

# UFOs rare

## but not

# unknown

Most UFO sightings are not reported because people are afraid of being ridiculed, according to the founder of the Canberra UFO Research Organisation Ian Fox.

Sightings in Canberra are rare but not unknown, he said.

Last year a Canberra woman was travelling home on the Cooma Road in the early hours of the morning when she saw a set of bright white lights just above tree level off the highway to her left.

As she approached the Burra turnoff the object moved across the road in front of her. She then saw blue and red lights as well as the white ones. The object moved into a paddock to the right.

She could see the object clearly and said the lights were "perfectly round" and the blue light appeared to be the largest. It was very low and there was no sound coming from the object which she says was "about the size of a house". She became very frightened and drove off.

The woman is quite adamant that she could see the object clearly and it was not an aircraft.

Mr Fox said the people who see UFOs are "not just kooks" but include pilots, scientists, police and even former President of the USA, Jimmy Carter. The modern history of UFO's is quite colourful.

The sighting of an unusual object in the sky over Canberra on Saturday has revived interest in UFOs. Ljubica and Zoran Ivanisevic, of Kambah, saw and videoed, the bright object (with a cog shaped hole and two bites out of the top and bottom) at about 5.15am. But although UFO sightings around Canberra are rare, they have occurred before, as CHRIS UHLMANN reports.

In 1947 Kenneth Arnold flying a plane near Mt Baker in Washington State saw nine disc shaped objects. The local newspapers christened them "flying saucers" and the terminology for countless dinner-time arguments was born.

Reports of a UFO crash site in the New Mexico desert in the same year have entered flying saucer folk law. Bill Brasil came across the wreckage of a craft and some bodies. The local air-force base cleaned up the site and initially issued a press release saying the wreckage of a flying disk had been found. They later denied the report and said the debris were of a weather balloon.

The US air force had an official investigation into the sightings of UFO's — Project Blue Book — it was closed down in 1969. Perhaps the most famous Australian case is the disappearance of Frederick Valentich and his plane. Over Bass Strait on his way to King Island he called Melbourne Air Traffic Control to ask if there was any air traffic in his area. He said he could see another craft below him and travelling very fast.

Moments later he said it wasn't an aircraft it was a long shape, "I can't identify more than that," he said.

He then reported the object was hovering above him and the plane's engine was rough idling. The last transmission was a "metallic sound" and the aircraft disappeared. Searches turned up no wreckage and no reason for the disappearance.

CUFORS is an offshoot of the Victorian UFO Research Organisation and Mr Fox is interested in hearing from anyone who has seen an object or who has an interest in UFO's. The Address is PO Box 69, Campbell, 2601.

Residents who believe they have seen a UFO which they have not reported are welcome to contact *The Chronicle* to describe their experience.

## 'No peace' since object sighted

The Ivanisevics, of Kambah, have hardly had a moment's peace since their sighting early Saturday morning of an unusual "object" was reported in Sunday's *Canberra Times*.

Television crews, radio stations and newspapers have kept the household's phone ringing and Zoran Ivanisevic, whose wife Ljubica videoed the object, has been asked to appear on the *Good Morning Australia*, *Midday* and *Today* shows.

Mr and Mrs Ivanisevic had seen the unusual object in Canberra's skies about 5.15am. Mr Ivanisevic had said he had an open mind about UFOs and did not claim it was "a flying saucer".

His daughter, Karolina, said an RAAF investigator had visited the Ivanisevics yesterday afternoon.

The investigator had taken a copy of the video and asked the couple a number of prepared questions. He had said that he would contact Mr Ivanisevic when the investigation was complete.

## \$50,000 theft of computers, food

Thieves got away with a booty of computer equipment and food valued at \$50,000 from a warehouse in Fyshwick during the weekend.

Sergeant Geoff Hazel said yesterday that the thieves had forced a rear door of Dawes Wholesalers warehouse on Gladstone Street, Fyshwick, sometime between noon Saturday and 2pm Sunday.

## RAAF targets an 'object' seen in Canberra's morning sky

The RAAF is investigating the sighting of an unusual object in the sky over Canberra yesterday.

The object — "so bright it hurt your eyes to look at it" — was captured on video by Ljubica Ivanisevic, of Kambah, after her husband spotted it and dragged her out of bed about 5.15am.

Zoran Ivanisevic said he had an open mind about UFOs and did not claim it was "a flying saucer". He just wanted someone to tell him what it was.

He said the object remained stationary for "about five minutes".

It was larger and brighter than a star, but smaller than the moon.

It was much closer to earth than the stars and had two "beams" of light projecting "sideways" (parallel with the horizon).

He had not really thought there was anything mysterious about the light until he played the video.

As the camera closed in on the light it focused on a large, almost round object with a "cog-shaped" hole in the centre, and two "bites" out of the top and bottom.

"I am not saying it was a UFO, but it was something," he said. "I would be glad to see some opinion from an expert."

The *Canberra Times* tried to contact some experts yesterday.

A weather bureau spokesman said he was not aware of any unusual meteorological phenomena between 5 and 5.30am.

The cloud over Canberra began



The Ivanisevics at home last night.

to move in about then, but the sky over Kambah might still have been, as Mr Ivanisevic said, clear.

Air-traffic control at Canberra airport could not comment on local air traffic at the time.

The Australian Federal Police was not aware of any reports of unusual objects.

The RAAF duty officer, asked for the air force's UFO investigator, took the Ivanisevic family's phone number and said someone would contact them on Monday.

An hour later he said he had "not necessarily" said someone would contact them at all — "We

have a form — I've just filled in the form that goes to a higher authority and what happens from there I just don't know".

He did not know what the "higher authority" was.

Immediately after that conversation, Izabela Ivanisevic, 20, reported that someone from the RAAF had phoned "about an hour ago".

"He was very interested in it," she said. "He wanted the straight facts: time, position, that sort of thing. They're coming on Monday."

— CATHERINE WARRY

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