boys agreed. The dim red light was just strong enough to outline the bell-shape of the object and make the surface visible and give an impression of a dark metal. No windows, antennae or other appendages were visible. By now the boys' courage returned and two even decided to go closer and see what the object was, but changed their mind. Instead Andrew having a powerful torch in his hand decided to shine it at the object, hoping that the light would reach so far. It did not, but as soon as the torch was switched on, the object responded by switching the big lights on. Andrew was perplexed and the boys became frightened, so he switched the torch off and similarly the object answered. Three times Andrew signalled to the craft and twice the craft responded. The third time the brilliant light of the object did not switch off, but after hovering for about 25 seconds, the craft began moving slowly away. It went in a north-westerly direction, then following the line of the ridge of the distant hills, it suddenly disappeared behind them. The boys were amazed at their experience and discussed the matter at length, finally reaching the conclusion that the object was not any conventional craft, but appeared to be an UFO.

CANBERRA UFO RESEARCH SOCIETY

Following the inaugural meeting of the Society on 5th September, this new active group held its first public meeting on 2nd December at the Griffith Centre, A.C.T. It was a magnificent start to the Society's activities, filling the hall to capacity.

Canberra's Channel 7 T.V. station also contributed to the success of the meeting by issuing a three minutes advertisement after the 7 p.m. news on the same night. The guest speaker was Richard Tambling from UFOIC Sydney, whose book "Flying Saucers - Where do they come from?" has had remarkable sales in Canberra. Advertising for the book was coupled with announcements of the meeting and the President, Harry Zwankhuisen and his Committee turned into very able public relations officers for the occasion. Earlier in the day, Mr. Tambling had also discussed the problem of UFOs on Canberra Radio Station 2CA, in the half hour long programme "Focus".

As people were arriving for the meeting they walked into a dimly lighted hall with the colour movie of the NASA moon landing being shown. The film continued to fill the interest of all new arrivals until it was time to start the meeting proper. The lights came on and the President introduced himself and his committee to the public and explained the purpose of the meeting and in general, the aims of the Society. The guest speaker was introduced and spoke for forty minutes. He dealt with the subject of UFOs from the historical point of view, modern era with key cases, misconceptions and known natural phenomena, the possible origin and purpose of visitations and implications delaying the recognition of UFOs as extra-terrestrial space-craft. Another film was shown and despite the lateness of the hour, most of the crowd waited for a further question time and the chance to meet members of the committee and the speaker. The interest created by the meeting was tremendous and, as a meeting, this was a model for all who aspire to attract the public and assure its co-operation for the future. It is interesting to note that about 40% of the audience had some sightings experience with UFOs and in one case even more - a man was chased in his car for over twelve miles by a 15 foot flying saucer, following him behind and above the car. It is anticipated that thanks to the formation of the UFO group in Canberra, many interesting sightings will be gradually revealed and any future events reported.

CUFORS: Address: P.O. Box 972, Canberra City. A.C.T. 2601.

NEWCASTLE UFOIC

The Newcastle "Flying Saucer" Exhibition organised in co-operation between NUFOIC and a well-known department store, has concluded with remarkable success. Hundreds of people visited the exhibition during the fourteen days before Christmas and the only competition was Santa Claus in the hall next door. The display of UFO drawings, photos, models, etc. greatly enlarged newspaper-clippings and samples of selected literature appealed primarily to students and school-children, of whom many were avidly taking notes from the printed material on display. Great attraction was also Mr. Richard Tambling's newly published book on flying saucers and the author himself was inundated with queries and sighting reports. The Newcastle Sun ran articles and pictures of the exhibition, contributing in this manner to further interest amongst the public. Apart from the impression that the exhibition made upon the public, an important fact has been noted. It became known that since the UFO Society was formed in Newcastle, and information about UFOs disseminated, a considerable change in attitude towards the subject occurred in several schools. In some schools, UFO clubs have been formed and the students encouraged to report sightings.

having been given instructions to report sightings to their teachers. At one school a prize has been offered to the boys for the first and most accurate report which could be checked and confirmed by authorities as an unusual phenomenon. This progressive attitude is to be commended, for it stimulates awareness in young minds that a phenomenon exists in our skies, the mystery of which will, one day, be solved.

