

## IN BRIEF

# UFOs may be trapped 'waves'

**MELBOURNE:** A physics professor in Melbourne has come up with his own theory about recent UFO sightings.

Professor Victor Hopper, dean of University Studies, RAAF Academy, Victoria, said yesterday experiments he had conducted during the past five years had uncovered an effect known as "anomalous propagation".

This was caused by electro-magnetic waves trapped in the atmosphere", he said.

"As a result, from time to time we have been able to pick up objects on our radar screens which are over the horizon".

"Light waves, too, are part of this same spectrum and hence it might explain why people see objects which are unidentified".

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**WELLINGTON, Saturday (AAP).**  
— The UFO filmed over New Zealand's South Island last weekend, and shown on television throughout the world, was in fact much smaller than it appeared on the screen, scientist Mr Norman Rumsey said last night.

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An optics expert, Mr Rumsey said that after testing the windows of the aircraft from which the film was taken he believed the UFO, as seen on television, bore little resemblance to what the pilot had seen.

"The windows contain slight imperfections which massively distort objects filmed through them", he said.

## Holdup charges

**LITHGOW:** A man appeared before a chamber magistrate yesterday in Lithgow Court, NSW, on several charges, including armed holdups.

Mr Colin Vincent Stratton, 24, was remanded to the same court on Tuesday on three charges of armed holdup, three of stealing motor vehicles, one of possession of an illegal firearm and one of failing to appear at Newtown Court on August 31, 1978.

## NSW coal talks

**ROME, Saturday (AAP-Reuter).** — The NSW Premier, Mr Wran, left Rome for London yesterday after talks with senior Italian state oil corporation officials on the possibility of Italian involvement in exploiting NSW's big coal deposits, an Australian Embassy official said.

## Twins suffocate

**MELBOURNE:** Six-year-old twin boys suffocated in a wheat-storage bin on their parent's wheat farm on Friday near Wycheproof, Victoria.

Police at Wycheproof said the twins, Carl and Joseph Ison, were playing in the bulk wheat bin in a paddock when they were sucked to the bottom after an augur was started.

## Bjelke record

**BRISBANE:** The Premier of Queensland, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, will become Queensland's longest-serving premier on January 14.

He became premier on August 8, 1968, and will exceed the present record held by Sir Francis Nicklin, premier from August, 1957, to January, 1968.

## Volcano erupts

**AUCKLAND, Saturday (AAP).** — White Island, a volcano outcrop in the Bay of Plenty, erupted in spectacular fashion yesterday.

A Government scientist, Mr E. F. Lloyd, based in Rotorua, the centre of New Zealand's thermal region, said the activity was a continuation of eruptions which began on Christmas Eve.

## Literary prize

ADELAIDE: The Adelaide publishing firm, Rigby's, has announced a \$20,000 literary prize as part of its 120th anniversary.

It will be open to all authors, provided they write on Australian themes, Rigby's executive chairman, Mr Bill Hayes said yesterday. All manuscripts submitted and all works published in the next year would be automatically entered in the competition.

## Alarms put in at schools

Electronic security alarms have been installed in a number of ACT schools to counter the problem of vandalism during the school holidays.

The alarms are of the silent type and an intruder would have no indication that one had been activated.

In addition, patrols by a security firm will be used to counter vandalism.