

5. Throughout the years of UFO phenomenon, there has been a persistent form of official pronouncements which state that the percentage of unknown phenomena would be reduced if more data were available. This statement is contradicted by the percentage of reports with excellent reliability taken from 1947 to present (9.686%). These reports generally stem from astronomers, pilots, scientists, surveyors, meteorologists, radar operators etc. complete with instrumented values and accurately detailed accounts.

6. During May of 1965 Project BLUE BOOK received 262 reports which was about six times the average number for a month and was twice any previous month since November 1957.

7. If Australia is to follow the U.S. lead, instead of following the public USAF attitude, it would be preferable to follow the USAP/CIA role of concentrating on gaining a knowledge of the power sources involved. However, it may be preferable to act independently of the U.S. and initiate a programme that is scientifically sound and intellectually honest towards unravelling the UFO mystery.

but it should be noted "they have it backwards" is a half-truth. Below is a map of Metropolitan Melbourne and its immediate surrounds.



## OVERVIEW

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 1965, a mass UFO sighting occurred in Brightview, Australia at Brightview Secondary College. This report will attempt to summarize the known information regarding this event.

2. No formal report is submitted by ADF despite violation of standard protocol following a national security threat of this nature. No record is made of a reprimand being issued for this error.
3. RAAF submits a formal report consisting of radar records beginning 1025 and ending 1110. Report does not account for lack of RAAF presence given ariel nature of phenomena.
4. USAF reserves their right to withhold their report from Australian authorities and contain relevant communications to the Pentagon/U.S. Officials. USAF actions noted in this report is per accounts of ADF officers.
5. In February 1969 a directive is issued to relitigate the event in a retroactive summary. Investigators are provided with adequate resources to reinterview official parties involved.
6. ADF soldiers present at the event are interviewed belatedly in March 1969 in compliance with this report.
7. ADF provides this investigation with official witness reports taken by ADF during the event but not included in any capacity of official report. This information is compiled with present ADF interviews and referred to in chronology as ADF account of events. Witness accounts collected by ADF personnel are highly reliable and consistent across both administrative staff and pupils.
8. ASIS complies with this report by providing a partial summary of events citing potential national security concerns as reason for redactions. Nature of security concerns is not disclosed per ASIS standards and procedures.
9. Investigators use the aforementioned information to re-interview adult witnesses, consisting of former and present Brightview Secondary College staff.
10. Extent of communication and co-ordination between ASIS, ADF, USAF and RAAF at time of event remains unclear.
11. Some timestamps and minute-level movements provided in the chronology are formal reconstructions, not real-time observations.
12. Some environmental details may be inferred, not directly observed.

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CHRONOLOGY OF THE BRIGHTVIEW 1965 UFO EVENT (MAY 5)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1000	Brightview Secondary College begins 2 <sup>nd</sup> period. Mr Gene Reynolds commences his year 7 science class. Mr Ron Stewart commences his year 8 P.E. class.
1025	Radar scanners at RAAF Newsdale Air Base detect three ariel objects of unknown origin over Port Philip Bay. Objects stay on radar without observable flight pattern for 6 minutes in triangular formation.
1028	ADF stationed at RAAF Newsdale Air Base alerts government to UFOs per National Security Act 1964.
1030	ASIS agents directed to site from Melbourne base.
1031	UFOs vanish from radar. On senior government instruction ADF unit is deployed to area to investigate. USAF soldiers stationed at RAAF Newsdale Air Base request permission from government and ADF to deploy USAF unit.
1034	Permission granted to USAF to deploy units to site while remaining under ADF instruction.
1053	UFOs reappear on radar in identical triangular formation over Brightview Secondary College. Mr Stewart and his year 8 pupils (16 total) are first to witness. Mr Reynolds and his year 7 pupils exit the classroom to observe (20 total).  UFOs consistently observed to be 3 silver disks, ovular in shape, maintaining identical altitude of approximately 200 ft, each emitting a low hum. UFOs remain static in air, maintain altitude with no requirement of movement. Remain in triangular formation, spread out over the college oval. School admin and pupil accounts are consistent with little variance.
	Additional admin and pupils in classrooms adjacent to the oval report extremely similar accounts.

Initial UFO positions reported as follows, marked as 1 2 & 3:

BUSHLAND



FAMLAND/PADDock

1054 Mr Reynolds leaves the oval to retrieve his personal camera from his office. Returns shortly and takes photographs.

1055 ASIS agents redirected to Brightview.

1056 ADF units and USAF unit redirected to Brightview.

1100 Recess period commences. Remainder of student body and many staff convene on the oval (unknown total). Several staff and pupils faint or otherwise report feeling nauseated.