Among numerous sightings recently reported in the Newcastle area, there is a report from a schoolboy which is of outstanding interest. An object was seen by him, which he thought was a car parked in the bush off the road. But, when he approached to investigate the object, it rose vertically and took off with tremendous speed. More details will soon be available.

With the general increase of interest and excitement about UFOs in this northern part of N.S.W., the Newcastle UFOIC sees a real need for its functioning in this area and anticipates increasing contributions to the research in this intriguing field.

NUFOIC Address: Mrs. Anne Robinson, 14 George Street, Belmont. N.S.W. 2280.

TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE

On 10th November 1967, the second Annual General Meeting of this young UFO group was held at the Adult Education Centre, Hobart. Mr. McLaren, the President for the last two years, did not seek re-election due to pressure of his private work and Mr. Eric Bantick was elected as President. A unanimous vote of appreciation was given to the retiring Mr. McLaren for only his enthusiasm and intensive work enabled the society to overcome the difficulties associated with the early period of TUFOIC. However, the society has not lost the valuable services and experience of the former president, for he will continue his active part in the capacity of public relations officer. The new President, Mr. Eric Bantick is one of the foundation members of the society and has cultivated an extensive interest in UFOs for the past ten years. In fact, he was instrumental in the compiling of the statistical analysis of Tasmanian sightings during this period and for the preparation of numerous graphs and charts showing correlation of sightings in this area with those of the rest of the world.

The new treasurer is Mr. Tom Long, who is an astronomy expert and has been a member of the Tasmanian Astronomical Society for many years. He is also a keen photographer and his collection of slides and reproductions of UFO photos are outstanding. Mr. Long's expert knowledge of Astronomy will be of immense help to the Committee as judicator of UFO cases.

Although still in its infancy the TUFOIC feels that it has created and maintained the interest of the Tasmanian public for the UFO subject and has gained the confidence of the Press and other circles concerned.

During the two years of TUFOIC existence, four public meetings were organised, which attracted, in some cases, audiences of over 240 people. The first of these meetings was held in Hobart at the Y.M.C.A. featuring Mr. Colin Norris, the Vice President of the Adelaide Flying Saucer Research Society as a guest speaker. While at the other two meetings, one in Hobart and one in Launceston, Mr. Peter Norris, President of the Victorian Flying Saucer Society was the guest speaker. The fourth meeting, and beyond doubt the highlight of 1967 activities, was the one at Hobart Town Hall, hurriedly organised for the one day visit of the prominent astro-physicist and UFO researcher, Professor J. E. McDonald of Arizona University, U.S.A. In spite of a minimum of time for adequate publicity and advertising, 150 people were present at the function. T.V., Press and Radio had been most co-operative and gave full coverage to Dr. McDonald's visit. This media has also, on many other occasions, shown support to the Society by publicising UFO sightings over Tasmania and covering in many respects the activities of Tasmanian UFO organisations. It is anticipated that this co-operation will continue and help the Society in reaching its goal namely to familiarize the Tasmanian public with the UFO subject.

Following are the Office-bearers of TUFOIC for 1968.

President:	Mr. Eric Bantick	Sightings Officer:	Mr. T. Olsberg
Secretary:	Mrs. Jeanette Bigwood	Librarian:	Mr. R. Lawler
Treasurer:	Mr. Tom Long	Committee Member:	Mr. M. Wimborne
Public Relations Officer:	Mr. Ian McLaren	Patron of the Society is the Rev. Lionel	Browning.

TUFOIC Address: Mrs. Jeanette Bigwood, 62 Leonard Avenue, W. Moonah. Tas. 7009.

TASMANIAN UFOIC - LAUNCESTON GROUP

It should be explained that there are two UFO groups in Tasmania, one is the TUFOIC in Hobart and the other is the TFUOIC in Launceston. The Launceston group was founded 18 months ago following a public meeting at which Mr. Peter Norris, President of the Victorian FSRS, was the guest speaker. Although the meeting was a great success, only twelve people remained to form the initial membership of the society.

