

14 SEP 1972

9/14/72

IT'S UP THERE!

From JOHN BLAIR, in Taree

SPACESHIP, flying saucer, planet, star --- whatever it is, Taree will never be the same again.

More than 300 people turned out today to see the unidentified flying object which has been hovering over the town with uncanny certainty every morning at 7.10.

The mysterious space object turned up on schedule again today as men, women and children armed with binoculars, telescopes and cameras, focused on the early morning sky.

The crowd rushed to the PMG Lines Depot at Edinburgh Drive where the object was first sighted as someone yelled, "There she is."

It appeared as a tiny, shimmering dot

in the heavens with no discernible shape to the naked eye.

Through binoculars, however, the object had a distinct cigar shape.

It looked like a red and silver bubble. Among the crowd were people who had come from 100 miles and more.

Bank accountant David Slade, of Port Macquarie, said, "I came with my kids to see this thing and it was worth the 50-mile trip. I think it is a spacecraft."

Telephone technician Greg Bala, of Sydney, said, "Some people reckon it is a planet, but it's the wrong time of day. It must be a flying saucer."

The crowd erupted in exclamations of awe as parents pointed out the glittering dot in the sky to their children.

Many were still in dressing-gowns, pyjamas and slippers.

Some had waited in the chill morning

air for more than two hours to get a glimpse of the UFO.

Duty foreman at the PMG lines depot, Mr Ernie Dwyer, had trouble controlling the crowd as they surged into his depot yard.

Outside the area, tourist officer Mr Alan Connors helped police control traffic in the normally quiet street.

Mr Connors said: "Whatever it is, it is one of the greatest things that ever happened at Taree."

Chief Instructor at the Manning-River Flying School, Mr Chad Burns, took a light plane up yesterday to try to get a closer look at the object.

"I went up to 10,000 feet and lined up with land marks I was given, but could not see anything," he said.

Mr Burns was on the ground today and did see the object.

"I think the most feasible theory is that it is some kind of space garbage," he said.

But whatever it is Taree will never be the same again.

UFO OVER VICTORIA, p 4