

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UFO STORY

Keith Basterfield

© 2007

Introduction:

This article is a starting point for documenting an historical perspective of UFO research in South Australia since 1953. In its preparation I conducted face to face and telephone interviews with a number of individuals who had an interest in the UFO phenomenon; re-read old UFO magazines; checked old newspaper clippings; and examined personal notes. In addition, I reviewed certain files in the National Archives of Australia and in some instances consulted old electoral rolls and other sources of data. Research has been hindered by the death of a number of individuals and a lack of sufficient written documentation which has at times, meant an inability to locate some critical information.

At this point I must therefore acknowledge that it is an incomplete historical record, for these reasons. However, as no one, to my knowledge, has previously attempted such a task, the following is the best that can be done under the circumstances. There is no doubt that this article will contain errors of fact. I would be grateful to any reader who can correct such errors. My contact details are given at the end of the article.

The article will first take a look at the sixteen South Australian UFO organisations of which I am aware. A representative A to Z of thirty nine South Australian UFO researchers then follows. Next I present a summary of prominent South Australian UFO cases from over the years. Finally I make some suggests for future research.

UFO organisations:

1 Australian Flying Saucer Club (AFSC)

This very first South Australian UFO organisation, was started by Frederick Phillip Stone in 1953. Its formation followed a personal sighting of five cigar shaped objects over Adelaide a week before the first atomic bomb explosion in Australia. Stone stated that he could see "figures" in the objects.(1) Stone later offered to affiliate with the Sydney based Australian Flying Saucer Bureau formed by Edgar Jarrold but Stone states he (Stone) "...accepted the position of South

Australian Branch President. However, as he got no satisfactory co-operation from Edgar Jarrold and was making no progress, he broke his connection with Jarrold and formed the A.F.S.R.S.” (2)

2 Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (AFSRS)

This group is still in existence in 2007, albeit under a different name, having been going now for 52 years. (1) A letter to the RAAF dated 7 March 1955 shows that the Hon. Pres. was Fred Stone; the Hon. Ass. Sec. was a Mr P D Thomas (believed to be Peter David Thomas, an Engineer, living in the suburb of Burnside) and the Hon. Treas. was a Mr L E Hauber (believed to be Leonard Eric Hauber.) Other AFSRS members were land salesman and ex-RAAF navigator Keith M(oncrief?) Cartwright and Engineer, John R Bushell.

An early issue of the AFSRS’s magazine titled “Australian Saucer Record” (2) indicates that Stone was looking to go national in 1955, when the AFSRS (NSW Branch) was formed. The motive for this may have been an interview with the RAAF after which Stone noted that the RAAF would prefer to deal with a national level UFO organisation. A later issue of the same magazine (3) notes that Judith Croser was the AFSRS (NSW Branch) contact in 1956. However, that same year, 1956, the AFSRS (NSW Branch) became independent and changed its name to UFOIC. By the way, the ASR was published between 1955 and 1963 reaching Volume 9 Number 6.

The AFSRS came under the notice of the Commonwealth Investigation Service, Canberra. National Archives of Australia (NAA) file series A1533 control symbol 56/2773 is titled: “The Australian Flying Saucer Research Society.” The Commonwealth Investigation Service’s functions included, according to NAA “Agency notes for agency CA 650,” “...maintenance of liaison with customs, postal, taxation and state police services; security at Government factories, dockyards and facilities; and provision of personnel as required for special investigations...” In 1949 some of the roles of CIS passed to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), while the rest of the CIS role went to the Commonwealth Police Force in 1960. The file consists of two documents, the file cover and a copy of a newspaper article.

The article is headlined: “Men from Mars!” and concerns a close approach of the planet Mars to Earth in 1956, and notes in part that: “*The Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (AFSR) will have its telescopes trained on the planet...*” It refers to Society President Andrew Tomas.

Stone's national aspiration was emphasised again, when in February 1957 he formed the AFSRS (Vic branch). Later in 1957, (4) it reorganised as the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) with Peter Norris as President.

In 1957 the AFSRS Secretary in Adelaide was a Mr J A Fisher. (5)

In the 1958-1960 period the Recording Officer of the AFSRS was one Jack Ferry. (6)

The AFSRS held Australia's first UFO conference in Adelaide in 1959. 200 people attended, with the main speaker being the Reverend W B Gill talking about his spectacular close encounter sightings.

In some un-sourced personal notes, the author found a comment that in about 1959 the AFSRS had a Northern Territory branch run by one Duke Alley. The author has not been able to ascertain anything else about this branch.

Three years later, in 1962, following a falling out with Colin Norris, Fred Stone left the AFSRS to found another group he called UFOPIA. (7) Colin Norris and others then took the lead roles within the AFSRS.

The Disclosure Australia Project located a former "secret" 9 January 1962 memo from the Regional Director ASIO SA to ASIO HQ which forwarded a report from the (blacked out) about the AFSRS (8). The file cover, as shown on the released copy, carries the original ASIO file number 3/2/979 Vol 1 and is titled "Flying Saucer Research Bureau (Qld.)" The AFSRS report itself was not released to the Project. Why ASIO was interested in the AFSRS at this time is unknown.

A former member of the AFSRS between 1967 and 1972, related that the AFSRS meetings were initially held in a venue in Moonta Street, in the City, but later twice moved to venues in Morphett Street, City. AFSRS membership was large, perhaps 100. There were interstate and overseas members. Meetings were attended by some of these members and also by "walk ins," people who had some how heard about the meeting and simply popped in on the night. (9)

Interpersonal difficulties raised their heads again in 1967 when on 16 November at a special general meeting of the AFSRS, a "no confidence" vote was moved against Colin Norris, and lost. A number of persons then left the AFSRS including the Boxalls; the Whiteheads; Jan Verdonk; Roger McGuire, and Theo Mastrosavas. These people went on to found a group called UPIA. (10) UPIA also met in the same

hall as the AFSRS the Australian Better Hearing Association Hall in Moonta Street.

A 1968 AFSRS magazine shows that Marc Dodd was President. Colin O Norris was Vice-President and Public Relations Officer. That year Norris attended the CAPIO conference in Canberra. Other AFSRS members around this date were Ted Shrubbs who was their Librarian and Alex Mitropoulos who built a UFO detector. A Mrs Bungey was one of the group's Secretaries with a Steve Hutchinson, a later holder of the Secretary role.

In the early 1970's the AFSRS sent copies of AFSRS UFO report forms to RAAF Edinburgh, who forwarded them on to RAAF Head Quarters. The Disclosure Australia Project found these copies on HQ files of the period. It is uncertain of why these were sent.

It appears that ASIO continued to watch the AFSRS. A 3 November 1972 ASIO SA memo headed "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" refers to a 13 October 1972 report concerning Colin Norris who the report says "*...claims to be in correspondence with Soviet academicians on the subject of unidentified flying objects...Norris spoke to members of the Young Socialists League in South Australia about UFOs...*" This report also refers to an earlier 1969 report, which is not on the file. (11)

Bremner Thomson was the AFSRS Assistant Secretary in 1972 and continued an active role until the early 2000's.

In April 1972, then AFSRS member John Burford developed links with the APRG run by Keith Basterfield. John also met with Flt Lt King, Intelligence Officer, at RAAF Edinburgh to discuss the local SA research scene.

The AFSRS had an investigations team established by John Burford. Peter Powell and Keith Basterfield were already conducting joint investigations separately to the AFSRS. Then the AFSRS; UFOPIA, SPACERS; UFORI and the APRG joined forces as far as case investigations went by forming the "Combined Investigations Team" to look at South Australian reports on behalf of all these groups. On 12 May the author was accepted as head of the CIT. A single entry was placed in the SA phone book. It listed several numbers for members of the public to call to make a report. Colin Norris and Peter Powell were jointly elected to do Public Relations work. The CIT considered a new standard report form and training sessions were organized for investigators. In 1973 this group of CIT investigators raised a number

of issues at an AFSRS meeting and due to the response they received, moved out of the AFSRS and into UFO Research with Vladimir Godic.

The AFSRS changed its name to “Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research” in 1978 and continued to hold regular public meetings and publish a Newsletter. This Newsletter presented summaries of local sightings and articles, written by a number of individuals.

The AFSRS remained the main UFO group visible to the general public with numerous mentions in the Adelaide media during the period 1978 to the mid 1990’s. However, after this, with Colin Norris’ health in decline, the numbers attending meetings then decreased. During this period Debbie Payne and Helen Danby had assisted the operations of the group.

In 2007, the Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research still maintains an entry in the Adelaide telephone book. However, it has lost all of its momentum, as no-one has stepped forward to continue its operations.

3 Aerial Phenomenon Research Group (APRG)

The author attended AFSRS meetings between 1968 and 1970, while at school and later at University. He wrote articles for their magazine. In 1971 he decided to form his own UFO group, the Aerial Phenomenon Research group (APRG). The reason for this was that the AFSRS did not conduct rigorous scientifically based research on the reports which were made to it. The AFSRS as an entity had already concluded what the origins of the UFO phenomenon were and did not welcome alternative viewpoints.

The APRG was in existence between 1971 and 1973 and the author was joined in his research activities by Denis McConnell a fellow employee of the Postmaster General’s Department (now deceased.) During this time joint investigations into local sightings were conducted with Peter Powell’s UFORI.

4 Australian UFO Research Association (AURA)

In 2002 the author became aware that a number of individuals in Adelaide with a deep interest in the UFO phenomenon were looking for a sense of direction for this interest. He therefore facilitated a meeting

of these individuals, and from this was born the Australian UFO Research Association. Ultimately the following individuals became AURA members-Keith Basterfield; Helen Danby; Kathy Dickmann; Bev Luff; Colin Paule; Jeff Fausch; Debbie Payne and Alex Aaskordas. Later, they were joined by Dominic McNamara and others.

As with UFOR(SA) and UFORA the author's intention was to concentrate on research into the phenomenon as opposed to growing a large public group. A little time will be spent here on describing AURA, to illustrate a major difference between small, tightly focused groups and the former large publicly focused groups of the 1960's.

AURA's Mission Statement is *"To work towards a greater understanding, and acceptance, of the UFO phenomenon."* Its aims were defined as:

1. To collect, collate, analyse and disseminate information about Australian UFO reports and UFO research.
2. To undertake such research into the UFO phenomenon in a professional, efficient and effective manner.
3. To ascertain what knowledge of the UFO phenomenon may not currently be in the public domain, and seek to document and disseminate this information to interested parties.

Its Strategies for Aim 1

1. To actively participate in the Australian UFO Research Network Hotline reports system.
2. To publish details on investigated UFO reports via the media and UFO research outlets.
3. To preserve/archive documentation on Australian UFO cases and provide access to relevant UFO researchers and media representatives.

Strategies for Aim 2

1. Maintain a small network of seriously minded individuals who work in a professional manner utilising a business model.
2. Seek funding for such research.
3. Provide assistance to other researchers who have limited resources.

Strategies for Aim 3

1. Document the existing holdings of Australian UFO groups, individual researchers, private and government organisations.

