

UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA ARCHIVE · MASS WITNESS SERIES



The *Westall UFO*

*Over Two Hundred Students and Teachers Witness an Unidentified Object Land and Depart,
Westall, Melbourne — April 6, 1966*

DATE	LOCATION	WITNESSES	DURATION
April 6, 1966	Westall, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia	200+ students and teachers	approx. 20 minutes
OFFICIAL EXPLANATION	SCHOOL RESPONSE		
Weather balloon (disputed)	Witnesses silenced; drawings confiscated		

V.01 // THE MORNING

A School Day in Westall

At approximately 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 6, 1966, students at Westall High School and the adjacent Westall State School in Melbourne's southeastern suburbs were in their morning classes or on the grounds when they observed a grey saucer-shaped object, approximately twice the size of a family car, descend through light cloud cover and land in the Grange Reserve paddock adjacent to the school grounds.

What followed was one of the largest-scale daylight close-approach sightings in the twentieth century's record: over two hundred students and staff members observed the object at close range, in full daylight, for an estimated twenty minutes. The object then rose vertically, accelerated, and departed at high speed to the northwest. Several students ran toward the landing site and found a circular depression in the grass.

V.02 // WITNESS ACCOUNTS

What Two Hundred People Saw

The accounts from witnesses interviewed in subsequent decades are consistent in their core details: a grey or silver disc, no apparent windows or markings, silent during approach, hovering briefly close to the ground, then departing at a speed that made aircraft and balloon explanations difficult to sustain. Several witnesses described the object as hovering above a pine tree stand at the edge of the reserve before departing.

"It was about the size of two family cars. It just sat there for a moment, then it went straight up and was gone. It didn't make a sound. I've never forgotten it — you don't forget something like that."

— JACQUELINE ARGENT, WESTALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, 1966; INTERVIEWED 2006

Five unregistered aircraft were seen circling the area at altitude during and after the landing. These aircraft have never been identified. They were not Air Traffic Control-registered flights; their presence has never been explained by Australian aviation authorities.

V.03 // THE SUPPRESSION

What Was Done Afterwards

The school's response to the incident is as notable as the incident itself. The headmaster of Westall High School, according to multiple witness accounts, assembled the students and told them they had not seen what they thought they had seen, and that they were not to discuss it. A teacher who had been among the witnesses was reportedly dismissed in the period following the incident, though the connection has never been formally confirmed. Students who had made

drawings of the object were told to hand them in; the drawings were confiscated and never returned.

Men in civilian clothing, not identified as police or military, spoke to senior staff at the school in the days following. Students were not permitted to speak to these individuals. The nature of their inquiries was not disclosed to the school community.

<small>GROUND TRACE</small> Circular depression found by students; not formally measured	<small>UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT</small> 5 aircraft circling during incident; never identified	<small>DRAWINGS CONFISCATED</small> Yes — students' artwork taken, not returned
<small>OFFICIAL EXPLANATION</small> Weather balloon — rejected by witnesses	<small>RAAF INVESTIGATION</small> Conducted; records not fully disclosed	<small>REUNION OF WITNESSES</small> Held 2006 — consistent accounts across 40 years

V.04 // LEGACY *Australia's Largest Mass Sighting*

In 2006, a reunion of Westall witnesses was organised. Survivors of the original event — then in their fifties — gathered and gave accounts that remained consistent with those recorded in the years immediately after 1966. The collective memory of over two hundred people had not diverged in its essentials over forty years.

The Royal Australian Air Force investigated the event at the time. The RAAF's records, when partially released, confirmed that an investigation had occurred but did not disclose findings. The Australian government's official position — weather balloon — has never been accepted by the witnesses, who, as professional adults in 2006, maintained that a weather balloon does not land, does not remain stationary for twenty minutes, and does not depart vertically at speed.

