

MANNY DAILY

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Doubt cast over 'alien' sky lights

by RHETT WATSON

A UFO research group believes seven strange lights seen in the sky by three northern beaches residents on Saturday night could be no more than simply a prank.

But a dark rectangular image trailing the lights has elicited some interest with the possibility it might not have been earthly.

Queensland-based researcher Warren Aston, who recently returned from an annual UFO conference in Nevada, said triangular figures had been spotted during the day in Belgium and South America.

"Rectangular objects are not as common. I don't think any have been seen over Australia," Mr. Aston said.

But he warned it was "naive to think anything flying around which is non-conventional aircraft is alien".

Wheeler Heights couple Denise and Adrian Thirsk spotted the lights and the object in the sky about 11.30pm on Saturday.

Mrs Thirsk said the lights were about the size of golf balls and heading south-west. But the object behind them was of more interest.

"I thought it looked like a manta ray, the way it was moving," she said.

"It was black and it looked like it was flapping."

And only 30 minutes earlier Narrabeen resident Elaine Davey spotted the same lights.

"They moved right across the sky towards the city," she said.

Independent Network of UFO researchers spokeswoman Moira McGhee, from the Blue Mountains, said it could be pranksters sending up helium balloons.

But she conceded the northern beaches were known to have unusual activity.

"There was a good sighting over Collaroy the last weekend of February when people saw this big object hurtling out of the sky toward the ocean," she said.

Ms McGhee said uncorroborated reports had UFO sightings in north Queensland on the same night.

Anyone who saw the lights on Saturday night or the fiery object in February can call Ms McGhee on (02)

or the UFO reporting line on 1800 772 288.

11.11pm
SAT 7/4/01.