

'Irrational approach' to removal of beach rock

'BALANCE BETWEEN MAINTAINING SHORELINE AND MEETING BASIC NEEDS OF COMMUNITY'

At least one King Island contractor has queried, what he describes, the "irrational approach" to the removal of rock from beaches.

Mr. Bob Freeland, of Freeland Construction and Plant Hire Pty. Ltd., Currie, says he does not agree, on technical grounds, that beach gravel should be made available for general concrete work. He states that beach gravel, whilst cheaper than crushed aggregate, does not have the necessary cubical shape or grading requirements to produce concrete that will meet required standards for construction purposes.

"Furthermore," he says, "the removal of all material in a specific area, irrespective of size, is not necessarily satisfactory. If the available rock is scalped or screened on the beach, the larger rock retained for crushing and finer material left, the effect on any area would be reduced to a minimum, and the product obtainable would provide a far higher standard of crushed material suitable for roadworks and the building industry."

While the costs may be higher, the effect on the shoreline would be less noticeable and in many cases not detrimental to restricting access to the environment.

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Alternative materials available

Mr. Freeland says that he has queried for a number of years the "irrational" approach to the removal of rock from the beach when its use has been other than for crushing and subsequent use as aggregate for concrete and fine crushed rock for road construction and road sealing programmes.

"While some beach rock is cast in specific locations where it appears to be a renewable source, there are many other areas where over the last 25 years or more large quantities of good grade rock has been removed and subsequently used in base course as filling in lanes, drives, roadways and

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UFOs investigated (from front page)

The Valentich affair

Paul Norman of VUFORS was able to visit the Island and obtained data on an October 21st. sighting at 1 p.m., just five hours prior to Valentich's disappearance. Mrs. K.M. was sunbaking in the back yard of her Currie home. The sky was very blue and clear, except for one large cloud directly overhead. Out of this cloud came an object similar to a huge golf ball. The object was white or silver

similar to a huge golf ball. The object was white or silver in colour and moved west toward the sea. It moved slower than an aircraft. It stopped at a 70° angle, then started moving back in the direction it had come. Mrs. M. watched for 10 minutes, then had to leave and saw no more of it. The cloud was estimated to be at an elevation of about 1500ms.

Despite the publicity of the Bass Strait incident no reports after that date occurred on the Island. It is interesting to note that the anonymous writer and the Newman case had been published in the King Island News back in September.

A great deal has already been written about the Valentich disappearance and there is certainly nothing new that the Centre can add to the incident. The publicity showed there is a new level of acceptance by the public and media in respect of the UFO phenomena. Many calls came into the Centre because witnesses felt they should report what they had seen to an interested party. The "they will think I'm mad" attitude still prevails but it is gradually being eroded away.

If the Valentich sighting was a UFO event , then it

actually occurred during the midst of heightened activity both in Tasmania and Victoria. The publicity enabled us to pick up many sightings that would have otherwise gone unreported. It makes one wonder just how many UFO sightings there really are.

Valentich disappeared on October 21st. after a final call to Flight Control at 7.12 p.m. the engine of his plane was

to Flight Control at 7.12 p.m. the engine of his plane was rough and he reported the unknown aircraft was hovering overhead. As will have been noted from previous reports, sightings had already occurred on King Island whilst others occurred elsewhere in the State.

Flight Plan

The interest shown by the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre in King Island sightings is demonstrated by the attention given to them in the Centre's annual report.

We hope this has also been interesting to readers, particularly those who may have missed earlier reports in the "News". It is also interesting to note from TUFOIC's annual report that although the number of reported UFO sightings to the Centre has increased yearly, almost doubled in the last eight years, fewer each year remain unidentified after investigation by the Centre, each year. Of 168 reported sightings in 1978 only 24 remain unidentified, whilst another 17 are still being investigated, or information is insufficient to form a conclusion, and presumably the King Island sightings are included in these categories.

In the case of the Valentich affair, and in the interest of investigative reporting, the "News" would like to remind readers of a report which we published at the time, concerning the pilot's original intentions.

Original intentions.

At the time of Mr. Valentich's intended flight to King Island from Moorabbin Currie Airport flight service would not have been available unless special arrangements had been made by the pilot contacting Currie. When filing his flight plan, the pilot was also asked if he had requested landing lights at Currie, to which he replied that he had. However Currie flight service had no knowledge of the intended flight, least of all a request for landing lights.

It was interesting that the "News" was the first media to investigate this aspect of the mystery.

Gravel useage (cont. from front page)

yards," Mr. Freeland says. He contends that for such purposes an alternative material such as North Pit or Pearshape gravel could have been used, and won from accessible deposits.

"Quarry-type" operation advocated

Mr. Freeland said it had apparently been accepted since early days of development that beach rock was freely available for any purpose considered necessary, "hence the misuse and subsequent abuse in the past of both the reserves and possibly some areas of coastline". The practice

possibly some areas of coastline. The practice was that small rock, including large quantities of fines, were removed from pockets over a large area of coastline. Mr. Freeland advocates a 'quarry-type' operation whereby a specific area would be opened up. In this way, he contends, sufficient material would be obtainable from a smaller area.

"The practical alternative to obtaining a suitable rock deposit inland would be the provision of one or more sites adjoining the coast, where rock could be won in a quarry-type operation providing a source of material for a long term operation, and subsequently meeting local requirements with minimal effect on the coastline in conjunction with limited removal of scalped beach rock."

If present reserves were used wisely there would be sufficient material available to last the King Island community for years to come, "but the misuse of the limited resources in the past, if continued, will impose considerable difficulties within the near future unless an open faced quarry can be established," Mr. Freeland contended.

He concluded that if quarry sites were to be developed then consideration could be given to phasing out the use of beach rock over a two year period, after allowing for a period during which material would be tested, leases obtained, and sites developed.