
Bird, plane, or something else?

By Grant Sherlock

AN unknown object filled with hundreds of red and white lights hovers while a husband and wife watch in amazement from below.

The object, unlike anything they have ever seen before, appears above them for an instant before it flies away and disappears.

It sounds like a scene from a science fiction movie.

It is not a movie though, it is the experience of Kaelie Foord and her husband who are among a growing number of locals to report sightings of an unidentified object in the night sky over Port Lincoln.

February's Tulka fires drew scores of Port Lincoln residents to better vantage points throughout the city for a glimpse of the flames which wreaked devastation on homes, wildlife and native vegetation around Tulka and the Lincoln National Park.

Mrs Foord and her husband were no different.

On February 20 at about 10pm they stood on the balcony of their hill-top home watching the

their hill-top home watching the progress of the then 20-day old fire.

The couple were talking about the fire, the biggest in the area in a decade, when the object

came into view.

"The main part of the fire had passed, it was when the fire had flared-up again near Sleaford," Mrs Foord said.

"I put the binoculars down for a minute and we were just talking about the fire and I looked up.

"I said 'what's that, is that a cloud?'

"It was not like a sphere but a cloud full of red and white lights, they were constant.

"There could have been hundreds."

The sighting lasted less than a minute, enough time for the object to move into sight around the balcony of Mrs Foord's home, pause overhead and fly eastwards before disappearing.

As an isolated sighting Mrs Foord's recollection of the event has intrigued a UFO researcher who travelled to Port Lincoln to investigate the event.

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But as one in an ever-growing list of sightings Mrs Foord's report becomes even more interesting.

UFORSA, the Unidentified Flying Object Research South Australia group, has six official recorded sightings of the object in the sky above Port Lincoln on February 20 and the group has heard about another report which is yet been confirmed.

Group member Alan Jones travelled to Port Lincoln last week to conduct interviews with those who reported seeing something on February 20.

From those interviews Mr Jones has pieced together an approximate time of the sight-

ings and the likely flight path, elevation and shape of the object.

Far from talking about little green men and flying saucers Mr Jones believes exactly what the object was will not be discovered, but he is describing it as a significant UFO sighting.

What is confirmed about the object is at least six individual people saw its flight from somewhere near Tulka towards the Flinders Monument at about

**Flinders Monument at about
10pm on February 20.**

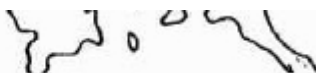
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• Gloria Wajwoda saw an object shaped like a tennis ball and surrounded by a glow travelling east on February 20 before it rapidly changed direction towards the Flinders Monument.



Flight path
of object



• A map of the flight path of the object which at least seven local residents say they saw on February 20. The sightings lasted from a couple of seconds up to several minutes.

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Most saw it only for a matter of seconds but Mrs Foord, whose report is the closest sighting, saw it for closer to a minute.

Those close to it, within the Port Lincoln area, suggest it resembled a round object surrounded by a haze, causing it to resemble a cloud, while the reports from further away describe it as similar to a star-like object.

"It's not a definite thing, they all emphasise it's like a cloud," Mr Jones said.

"They're all around the quarter to ten/ten o'clock mark.

"I'm hesitating to call it an object even because it hasn't got any clearly defined outline.

"I would say it curved round towards the Flinders Monument but came back behind it.

"It also came down, (it was) about two or three thousand metres and it may have dropped."

Gloria Wajwoda was bidding goodbye to friends on her driveway when she saw what she describes as a tennis ball-shaped object surrounded by a strange glow

rounded by a strange glow.

"It was like a round tennis ball, like a round glow but around that there was about an inch of fuzziness," Mrs Wajwoda said.

"I said to them look at that funny light.

"I knew it wasn't a plane, possibly because there was no sound with it."

Watching the object from her Port Lincoln driveway, Mrs Wajwoda and one of her guests watched it fly about five kilometres away near the Lincoln National Park, until it turned towards the Stamford Monument and disappeared.

"I remember thinking it came out of the scrub because it came out at land height," Mrs Wajwoda said.

"It travelled over the water heading towards Boston Island.

"With that it just sort of zipped off.

"It was when it took back (towards the monument) and went with such speed that's when I thought 'I hope it missed the monument'."

At about the same time Cassie Calderwood was returning from locking chickens away for the night on a neighbour's Koppio property when she saw an unusual light in the distance.

As she drove along she followed the light but lost sight of it when she reached her own property.

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Curiosity took her back to her neighbour's house for another look but by the time she arrived it was out of sight.

"Coming back I saw this really bright light, I thought 'God it's huge'," Mrs Calderwood said.

"It was just a huge round glowing bright light.

"I knew it wasn't a star, it was too close.

"It was like 'God is that a UFO?'"

The different reports of the object actually helped Alan Jones during his investigations.

They allowed him to calculate elevation and direction by the variations in the reports depending on the locations of the people who saw it.

"We've got people looking from a distance and we've got people looking directly up at it," Mr Jones said.

"That's given us the angle, we know it wasn't down on the water.

"Because of the different perspectives I think it was on a curve."

Mr Jones' estimations suggest the UFO was travelling slightly faster

than a light plane but Mrs Wajwoda said she saw the object travelling faster than anything she had ever seen.

"I know in my mind that it was

I KNOW IN MY MIND THAT IT WAS definitely not a plane, not any plane I've ever seen anyway," she said.

"It was just so fast - unbelievable."

UFORSA is resigned to probably never knowing what was seen near Port Lincoln, what they do know though is that they have gathered more information about the sighting than any they have investigated before.

"We very carefully avoid hazard-ing any guesses as to what it is because we just don't know," Mr Jones said.

"It would be certainly the most tangible one, it's the one we've had the most information from.

"Normally you have a light in the sky."

Those who saw the object may not know what it was but they do know what they saw.

That is something Mr Jones wants them to remember and he wants the witnesses to form a group to try to learn more.

"They shouldn't think they're wild-eyed fanatics," he said.

"I believe there's a lot of other people who've seen it who haven't said anything."

Kaelie Foord will not forget what she saw, even though she is still not sure what it was.

"I think there's things out there

SURE WHO IS WHO.

"I think there's things out there but I don't know if there's things out there like little green men and spaceships."



• Alan Jones has interviewed six people on Lower Eyre Peninsula and Port Lincoln on sightings of unidentified lights. He has drawn his impression of what the people saw, (pictured right).

