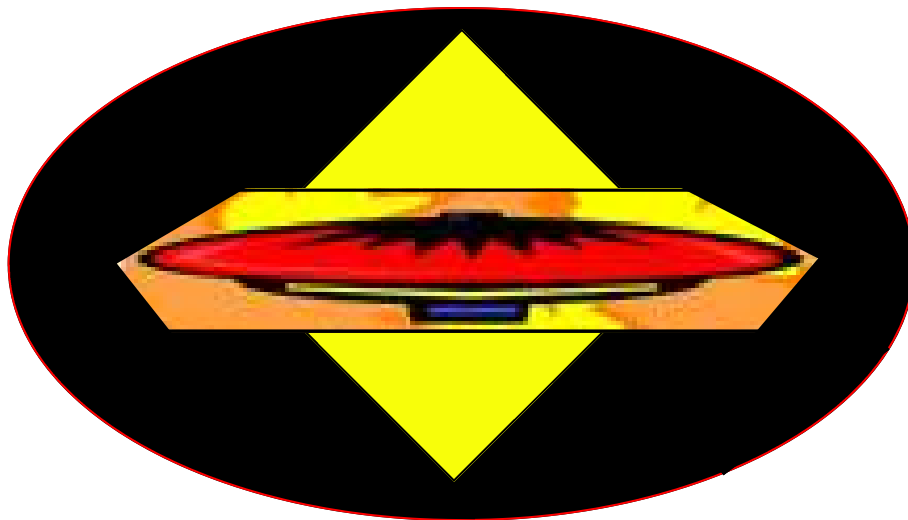




TOWN OF GAWLER

# UFOs over Gawler?



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Interest in UFOs has a rich history in Australia. The first organisation to investigate sightings was set up in 1952 after a huge wave of sightings in many parts of Australia.

An early reported sighting in South Australia occurred in January, 1959, when a former pilot and his family were walking along the beach at Port Gawler. They saw a spherical object 'which looked like polished aluminium' lift out of the water and create a 'curtain of white underneath it'. The object rose out of the sea to a 'considerable height' before being joined by another object which came in from the south. Both objects then moved toward the south, accelerating at great speed. (Source: [www.aufor.com/1959.htm](http://www.aufor.com/1959.htm))

Another sighting was made on 28 June, 1963, near the Sandy Creek Hotel by a Willaston man who was travelling towards Gawler on the Lyndoch-Gawler Road. After rounding a bend, the man saw on the road a 'blood-red coloured object' eight metres wide and four metres high with a concave top and a flat base, 'extending across the roadway'. Applying the vehicle's brakes, the man was within about three metres of the object when it rose suddenly from the road to a height of about 100 metres, turned on its side and sped off, steaming vapour and changing to a 'light red-yellow' as it accelerated and flew off towards Two Wells. (Source: [www.aufor.com/Newsletter-Twenty-One.htm](http://www.aufor.com/Newsletter-Twenty-One.htm))



During the 1960s and 1970s many sightings were reported causing vigorous debate amongst the general public about the plausibility and veracity of such sightings. Late in the 1960s, Gawler appears to have been a 'hot-spot' for UFO sightings, with a number being reported in *The Bunyip* towards the end of 1968 and during 1969.

'Flying saucers in Gawler' was the heading of the front page story of *The Bunyip*, on December 4, 1968. 'At least seven people' claimed that they saw two flying saucers hovering over the Gawler Institute and High Street Hall at about 10 pm on November 27, 1968. The two UFOs were said to be brightly lit by red and blue lights which constantly changed from one colour to the other. According to witnesses, the UFOs hovered over the Institute and Hall for about twenty minutes before briefly moving together, separating, switching off their lights and moving away. Five of the witnesses, a woman and her family, who lived in Gawler East, were reported to have watched from the car park 'at the rear of Harnett and George Chemists'. After the initial sighting, the woman was said to have 'returned to the house and smoked a cigarette'. Two other witnesses confirmed that they had also seen the UFOs but no-one was able to judge height, size or distance accurately and *The Bunyip* appealed to anyone who had witnessed the event to come forward. (Source: *The Bunyip*, December 4, 1968)

