

Small town's bright lights has UFO world on alert

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DID extraterrestrials really travel thousands of light years to a sleepy seaside town in north Queensland?

Websites around the world have erupted over a video of a UFO from Cardwell, north of Townsville.

The pair of silent, mysterious lights filmed by local businessman Greg Smith have yet to be explained, with both sceptics and believers offering their theories.

Mr Smith said he and his son

watched the lights for 15 minutes and were convinced it was an alien.

"I used to be the world's biggest sceptic about this stuff but this really rattled me and my son," he said.

"There were two large orange lights. There was no beam and no noise. It was silent and they were moving slowly across the sky."

Cardwell resident Phil Mulley and his wife Helen saw the lights on two consecutive nights.

"The first night there was just one light and it was very bright. We thought it was a chopper but there was no noise. We watched it for a

few minutes and then it disappeared in cloud," Mr Mulley said.

"The next night my sister rang me and said to look outside ... and there were two lights."

UFO Research Queensland president Sheryl Gottschall said she could not identify the lights but was adamant extraterrestrials regularly visited Australia.

"I've been with this organisation for 25 years and in that time I've spoken to 3000 people who have seen strange lights and objects, and to another 600 to 700 who have had close encounters," she said.

The Weather Channel forecasters were unable yesterday to determine if the lights had any meteorological explanation because the exact date and time that the video was taken was unknown.

And veteran pyrotechnician Rob Fairbanks dismissed speculation it could have been a firework.

"There's nothing in the fireworks industry that would hang there that long or burn that bright," he said.

"It could possibly be a parachute flare from a boat but they are usually a red flare and there would be a smoke trail."

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