

MORE UFO REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

By Gordon Tuckey, FSR Consultant

(Paihia, Bay of Islands, North Island, New Zealand)

1. A "UFO NEST" NEAR KAREKARE

A report published in the local newspaper, *Western Leader*, of November 23, 1989, states that here in the far north-eastern tip of North Auckland, a "UFO nest" found in February 1989 in the reeds of a patch of *raupo* swamp near Karekare (35° 12S., 173° 59E.) caused a lot of renewed talk about UFOs and about numerous recent sightings over the Waitakere Ranges. The circle, some 3 m. in diameter, is very reminiscent of the one discovered in a reed-bed at Tully in Queensland, Australia, in 1966. The *raupo* reeds, flattened, while all around the other reeds stand upright, "appear to be woven into an anti-clockwise spiral". But little attention had been paid to the Karekare case by the local people until the British "*crop circles*" began to be widely discussed in the world press during the summer of 1989.

Nine months later, the reeds in the circle were still flattened, and still looked "woven". But the plants inside the circle were still growing, and now looked greener than those outside it. One witness said: "*From the intertwining of the reeds, it looks as though something rotary came down at immense speed and wove the reeds together*". The circle lies near a beach, within two metres of cliffs, and beneath overhanging shrubs and trees. An Air Force officer, Squadron-Ldr. Gordon Habgood, when asked whether a helicopter could possibly have done it, said: "The closest that a helicopter could fly would be at about 6 m. from the cliffs".

Bruce Cathie, the well-known New Zealand investigator, has examined the Karekare Circle, and says it is unquestionably linked with nearby UFO sightings over the Waitakere Ranges. In his view, the circle "was made by a mechanical object, possibly an anti-gravity craft hovering". (Surprisingly, however, he thinks that in this case "aliens" are less likely to be involved, but more likely secret new craft being researched by the New Zealand Military!)

2. UFO OVER THE BAY OF ISLANDS

The Cornelius family's farm being at a considerable altitude above sea-level, they are able, from their landscape windows and sun-deck, to look out over the Bay of Islands (35° 15S., 174° 06E.) and also to catch a glimpse of the Ocean (South Pacific) away to the north.

And it was there, over the open sea, that the object was first seen, at about 7.00 a.m. on June 22, 1990. Their attention was first drawn to the very

bright, "comet-like" tail. Following this along to the right, using their binoculars, they were then able to see the comparatively dull-coloured body, of a rounded, oval shape.

After they had watched its slow and erratic progress towards the east for some minutes, it suddenly vanished, and only after searching for some time did they discover the oval body again, though now no "tail" appeared to be visible. It was now hanging motionless above the entrance to the Bay of Islands.

They kept it steadily in view for a while. Then it suddenly vanished once more, and was not seen again.

I enclose the account of the sighting, which was published in our local newspaper, *The Northern News*, of Tuesday, July 10, 1990. The report seems to be reasonably accurate.

Incidentally, I have been gathering UFO reports here since about 1956. For example, things were already being seen here in New Zealand when Adamski came and lectured here, and I can supply some of the reports of the sightings here of those days.

3. ANOTHER BAY OF ISLANDS REPORT

The *Northern News* of Thursday, June 28, 1990, reported that, at 7.15 a.m. on Friday the 22nd., at the radio station ("New Sound Waves") at Paihia, the station's manager Mr. Robyn Lilley and the sports reporter Mr. Brian Going saw a shining disc, of about the apparent size and shape of a rugby football, hovering in the sky beyond the town of Russell (lying on the southern shore of the Bay of Islands).

They said the object "was so bright that it shimmered". After hovering for about half a minute or so, it moved away slowly eastwards and then picked up speed. Then it paused several times, before suddenly beginning to look larger, as though now approaching Paihia.

Mr. Lilley said that they watched the object for about seven minutes before it disappeared. They realized that it was definitely no aircraft, owing to its size and its speed.

The morning was clear and crisp, with no cloud.

The first was about 20 years ago. It was of similar shape, but larger, and "making a terrific lot of noise, being closer". That had been at Hamilton. Paihia businessman Darryl Hammond raced down

to the wharf after hearing Lilley and Going on the radio, describing the UFO.

Mr. Hammond's description of what he had seen was "long and shiny like silver", and "comet-shaped, with a fat head tapering off towards the tail".

Mr. Brian Going, the radio station's sportswriter, added that it "didn't appear to be an aircraft, because there was no vapour-trail". He described the form as "like a blimp-shaped very bright light". He said that, had nobody else seen it, he would "have had definite doubts about his own sanity".

Squadron-Leader Hank Moffat, the public relations officer of the N.Z. Ministry of Defence, said that there was no central reporting point in New Zealand for UFO sightings. He said sightings were generally reported by the Police to the Civil Aviation Authorities, for the latter to follow up with enquiries, but these enquiries needed to be made at the time of the sighting.

4. A UFO "MAY HAVE LANDED" IN THE BAY OF ISLANDS REGION

According to a report in the *Northern News* of Tuesday, July 3, 1990, a UFO may have landed near the isolated settlement of Orauta during the previous week.

Late on the evening of Tuesday, June 26, Mrs. Maude Thompson, an elderly resident, and her granddaughter Josephine Reid, aged 10, were watching television in their house near the Orauta School when Mrs. Thompson spotted a brightly shining light behind a nearby bush-covered ridge. She called her granddaughter Josephine to the window, but when she saw it, the little girl was very frightened by the "really bright flashing light - brighter than the Sun!"

Both the girl and her grandmother heard a distinct humming noise with a varied pitch.

Meanwhile, the dogs outside and around about were all barking wildly. The flashing of the light lasted for about half an hour, and during all this period their puppy dog refused to go out of the house.

Meanwhile, also, the Principal of the Orauta School, Mrs. Kene Martin, was at work in her bedroom, which faces the hillside. She heard strange "cracking" noises, similar to rapid gunfire. As she said to her daughter Tanya, "I could hear a funny noise, and I didn't like it".

She continued: "I looked outside to see where it was coming from, and my dog was pacing along the footpath and staring towards the ridge where the light was. It couldn't have been anyone shooting, because the noise was too fast for that" ■

ARE UFOS COMPATIBLE WITH "OUR" PHYSICS?

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We have pleasure in introducing to our readers, as a new FSR Consultant, Mr. Ron Pearson, who started the first half of his professional career as a research officer working on jet engines. He spent the latter half, after 1962, as a university lecturer specializing in Thermo-Dynamics and Fluid Mechanics. This background, based on Newton's theories, enabled him to look at some major problems of Physics from a new angle. These problems had been baffling cosmologists for decades. Physicists had largely abandoned Newtonian concepts in their attempts to fit Quantum Theory - which describes atomic behaviour - to Einstein's Theory of Gravitation. They have not succeeded. Details of his book, *Intelligence Behind The Universe!*, and of his other writings, have already been advertised in FSR 36/3. EDITOR

The very existence of UFOs is dismissed by most scientists because they seem to defy the known laws of established physics. They appear as part of the paranormal which for many

decades has been debunked by them. Adrian Berry, science correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, gives the reason in a nutshell. He said in the edition dated 5/11/90:

"Few subjects more infuriate scientists, physical scientists in particular, than claims of "paranormal" events, such as spoon-bending, levitation and communication with the dead. They are resented because, if confirmed, the whole fabric of science would be threatened."

But could it be that our own science is not sufficiently advanced, or indeed possibly on the wrong track in some respects? It is therefore important to take a critical look at physics to see if the fears which Adrian Berry highlights are real or imaginary.