Mr. W. G. Kerrison, who is the Society's Secretary, is the most active member of the group, bearing the major portion of the responsibility in promoting the Society's activities and publicising the subject in the Launceston community. Due to limited financial capabilities, the Society is very much reliant on the larger mainland UFO groups for all the assistance which can possibly be given. Any publications, slides, photos or other relevant UFO

material which can be donated or lent, would be gratefully appreciated. It is hoped that at the June CAPIO Conference in Canberra, the question of assistance to smaller UFO groups in Australia, will be given attention and some constructive decision made.

Address: Mr. W. Kerrison, 38 Risely Street, Launceston. Tas.

PERTH UFO RESEARCH GROUP

UFO activity in Western Australia is wellknown throughout the world and in fact, several of the best sightings in Australia have occurred in this part of our continent. With such a background it is easy to conceive the necessity for an active and well organised society in the capital of this state. It is felt that this group has fulfilled this function very satisfactorily as can also be seen from the growth of membership over the years to over seventy at present.

At the last annual general meeting on 2nd February, 1968, a new committee was elected which marked the return of Mr. L. Locke as President, who is a wellknown Australian figure in UFO circles associated with the subject since its beginning in the early fifties. The Vice-Presidency was taken by last year's President, Mr. C. Jones, whose work over the years has been highly appreciated and who has been instrumental in much of the original thinking in the Society's affairs. Second Vice-President is Mr. R. Barltrop, while the new Secretary is Mr. R. Powell and the Treasurer, the President's wife, Mrs. Locke. Other members of the Committee were elected at a special meeting on 1st March, 1968 and their names will be given in our next Newsletter.

In spite of considerable expense for the administration and public meetings, the Society has been able to maintain the lowest membership fees of all prominent UFO groups in Australia, mainly due to the keen enthusiasm and idealism of the committee members. Also to the credit of this group goes the respect paid to the Society by the public and news media which handled the UFO subject and respective sightings in the area, with great seriousness and attention.

Address: Mr. R. Powell, 14 Munsey Street, Applecross. W.A. 6153.

UNIDENTIFIED PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION ASSOCIATION (U.P.I.A.) ADELAIDE

Early this year through various circumstances, based mostly on private divergent opinions on policies, a number of office-bearers and members seceded from the A.F.S.R. Society and founded this new society. Although it is very regrettable that Adelaide has now three independent UFO groups, it is hoped that gradually the differences between these groups might be overcome and some sort of unity made possible.

The office bearers of the new group are wellknown in Australian UFO Circles and are as follows: President: Mr. J. Rolfe, Vice-President: Mr. R. Reid, Secretary: Mrs. D. Boxall, Treasurer: Mrs. A. Whitehead, Research & Technical Adviser: Mr. B. Whitehead, Librarian: Mr. J. Verdonk, P.R.O.: Mr. T. Mastrovasas with Mr. C. Bagot as his assistant, Tape Librarian: Mr. J. McGuire and finally Mr. J. Boxall as Programme Officer. The Society has a library of over eighty volumes at the members disposal and meets each month on the fourth Friday in a public hall.

Address: Mr. B. Whitehead, 10 Norman Street, Adelaide. S.A. 5000.

OTHER SOCIETIES

Adelaide: A.F.S.R. Society, P.O. Box 1457, G.P.O. Adelaide. 5001.
 U.F.O.P.I.A. Mr. F. Stone, 22 Northcote Street, Kilburn. S.A. 5084.
 Ballarat: Mr. H. Sloane, Mount Clear, Winnock, Ballarat. Vic. 3350.
 Brisbane: Q.F.S.R.S. P.O. Box 111, North Quay, Brisbane. Qld. 4001.
 Melbourne: V.U.F.O.R.S., P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria. 3189.
 Warragul: Mrs. E. Esselstrom, 12 Connor Street, Warragul, Vic. 3820.