During the period June to August, 1969, more sightings of UFOs were reported in *The Bunyip*, the first being headed 'UFO Surprises Gawler Postie'. While clearing the Barnet Road letter box at 'a little before 7 am' on June 18, 1969, the young Gawler postman claimed he saw in the sky a UFO which appeared to be travelling north. He said that it was black inside and around the outside there was bright white light, the brightest white light he had ever seen. It was 'not exactly round' and it had 'a white line running through the centre'. The white light stayed on for about thirty seconds then gradually disappeared, to be replaced by a 'very bright red light' which also stayed on for about thirty seconds. When asked about height, the young man said it 'didn't seem very high' but admitted that it was difficult to judge height and distance. He also said that prior to the sighting 'he didn't believe in flying saucers - now he's convinced. He only wished he'd had a camera with him'.  
(Source: *The Bunyip*, June 19, 1969)

Another UFO sighting occurred near Balaklava on the evening of June 17, 1969 at about 6 pm. Three people from Gawler and one from Elizabeth were returning from a football carnival at Balaklava when they witnessed the landing of a 'strange object' in a large paddock next to the Hamley Bridge Road. The witnesses stayed for some time to watch the UFO 'where it had parked close to a couple of lonely gum trees'. One of the witnesses described the object as 'unlike anything he'd ever seen before' and sketched it (see below). He said that, having spent most of his life working in various fields of electronics, he could not equate the object with anything he had seen before but supposed it could possibly have been 'some kind of experimental vehicle'.  
(Source: *The Bunyip*, June 25, 1969)

The next reported sighting in Gawler occurred on June 27, 1969 at around 4 am - this time on Calton Road. The witness, a woman, was awoken by a noise 'rather like a loud motor car engine'. Looking out of her window she saw a 'flat, round object in the sky coming towards Gawler from the direction of the Barossa Valley'. The object was described as having white lights around the outside and a very bright light was shining on the ground below it. The object appeared to hover over Calton Road close to the witness' house but she said she could not judge distance or height.



(Source: *The Bunyip*, June 25, 1969)

After a few minutes, the object left, apparently heading back to the Barossa Valley. The witness was left wondering about what exactly she had seen as she returned to her bed. (Source: *The Bunyip*, July 9, 1969)

Early on the morning of August 3, 1969, a number of people reported sighting what they believed to be a 'flying saucer' in the Sandy Creek/Rosedale area. One witness, a resident of Sandy Creek, said he heard what sounded like a diesel engine on the railway line followed by a 'rumbling noise', a few minutes silence and then a 'buzzing noise ... which grew into a "rushing noise"'. Another witness not only heard the sound but saw 'the object sitting in a paddock about a quarter of a mile from his house'. The object was 'circular with a bright red circumference and a moving yellow "orb" in the centre of the circle'. The witness thought it may have had a diameter of

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about 25 feet and could have been hovering close to the ground. As he watched, the object took off slowly and gathered speed before heading south. Three other people also had a similar sighting on that morning. (Source: *The Bunyip*, August 6, 1969)

A few days later, two people in the Rosedale area had a similar experience. While picking up a newspaper around 9 pm, she saw a circular object with a 'reddish glow outside and a white glow inside' moving over a paddock near her house. The witness said she was frightened it would land but it just hovered for a few minutes. She said she did not say anything to her family as they would not have believed her. (Source: *The Bunyip*, August 6, 1969)

Since this spate of UFO sightings of the late 1960s, there have been others in the Gawler region. On the evening of March 27, 2004, a person reported driving near Gawler and seeing a ball-shaped, object which 'glowed white like phospherence'. It 'flashed across the intersection' of the road on which he was driving, 'at the top of a small rise from east to west' at about 20 metres off the ground and made no sound. (Source: [www.ufoinfo.com](http://www.ufoinfo.com))

Later that same year, at 3.45 am on December 18, two people travelling on the Port Wakefield Road near Wild Horse Plains saw an enormous object which was shaped 'like a large hamburger'. At the bottom it had a 'bright red dome with a glow around it' above which were flashing lights that extended all around the perimeter, seemingly recessed into it. The lights were yellow, red, white, orange, green and blue and they 'flashed on and off in sequence'. Across the top of the object were what looked like bright fluorescent-blue building blocks, staggered to different heights. On the other side of the road was another smaller and different object, shaped like 'bright white candle', below which was a ball of 'bright orange-red light with an aura surrounding it'. Both objects were moving in the same direction at about 30 metres off the ground and seemed to be chasing the car, much to the horror of its occupants. After about 30 kms both objects disappeared and the much-relieved witnesses continued on their way to Gawler. (Source: South Australian Flying Saucer Research Inc.)



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