

Sept 14, 1972

Mystery flying object lights sky over Gippsland

By NICK MOUNTSTEPHEN

A strange, brilliantly-colored object in the South Gippsland sky is terrifying animals and scaring local people.

The blue and silver red-rimmed object was sighted yesterday morning and has been seen several times this week.

The RAAF has classified it "unexplainable."

Senior Sergeant Ron Tanian, of Traralgon police, said: "I have never seen anything like it".

Sgt. Tanian said he saw the object as "a silver ball in the sky" again yesterday morning.

Another Traralgon policeman, Con-

stable Neil Davey, said the object changed from a blue and red color to a silver circular shape and moved away as dawn approached.

Residents who have seen the UFO say it hovers for a time, then shoots away with frightening speed and effect.

Most of them would not have believed their eyes had it not been for the frightened animals.

The object makes no sound and changes shape, they say.

The first reported sighting was at Sheepwash Creek by John Dixon, 23, of Traralgon, as he pedalled to work along the Princes Highway.

Dixon said it hung in a bright blue cloud the size of a hotel only 200 feet above at 4.45 on Monday morning.

He raced back to Traralgon and told Constable Davey, the night-shift policeman, and the saleyards caretaker Jack Gilbert.

The three stood stunned in the police station doorway as the "thing" rose into the sky in the east. As day dawned the blue light withdrew and only a silver fluorescent circle remained.

After three days of investigation by Flight Lieutenant John Ogden, of the RAAF General Flying School at Sale, a classified Unidentified Flying Object report, marked "unexplainable", will be forwarded to the Air Department in Canberra.

Sightings marked "unexplainable" make up only one per cent. of the 595 investigated cases in the past 12 years.



Senior Sergeant Ron Tanian . . . he saw the mystery object.
Picture—NEVILLE ROWLER