

UFO 'dust' mystery



By GRAEME WALKER
THE dust covering the car involved in the Nullarbor UFO "encounter" was an unknown substance, police said yesterday.

And as the puzzle deepened, more people claimed yesterday to have seen the object a Perth family say attacked them near the SA-WA border on Wednesday.

Forensic police were quoted in Adelaide as saying the substance already deposited on and inside the car was not ash. And the crew of a tuna boat fishing about 300 km off the SA coast were among a number of people credited with independent sightings of a UFO matching the description of the Nullarbor entity.

The tuna boat Empress Lady, from the Australian Southern Bluefin fleet, reported a bright light hovering overhead around the same time the Knowles family claim they were attacked.

And Sgt Jim Furnell, of Ceduna, in the far west of South Australia, said police had had calls from two other people claiming to have seen a light in the past week, but had been reluctant to report it for fear of ridicule.

Police had also had another report from a motorist in WA, he said.

But other police believe the UFO "lighting" by Perth woman Mrs Faye Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18, may yet turn out to be a gigantic hoax.

And an Australian Southern Bluefin fleet spokesman said details of the tuna boat sighting had been exaggerated.

Chief Insp Barry Willoughby, of Fort Lincoln, said the desert sighting was in the same area of WA where the "Nullarbor Nymph" created a worldwide sensation about 30 years ago.

Police at Exeida said they had been out on the highway but were unable to find the spot where the encounter allegedly happened.

But Mrs Faye Knowles and her three sons were still insisting last night that their experience was real.

They told last night how they endured nearly two hours of terror in a desert area but to see what they are convinced was a UFO. Still recovering from what they claim was a horrifying encounter, the family appeared distressed and shaken in an exclusive interview on Hitch at Seven.

Mrs Knowles and her sons Patrick, 24, Sean, 21 and Wayne, 18, said their car was engulfed by a glowing ball and lifted into



• Mrs Knowles ... visibly shaken by yesterday's alleged UFO sighting. Picture: CHANHEL SEVEN

the air.

"We were in a state of shock," said Mrs Knowles. "All of a sudden this thing was on our roof and lifted the car up."

"I said I didn't know what to do and as soon as I said that this smoke stuff started coming into the car."

"It was like a soot ... coming in on top of us," she said.

"We thought we were dying as we got out of the car and stood behind a little tree in the bushes. "It couldn't find us but it was still there waiting for us and looking for us."

Mrs Knowles said she and her sons stayed in the bushes for about 15 minutes.

"Then all of a sudden it

took off again and when we hopped in the car to take off it came after us again.

"It wouldn't leave us alone."

The Knowles said they were all awake when they noticed the UFO in the middle of the road. In front of their car, at about 5am.

"It looked like truck lights so we didn't take much notice at first," Patrick said.

"It was terrific," Mrs Knowles said.

The Knowles were adamant that what they saw was real and not a ball of lightning as has been claimed.

"No that's not true," said Sean.

Tasmanian 'had similar incident'

By CAROLYN JONES

UFO researchers believe the Knowles family's sighting is somehow linked to a similar incident a Tasmanian man experienced last month.

Details of the December 14 sighting by a prominent Launceston businessman only came to light yesterday when the Victorian UFO Research Society confirmed the two cases could be connected.

"In both cases, the object described is exactly

the same," society field officer Mr Pat Gildes said.

The man — who said he did not want to be identified for professional reasons — claimed he saw a colored cup shaped object while driving along a deserted country road in his white Mercedes about 10.30 pm.

"Thinking the 'bright white light' hovering above him was a helicopter, he drove on but then noticed the light following him."

After a few kilometres, the light landed on the road in front of him.

The man stopped the car and put the handbrake on but the engine stopped and the lights went out.

"He panicked and ran back down the road but then stopped to look back," Mr Gildes said.

"He noticed the car was being dragged towards the light. All he could make out of it was an oval shaped object."

Another driver came up soon after — in time to see the object take off on an angle and "disappear into the night sky".



• The Knowles family ... Patrick (left), 24, Faye, Sean, 21, and Wayne, 18.