UFOIC NEWS & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UFOIC Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held in Adyar Hall on Tuesday, 5th December, 1967 together with a Film Night. A comprehensive review of the Society's activities during 1967 was given by the President, Dr. Lindtner, consisting of reports from various Officers in charge of particular UFOIC departments. It was reported that the Society has now 502 members; is in permanent contact with 120 UFO groups and various prominent personalities all over the world; has established during 1967, new contacts with UFO groups in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland and USSR; has despatched 2022 articles of mail of which 817 (including 232 overseas) were Secretary's outgoing correspondence; has delivered 39 lectures to Rotary, Apex, View, Quota, Student, Church and other Clubs; was represented 9 times on TV and radio; had its views recorded by press on 7 occasions, including two interviews by Reuter, London; has spent 714 dollars for 2032 copies of Australian Flying Saucer Review No. 9 and has a credit balance of \$28.00 in the Bank.

Following the report, elections were held in which the offices of Dr. M. Lindtner, Mr. W. Dutton, Mr. F. Phillips, Mr. T. Homan, Mr. W. Moser, Mr. H. O'Brien, Mr. M. Duggan, Mr. N. Drury, Mr. N. Wheeler, Mr. & Mrs. Sayers, Mrs. Van der vord were confirmed and new

members Mr. B. MacArthur, Mr. S. Hodgson and Mr. H. Cusack were elected to the Committee for 1968. The meeting also passed two amendments to the Constitution. The evening continued with screening of two short and one full length feature film dealing with astronomical and space travel themes. 130 people attended the meeting which concluded at 11 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This last social function for 1967 was attended by 64 members, several visitors and members from Newcastle Branch who travelled down to Sydney just for this occasion. An abundant Bar-b-Q supper, drinks, sweets and other delicacies provided by our most efficient Ladies' Committee, were enjoyed by the guests together with the relaxed atmosphere of the evening.

Also five short films were shown, one of them a Czechoslovakian film depicting the history of the famous Moser glass, of which founders were the great great grandparents of our present secretary, Mr. W. Moser. Our secretary himself filled in some interesting points in the commentary known to him only, as a direct descendant. The party also served as a farewell evening to some UFOIC members leaving Australia for overseas' holidays and a welcome back to some members just returning from abroad. The evening concluded at midnight, although a number of people remained at the President's residence until 2 a.m. In general, it was a most delightful night offering plenty of opportunities for members to meet on a personal level and to exchange thoughts and ideas which have for years united the Society into a friendly and intellectual body.

UFOIC FEBRUARY MEETING

1968 activity started with a meeting of members and friends on 6th February at Adyar Hall, which filled the hall to capacity. A comprehensive review of 1967 World and Australian UFO Events was given by the President, Dr. Lindtner and a talk by Mr. Neville Drury outlining the deficiencies in the present scientific UFO research and the need for some radical changes in approach of the solution of the UFO problem is intended to be achieved. The meeting also featured the interview with four youths, Messrs. A. Tory, J. Rizzo, J. Smith and M. Zines who witnessed a close range sighting of a UFO on 13th January, 1968. Their extraordinary experience was ably lead through a line of interrogation and analysis by the journalist, J. Kunst, proving beyond doubt the authenticity of witnesses' accounts and the UFO nature of the object involved. The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m. with five people joining the Society.

JUNIOR SECTION

On Sunday, 18th February at 3 p.m. an inaugural meeting of the newly formed UFOIC section was formed, marking the beginning of a new phase in Society activities dedicated to the benefit of youth. Out of a membership of 52, 24 juniors attended the meeting, they were brought in and picked up later by their parents.

Short talks were given by Dr. Lindtner, Mr. Tambling, Mr. Homan and Mr. Moser while several classical UFO cases were read by Mrs. Van der vord. Considerable discussion was carried out between junior members and the organizing committee, leading to a resolution that a series of lectures covering all aspects of UFO subjects would be given, including astronomy, archaeology, astro-biology, ancient history and other kindred subjects.

Through the president of the junior section, Mr. Stephen Hodgson, various sub-committees were formed involving activities ranging from sorting out UFOIC clipping files to UFO model making. The section will also engage in sky-watching excursions and discussion groups. It is, in general, the aim of the Society to bring the juniors into the closest theoretical and practical contact with the subject and to lead them to the understanding of the UFO problem by knowledge and not by belief.

