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3404 **Midsummer Watch  
For "Little Green Men"**

**S**OME 1,200 Australian "ofologists" — flying saucer enthusiasts — are watching the sky for things from outer space, including of course the "little green men."

The date is Midsummer Day in the northern hemisphere, traditionally the hey-day of witches and fairies, but to Australians it is the depth of winter. The occasion is the 20th anniversary of the day when an American pilot coined the phrase "flying saucers" to describe nine glittering objects which he saw over New Mexico.

The Australian sky-watch is part of an international effort in various countries, including Britain.

Many of the thousands of sightings in the past two decades were eventually identified but a large number have remained mysterious.

There have been 1,500 Australian sightings since 1950 but only 210 in the past five years, according to the Royal Australian Air Force which collates reports.

But one Sydney U.F.O. (Unidentified Flying Object) Club member said: "People are not encouraged to report sightings. They are snubbed and told they are fools having hallucinations."

The latest Australian sighting was on May 28 this year when several motorists in a Sydney suburb reported an apparition with red flashing lights hovering at several thousand feet.

At another suburb, Canterbury, two women on March 12 said: "A big grey plate, the size of a small plane" came down to within 100 feet of them.