2. Seek to ascertain knowledge of the UFO phenomenon not currently in the public domain by a variety of means.
3. Document and disseminate this knowledge to interested parties.

In 2003 AURA members decided, with the assistance of AUFORN on the national level, to take on a Disclosure Australia Project. This Project aimed to locate and disseminate information on UFO documents held by the Australian Government. A large volume of material (over 10,000 pages) was uncovered. However, once read and processed, the files located have been reported on in a series of 31 Newsletters; 17 "Revelations" columns in the bi-monthly "UFOlogist" magazine; at three national level conferences, on a two part CD-ROM set and on the Project website at <http://disclosureaustralia.freewebspages.org>. Following Project requests, the NAA has also made some files available as digital copies on its website www.naa.gov.au.

In 2007 AURA continues under the leadership of Jeff Fausch. AURA demonstrates that a small, focused group of individuals can successfully undertake major research projects.

5 Combined Investigation Team (CIT)

In 1972, the AFSRS had an investigations team established by John Burford, which included Tony Colbert; Ray Brooke; Dean Piovesan; Frank Gillespie and Tom Mills. Peter Powell and Keith Basterfield were already conducting joint investigations. Then the AFSRS; UFOPIA, SPACERS; UFORI and the APRG joined into the Combined Investigations Team to look at South Australian reports on behalf of all these groups. On 12 May the author was accepted as head of the CIT. A single entry was placed in the SA phone book. It listed several numbers for members of the public to call to make a report. Colin Norris and Peter Powell were jointly elected to do Public Relations work. The CIT considered a new standard report form and training sessions were organized for investigators. In 1973 this group of CIT investigators raised a number of issues at an AFSRS meeting and due to the response they received moved out of the AFSRS and into UFO Research with Vladimir Godic.

6 Cosmic Connections (CC)

Malcolm Clarke, had a number of unusual episodes which commenced in 1970, when as a five year old he went missing, and turned up with

an unusual mark on one leg. In 1995 he had poltergeist style events happen in his Adelaide home. Malcolm also had a number of UFO sightings, and became very interested in the UFO phenomenon. He went on to hold meetings until the name Cosmic Connections. Later, Kevin Robb became associated with Malcolm Clarke and the group became Australian Cosmic Connection. Its "statement of purpose" states that it "...acts as a support for individuals as they step out of their traditional comfort zones to look at new areas of reality..." (1)

7 Paranormal Field Investigators (PFI)

PFI was co-formed by Jeff Fausch and Alison Oborn in early 2002. This small group of investigators aims to research paranormal events; look to find out what is happening and support members of the public who find themselves involved in these events. Investigations are conducted in a scientific manner and utilise specialized electronic equipment.

The group's interests include the UFO phenomenon and they have been active in researching numerous South Australian sightings. Jeff Fausch and Alison Oborn have been the main driving force behind the group. Currently Alison is the lead investigator.

8 Paranormal Research, Investigation Services & Monitoring International (PRISM)

In 1980 Arthur Holden had a very close encounter with a round, blue object with an orange lump. Another smaller object the size of a dinner plate approached him, spun around him three or four times and stopped in front of him. Arthur felt as if "...someone had thrown a bucket of water over him." There was huge flash of light and the object was gone. Arthur felt there might have been a period of two hours missing time.

Arthur started up a UFO group called "UFO Monitors Communications." It met at the AFSRS venue in Franklin Street, once a week on a Friday night. They decided to keep numbers low, to about eight people.

In 1982 the group decided to look at hauntings to expand beyond an interest in UFOs. The name of the group was changed to "Paranormal Research, Investigation Services and Monitoring" (PRISM.) People from the AFSRS would pass PRISM's meeting and join PRISM. It had 12 members in 1983.

Later Arthur distanced himself from the group and Laurie Pearce took the lead in running PRISM.

In about 1990 one of PRISM's members received a call from founder Holden. Arthur said he was doing "Government covert operations" and hung up. They never saw or heard from him again. They tried to trace him but could not.

PRISM put an ad at the Uni. Responses came from Laurie Eddie who became PRISM's secretary and Colin Mitchell who became a field officer.

By 1992 there were 55 PRISM members and they met at Laurie Eddie's place in Unley. The group conducted experiments. One visiting psychic was named Marion. PRISM had good working relationships with the SA Sceptics. PRISM approached Centrelink and Centrelink registered them as a voluntary organization. PRISM also set up a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the SA Police for the Police to refer sightings to them. Laurie did talks on local radio shows and the group became a larger force in local UFO research. Public meetings were held at a number of venues.

By early 2007 PRISM was in "suspense" as the current members look to decide PRISM's future directions.

9 South Australian UFO Research Institute (SAURI)

Little is known about this organization run by Mike Stahl, of Clapham which has been listed in the UFO literature as a South Australian group since the mid 1990's. Mike is no longer listed in the Telstra White Pages.

10 Special Phenomena and Celestial Research Society Inc. (SPACERS)

In the late 1960's a group was formed called SPACERS, based, the author understands, out at Elizabeth. Two members were Glenn Sawyer, who was also into amateur radio and electronics, and Ray Mountford a former Vice-President of UFOPIA (1). In 1972 SPACERS joined in with other South Australian groups to form the Combined Investigations Team. Not much else is known about SPACERS other than that according to a 1979 UFORSA Newsletter item they were still in existence in that year.

11 UFO Phenomena Investigations Association (UFOPIA)

UFOPIA was started in 1962 by Frederick Phillip Stone, the founder of the AFSC and the AFSRS following his departure from the AFSRS. Within the AFSRS Stone had published the magazine, the Australian Saucer Record. With the starting of UFOPIA he went on to publish a magazine called "Panorama" which was published between 1962 and 1971.

Between 1964 to 1968 Vladimir Godic was a UFOPIA Senior Vice-President and between 1965 and 1968 was an Investigation Officer (1)

In 1966 Anthony E Bran became a member of the UFOPIA committee and ultimately a Senior Vice President. Tony gave slide lectures to a number of community groups. UFOPIA meetings were held in a hall on a small street between Grote and Gouger streets. 20-25 people attended the meetings. Tony retired from the Committee about 1970 as he had other interests. Another Vice-President was Ray Mountford who later, as the author understands it, went on to involvement with SPACERS. (2)

Interviews with individuals who were associated with UFOPIA (3) and an examination of articles published in Panorama, indicate that the organisation viewed the alien visitors as "good." The review also suggested that there was an overt religious slant to UFOPIA's public views as stated in Panorama.

In 1968 Robert Chester was shown on the mast head of Panorama Volume 7 Number 2 as the sub-editor.

By 1969 Stone mentioned to the UFOPIA Committee that it was time for him to wind down, citing increasing age and deteriorating health. A new President took over but lasted three months. (4)

In late 1970 Stone advised the UFOPIA Committee that he intended to resign, and they looked at whether or not to close down the group. At that point the Committee decided to continue. However, by March 1971 Stone resigned as President, and by May 1972 UFOPIA went into permanent recession.

Known UFOPIA members included Fred Stone, Tony Bran, Jan Verdonk; Vladimir Godic, Pam & Warren Litchfield; Robert Chester; and Ray Mountford.

12 UFO Phenomena Investigations Australia (UPIA)

Little is known of UPIA other than that it was formed by Brian Whitehead after he and others left the AFSRS following a special general meeting on 16 November 1967 where a vote of “no confidence” was moved against Colin Norris. A number of other persons also left which included the Boxalls; the Whiteheads; Jan Verdonk; Roger McGuire, and Theo Mastrosavas. (1) UPIA met in the same hall as the AFSRS, the ABHA Hall in Moonta Street and met mid-monthly.

13 UFO Research & Investigation (UFORI)

Peter Powell initiated UFORI in 1971, and by December of that year Powell and the author were jointly investigating local cases. Powell published a magazine titled the “Australian UFO Report” for a couple of years, and also offered a book selling service. The May 1972 Tooligie Hill trace case was a high profile investigation by UFORI. UFORI participated in the Combined Investigation Team’s efforts in 1972, but ceased when Powell went on to other interests.

14 UFO Research (later became UFO Research SA) (UFOR)

Unsatisfied with the then current South Australian UFO groups, Vladimir Godic; an as yet unidentified man, and Crystal Walsh started up a group they called UFO Research, in 1968. They wished to focus on a more scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon and started looking into local sightings.

In 1972 UFOR joined other local groups in the Combined Investigation Team model. However, following a disagreement within the AFSRS several AFSRS members moved over to UFOR. UFOR started its own Newsletter which was published between 1973 and 1979.

In 1975 UFOR changed its name to UFO Research Incorporated and became an Association. The group held a series of very successful public meetings between 1975 and 1978, where dozens of interested individuals attended. Details of local sightings were presented; films were shown and facilitated discussions held.

UFOR Inc. jointly organised the 1976 national ACUFOS conference, UFOCON 2, which was held at Mt Gamber and published a 30 page

catalogue of Australian entity cases compiled by this author and Bill Chalker.

In 1977 there was another name change to UFO Research (SA) Incorporated with the UFORSA Newsletter (1) showing that UFORSA scientific consultants at that time were F Gillespie; B Perry; V Rendall; P Delin and that group members were T Mills, H Aspinall, R Brooke, D Mitchell, D Piovesan; S Bolton; D St John; P Birrell; Miss B Blakmore; Mr L Godfrey, J Burford, T Tkalec, and J McTier.

The author was group Coordinator between 1977 and 1979 and Liaison officer between 1980 and 1981. Frank Gillespie was a member between 1974 and 1982 and scientific consultant between 1979 and 1982. He also held the position of Treasurer for a period.

In 1978 UFORSA published "A source catalogue of Australasian UFO reports where photographs were taken."

In 1980 Vladimir Godic commenced publishing the UFO Research Australia Newsletter for four UFO groups including UFOR(SA). In that year UFOR(SA) Co-ordinator was Horrie Aspinall; Liaison Officer was Keith Basterfield; Treasurer was Frank Gillespie; Assistant Liaison Officer was Jane Brooks; Deputy Liaison officer was Ray Brooke. Later Ray assumed leadership of the group. Between 1997 and 1998 Alan Jones assumed leadership. Later Jim Atwell assumed leadership until he passed away in 2003. Ray Brooke returned to maintain the group in "suspension" through to 2007.

Its biggest case investigation was the 1988 Knowles family, Mundrabilla reported UFO encounter.

15 UFO Research Australia (UFORA)

Looking to extend the small focused group model of a UFO organization from the state level to the national level, Vladimir Godic, Pony Godic and this author started the group UFORA in 1980, and commenced publication of the high quality UFORA Newsletter in the same year. UFORAN carried the results of much of the research conducted by Australian UFOlogists between 1980 to 1984, then again between 1988 and 1991, after which production ceased. It was a "... vehicle for the publication of more popular articles, newsclips, reference services, reports etc..." (1) Holly Gorris became UFORAN Associate editor from Volume 1 Number 2; with Pony Barenson (later Godic) becoming another associate editor from 1981.

The author compiled summaries of Australian UFO sightings, gathered from most of the then existing Australian groups and independent researchers. These summaries were published as the UFORA Research Digest, 37 issues of which were published between July 1989 and November 1993.

