

Seen any UFOs lately?

A UFO investigator is seeking information from Ballarat people who may have seen unidentified flying objects in recent years.

Paul Newman, a member of the International Committee for UFO Research, who was in Ballarat yesterday, said people should not be embarrassed about reporting a UFO sighting.

Mr Newman has been involved in the recent case when the Knowles family, travelling along the Nullarbor Plains, had

its car "lifted" off the ground by an unknown force.

He said dust samples from the car, which he took to the Phillips Institute, in America, contained potassium, carbon and silicon.

"Ballarat has not been without its UFO sightings. In April, 1973, there were sightings of erratically moving lights over the area," Mr Newman said.

He said numerous UFO sightings had been reported over South America.

"UFOs seem to be attracted to the Iso-

lation and large amounts of water of parts of South America."

Eighty five per cent of reports are cases of mistaken identity, like aircrafts, space junk and meteorites.

Only one in five cases are worthy of follow-ups, and five per cent of these are hoaxes. He said the best reports came from airline pilots.

Involved in UFO research for the past 36 years, Mr Newman had no real opinion of unidentified flying objects until an experience while working as a superintendent at

a hydro-electric power station in America.

"I saw a UFO while working there, and have seen two since then, both in northern Victoria."

He said there was a lot of activity in the sky over Australia.

"There have been many reports about cigar-shaped objects as big as a house, with bright lights, over Melbourne and Canberra suburbs and west of Hornham.

"These (UFOs) hover over farm dams, when water levels drop."