

# *Man's flying saucer patent 'just idea'*

**A Canberra man who has applied for a patent for a "flying saucer" described his invention yesterday as "nothing more than an idea with a little substantiating evidence."**

The inventor, Mr Ralph M. Rabbidge, of Cobby Street, Campbell, an experimental officer in plant research, said he had made no model but would like to see his idea investigated more thoroughly.

"It is merely a principle that could be employed," he said.

## **Five years' thought**

He described the basic principle as an inverted saucer-shaped shell that rotated, forcing air downwards, causing it to lift.

Mr Rabbidge decided to

Mr Rabbidge decided to apply for a provisional patent for his invention about June last year when similar theories were being discussed after reported sightings of flying saucers.

"I had been thinking about it for about five years

so thought it was worth while to pay my £2 and take out the provisional patent," he said.

"It is not very different from the helicopter but could possibly be more efficient."

A spokesman from the Patent Trade Marks, De-

**Patent Trade Marks, Designs and Copyright office in Canberra said applications for provisional patents must be followed within 12 months with complete specifications.**

**He said the invention then came up for examination to see if it worked in theory — there was no practical test.**

**Mr Rabbidge said he could not afford to make any practical tests of his invention but would await developments and would be interested to see anyone who wanted to investigate it further.**