

Protect privacy of witnesses, UFO researcher urges

SYDNEY: UFO researchers have been told there is a need to set standards of conduct for investigations into reported sightings of unidentified flying objects.

A Sydney ufologist, Mr Mark Moravec, told the fourth UFO conference here that the privacy and psychological health of people who report sightings must be respected.

Mr Moravec said investigators should think before revealing witnesses' names to the media, because this often led to sensational publicity and harassment of the witness.

He said child witnesses should be protected from possible anxiety about what they had seen, even if this meant calling off the in-

if this meant calling off the investigation.

And if an investigator came across a witness who appeared mentally unstable he should get

psychiatric help to assess the witness's reliability.

Mr Moravec said witnesses often asked the investigator for an explanation of what they had seen. He said an investigator could discuss his pet theory but he should add that there were other theories and at this stage of UFO research nobody really knew the answers.

Mr Moravec is one of about 30 ufologists attending a three-day conference in Sydney.

Tomorrow delegates will be asked to decide whether to form

asked to decide whether to form an Australian centre for UFO studies.

Documented evidence of hundreds of UFO sightings and related phenomena was presented at the conference. The ufologists also saw a film of a sighting by three people at Ben Boyd National Park near Eden in southern NSW.