Dynamo House, Victoria, in 1991 published one of Australia's first digital books titled "UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand." Edited by the Godic's it was a 90,000 word collection of material by a diverse range of authors from the pages of the UFORA Newsletter.

As well as the digital book, UFORA was one of the first Australian groups to start using the new technology available in terms of electronic communication between researchers, using the internet.

The author who had been UFORA Research Director, left UFORA in 1993 to pursue other avenues, and UFORA continued under the reins of the Godic's and Harry Griesberg. However, with the passing of Vladimir Godic in 1995 UFORA closed after 15 years of very successful work. Along with the first incarnation of ACUFOS, it remains as one of the most successful national level organisations.

16 UFO South Australia (UFOSA)

UFOSA was formed in February 2007 by Adelaide Researcher Andy Eastman and aims to compliment the other South Australian UFO groups. It hopes to hold regular City based meetings; operate a public telephone reporting number; and to work with UFO reporters.

A representative A to Z of South Australian UFO researchers:

Atwell, Jim V

Born in 1958, Jim was a dedicated member of UFORSA from 1975. He conducted a number of investigations into local sightings and had an eye for finding mundane explanations in IFO cases. Jim was particularly vocal about fake UFO sightings. "*A common hoax is to send up a garbage bag filled with firelighters....*" (1) He was also particularly interested in photographic evidence for the phenomenon. Despite severe health problems, Jim later assumed leadership of the group, publishing lists of South Australian sightings which UFORSA had looked into until he passed away in 2003.

Basterfield, Keith

Fascinated with the UFO phenomenon since 1968, the author has been, over the years, a field investigator for the (former U.S.) Aerial Phenomenon Research Organisation (APRO); a joint co-ordinator for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, and the Research Director for the (former) UFO Research Australia (UFORA). In addition, he spent several years as the Continental Director for Australasia for the US based Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), as well as having had a lengthy association with UFO Research (South Australia). Between 1994 and 1997 the author founded and ran the Australian UFO Abduction Study Centre, exploring the various facets of the UFO abduction phenomenon, particularly in Australia. Since 1998, independent research projects have occupied his time. In February 2003 he became a member of the Adelaide based Australian UFO Research Association (AURA) and facilitated the Disclosure Australia Project for three years.

The author's research on aspects of the phenomena ranging from orange lights in the sky, to the after effects of UFO abductions, have been published in such places as the (former) *APRO Bulletin* (USA); *MUFON UFO Journal* (USA); *Magonia* (UK); *the International UFO Reporter* (USA); *the Journal of UFO Studies* (USA); the prestigious psychology journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* (USA), as well as numerous Australian and European UFO journals. The author's first book appeared in 1981 with a revised edition in 1997 titled "UFOs: A report on Australian encounters." His published work has featured in-depth case studies; catalogues of various classes of events, and discussion on the cause(s) of the UFO phenomenon.

The author has lectured/presented locally in South Australia; nationally in a variety of locations, and internationally in the US. He has facilitated workshops and networking meetings; guided research teams and undertaken major investigations.

Of late, his research interests have included paranormal aspects of the UFO phenomenon; personality aspects of Australian abductees; the implant motif in UFO abductions; abductees' belief in and experiences of the paranormal; the possible involvement of sleep paralysis in the UFO phenomenon; and the involvement of the Australian Government in the UFO phenomenon.

A Community Development worker by profession, with tertiary training in the Social Sciences, the author's viewpoint is that the UFO phenomenon is worthy of continued cross-discipline study utilising the scientific method. However, today he recognises that the subject is heavily contaminated by both commercial and sociological factors.

Birrell, Peter

UFORSA Newsletter number 25 dated May-Jun 1977 lists Peter Birrell. Peter was a regional investigator and lived in Mount Gambier, where he investigated and reported upon local events.

Bolton, Steve

Steve Bolton became a member of UFORSA in the mid 1970's and undertook a number of investigations in the State. The Wokurna trace case, an early example of simple crop circle, was a notable instance where Steve conducted an extremely thorough investigation. He retains an interest even today.

Bran, Anthony E

In 1966 Tony's wife heard reference to the topic on talk back radio. Tony contacted Fred Stone, who was the President of UFOPIA and went to a meeting. He had always had an interest in the paranormal and held his own opinions on flying saucers.

Tony became a member of the UFOPIA committee and ultimately a Senior Vice President. Tony gave slide lectures to a number of groups. His view was that people should keep an open mind. There are lots of Sun like stars with planets. It behoves that there must be life on some of them. There would be intelligences comparable to ours or even more advanced. Some could be visiting us. Re contacting us- would you stand outside an enclosure containing animals having a go at each other and join them - you'd stand outside and watch. Aliens could be watching us. We could have been colonized by aliens who erased our memories about our origins.

In 1968 Tony was shown on the masthead of Panorama Volume 7 Number 2 Mar/April 1968 as one of the two sub-editors, along with Robert Chester. Tony retired from the Committee about 1970 as he had other interests. (1) His Panorama articles included: "UFOs Ancient or modern? How old is the UFO phenomenon? "(2); "Only time will tell." US bases in Australia and official knowledge of UFOs.(3) "Is civilization at the crossroads?" Civilisation needs to change or it is in danger of vanishing.(4); "UFO-BC" Our ancestors could have come to Earth from another planet. (5)

Brooke, Raymond Harold

Ray was born in 1926 in the UK. At age 12 Ray was a member of the Scout movement and spent time hiking and camping on the Pennine Moors and Derbyshire. He became interested in astronomy. By 17 he

had joined the Royal Navy and found a few of his ship's crew also interested in that subject.

In the 1950's and 1960's his interest developed on the topics of alien life and other planets; and he held more discussions with other interested individuals.

Ray started attending meetings of the AFSRS, when Marc Dodd was President and Ray became friendly with Ted Shrubbs of the AFSRS. Ray recalls that the AFSRS meetings then were social but the group did carry out lots of research.

Later, Ray joined UFORSA and in 1973 he was one of the investigators of the enigmatic Kimba, multiple witness entity case.

Within UFORSA he held a number of positions and spent numerous hours talking to members of the public as the group's public contact point, obtaining details of local sightings. He traveled all over South Australia investigating reports, and attended a number of state and national level UFO conferences.

In 1988, the Mundrabilla "car lifted by UFO" case erupted and Ray, together with this author fielded dozens of calls from the world media about this case over a two day period. Ray appeared in the lead item on the six o'clock Channel 7 news one night discussing this case.

Ray's views on the UFO phenomenon have not changed over time. For the last 50 years he has thought that there are other life forms elsewhere in the Universe; some far in front of us on the technological side and capable of things we haven't even got close to.

Ray thinks that some abduction reports have merit and an answer to them would help solve some of the mysteries and possibly put us on the right track. In addition, it may be that one day we may get information given to us from the authorities which could help in our research.

Brooks, Jane L

Jane was born in 1947 in South Australia and has interests which include the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI) and space exploration in all its forms. In 1979 she became Assistant Liaison Officer for UFORSA. At UFOCON 5, held in Canberra, she presented a paper on SETI and at UFOCON 6, held in Adelaide, she presented another paper on SETI. In addition, together with Canberra based John Prytz, she gave a public lecture on SETI during UFOCON 6. Jane wrote a

number of articles for UFORAN, including "Quentin Fogarty & the NZ film" (1) and "The Search for Extra-terrestrial Intelligence." (2) She ceased interest in the UFO subject due to pressures of studying, and her interest in SETI.

Burford, John

Following a personal sighting in 1965 John later joined the AFSRS. Exposure to the AFSRS and raw sighting details led John to his early embracing of the reality of alien visitations. For a while John was librarian for the AFSRS which gave him exposure to a range of books on the topic. John attended the CAPIO conference in Canberra with Colin Norris in 1968 and met other high profile ufologists of that time. John, together with the author and others investigated the numerous UFO reports originating out of the Clare valley in South Australia's Mid north.

Colin Norris passed on some UFO reports for John to investigate. John found that more reports could be explained in mundane terms than the AFSRS had previously admitted. John wrote up some extensive interview notes on these cases and published his findings in the AFSRS magazine. To assist him John formed an "investigations" team within the AFSRS which included Frank Gillespie, Dean Piovesan and Tom Mills and others who are listed under membership of the Combined Investigations Team.

These others felt the same way as John, in that the raw reports need some in depth investigation, which was not being undertaken by Colin Norris. Although Colin passed on reports to John to investigate eventually Colin expressed dissatisfaction, saying things like this report was a spacecraft, whereas the investigation felt there was a mundane cause for the report. John took a couple of breaks away from the AFSRS. Ultimately this led to a confrontation between John and Colin and John left the AFSRS. John was involved in the CIT in 1972.

This period of intense investigation of raw UFO reports led John to change his beliefs about the UFO phenomenon. Checking reports led him to conclude that many if not most could be found to have mundane explanations. The more reports he looked at the more he found he could explain. This led him from the physical, "UFOs are alien spacecraft," to the sociological and psychological aspects. He came to conclude that the UFO phenomenon is a mainly sociological phenomenon. Today he retains a "monitoring" brief on the subject.

Cartwright, Keith M

In 1955, Keith was said to be a land salesman and an ex-RAAF navigator.(1) Together with Fred Stone, Keith visited NSW in 1955 to organize the NSW Branch of the AFSRS. (2) In 1956 he invented a “flying saucer” detector. (3)

Cotton, Leith

Leith was a boilerman, then a foreman by profession who had spent time in the outback. He was aged in his 60's in 1971. His hobby was amateur radio. He was on the UFOPIA committee for a while. Leith was a correspondent of New Zealand pilot and author Bruce Cathie. They shared data on Cathie's grid system. Leith at one stage took a film of South Australian “saucer nests” which was reportedly lost or destroyed by Kodak.

Dickmann, Kathy

Kathy has been a member of AURA since its inception and actively supported the Disclosure Australia Project. She regularly attends annual conferences in both the UK and the USA and knows a large number of global ufologists on a first name basis. Kathy maintains regular contact with the diverse range of contacts she has established in personal meetings. In addition she has recently visited Cuba, Mongolia, and Tibet and taken opportunities to look at local UFO events in these countries. A number of unusual anomalies have appeared on photographs which Kathy has taken.

Dodd, Marc E

Mark was President of the AFSRS in the mid to late 1960's and edited the AFSRS magazine during that time.

Fausch, Jeff

Jeff Fausch has had a private interest in UFO's and the paranormal since the mid 1970s. In January 2001 he joined PRISM, as a committee member and investigator. He resigned in October 2001.

He co-formed Paranormal Field Investigators (PFI) with Alison Oborn in January 2002. The aim of the group was to investigate and research the paranormal using scientific methods and ideas. The group's main interest is haunted locations and the UFO phenomena.

Jeff has appeared with Alison Oborn on a number of television and radio interviews involving the paranormal subject.

