

Comet showers to blame for mysterious light

by Melissa Townsend

WAS it a plane, was it a flying saucer or was it a meteor entering Earth's atmosphere?

That is what two men on the Gold and Sunshine coasts are asking after both saw a

mysterious white light shooting through the

night sky on Monday.

Nerang resident Michael Baker was

standing outside the Worongary shopping

centre looking at the sunset when he saw

the strange light travelling from the west

about 5.50pm.

"We were just taking in the sunset, look-

ing at the clouds and suddenly we saw a big

white streak," he said.

"As it came down towards the ground, it

turned blue and then green and it broke up

with a bit of a sizzle and a spark."

About the same time, Ian Mayes was

taking his 10-year-old daughter Chloe for a

walk at Peregian Beach on the Sunshine

Coast when he saw an unusual light.

"We just saw this bright white light, like

a star, burning for a few seconds and then it

fizzled out," he said.

Reports of the sightings surfaced about

the same time a Northern Territory woman

claimed to have photographed UFOs near

her Palmerston home last month.

However, Mr Baker and Mr Mayes con-

cluded they had seen a meteor.

Springbrook Research Observatory as-

tronomer Andre Clayden said Monday's

strange light was likely to be part of the

Lyrid meteor shower.

Every April, Earth passes through the

tail of Comet Thatcher, causing a meteor

shower.

The shower happens twice a year and

will peak today. Forecasters expect 10 to 20

meteors per hour to hit Earth and before

dawn is the best time to see them.