1105 UFO 1 breaks position and moves northerly over bushland. Some pupils peruse (approximately 20, exact no. unknown). UFO 2 remains in position. UFO 3 remains in position.

UFO 1 movement described as erratic, jagged, and fast while coming to unnatural stops without detectable friction against gravitational forces. Makes minor adjustments to altitude while gradually erring north at various speeds. No reports of engine noise while moving. Accounts very consistent.

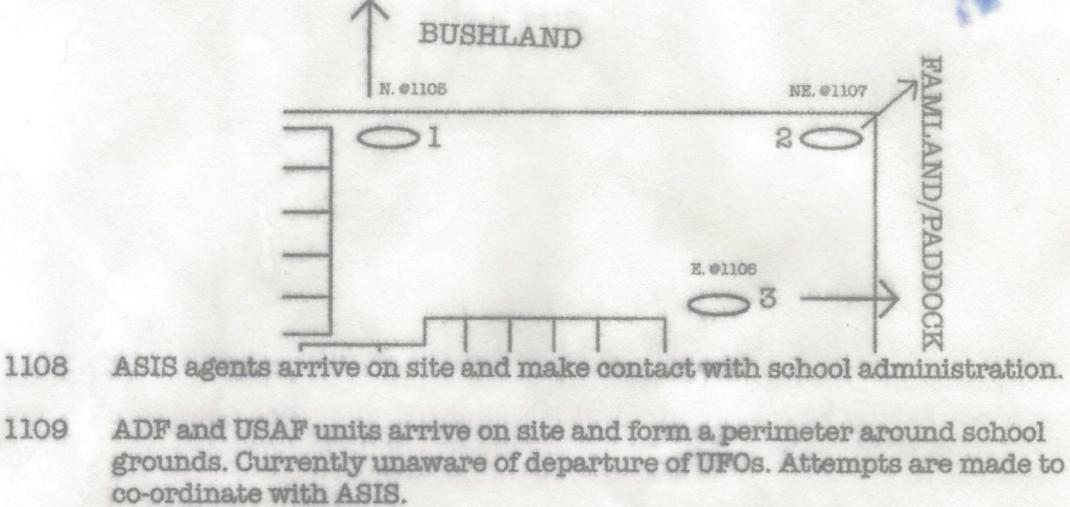
Approaching ADF and USAF units do not sight UFOs despite reported altitude. No explanation is given in ADF account of events.

1106 UFO 3 breaks position and begins to travel east over neighbouring farmland. Unknown if pursued by pupils. UFO 3 mimics nature of UFO 1 movement with some variance, heading easterly over farmland.

Pupils continue pursuit of UFO 1 into bushland. Radar continues to detect and track UFO 1.

1107 UFO 2 breaks position and disappears at incredible speed into north-east. Vanishes off radar and is not seen again.

Arrows to indicate UFO movement with timestamps:



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UFO 3 comes to sudden stop over paddock belonging to a Cornelius Jones. Descends to very low altitude, suspected to have landed. Rests at this altitude for approximately one minute.

1110 UFO 1 comes to sudden stop over bushland. Descends to low altitude of approximately 20 ft. Rests at this altitude for 30 seconds. UFO 1 and 3 accelerates upwards to extremely high altitude each for 2 seconds before vanishing from radar. UFO 1 and 3 are not seen again.

1111 ADF begins informal interviews with pupils to gather information. USAF instructed by ADF to not engage with civilian witnesses.

1115 Two ADF soldiers inspect final location of UFO 3. Discover a burnt oval shape in the otherwise untouched paddock grass. It is the generally held opinion of relevant agencies that UFO 3 landed here and scorched the grass in its shape. Report findings to unit.

1117 Two ADF soldiers inspect final location of UFO 1. No reports of damage to environment.

1118 A Channel 9 News crew arrives on site and begins interviewing a small number of pupils.

1119 ADF shuts down media interviews and instructs Channel 9 crew to leave site.

1120 Mr Reynolds interviewed by ASIS agents. Camera roll confiscated as potential evidence of national security breach.

1125 Per ASIS recommendation Headmaster Julius Pickett instructs administrative staff, teachers etc. to gather pupils for emergency assembly.

1130 Headmaster Pickett dismisses the school day early. Pupils instructed to disregard events of the day. Unclear if ASIS request or Pickett's invention. Possibly an effort to prevent mass hysteria following encounter/reassure pupils. No effort is made by staff to account for no. of pupils at beginning/premature end of school day.

ADF and USAF remain on site awaiting further instruction from appropriate bodies.

1134 Staff meeting held with ASIS agents present. Headmaster Pickett instructs staff to comply with ASIS questioning.

ASIS questioning of staff witnesses commences.