In late 2002 Jeff joined AURA and assisted the Disclosure project in a minor roll. In mid 2006 with a number of members resigning, Jeff became the facilitator for AURA. Also in mid 2006 Jeff took over as AUFORN state director, replacing Dominic McNamara who moved to Sydney.

In 2005 Jeff gave a presentation on haunted locations investigated by PFI at a conference organised by Australian Cosmic Connections.

In late 2006 Jeff resigned from actively participating on PFI investigations and took a back seat role to pursue other projects. Alison Oborn took over the running of PFI.

Late in 2006 Jeff became a committee member of the Adelaide Gaol Preservation Society. He is at present putting together a paranormal investigation workshop at the Adelaide Gaol with the assistance of Alison Oborn and Anna Bird, for the public to participate in and to raise money to help keep the Gaol open.

Gillespie, Frank C

Frank was born in 1925 in Port Lincoln. He became interested in the subject following a personal UFO sighting in 1966 and was a member of the AFSRS from 1966 through to 1973 and also assisted the CIT. From 1974 he was a scientific consultant to UFORSA, and became UFORSA Treasurer in 1979, where he remained until his untimely death. Frank was interested in a range of topics concerning the UFO phenomenon, but specifically in physical aspects eg propulsion, and photographic analysis. One of his most remembered analytical articles was a comprehensive book review titled the "UFO...contact from the Pleiades" which explored the photographic evidence presented in a famous European case. (1) He passed away some years ago.

Godic, Pony

Born in 1952 in Adelaide, Pony Godic developed an active interest in the UFO subject in the late 1960's when she met the author while both worked for the Australian Government. Together with others, they were involved in investigating and documenting UFO reports being generated out of the mid-north area of the State, centred on the Clare Valley.

Later Pony, and Vladimir Godic met through their mutual interest in the UFO phenomenon.

Both were initially involved in investigation of state reports but in 1980, with the creation of UFORA and the production of UFORAN their vision moved to the national level. Pony became Associate Editor of UFORAN in 1980, and over the next few years she also conducted her

own current and retrospective investigations, e.g the 1983 "Simon" close encounter in Darwin; the 1981 Port Lincoln abduction case; the 1956 "Janet X" case, and the 1976 Elliot NT abduction event. She had a wide ranging interest in all aspects of the UFO phenomenon and wrote for UFORAN, including a 1981 article titled "Is there a telepathic connection?" (1) and co-authored a major CUFOS Journal article.(2)

With the death of Vladimir in 1995, Pony returned to her home town of Adelaide and ceased her active interest in the subject.

Godic, Vladimir

Vladimir was born on 22 February 1926 in Yugoslavia and arrived in Australia in 1949. (1) According to Prytz (2) Vladimir developed a serious interest in the UFO phenomenon in the late 1940's. He initially was involved with UFOPIA headed by Fred Stone. Between 1964 and 1968 he was a UFOPIA Senior Vice President; and an Investigations Officer between 1965 and 1968.

In 1968, together with another man and Crystal Walsh, Vladimir started UFO Research which was later renamed UFORSA. Vladimir remained a member of UFORSA until 1980. In this later year he, together with Pony Godic and this author started up the national level organization UFORA. UFORA'S Newsletter UFORAN was ably edited by the Godics, who tirelessly pursued a national agenda.

The following year, 1981 Vladimir saw a need to generate additional publicity for the Australian UFO research community and initiated the "UFO Research Publicity Board" as a means of doing so.

Vladimir participated in the use of the new technology, co-editing the first electronic book on Australian ufology in 1991. This presented a spectrum of the excellent research which was being undertaken in this country at that time. He also encouraged a networking of Australian researchers to use electronic mail to keep in touch with each other

The Godics later moved UFORA operations from Adelaide to Cairns, Queensland where they continued to operate UFORA. Aged 69 Vladimir passed away in Cairns after a heart attack (3) Vladimir will long be remembered for his innovative ideas.

Heathcock, Sister Ruth (MBE)

Sister Ruth was an Outback nurse and was married to Mounted Constable Ted Heathcock who was stationed at Roper Bar and Borroloola during the 1920s. She was one of the first white visitors to

the " Hidden City " in Arnhem Land and was widely respected by the local Aboriginal people who called her "Pitjiri" ("the snake that will not sink") (1). In 1936 at a remote outpost in the Northern Territory, nine Aboriginal Elders appeared before Sister Ruth, believing that she was a member of their tribe before the Dreaming (2) they allowed her the unique privilege of seeing secret rituals performed and become party to secret Aboriginal knowledge.

Sister Ruth was a pioneer in black-white relations and was also involved with legislation regarding the non-isolation of leprosy sufferers, but she is perhaps better known for her 1941 attempted rescue of Horace Foster at Manangoorah during which she said she was assisted by two silent "white doctor angels" and saw "golden hands" operating on the doomed Foster - it was for this effort that she was awarded an MBE although she always claimed that it was 'the others' who had done the real work. Sister Ruth later moved to Adelaide with her sister Marie, and she was involved with the establishment of an Aboriginal Heritage Centre; she was also a friend of Colin McCarthy's. Sister Ruth was a "mystic" who strongly followed Rosicrucian teachings and she knew Doris Player from Clare; it was Ruth who first saw a rock feature called "the Chair" in a dream which led her to the formation where she inadvertently captured an apparent Jesus-like spiritual entity on film. Sister Ruth was also one of Peter Horne's closest friends during the last 20 years of her remarkable life, and her name is still respected widely in the Northern Territory to this day. (3)

Horne, Peter

Peter became interested in the subject in 1968, joined the AFSRS and met the author, John Burford, Paul Johnson and others with similar interests. With this group of people Peter conducted a number of investigations throughout South Australia, including the Wokurna trace case (Wokurna was one of the first examples of a very simple crop circle) and the "Kimba highway alien" case, and this interest led Peter to gain a great deal of interest in such fields as astronomy, meteorology and photography.

One of the main areas of Peter's interest was the UFO reports emerging from the Clare Valley ; in the early 1970s he actively participated in a large number of field trips to the Clare region and was involved in research into Doris Player's series of events. He also worked with UFO Research Inc. and along with the author, established the short-lived C.I.T. (Combined Investigations Team.)

Initially trending towards the extra-terrestrial and/or paranormal hypotheses, Peter's investigations utilising the scientific method ultimately led him to view UFOs and related aspects as being primarily a sociological phenomenon, and he subsequently lost interest in the subject in the late 1970s.

Johnson, Mr, Mrs & Paul

In 1967, the Johnson family had reported sighting a pulsating elliptical, bright, blue-white object hovering a few hundred metres above the sea off Seacliff, an Adelaide coastal suburb. The object then accelerated away. The family reported it to UFOPIA which started up a relationship between them and Fred Stone. Paul became interested in the UFO subject, and together with the author and others, was involved with research into the Clare valley sightings of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Jones, Alan

Alan's interest started in Sydney NSW, in the mid 1950's when he first read books by authors Adamski and Allingham. He recalls that at that time there were lots of UFO sightings in NSW and these were mentioned in the press. He took an interest in "sky watching" which fired up his imagination.

It wasn't until 1974/75 however that his interest took on a more serious direction when he first met the author. He became involved in UFORSA and attended UFO meetings at Vlad Godic's house in Prospect, Adelaide.

Alan's most intriguing SA case was a multiple witness event which occurred at Port Lincoln during a bushfire. Alan, with the author's assistance was able to triangulate the object's apparent path and height.

Alan sees the UFO phenomenon as a "real" one. As to its cause, he sees the Extra-Terrestrial hypothesis as possible; as is the inter-dimensional idea, but feels that a "time travel" explanation is probably not viable.

In 2007 he continues his lengthy interest in the subject, and enjoys in depth discussions on all aspects of this enigma.

McCarthy, Colin

Colin was investigating South Australian cases from at least 1959. In that year, along with Peter Thomas he looked into a claimed close encounter with photographic evidence which had been documented by Fred Stone(1) In 1962 he looked into the famous Sydney “milkman” CE3. (2) Colin was one of the earlier investigators of the Clare Valley, Doris Player series of encounters and entity visits, in association with Sister Ruth Heathcock. (3)

In the mid 1960’s he visited the UK, where in 1967 he presented a lecture on UFOs in Australia in the 50’s to early 60’s. He spoke about “...*physical evidence, official silence, confiscated films and cameras...*” (4) Returning to Adelaide by 1968 he attended AFSRS meetings. Between 1969 and 1972, along with the author, he investigated a number of Adelaide “contactee” cases.

In 1972 after returning again from the UK he gave a talk to the AFSRS on theories to explain the UFO phenomenon. “*Some of the craft are thought to be not just extra terrestrial but ULTRA terrestrial and manifestations from a multi-dimensional universe.*” (5) He remained in Adelaide until at least 1979, but recent research has failed to uncover much else about his interests. It is known that he did not keep written notes on his investigations; but rather was regarded as a good “story teller.” (6)

McNamara, Dominic

Dom joined AURA in 2004 and worked tirelessly on the Disclosure Australia Project between 2004 and 2007. He liaised with the National Archives of Australia (NAA) on various matters relating to the Project, and spent hours trawling through the NAA website looking for UFO related material. To promote the Project he appeared on a number of radio and television interviews discussing the Project. He also presented papers at two UFO conferences about the Project’s work.

With interests in both UFOs and the Paranormal, Dom became AUFORN State Director for South Australia between 2004 and 2006. He contributes a regular column to the UFOlogist magazine titled “The Way home: Breakthrough Propulsion Physics.” Dom moved to Sydney in 2006 and joined the UFO Society of Western Sydney, where he currently focuses his UFO interests, while remaining a member of AURA.

Mills, Tom E

Tom reported a sighting in November 1972 from Athelstone, of a short duration green/white light in the sky which started off his interest in

the subject. Tom was one of the AFSRS members who moved over to UFORSA in 1973 and was active in investigating a number of local sightings between 1973 and 1979. He was UFORSA Treasurer between 1977 and 1979.

Mitchell, Colin

Colin's interest in UFOlogy started about 20 years ago and developed from reading plus hearing occasional accounts of other people's encounters. He joined UFO Research Queensland as he was living in Brisbane at the time. He attended meetings there and completed their UFO Investigators course.

Later, in Adelaide he joined Colin Norris's UFO society, attended meetings and he also joined UFO Research Victoria and attended a few meetings in Melbourne. He also went along to AURA meetings in recent years. Colin has also been to meetings of Glenys Mckay's group in Brisbane and AUFORN. In addition Colin has been to quite a few Australian UFO Conferences.

He remain open to a wide range of possible interpretations of UFO and alien encounters. He states that obviously many sightings are misinterpretations of natural or man-made phenomena. Hypotheses to account for the remainder include purely psychological explanations up to the extraterrestrial hypothesis. He also considers that time-travel has to be considered – the human like form of 'aliens' suggests possible future humanity or biologically engineered creations. Many UFO 'abductions' obviously involve sleep-paralysis. They could be powerful psychological experiences – this does not diminish their significance.

The best SA case, or at least the most intriguing that he has personally heard, was from a couple of men who came to Colin Norris's UFO society meetings and described an encounter while camped at the Strzelecki crossing. They saw a huge ball of light in front of their car that flashed colours and caused them to abandon their tent and equipment.

