

Balloon could be Echuca UFO

By SUZANNE HOGHTON

An unidentified flying object sighted in Echuca last month may have been a hot air balloon, a Moama man has claimed.

Frank Berry on Monday said he saw a similar object reported last week by a young Swan pool couple.

The couple, Murray and Tania Dawe, said a UFO forced them to run off road east of Cornelia Creek Rd.

The 77-year-old this week said he saw a hot air balloon heading north around 7pm on the night the Dawes saw the UFO while travelling along Murray Valley Hwy.

If Mr Berry's evidence can be confirmed by the UFO Research Society, it could solve a mystery which has been baffling Victorian research scientists since the Echuca sighting on August 27.

"I was sitting back listening to the seven o'clock news on the radio I saw these white lights on the horizon." Mr

these white lights on the horizon," Mr Berry said.

"I went outside (with my neighbor) and saw a huge light in the sky... a hot air balloon, illuminated, flew virtually straight over our heads," he said.

Mr Berry said the only noise from the craft sounded like there may have been a generator in the basket.

The Victorian UFO Research Society is investigating the claims.

Two more witnesses came forward on Friday after reading an article published in Friday's Riverine Herald.

The society's north eastern representative, Jim Owen, said satellites were often mistaken for UFOs.

"Venus and Canopus, which is a very bright star low on the horizon, is often mistaken for UFOs," he said.

Mr Owen said the Whitman's airship was also commonly mistaken.