SOCIAL ON FRIDAY, 1st MARCH, 1968

This first social function in the New Year was attended by 64 members, who with the greatest interest followed an outstanding talk by our Guest Speaker, Dr. K. Bigg, Deputy Director C.S.I.R.O., Dept. Radio Physics. Under the title of "UFOs and the Scientists", Dr. Bigg explained the reasons why the majority of scientists reject the extra-terrestrial origin of flying saucers, and the difficulties involving research in this field. The speaker's broadminded attitude towards the UFOs however, was a great surprise to the audience and therefore, his talk was extremely constructive and interesting. His special study for our occasion culminated in Dr. Bigg's statistical analysis of UFO sightings of the last twenty years related to the position of the various planets in respect to earth. Special diagrams and slides projected on the screen, showed that some correlation indeed exists between the frequency of sightings and the proximity of other planets. In addition, the studies on planetary conjunctions revealed a statistical pattern of sightings, suggesting that UFOs may use planets as a stepping stone from one to an other while travelling in our solar system. Vivid discussion followed, resulting in a scientific and philosophical digest, enriching the knowledge of anyone present at the meeting. The session was chaired by Mr. Phillips and Mr. Dutton, who presented the views of the Society in almost complete agreement with the scientific concept on UFOs of Dr. Bigg. Although the meeting concluded at 11 p.m. several members continued in deliberation until 1 a.m.

FUTURE UFOIC FUNCTIONS IN 1968

Tuesday, April 2 - General Meeting at Adyar Hall (next to and beneath the Savoy Theatre), 29 Blight St., Sydney. 7.45 p.m. (Members and friends).

Friday, May 3 - Social at Killara, Mrs. K. Simpson's residence, 41 Warwick Street, Killara. 7.45 p.m. (Members only)

Tuesday, June 4 - General Meeting at Adyar Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Saturday, July 6 - Social at Wentworthville, Mr. J. K. Blattman's residence, 15 Constitution Road, Wentworthville. 3.00 p.m. (Members only)

Tuesday, August 6 - General Meeting at Adyar Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Friday, September 6 - Social at Killara, Mrs. K. Simpson's residence. 7.45 p.m. (Members only)

Tuesday, October 1 - General Meeting at Adyar Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Friday, November 1 - Social at Strathfield, Dr. Lindtner's residence, 33 Woodward Avenue, Strathfield. 7.45 p.m. (Members only)

Tuesday, December 3 - Annual General Meeting and film night, Adyar Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Saturday, December 15 - Christmas Party, Dr. Lindtner's residence. 7.45 p.m. (Members and friends)

Programmes for Adyar Hall meetings are regularly advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald on the Saturday preceding the date of the meeting and are classified under "Amusements" and "Lecture" columns.

Details on Socials are communicated to members through Newsletters preceding the meetings but consist in general, of Guest Speakers' Address, Panels and discussions, Tape recordings or film screenings. It is understood that gentlemen bring along drinks and the ladies a plate. Any further information may be obtained from the secretary 55 3833 (6-8pm)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FEES

The year 1968 has started with a small amount of money to our account to cover the big expenses required for printing the Review No. 10. Although \$200.00 is still to come in from the Review No. 9, an immediate large sum for lithography and blockmakers is urgently needed. Since the Society entirely depends on membership fees for financing its commitments in publications and administration, (except the Review, which is self-supporting). An urgent appeal is lodged to members to renew immediately their membership for 1968. The subscription fees are \$4.00 for ordinary Members and \$2.00 for Students, Pensioners and all Juniors.

Please forward the appropriate amount to the Secretary, UFOIC, P.O. Box E170, St. James, Sydney. 2000, or pay cash at the first Social or other meeting.

ANOTHER APPEAL

Although many of our members responded in a splendid way to the appeal last year to donate or sell back some of our old publications, there are again a considerable number of overseas societies who would like to receive old issues of our various publications. So any spare copies, even of more recent publications, would be greatly appreciated. We trust to receive help from our members as in the past.