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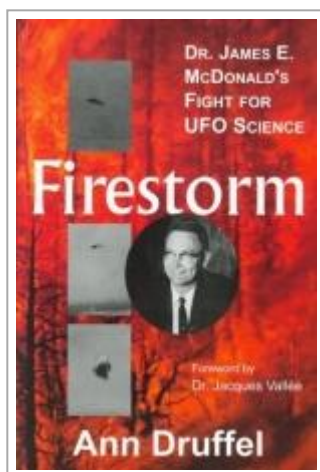
Dr James E McDonald's Archives

Dr James E McDonald's UFO Research Archives Including the 1967 Australian UFO Witness Audio Recordings

[James Edward McDonald](#) (7 May 1920 to 13 June 1971) was a Senior Physicist of Atmospheric Physics and a Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona (USA). He was also a pre-eminent American UFO researcher during the 1960s and continued his research up to his tragic death, due to suicide, in 1971.

McDonald was cautious when discussing the possible origins of UFOs, however he considered the [Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis \(ETH\)](#) as one of the likely candidates, stating that, 'The extra-terrestrial hypothesis is, at present to my mind, the least unlikely.'^[1] He also promoted the serious study of UFOs by academia, government and the scientific community.

The cover of Ann Druffel's authorised biography of Dr James E McDonald's UFO research history ^[2] is shown below.



McDonald's, correspondence, interviews including audio, and printed materials, predominately relating to the period 1958 to 1971 are [archived](#) in the Special Collections at the [University of Arizona Libraries](#) (USA). He regarded the radar visual (RV) UFO sighting reports as being one of his most important collections. In the archive, there are documents and photographs that were collected by McDonald during his Australian visit.

The original [audio recordings](#) (magnetic tapes) for the period 1967 to 1968 have been digitised and copied to CD-R media and are held by the University of Arizona. The duplication of this material, including the audio recordings may be requested, for a fee, from the [Special Collections at the University of Arizona](#). Copyright restrictions apply to the intended use of the documents and audio and [permission to publish](#) (including payment of a fee) must be obtained from the University before any publication.



This significant audio collection includes the tape recorded audio interviews made during his visit to Australia (including Tasmania) in June/July 1967. McDonald was hosted by the Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society (VFSRS) located in Melbourne, Australia. During the visit, members of that Society, such as Colin Norris, Paul Norman and Jeff Rumpf were present during some of the interviews. In the following year, 1968, VFSRS was renamed the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS).

Most of the 58 interviews that are summarised, were tape recorded when McDonald visited Australia. The Australian collection of audio, used for the summaries, has been archived, by the University, on 21 CDs, with the identification numbers: 5, 11, 24, 25, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59. Some of the audio recordings relate to sightings that occurred in the USA and are included in these summaries. Some of the audio files provided by the University of Arizona had misspelt witness names and locations in the file names, these have been corrected, to the best of our knowledge, in the summaries.

A copy of these CDs' files was obtained from the Special Collections at the University of Arizona Library, for research use. Permission to publish the audio was not sought, due to cost. Therefore, the audio files cannot be made available for download, or distribution to others.

The summaries were transcribed from the audio, that was originally recorded by McDonald using his hand-held magnetic tape, audio recorder. He used this recorder during most interviews, and for some, he recorded the telephone conversations with the witnesses. Listening to the original audio gives a unique insight to the reports, that text alone, is not able to convey.

A significant number of relatively famous Australian witnesses to UFO sightings were interviewed during his visit, including Reverend William Gill, an Anglican priest who observed craft-like UFOs, with what appeared to be humanoid figures, on two consecutive evenings during 26 and 27 June, 1959, at Boianai, Papua New Guinea. The interview with Barry Jones (Australian Federal Government Minister, between 1983 and 1990), on his radio show, recorded on the 5 July 1967 (Identification Code/CD Number: T03S2/CD05) in Melbourne, reveals that McDonald had been in Australia, investigating UFO reports, from the 24 June to the 10 July 1967. A television [interview](#) of McDonald was broadcasted on the 4 July 1967 while he was in Melbourne, Australia.

