

Out of this world!

ALL it took was the reported sighting of one UFO... and now almost everyone in the WA bush outpost of Eucla is claiming a close encounter of some kind or another.

After Wednesday's alleged extra-terrestrial attack on four travellers on the lonely Eyre outstrip at the tiny town, local publican Steve Pappotis said yesterday he had seen strange lights over Eucla on January 5.

When pilots flying light planes between Adelaide and Perth stop over at Eucla, Mr Pappotis goes to the airstrip to take them back to his Amber Hotel.

A booking was made for a pilot to stay on January 5, but when he didn't turn up at the airstrip at 7pm as expected, Mr Pappotis went home.

Later that night Mr Pappotis's wife said she could see a plane coming in, so he thought his guest had arrived.

"I saw what looked like navigation lights moving over the west of the town towards the airstrip," Mr Pappotis said.

"The lights came slowly down like a plane preparing to land... but then hovered at a 20-

degree angle for about a minute.

"I thought what the hell is the pilot doing," Mr Pappotis, who has spent 20 years at Eucla, said the lights moved lower, then slowly east before vanishing over the horizon.

He reported the incident to police because he feared the plane might have crashed.

On police advice he also reported it to air traffic control in Perth, who checked with Adelaide airport.

"They said no plane was supposed to be in the area," Mr Pappotis said.

He said he was mystified by the incident until last week's claim by Perth woman Faye Knowles that she and her three sons were chased by a huge "bright glowing" object as they drove near the WA-SA border town.

Mr Pappotis said the lights he saw "were two top of an ultraviolet light, but I didn't bother to look at its shape".

He can't remember whether he heard the sound of a plane because

"when I saw the lights I thought it was a plane anyway and there was an east wind blowing at the rate of about 15 knots".

But he doesn't believe in flying saucers.

"I had seen light streaks from Skylab and I think maybe what I saw in January was some part of a rocket," he said.

Another Eucla resident, 28-year-old cook Jeremiah Dodd, isn't so sure about what she saw in the sky.

Her house is on a hill with a commanding view of the Southern Ocean.

"About a month ago we were in bed looking at the stars and this bright light was coming towards us," said Ms Dodd.

"It sort of flew into the angle of the window and then zoomed away.

"It was very big and must have been travelling at incredible speed.

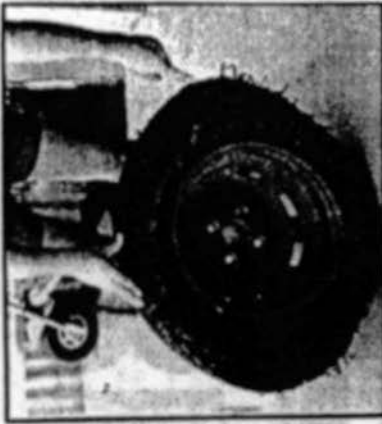
"It hovered above the horizon on a 30-degree angle, so I knew it wasn't a boat... and then it disappeared."

Another local with a strange tale is bar manager Stan Mossfeld, who said: "I was going home from Border Village about 10 days ago and I was coming towards our place I saw this great big light hanging up in the air."

"It was then for about 5 km and then when we passed a bend it was surrounded by a band."

"It was scary," Mr Mossfeld believes the vertical bandings and up Most people in town think something is occurring and I think these creatures from outer space are ready to communicate with us," he said.

By ANDRA JACKSON



A damaged bye from the Knowles family's car.

Backing for UFO claims

CLAIMS by a family of four that they plain have been backed by a researcher, and Australian International UFO Research director Colin Norris believes the family's Nullarbor encounter will be repeated.

Mrs Faye Knowles and her three adult sons are adamant that there is something out there after their car was allegedly shaken and lifted by an extra-terrestrial marauder.

Pictures taken yesterday of the car indicate a violent encounter. One tyre was shredded and a rivet within the front-wheel well showed an area of bright metal horizon.

Between midnight and 1.30am, six witnesses watched a saucer or football-shaped object zigzag seven metres above the horizon.