Mitchell, Darren

Then teenager Darren Mitchell was associated with UFORSA for about a year in 1977. He investigated a small number of Adelaide sightings and wrote them up for the UFORSA Newsletter.

Mountford, Ray

Ray was at one stage in the 1960's a Vice-President of UFOPIA. He went on to be associated with SPACERS.

Norris, Colin Osmond

Born 30 September 1920 Colin attended the Pallinga State School on South Australia's West Coast, between 1933 and 1935. Between 1937 and 1941 he worked in office of a transport firm then as a salesman in a lino and soft furnishings firm, before enlisting in the RAAF on 6 May 1941 as a Trainee Technical. In 1942 he was stationed in Geraldton WA. (1)

It was in 1942 that he later reported seeing his first UFO while he was in the RAAF and described seeing a round object coming towards him. Brown in colour and it had a purple "U" around the perimeter. (2) (3) He was demobbed from the RAAF in 1945. (4) It was in 1952 that he started studying the UFO subject and reportedly joined the AFSRS in 1957.

By 1963 he was the Society's Vice President and traveled throughout South Australia to investigate sightings. *"I just think the world might have something to gain from these people, who might be more advanced in knowledge than we are."* (5)

In 1965 he attended the Ballarat UFO convention and presented a talk "History of UFOs." By 1968 he was the AFSRS Vice President and Public Relations Officer, and the highest public profile UFO researcher in the state. He was a proponent of the fact that alien visitors were coming to the Earth. He attended and presented at the 1971 ANZAS Conference.

He came to ASIO's notice in 1972 when a memo related that: Norris *"...claims to be in correspondence with Soviet academicians on the subject of unidentified flying objects...Norris spoke to members of the Young Socialists League in South Australia about UFOs..."* (6) Also in 1972, Colin stated he was critical of Government research "How long can the Government hoodwink the public in these matters." (7) In 1984 he appeared on the Mike Walsh national television show following claims of livestock loss in the Adelaide Hills. (8) In 1995 he was cited as saying that he was then receiving between 50 to 60 UFO reports a year. (9)

Maintaining a high public media profile throughout the 1980's and 1990's he oversaw the production of numerous editions of the AFSRS's Magazine, and continued to receive reports from all over South Australia. With health failing in the period 2000 to 2007, his profile declined to almost zero.

Payne, Debbie

Debbie Payne has been interested in UFOs since 1992. This interest was originally sparked by a UFO sighting of her own, thus converting

her previous scepticism. After meeting with like minded people shortly after her sighting, she became a member of The Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research lead by Colin Norris, eventually becoming a committee member for many years until the club stopped holding public meetings.

Deb was then invited by the author to become one of the founding members of AURA. The idea behind AURA was to carry out research on particular projects worthy of investigation and then publish the results to the wider UFO community. This practise was adopted by the newly formed group and worked well, especially with the Australian Disclosure Project.

Her knowledge and research has also led to her appearing on local, national and international radio shows, speaking at National Conferences and writing magazine articles. For several years she has worked closely with Lloyd Pye on his ambitious "Starchild Project" and was influential in bringing Lloyd Pye to Australia in 2004.

Recently Deb retired from the UFO community to pursue other interests and to spend time with her family.

Pearce, Laurie

Born in 1954, by 1969 Laurie was collecting book on UFOs. That same year was out in the backyard when he saw a silver object fly across the yard at Croydon Park. Trees swayed in vicinity of the object. He rang Colin Norris who interviewed him. Laurie became interested in UFOlogy; talked to UFO witnesses and conducted field investigations. In 1980 he became associated with Arthur Holden who started up a UFO group called "UFO Monitoring Communications." Later, when Holden left PRISM Laurie took over as group facilitator, and later became the International Director.

Laurie organized a series of PRISM public meetings; started a relationship re UFO reports coming in to the SA Police; appeared on a number of radio shows; and ran numerous investigations into local UFO sightings; including into the renewed 2002/2003 claims of Jose Duran. When interviewed in 2007 Laurie retained a very active interest in the subject despite PRISM itself being in "suspense" for the moment.

Piovesan, Dean

In the mid 1960's Dean became interested after reading books such as by George Adamski. He attended meetings of the AFSRS. In 1972

Dean was working at John Martin's Department store and recalls that a very successful UFO display was held.

In 1973 he jointly investigated the Kimba case. The local police officer drove Dean at 160km/hr out to the scene followed by three other researchers in a pursuit car. Dean feels this is his most intriguing case. Dean recalls attending a 1973 meeting where Allen Hynek lectured in Adelaide.

Powell, Peter M

Peter Powell initiated UFORI in 1971. By December of that year Powell and the author were jointly investigating local cases. Powell published a magazine titled the "Australian UFO Report" for a couple of years, and also offered a book selling service. It ceased when Powell went on to other interests.

Robb, Kevin

In 1995, at Waitpinga Beach, in South Australia, Kevin viewed an object in the sky and experienced a period of missing time. He became spiritually aware and developed a technique to aid others with multi-dimensional and extraterrestrial experience. He presented a talk titled "Dimensional interaction in South Australia" at the Australian national Conference in Brisbane in 2001. In 2005 he organized a "UFO & Metaphysical" conference in Adelaide and himself presented a paper titled "Letting go of all fear- from abductee to enlightenment." Kevin is currently associated with Australian Cosmic Connection.

Sawyer, Glenn

Glenn was associated with the SPACERS group.

Seer, Alan

Alan lived at Murray Bridge and was a regional investigator for UFORSA in the early 1970's. He assisted investigate the 30 Nov 1972 Murray Bridge Maxwell CE2 case.

Stone, Frederick Phillip

Fred Stone was born on 23 September 1903 in Parkside, Adelaide and was enlisted in the Defence Forces between 1939 and 1948.(1) He had an intense interest in the subject of flying saucers which lasted between 1953 and 1972. He started the Australian Flying Saucer Club

in 1953 following a personal sighting. (2) Then in 1954 formed a South Australian branch of the Sydney based Australian Flying Saucer Bureau. The 1954 electoral role shows his profession as "Trimmer." Later in 1955 the AFSRS was initiated by Stone(3); who also started a NSW Branch in that same year(4). However by 1956 this branch reverted to UFOIC.

Stone's 1955 view of "flying saucers" was: *"We know and can reasonably prove:*

(a) That U.F.O.'s exist and that they are extra terrestrial

(b) That they are manned and controlled by beings of a high order of intelligence, mentally and spiritually." (5)

Between 7 March 1955 and 7 March 1956 the Disclosure Australia Project located 15 pieces of correspondence between Fred Stone and DAFI, RAAF Melbourne. These papers are on files 114/1/197 and 554/1/30 Part 1. Fred's correspondence initially advised the RAAF that the AFSRS had been recently formed in South Australia. Then Stone went on to seek a liaison with the RAAF. Later on he sought information about two prospective new members of the AFSRS. He also sought and was granted an interview with the RAAF in September 1955. Following this meeting Stone stated that the RAAF promised closer liaison with civilian UFO groups. *"The Dept. prefers to deal with one national body."* (6) Following this, later in 1955 Stone sought a liaison in South Australia. The Secretary of Air wrote to the WRE re Stone's request.

In 1957 Stone formed the AFSRS (Victorian Branch) Later in 1957 the group changed its name with Peter Norris as President (VUFORS web site) and John Pinkney to VFSRS. (7)

In July 1960 Stone again wrote to the RAAF who forwarded his letter to ASIO ACT, who in turn passed it to ASIO HQ. In this letter Stone, referring to a Sydney based UFO group *"...the Sydney one which has some folks in its control who have 'pink' tendencies..."* The ASIO memo suggests *"The writer (STONE) may have some potential value for regional Director, SA..."* (8)

In 1962, the year ASIO wrote a report on the AFSRS, Stone started UFOPIA. According to one of my interviews this was reportedly because Fred and Colin Norris fell out due to their respective egos. (9) At the 1965 Ballarat UFO Convention, Stone called for unity among UFO groups.

Stone wrote a number of editorials in his two UFO publications, Australian Saucer Record Vol 1 1955 to Vol 9 1963 and Panorama Vol

1 1962 Vol 10 1971 which had a religious message. This was, according to one of my interviews, due to the fact that Stone was an ex Salvation Army member and deeply religious.

By 1969 Stone decided that it was time to wind down citing age and ill health. In 1970 Stone advised the Committee that he intended to resign. In March 1971 Stone resigned as President. By May 1972 UFOPIA went into permanent recession and never came back. Stone passed away in 1976.

Thomas, Peter David

In 1955 Peter was the Hon Assistant Secretary of the AFSRS (1) and sub-editor of the Australian Saucer Record (2) The following year he was involved in the investigation of the Janet X case where hypnosis was utilized on a young girl to explore her recollections, of a trip aboard a flying saucer (3). In 1956 he demonstrated a "light beam communicator" intended to exchange messages with the occupants of flying saucers. (4)

In 1959 he was co-investigator with Colin McCarthy of the 1954 account of a close encounter with photographic evidence. (5) Research has failed to find out anything else about his interests until 1988 when Pony Godic was in correspondence with Peter over the Janet X case. The author understands Peter has now passed away. (6)

Verdonk, Jan

Jan Vedonk was mentioned in Australian Saucer Record Vol 9 No 1 March 1963 as a member of UFOPIA. The 1964 Sands & McDougall directory has an entry which shows Verdonk, J 15 Thurles Street, St Marys

Walsh, Crystal

Crystal's parents had a friend called Dennis Curr and in her early teens Crystal can recall Dennis talked about the Roswell case in detail. She became intrigued. In the mid 1950's she used to lie on the lawn at night, look at the sky and wonder whether there were life forms on the stars Around 1967 Crystal joined UFOPIA and was involved in investigating local cases. It was on one such case investigation that she met Vladimir Godic. The two of them went on to co-form UFOR in 1968 in order to conduct more scientific investigations of the subject. Crystal's best case is the 1972 Helen Bengner encounter. Crystal lost her active interest for in depth investigations around 1973 and has maintained a "watching brief" since then.

Whitehead, Brian

Brian Whitehead founded UPIA after he and others left the AFSRS following a special general meeting on 16 November 1967 where a vote of "no confidence" was moved against Colin Norris. (1)

Notable South Australian UFO reports:

Any list of "notable" UFO reports must be a subjective compilation. So, the following list consists of UFO reports which to the author provide a flavour of the "core" UFO phenomenon.

8 October 1952 Woomera SA 1345hrs 44 minutes 1wit 3 Radar

While tracking an aircraft, a target was acquired by radar. However, no visual object could be seen by the radar operator. "The signal to noise ratio was at least 5 to 1 which is similar to that obtained from a large aircraft." At one stage between 1345 and 1400hrs the target approached to within one mile. Between 1405 and 1429hrs the operator tracked the invisible target at heights between 1500 and 5600 feet. "At times during the movement of the target smaller targets seemed to detach themselves from the main target and drift away." Weather was fine, 5/8 high cloud at 25000 feet-84 degrees F, north wind at 25-30 mph.

