

# **Airship creates a great deal of interest**

District residents could be forgiven for thinking they were being invaded by aliens piloting an unidentified flying object on Monday morning as a giant cigar shaped object hovered precariously above the main street.

As many shopkeepers and residents cast their eyes skyward it became evident that the UFO was in fact an airship.

The airship, which has been providing hundreds of passengers with sight-seeing trips over Sydney in recent months, was witnessed as it made its way northward on what is believed to be a promotional tour along the east coast.

The airship, a "Skyship 600," is one of two in Australia owned by Airships Pacific in a joint venture between Ansett and

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### **Bond Airship Industries.**

The Skyship 600 is a large craft, being a non-rigid, twin engined airship with ducted propellers.

Lift for the airship is provided by its cigar shaped envelope made of single-ply polyester fabric

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and filled with helium, with a total volume of 6,666 cubic metres.

The Skyship 600 measures some 193 feet or 59 metres in length and stands almost 67 feet or 20 metres high.

The gondola suspended

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below the airship provides seating for two pilots plus eight passengers.

The Skyship 600 cannot land or take off without a ground crew to guide the airship to its mooring posts

## **airship to its mooring posts and the Skyship viewed over town on Monday**

**needs a ground crew of at  
least 14 people.**

**Even with these apparent  
draw backs, the passengers  
on board on Monday ap-  
peared to be having the  
time of their lives as they  
waved to the many curious  
spectators on the ground  
below.**

