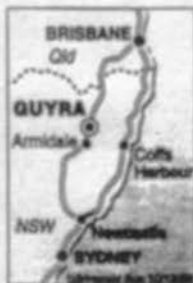


‘It was clear as daylight, you could see it so clean’

UFO tunnel twist

HERALD SUN, Melbourne, Australia - Dec. 10, 1999



By SIMON PRISTEL

THE secret of an unidentified flying object remained buried in the mud under a country dam last night.

Police divers found a deep tunnel in the dam floor but could not find the mystery object that has thrust the northern NSW town of Guyra into the world spotlight.

The search is expected to resume this morning.

Guyra was abuzz with rumors after something crashed into the town's water supply Monday or Tuesday, scattering an area of reed beds 15m long by 6m wide.

"I've heard everything from a flying saucer, a comet, space junk to a chunk of ice which fell off a plane," said a spokesman for Guyra Council.

But the defence, police, fire, health, environment and assorted UFO experts were scratching their heads.

"The mood is absolutely electric," Guyra real estate agent David Bearup said.

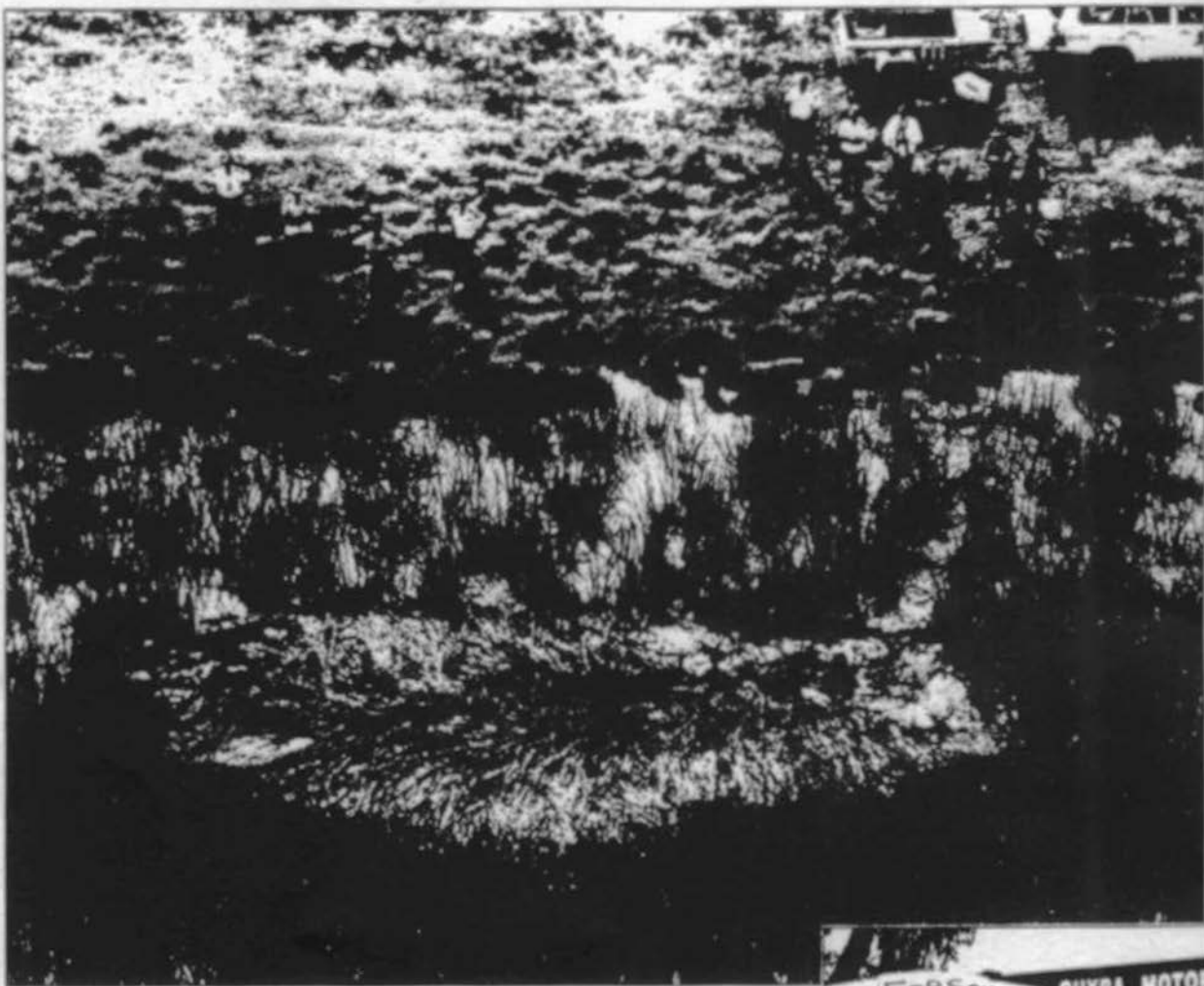
The decision to use earth-moving equipment to retrieve the object was made late yesterday when police divers flown in from Sydney discovered a 20m long tunnel about 40cm wide under the impact site.

Two consultant geologists brought in from Armidale — 40km south of Guyra — believe it could have been a meteorite weighing about 5kg — the size of a grapefruit.

Tests on water samples revealed no toxins or radioactivity. The water supply is expected to be deemed safe after earlier fears water would have to be trucked to 2200 people.

Police said a council worker stumbled on the crater while checking the dam on Wednesday.

A truck driver, Wayne Petersen, said he saw



Mystery objects: Investigators inspect the crash site in the Guyra dam and, inset, a local car dealer cashes in on the publicity generated by the UFO.

what appeared to be a falling star about 5pm on Monday. "It was blue, between the size of a golf ball and a tennis ball and it came from an easterly direction," he said.

"It shot down on a 45-degree angle.

"It was clear as daylight, you know, you could see it so clean."

Lorraine Willcox, whose house is 4km from the dam, making it the closest, said the first she knew of the mystery was when police and the mayor interrupted the annual presentation at Guyra High School to tell

them to conserve water. Unexplained happenings are nothing new to this community.

Two F1-11 jets have crashed here in the past 15 years and there is the legend of the Guyra Ghost, blamed for inexplicable occurrences in the 1920s.

Locals have already composed a poem in honor of the latest mystery.

An object from the sky, what's all the bloody fuss?

UFOs in Guyra are nothing new to us. The town's abuzz with rumors.

are there aliens from afar?

The dogs cower in their kennels and locals crowd the bar.

The editor of Sky & Space magazine, Jonathan Nally, believes the Guyra crater could have been made by a huge chunk of ice that fell off the side of an aircraft.

He said waste water from aircraft toilets was usually stored on board, but it sometimes leaked from the valves and froze on the side of the plane.

Paul Norman from the UFO Research Society

said he suspected the crater was made by space junk — not an alien craft.

"We are not interested in the ones that crash. We are interested in the ones that keep going," Mr Norman said.

Mr Bearup said there was no way of telling if the mystery object had come from outer space.

"I haven't seen anyone in a blue suit walking around with their underpants over the top, so I just don't know," he said.