Comments by the Security Officer included (note it snowed briefly at 0900hrs the next day): "...it was most probably that the snow cloud had some connection. However, the possibility of a neutron cloud is not ruled out..." A ground plot of the radar target was located on the file. (1. National Archives of Australia. File D174, control symbol SA 5281. Adelaide Office. Statements of radar operator. 2. NAA file D250 56/483 pp12-12 3. 1954 Turner report.)

5 May 1954 Woomera SA app1630hrs 5 mins 3 wits Radar/visual

RE: UNIDENTIFIED TARGET OBSERVED ON RADAR 5TH MAY, 1954

Sir, At about 1600 on 5th May, an unidentified Target was observed on radar AA Number 4 Mk. 6.

The target appeared on High Beam at a range of about 60,000 yards Brg 355degrees approaching 'R', described a Hyperbols (sic) over 'R' and went out at a bearing of approx. 90 degrees. On its way out it passed behind Spotting Tower, "S2". I timed it over 15,000 yards 10 seconds which would make its speed approximately 3600 M.P.H. Cfn. KEANE observed this occurrence with me. Since the target was followed to 70,000 yards on High Beam the height would be greater than 60,000 feet. See Diagram on next page.

REPORT ON A FLYING OBJECT SIGHTED ON 5TH MAY, 1954

I was at Range R1 (Post R1), the Radar Post, standing by the Security Officer's Hut, and looking towards the radar Post at approximately 1645 hours, observing one of our trials through binoculars.

This object appeared to be travelling towards me or directly across a path of the approaching Canberra. When it got to the path of the Canberra it turned to my right and was going in the direction from which the Canberra had just come.

When it got directly over the Canberra it slowed down. During this time I found it very hard to believe what I was seeing, so I shut my eyes and then looked again through the binoculars and the object was still stationary over the flight path of the Canberra.

Since it appeared to be the same relative size as the Canberra through the binoculars, I thought it would be possible to see it with the naked eye. However, when I looked over the top of the binoculars the object had either gone or I could not see it with the naked eye, and when I looked again through the binoculars I could not pick it up.

The object appeared to be travelling about three times as fast as the Canberra, but of course it is impossible to estimate, since I did not know what height it was. It was perfectly circular all the time and a dark grey colour, and gave the appearance of being translucent. It did not glisten at all when it turned or was it shiny.

(1. National Archives of Australia file D174, control symbol SA 5281 covering the period 1952-1955. Located in Adelaide Archives. 2. NAA file D250, 56/483 pp36-40.)

6 October 1954 Woomera SA 1520hrs 10 mins 1M Willis

Gnr Willis is reported to have observed, and photographed with a Kine Theodelite, an aerial object. He was looking at a Jindivik aircraft when he sighted the object. It was silver white in colour, half moon shape, no details of structure and no sound. He estimated it was at 40,000 feet travelling at "medium speed" travelling NW to SW in a straight path. There was no exhaust, vapour or light seen. It was lost to view "out of view at same height." Three seconds of photography was undertaken. The sky was "very clear" at the time. A Department of Air Minute dated 28 Oct 54, records "The negative of this photograph has been handed to the Director." (National Archives of Australia file Series A705 control symbol 114/1/197 date range 1953-1955 digital pages 71-73.) Department of Air reference 901/1511/P1 (7A.)

21 October 1954 Woomera SA 2125hrs 6mins 3wits NL

Observations of what witnesses described as a "dancing light," from adjacent to launcher apron number 1 range. Azimuth 215 degrees T at approximately 3 degrees elevation. The light's colour varied from deep orange to a deep yellow. Described as three times the size of Venus. The planet Venus was at 238 degrees T 1 degree elevation at the time.

The light was seen to move around in a small area. Weather 70F, wind NNE 10 mph. 3/8 cloud at 15000 feet. Scattered ice crystals at 30000 feet. No noise heard from light. (National Archives of Australia. File D174, control symbol SA 5281. Adelaide Office. Statements of observers.)

22 Apr 1955 Tintinara SA 0745hrs Moyle 1M CE1

Upon glancing to his right while driving a car, a man was surprised to see a three metre diameter silvery sphere, surrounded by a flange, giving it an overall diameter of ten metres. The object crossed the road some three metres behind the car. It then turned and moved roughly parallel to the road, and he followed it for some twenty to twenty five kilometres before it climbed rapidly into the sky. There were no external markings or portholes visible. (1. UFO Research South Australia (UFORSA). 2. Australian Saucer Record(ASR) 1/2/8.)

Sep/Oct 1957 Maralinga SA Dusk 15 mins Murray + others DD

RAAF Corporal Derek Murray and colleagues observed a hovering object. Described as silver/blue in colour and having a metallic lustre. It had a line of "windows" or "portholes" along the edge. The duty Air Traffic Controller reportedly checked with Alice Springs and Edinburgh airports but they reported no sightings. The object left quickly without noise. (Chalker, B. (1996.) "UFOs Sub Rosa Down Under: The Australian Military & Government Role in the UFO controversy.")

13 Mar 1959 Purnong Landing SA 0210hrs Towill/Briggs 2M CE1

Two men in a truck crested a hill and came upon a "dome" illuminated by coloured lights. They stopped the truck and watched the ten metre diameter object as it went through a regular sequence of colour changes. The lights all then went out and the men approached from their position of a hundred metres distance. As they did so the object took off silently at a forty five degree angle and was lost to sight after twenty minutes, in the southern sky. Briggs recalled, in an interview with this author on 26 Dec 1972, that on the evening of 13 March 1959 some nurses had seen a similar object near to Purnong Landing. (1. Personal investigation by Keith Basterfield and Garry Little 26 Dec 1972. 2. ASR 5/2. 3. Adelaide "Advertiser" 24/3/59. 4. (Hervey, M. (1969.) "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere." Horwitz. Sydney. p127 cites the date as 13 March 1954.)

31 Mar 1959 Port Elliott SA 2330hrs Neale 1M CE1

Barry Neale was driving home from Goolwa when he saw, on the ground about one hundred metres off the road, a glowing reddish-orange object with a row of portholes. It illuminated the trees and was about two metres wide. He got to within three hundred metres of it, and drove around a wooded area in time to see it take off at high speed. No radioactivity was found. (1. Adelaide "News" 2 Apr 1959 p15. 2. ASR 6/4/14. 3. (Hervey, M. (1969.) "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere." Horwitz. Sydney. p135 cites date as 12 April 1959.)

Late 1950s Woomera SA Dalton-Morgan + others

Group Captain Tom Dalton-Morgan was Officer-in-Charge of Range Operations.

Firing of a Black Night missile. Received call from Recovery Officer Percy Hawkins about an unusual, bright light in sky at 80-90 miles NW of missile site. Bright light at 5000 feet travelling directly towards the range head at high speed. Captain viewed the incoming light. It flew from NW then orbited the range buildings 5 miles to the S. When E it climbed away to the NE at a steep angle. It was a bright white-green light. No noise. (Llewelyn, K. (1991). "Flight Into the Ages." Felspin. Warriewood NSW . pp143-146)

19 May 1963 Mount Gambier SA 2130hrs Bushbridge CE1

The event was reported to Police by the youth's father, and is said to have taken place on the old Glencoe road, between Glencoe and Mount Gambier, one mile south of the Piggery. A seventeen year old apprentice mechanic encountered an object on one side of the road on which he was driving. When his car was six metres away from it, a bright light came on on the object and dazzled him. He pulled the car up, the object moved across the road, and he drove his vehicle under it. It was oval in shape, five metres wide and three high, with the lights on it being as bright as "the arc lights in electric welding." It disappeared but was seen again at the six mile post from the Mount. He was travelling at 50-60mph and the light followed him, then disappeared soon after. (1. Undated Adelaide "Advertiser" newspaper date lined May 20. 2. AFSRS. 3. "Queensland UFO" magazine. (QUFO) 1/2/6. 4. (Hervey, M. (1969.) "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere." Horwitz. Sydney. p142.)

Was 1-1.5 miles from Piggery on the old Glencoe Road when he saw an object on the side of the road. It was bright red/white and shaped like a bull-dozer. No sound. "It came across the road and then it went straight up." Lost in mid-air. The object is said to have followed the route of the car for three miles then disappeared as an on-coming car approached the witness. (Pages 305-307 on digital copy of RAAF file 580/1/1 part 4. Original reference 5/6/Air (31) Victoria Barracks. [Meteor])

28 Jun 1963 Sandy Creek SA 2130hrs 1M CE1

He was travelling on the Lyndoch-Gawler road going to Gawler, when upon rounding a corner in his vehicle, an anonymous Willaston man came upon a blood-red coloured object extending across the roadway. This was near the Sandy Creek Hotel. He applied the brakes and was within three metres of it when it rose suddenly from the road. After rising one hundred metres or so, it turned on its side and sped off, streaming vapour. Described as eight metres across and four high, with a concave top and a flat base, it glowed blood-red when close to the ground and appeared to change to a light-red yellow as it gathered speed and flew off towards Two Wells. Hervey states that the sighting was reported to police and that a CIB Special Branch officer

interviewed the witness. The Advertiser reports "...He later reported the incident to the Weapons Research Establishment which arranged for him to be interviewed by a member of the CIB Special Branch." (1. Adelaide "Advertiser" 10/7/63. 2. AFSRS. 3. QUFO 1/3/26. 4.(Hervey, M. (1969.) "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere." Horwitz. Sydney. p128 cites the date as during the period 1955-1958)

Late Nov 1964 Pinnaroo SA Daylight 2M Gordon & Alfred

Large, circular object sighted, which hovered above them and tracked them for ¾ mile. They accelerated to 60mph. Suddenly the object shot upwards. Advertiser or radio report mentioned that on a Sunday night, policeman and Council man out walking East of Penong before dark, had sighted a large circular object seen hovering over an open paddock. They walked towards it and it shot off at speed. (UFO Hotline call 3795 27 Dec 04. Interview by D McNamara AURA 2005)

30 July 1965 Cook, South Australia 0835hrs 10mins 5M DO

The Establishment Security Officer, Woomera advised:
"ROGAN Commonwealth railways Port Augusta reports that gang working at 639 miles (approximately 70 miles west of Cook) saw UFO between 0835 and 0845 30 July 65 to south of railway link. Appeared hovering silver colour reflecting Sun's rays. Watched for ten minutes by five men. Disappeared with a flash ESO MARA may be able to obtain more information from road master Cook."(Digital copy of National Archives of Australia. File 580/1/1 part 4 page 76.)

5 July 1967 Murray Bridge SA 1M Langsford CE2

Five miles NNE of Murray Bridge on the Murray Bridge to Karoonda Road. It was a clear night with thick ground fog. Witness was driving a motor vehicle when he experienced interference on the car radio, which became a high pitched whine. He turned the radio off. Within 100-150 yards the motor of the vehicle stopped by itself. The ignition was on but the warning lights on the dash came on. The ignition key was still in the on position. Looking up he saw a distinct break in the fog with stars visible. A "large dark shadow" was seen at a height of 20 feet. The shadow seemed 120 feet thick. Above this shadow was a greyish-blue glow. The top of the shadow appeared convex. He stopped the vehicle and got out to look but the shadow and light had gone. There was no sound. The object had vanished. The two banks of fog came together. The witness returned to the vehicle and tried the ignition and the motor worked. He switched on the radio and there was no interference. (pp178-184 of digital copy of RAAF file 580/1/1 part 8. Reported through DCA.)