1410 ASIS questioning of staff witnesses concludes. Staff is dismissed.

1423 USAF unit commences burning of Mr Jones' Paddock at instruction of ADF. Unknown if photographic evidence was taken of UFO 3 markings. Mr Jones offered reimbursement for property damage with ADF approval.

Suspected motivation of burning to prevent potential national security

leaks, though unclear if this was an ADF or USAF initiative.

1448 USAF unit concludes burning operation.

1456 ASIS agents exit site and return to Melbourne.

1505 USAF and ADF units reconvene and begin return to RAAF Newsdale Air Base.

## 1969 INTERVIEW OVERVIEWS

LEANNE BARKLEY, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

2. RICHARD DARMODY, former teacher, declined to comply with this report. He retired in 1967.

3. JAMES EARL, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

4. TABATHA GIBSON, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

5. LESLEY HORRICKS, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

6. WILLIAM JONES, former teacher, declined to comply with this report.

7. DUNCAN MCKINNON, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

8. MARCIA PENRITH, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

9. JULIUS PICKETT, Brightview Secondary College Headmaster from 1956-1966. Recalls his interactions with ASIS. Does not remember if dismissing the students was by his own initiative or a directive. Initially reserved before becoming emotionally volatile during his interview and expressed anger at the handling of the matter by the agencies on site. Mr Pickett transferred away in the year following the event.

10. GENE REYNOLDS, teacher. Claims he was pressured by what were likely ASIS agents to stay quiet following the event. Only agreed to speak to this report on the condition that it not be made public. Transferred from Brightview Secondary College in 1968 and moved away from Science and into Maths. Maintains an erratic and socially indecent demeanour when speaking to interviewers with occasional moments of incoherency. Recollection is however consistent with other eyewitness testimony and should not be discounted.

11. CAROL SHEPPARD, then assistant headmistress, presently headmistress, declined to comply with this report.

12. RON STEWART, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

13. STEVEN TROY, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

14. ROBERT VENTURI, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

15. GREG WATKINS, groundskeeper, does not have a reliable memory of the day. He often conflates information and presents contradictory statements. One such example is he describes being present for the emergency assembly while also offering information on the location of pupils who chased UFO 1, despite it being logically impossible or at least very unlikely for him to be at both simultaneously. Demeanour is jovial and friendly, unintimidated by the event. He continues to work full time at Brightview Secondary College. It should be noted Mr Watkins is experiencing health issues that may distort the reliability of his testimony.

16. GREG YOUNG, teacher, declined to comply with this report.

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## SUMMARY

Various agencies differing protocols and lack of obeyance to existing protocols has resulted in an incomplete picture of events. This report has attempted to compile the evidence collected by these agencies into a linear chain of events.

2. Lack of communication and co-ordination between the official authoritative bodies involved (ADF, USAF, ASIS and RAAF) resulted in a failure to record imperative evidence that subsequently was lost or destroyed before it could be documented. This lack of departmental unity presents a potential risk not just in the case of future detection of unknown ariel phenomena, but broader efforts towards national security.

3. No effort was made by the aforementioned agencies to compile findings following the event. This report is the first attempt to do so.

4. Mr Reynolds' confiscated UFO images were redacted by ASIS in their presentation of events to this report. This report recommends these images be made available to ADF and RAAF to enable them to better prepare against future incidents of unknown ariel phenomena.

5. Attempts to reduce hysteria in witnesses via denial of phenomena has been counter intuitive. While there has been no publication of the event outside of initial local headlines on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1965, the events remain an open secret in the Brightview community. The majority of civilian witnesses declined the opportunity to speak to this report upon learning they were not legally required to do so. While this is not necessarily uncommon in isolation, it is uncommon for such a high number of witnesses to deny compliance with an officially sanctioned government investigation. It is likely the attitude cultivated by the authorities on site has resulted in a culture of distrust and a pattern of non-compliance towards the government response to the event.

6. It is understood Mr. Cornelius Jones' farm suffered a financial downturn following the event. Mr Jones publicly insisted on a correlation between the burning of his paddock and his eventual business troubles though there is no specific evidence to connect the two. He has since passed away and many in the community attribute his untimely death to the event, rightly or wrongly.

7. The pupil interview footage recorded by the Channel 9 news team was stored following the event but has been taped over per internal procedures regarding reuse of film stock. It is extremely likely the evidentiary value of this footage was not conveyed to Channel 9 and hence it was not available for this report.

8. While this report offers a compilation of available information regarding the Brightview UFO sighting it cannot offer a clear explanation. It is unlikely that the ariel technology is of Soviet origin as it is clearly ahead of their known technological capabilities. As there is no evidence that these capabilities have resurfaced in the four years following the event, it seems unlikely the event was a Soviet experiment. That does not necessarily suggest that the unidentified aircraft is inter-planetary in origin though there is no available scientific explanation at present.