

# **Saw sky object ASTRONOMER**

## **CONVINCED**

**M**MELBOURNE (by teleprinter) — A Melbourne astronomer has reported seeing an "unidentifiable object like a rectangular sheet of aluminium" flying over the southern suburbs.

He is Mr. John W. Boyle, 41-year-old vice-president of the British Astronomical Association's Victorian branch.

Mr. Boyle, who is a cartographer with the Lands Department, has been interested in astronomy for about 26 years, but he said last night:—

"I've never before seen anything in daylight that has been as puzzling to me.

### **HAD OPEN MIND**

"I have always kept an open mind on the things that people claim to have seen in the sky. Now I am convinced that there is something peculiar going on."

Mr. Boyle sighted the object from St Kilda at 11 am on Sunday, January 3. He saw it for 15-20 seconds.

"My first impression was

seconds.

"My first impression was that it looked like a piece of paper being blown along by the wind—but it was a calm day with little wind," he said.

### **PURPLISH HALO**

"As it rocked from side to side, it flashed in the sunlight like a sheet of aluminium. Each time it flashed, a purplish halo appeared around it.

"I am certain it did not give off any light of its own, and there were no vapor trails or jets.

"It was impossible to estimate its heights, but at the time I calculated its speed to be about five degrees a second.

"That means that if the object were flying at, say, 30,000ft, its speed would be about 1800 miles an hour, and it would be about 60ft wide."

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