The audio recordings demonstrate how dedicated McDonald had been to what he termed, 'The UFO problem,' and he regarded, 'UFOs as the greatest scientific problem of our time.' McDonald also states in the audio that he is convinced that, at least, over the last 20 years, the Earth has been, 'Visited and reconnaissance's by craft, that are not products of our technology.' McDonald further stated that the evidence for UFOs is, 'Nothing short of astounding.'

The demeanour of McDonald's commentary and questioning of witnesses, demonstrates that he was methodical, intelligent and diligent.

Listen to James E McDonald's radio interview, recorded in early July 1967, at the end of his Australian investigations. He speaks about the Australian UFO sighting reports, criticism of the Project Blue Book (USA) conclusions, his statement to the United Nations – Outer Space Affairs Group, and his thoughts regarding, what he termed, 'The UFO problem.' This audio is courtesy of Wendy Connors. ^[3]

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The audio recordings (some USA reports included), are tabulated below and were summarised by [Keith Basterfield](#) and Anthony Clarke. The summaries have been published as a [searchable pdf document](#) (100 pages/1.2 MB). This project was completed in November 2016 and the summaries are posted for UFO research and historical purposes. It is likely that some of these reports have not been previously published. Some of the audio files provided by the University of Arizona had misspelt witness names and locations in the file names, these have been corrected, to the best of our knowledge, in the summaries.

We would appreciate that if any of these summaries are published that the source is quoted in the in-text citations and/or reference list.

	File Size (MB)	CD	Code	Contents
1	4.6	CD05	T03S105	Kent Courtright of WCUE Ra
2	8.5	CD05	T03S106	George Popovitch comment
3	4.1	CD05	T03S107	Unidentified sound recorder
4	36.6	CD05	T03S2	Barry Jones Radio Show with
5	2.0	CD11	T08S101	Gary Taylor's death and Ron
6	1.5	CD11	T08S102	Saucer nest at Tully, Queens
7	4.9	CD11	T08S103	Military tank UFO sighting 2
8	2.5	CD11	T08S104	James Kibel's 19 February 19
9	9.0	CD11	T08S105	Westall High School sighting
10	11.3	CD24	5T04S1	World of Space and Science
11	8.1	CD25	5T05S1	Peter Norris radio interview,
12	46.2	CD42	3T0910S12	James McDonald interviews
13	15.1	CD43	3T10S102	James McDonald interviews
14	25.6	CD43	3T10S103	James McDonald interviews
15	58.1	CD44	3T10S2	James McDonald interviews
16	20.8	CD45	3T11S102	James McDonald interviews
17	6.2	CD45	3T11S103	James McDonald's thoughts
18	15.8	CD45	3T11S203	James McDonald interviews
19	21.9	CD46	3T12S101	James McDonald interviews
20	32.1	CD46	3T12S1203	James McDonald interviews
21	24.4	CD47	3T12S204	James McDonald interviews
22	33.0	CD48	3T13S101	James McDonald interviews
23	2.1	CD48	3T13S102	Discussion in car about the (
24	9.6	CD49	3T14S102	Geoff Rumpf interviews Rob
25	5.4	CD49	3T14S201	Allen Davies UFO sighting as

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[Download Document \(PDF\)](#)

References

1. Druffel, A. (2006). Firestorm: Dr James E. McDonald's Fight for UFO Science. 2nd ed. Columbus, USA: Granite Publishing, p. 143.
2. Ibid.
3. Connors, W. (2013). UFOLOGY A Primer In Audio UK AUS 1946 1989 Guide: Track 25. [online] The Internet Archive. Available at: <https://archive.org/details/UFOLOGYAPrimerInAudioUKAUS19461989Guide> [Accessed 23 Nov. 2016].

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