17 Feb 1969 Flinders Park SA 0250hrs Ballestrina 1F CE3

(1) A noise which sounded like a "whirr" woke up a woman, who then looked out of a window to see an unusual object in an adjacent area. It appeared about one hundred metres away, and was some ten metres

across. A "man" emerged from the shadows and walked around the object. This figure was about one point eight metres tall, lean, had light coloured hair and wore white overalls. He walked around the object several times before the woman ran to get neighbours. When they all returned the object had gone. (1. AFSRS. 2. UFORSA.)

(2) Noise attracted witness. Silver grey inverted saucer on ground. Surrounded by pure white light. Saw humanoid figure walking around object. Heard beeps similar to Morse code for about 10mins. (pp67-71 of RAAF file 580/1/1 part 11.)

8 Aug 1971 Kadina SA 1835hrs Boyce 1M CE2

A Mr Boyce, fifty one, left Wallaroo and was driving back to Kadina, alone in his car. About five kilometres out of town his surroundings were illuminated by an orange hue. Suddenly the engine stopped and the lights went out. The ignition light on the dashboard failed to come on, and despite efforts the engine could not be restarted. He steered the car to the side of the road and braked to a halt. Getting out he saw, at fifty metres altitude, an oval shape with three to four "windows". It was stationary, almost directly above the car. It remained motionless for two to three minutes with a continuous buzzing sound being audible. It then left to the south-east. Before it was completely out of sight, he got in the car and started the engine, with the lights then coming on. (Personal investigation by Keith Basterfield.)

28 Nov 71 Woomera SA 1315hrs 15secs 1M Murphy DO

Murphy was tracking a pre-launch meteorological balloon through an optical theodolite. Balloon was situated almost due East of range E (? Difficult to read document) at 6900m and bearing 088.4 True and 37.7 deg el. The balloon and its attached target were backgrounded by thin lines of cloud. As the balloon moved slowly to the left side of the lens Murphy noted an object moving away from the balloon to the right of the lens. He initially thought that the target had separated from the balloon. He then tracked this object for 15 seconds. It was moving at a constant speed in a shallow upward curve. It was shaped like a cross. He concluded it was an aircraft. Light bluish grey in colour. Outline was reasonably well defined. Small image size. Image was twice the size of the balloon target and similar in size to the balloon (which was 10-15 feet diameter). Its 'fuselage' and "wings" appeared to be of uniform thickness and length. No evidence of engines or tail. DCA reported there was a BOAC 707 at 37000 feet at 150-200 miles SE of Leigh Creek at the time.

. "Two most likely explanations of this incident are:

- (a) A mistaken identification of the object seen by Murphy through his theodolite
- (b) A flight across the prohibited area by an aircraft for which a flight plan had not been submitted to DCA."

(pp144-150 of RAAF 580/1/1 part 16.)

Dec 1971 Tooligie Hill SA NL/Trace

A two point two metre diameter, bare and doughnut shaped circle, with a forty five centimetre wide, ten centimetres deep, trough on its perimeter, turned up in a wheat field. Soil samples revealed nothing abnormal. The wheat had been swirled anti-clockwise around the mark itself. Neighbours described seeing a red ball, of light descending into this paddock, the night before the mark was found. (Keith Basterfield & Peter Powell.)

20 Dec 71 Woomera SA 0650hrs 1M Sketcher DO

Met observer saw aircraft with the naked eye as a tiny silver dot ahead of a vapour trail. Heading NE. No known aircraft in the area. (pp119-124 & 128-129 of RAAF 580/1/1 part 16.) "...this sighting appears to be sufficiently authenticated, yet there is no official knowledge of any military or civil aircraft that could have intruded into the Woomera air space. It is therefore now a matter of speculation that some foreign aircraft passed through a Restricted Flying Area on December 20, 1971, without the knowledge of the appropriate authorities and this is cause for concern." (Chalker, B. (1996.) "UFOs Sub Rosa Down Under:The Australian Military & Government Role in the UFO controversy.")

31 May 1972 Mannum SA 0635hrs Reeve 1M CE1

A factory manager driving in fog came across a dark oval shape with a red light on one side and a white one on the other, just hanging above the ground. He stopped his car fearing a collision, and the object rose into the fog with a "swish" and was lost to view. (Keith Basterfield/Tony Colbert.)

30 Nov 1972 Murray Bridge SA 2315hrs Maxwell 1M CE2

Motor mechanic Mr Maxwell was out testing his vehicle when upon coming over a rise in the road, the motor and lights of his car cut out. They came back on but rose and fell in intensity several times. He decided to stop the engine and the car came to a halt.

To his left he saw a "diamond shape with the top cut off" noiselessly sitting on the ground forty five metres away in a paddock. His car radio went "funny", making a noise like a "computer on TV", a constant rhythm. As soon as he stopped the car he had tried the ignition key but when he turned it nothing happened, not even the oil light came on. He then tried the wipers and the electric air horn but they didn't work either. He locked all the doors and wound up the windows and just sat there for the next forty five minutes. After this time, the object left and he found he could restart the car quite alright. An inspection of the vehicle next day revealed no cause for the electrical problems. (Allan Seer & Keith Basterfield.)

4 Feb 1973 Kimba SA 2150hrs 4 wits Hunt/ Finkler+2M CE3

(1) Four people, in three separate vehicles, reported seeing an orange object in a clearing on a deserted stretch of country road. A young couple said they saw a three metre high by one point five metre wide rectangular shape. One of them said they saw a two metre tall "man" in a white space-suit floating in the middle of the rectangular shape. The other saw an orange rectangle with a white blob on top of it. Later, a semi-trailer driver reported to police that as he passed a clearing he noted what looked like an open doorway and a figure. The police checked the clearing by going there within an hour, but found nothing to account for the observations. (1. Keith Basterfield, Peter Horne, Dean Piovesan, Ray Brooke. 2. "Whyalla News" 16 Feb 1972.)

(2) Hunt was driving a car 34 miles out of Kimba with passenger Finkler. He noted a strange light on the western side of the highway just off the road. The red and orange rectangle of light appeared 10 feet high by 5 feet wide and 2-3 foot off the ground. Inside this light was the figure of a person some 6 foot tall in a white space suit with a mask over the head and face. Passenger Finkler who was dozing at the time woke to see the light but not the figure of the person. Hunt reported the incident to Kimba police who returned to the site with him. Police regarded Hunt as reliable and could not explain the event. Later, the Police advised the RAAF that two other independent witnesses had reported seeing the orange light in the same location within a 15 period. The RAAF advised the Kimba police that "A possible theoretical cause is a sighting of a phenomenon known as IGNIS FATUUS-methane gas..."(pp 166-175 of RAAF file 580/1/1 part 21)

Sep 1974 Renmark SA 2215hrs 1F CE2

Returning home in a Hillman Hunter sedan, by herself, a lady became aware of an illumination behind the car. It was a white light which approached at great speed, and as it seemed to be wanting to overtake her she moved over to the left. She saw the light to her right, then the car vibrated as if being pushed up and down. She just held on tightly to the steering wheel, and recalls the engine must have stopped at this point for although she pressed the accelerator no power was forthcoming. The light simply vanished. She was by this time, terrified, and cannot recall any other part of her trip home. (Keith Basterfield.)

30 Jul 1977 Birdwood SA 1545hrs CE1

A large, two hundred metres long, pink object shaped like a "jumbo jet" was reported to have landed in a paddock beneath some powerlines, then took off vertically with no sound. No traces were found and soil analyses revealed nothing unusual. (UFORSA.)

3 May 1978 Port Augusta SA Evening NL

Two accounts were received. One was from an Air Traffic Controller at Adelaide Airport who reported that a pilot of a RAAF Hercules was near Port Augusta and called Adelaide to ask if they were picking up another target. He was apparently concerned about a bright light to his W which also showed on the plane's radar. Indications were that the light

was at 2,000 feet. The second account was from the pilot of a light aircraft flying from the State's SE to Adelaide who reported hearing a call about a bright white light at a height of 2000 feet on a VHF frequency. (UFORSA)

31 Dec 1978 Whyalla SA NL

A pilot with thirty two years experience was flying a Cessna 310. He was over Alford at twenty five hundred metres heading north-west when he sighted an oblong, white light to the east-north-east . He then turned into the circuit at Whyalla to land and was also able to continue observing the object. (UFORFNQ and UFORSA.)

24 Oct 1981 Port Lincoln SA 2M CE4

Two young men, Messrs P. and J. were travelling in a car near Port Lincoln when they encountered a "white endless space" or room where a time loss of several hours is said to have occurred. During this lost time they have vague memories of a "being" and recalled "...walking into a big room." Just prior to the "space" they had been watching a mysterious light in the sky. Arrangements to have the two men undergo full investigation was unsuccessful. The being was described as one point two metres tall, and humanoid. (1. Keith Basterfield/Pony Godic-personal investigation. 2. Basterfield, K. "Australia's First Abduction Event?" UFO Research Australia Newsletter 3(4):4.)

25 Jul 1988 Jamestown SA Depression/footprints

Bronte Lloyd, a farmer, and his son in law sighted a red light. Later that same evening, Bronte, now alone, saw an object sitting near the ground and he approached it to within six metres. It was metallic, three point six metres wide, and two point one metres high, with a circular upper body tapering to a square base. It rested on a couple of support legs. Two prominent ribs ran around the outside of it. There appeared to be portholes at regular intervals and three "headlights." Lloyd retreated inside, and a possible CE3 event followed. The police were called to investigate. A square shaped depression, apparently formed through weight, was found. There were also "footprints" found in wet grass. Biochemist Tom Coote took some "blind" samples from Lloyd, and some electrolyte level (salt levels) anomalies were found. (Tom Coote interview Feb 1991. Lloyd also appeared on the Couchman show Sep 1991.)

10 March 1993 Maslins Beach SA 1M Photo

A man was out taking photographs of the Sunrise when he sighted a grey object on the sea surface. The object rose out of the sea, and approached him. He then saw a second, smaller object approaching the first, and "dock" with it. He took four 35mm colour pictures. The photographs show a clearly defined, metallic looking "craft." (1. Undated detailed report by the witness. 2. PRA Journal No 17 March 1995 pp43-50.)

1 December 1997 Kangaroo Island SA 2330hrs 2M Koch & Schindler NL

Mr Kym Koch an aircraft pilot reported seeing an object low on the horizon while flying between Adelaide and Kingscote. He was at 4000 feet when he sighted a very bright, round orange object about 20 degrees elevation. Shortly after this he was contacted by Adelaide approach radar who told him they had received a report from a Kangaroo Island police officer and asked Koch if he had seen anything. Koch says they told him they had a radar sighting. Koch watched it for 15 minutes. When he landed he spoke to Constable Schindler who reported the light to Adelaide. Schindler reported having seen it for 9 minutes as it travelled Westwards. (Channel 7 news & The Sunday Mail 7 Dec 1997.)

15 July 1999 Nangwarry SA 0215hrs 1M CE2

Travelling by car when car radio cut out. Saw three lights in sky in a triangular formation with black shape inside lights, to the left of his vehicle. Slowed vehicle down and noted object's lights shining onto the top of pine trees. Witness stopped vehicle and saw object was moving. Accelerated his vehicle, with the object now front left of the vehicle and noted that the object gained height. Object entered a cloud, which lit up, and then the object disappeared and radio came back on. No effect noted on car engine, lights etc. No sound. (1. AUFORN. 2. AURA.)

December 2001 Beachport SA 0200hrs 1M NL

Was on a tractor in the middle of a paddock when out of the blue, a silver object came past and went away at speed. It had lights on it. It was only 4-5m off the ground. Told others who laughed. (ABC radio Mt Gambier 3/6/03)

27 Mar 2004 Templers nr Gawler SA 2015hrs

A witness reported that an object flashed across intersection at the top of a small rise from east to west. It lit up the top of the trees, but the glow from it did not reach the road. Object appeared to be about 20m off the ground, judging by the height of the trees. There was no sound from the object. It seemed to be round like a ball, glowing white like phosphorescence. There was a crescent moon in the sky, and the object seemed to be about the size of a fully risen full moon. (Australian UFO Research Association.)

30 June 2005 Mt Gambier SA 2045hrs

Whilst driving south past the airport ten kilometers north of Mount Gambier three white lights were seen at 30 degrees elevation. As it lined up on an approach it had three white lights in a line, but no navigation lights. The airport landing lights were off, but they should be switched on by the pilot when landing. There was no noise and after

a few seconds I realized after alighting from my car that the lights were stationary in the sky. I could not see any shape at all. I continued on after about a minute and while entering the city saw an orange glow at about 45 degrees elevation traverse northeast towards the airport about 10 km away. It moved quite slowly in a straight line without navigation lights or sound. It had a haze around it. (Filers Files 20 July 2005 issue.)

South Australian Ufology today:

Long gone are the days of large, institutionalised UFO groups such as the AFSRS and UFOPIA. Today's UFO groups, such as AURA, have small but active memberships. They focus on the task of conducting research programs rather than spending time and money on building and maintaining large public memberships. AURA, modeled on the innovative UFORSA and UFORA recently carried out the highly successful "Disclosure Australia" Project.

There are a number of other projects which could be carried out by future South Australian researchers. These include:

- Enhancing this initial history of South Australian UFO research, organisations and reports by conducting further interviews and searching for additional documentation
- Evaluating the need for a South Australian abduction support group; and if the need is present, to initiate and maintain such a group, supported by appropriate health professionals
- Consolidating and building upon the current AURA listing of known UFO reports from South Australia
- Researching and publishing a catalogue of South Australia's best sightings
- Compiling and making accessible a library of South Australian UFO Newsletters and magazines such as the AFSRS Newsletter; UFORSA Newsletter; Panorama etc.
- Combing South Australian newspapers to create a library of press clippings and making this accessible to researchers
- Researching the relevance, if any, to the UFO phenomenon, of the latest scientific knowledge on such topics as sleep; sleep paralysis; near-death-experiences; consciousness research; extra-solar planets; the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence and numerous other topics
- On going in depth investigation of current SA sightings which appear to represent the "core" UFO phenomenon and publication of these in diverse formats.

The future:

In the author's opinion, the future lies with a small number of dedicated researchers, pursuing time-limited individual projects; keeping in touch by using today's technology and linked into the national level resources of AUFORN.

One of the biggest challenges for a South Australian project would be to look to bring together all the current active South Australian groups, i.e. AURA, Cosmic Connections; PFI, and other interested parties into a loose "South Australian UFO Federation." This "Federation" would, despite individual differences of opinion, agree upon a general collective direction for common future research and media relations. This would best utilise the skills, experience and energy of all involved. Is any reader up to this challenge?

Contacts:

If any South Australian reader is interested in furthering research into this enigmatic topic, they are encouraged to contact the Australian UFO Research Association (AURA) at PO Box 786, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006 or email AURA at auraaustralia@yahoo.com.au

The author may be contacted by email at uforesearchersa@yahoo.com.au or by snail mail via PO Box 786, North Adelaide, South Australia 5006.

Acknowledgements:

The author wishes to thank all those who consented to being interviewed in preparation of this article, and to those who reviewed its initial drafts. Special thanks to:

- John Burford for documentation he kept on the late 1960's to late 1970's era
- Peter Horne for his additional information on Sister Ruth Heathcock.

References:

AFSC

(1) "Truth" newspaper article from 1959 located in a collection of press clippings compiled by Clive Williams in 1995.

(2) *Australian Saucer Record (ASR) Volume 2 Number 2 p14*

AFSRS

(1) *National Archives of Australia: A703, Control symbol 114/1/197 p42.*

(2) *Australian Saucer Record Volume 1 Number 4 p3.*

(3) *Australian Saucer Record Volume 2 Number 2.*

(4) *VUFORS' website 2007.*

(5) *Adelaide Advertiser 31 August 1957.*

(6) *"Cosmic Concerto" series on Radio 2JJ during the late 1970's.*

(7) *Interview with Anthony E Bran 2007.*

(8) *National Archives of Australia A6122, control symbol 2155*

"Queensland Flying Saucer Bureau Volume 1."

(9) *Interview with John Burford 2007.*

(10) *Interview with John Burford 2007.*

(11) *National Archives of Australia A6122, control symbol 2155*

"Queensland Flying Saucer Bureau Volume 1."

CC

<http://www.arcomnet.net.au~krobb>

PFI

<http://www.geocities.com/fieldinvestigation/mainpage.html>.

PRISM

Interview with Laurie Pearce 2007.

SPACERS

Interview with Anthony E Bran 2007.

UFOPIA

(1) *Prytz, J. 1982. "Who's Who in Australian UFOlogy." ACUFOS. Gosford.*

(2) *Interview with Anthony E Bran 2007.*

(3) *Interviews with Anthony E Bran; Crystal Walsh and John Burford 2007.*

(4) *"Panorama" Volume 10 Numbers 5/6.*

_UPIA

Interview with John Burford 2007.

UFORSA:

UFORSA Newsletter number 25 dated May-Jun 1977.

UFORA

UFORAN Editorial Vol 1 No 1 1980.

Atwell
Sunday Mail 13 August 1995.

Bran
(1) Interview with Anthony E Bran 2007.
(2) Panorama Volume 10 Number 3
(3) Panorama Volume 9 number 6
(4) Panorama Volume 10 Numbers 5/6
(5) Panorama Volume 7 number 2.

Brooks
(1) UFORAN Volume 1 Number 2 Mar/Apr 1980 p11.
(2) UFORAN Volume 1 Number 1 Jan/Feb 1980 pp33-37.

Burford
Interview with John Burford 2007.

Cartwright
(1) National Archives of Australia: A703, Control symbol 114/1/197 p42.
(2) ASR Volume 1 Number 4 p3.
(3) "Adelaide Advertiser" 7 June 1956.

Cotton
Interview with John Burford 2007.

Gillespie
UFORAN Volume 2 Number 1 Jan/Feb 1981 pp30-32.

Godic, P
(1) UFORAN Volume 2 number 2. 1981.
(2) Basterfield, K., Godic, V, Godic, P, & Rodeghier, M. 1990.
"Australian UFOlogy:A Review." JUFOS New Series Volume 2 pp19-44.

Godic, V
(1) National Archives of Australia Series A446 control symbol 1955/13690.
(2) Prytz, J. 1982. "Who's Who in Australian UFOlogy." ACUFOS. Gosford.
(3) Obituary in UFO Reporter Vol 4 No 1 March 1995

Heathcock
(1) see <http://ftvdb.bfi.org.uk/sift/title/315324?view=synopsis>
(2) (see <http://www.roninfilms.com.au/video/0/255/1832273.html>)
(3) Email from Peter Horne, May 2007.

(4) Interview with John Burford 2007.

Horne

(1) Interview with John Burford 2007.

(2) Email from Peter Horne 2007

Johnson

Hervey, M. 1969. "UFOs Over the Southern Hemisphere." Horwitz. Sydney. p148.

Jones

Interview Alan Jones 2007

McCarthy

(1) Chalker, B. 1996. "UFOs Sub Rosa Down Under: The Australian Military & Government Role in the UFO controversy."

(2) Buckle, E. "The Scoriton Mystery." Neville Spearman. 1967.

(3) Interview with John Burford 2007.

(4) Connors, W. "UFOs Across the Ponds: An audio retrospective of British & Australian Cases." Alberquerque, New Mexico. Track 23.

"Colin McCarthy lectures on the UFO in Australia from the early 1950s to the early 1960s. January 7,1967."

(5) AFSRS Magazine Sep 1972 p 11.

(6) Interview with John Burford 2007.

Norris

(1) National Archives of Australia series A9301 Item number 39314.

(2) "UFO Man" on "George Negus Tonight" 24 May 2004

(3) Adelaide News 27 April 1978.

(4) National Archives of Australia series A9301 Item number 39314.

(5) Adelaide News 22 July 1963.

*(6) National Archives of Australia A6122, control symbol 2155
"Queensland Flying Saucer Bureau Volume 1."*

(7) Adelaide News 16 September 1972.

(8) Mt Barker Courier 18 July 1984.

(9) Sunday Mail 13 August 1995.

Pearce

Interview with Laurie Pearce 2007.

Piovesan

Interview with Dean Piovesan 2007.

Robb

<http://www.arcpmnet.net.au/~krobb>

Stone

- (1) *NAA file series B884 control symbol S29785.*
- (2) *ASR Volume 2 Number 2 p14.*
- (3) *National Archives of Australia series A703 control symbol 114/1/197 p 42.*
- (4) *ASR Volume 1 Number 4 p3.*
- (5) *ASR Volume 1 Number 4 p8.*
- (6) *ASR Volume 1 Number 4 p4.*
- (7) *VUFORS website 2006.*
- (8) *National Archives of Australia A6122, control symbol 2155 "Queensland Flying Saucer Bureau Volume 1."*
- (9) *Interview with Anthony Bran 2007.*

Thomas

- (1) *National Archives of Australia: A703, Control symbol 114/1/197 p42.*
- (2) *ASR Volume 1 Number 4 .*
- (3) *ASR Volume 1 Number 4 pp12-17.*
- (4) *Adelaide News 7 June 1956.*
- (5) *Chalker, B. (1996.) "UFOs Sub Rosa Down Under: The Australian Military & Government Role in the UFO controversy."*
- (6) *<http://www.adam.com.au/bstett/AAHistoryofInvestigator.htm>*

Walsh

Interview with Crystal Walsh 2007.

Whitehead

Interview with John Burford 2007.

-