

Ballarat Uni in the whirlpool

Mathew Murphy
May 1, 2007

MELBOURNE barrister Paul Kouris' long campaign to use water vortices to enhance hydroelectric power will get a little help from Ballarat University today with a presentation to business.

Mr Kouris' concept has been widely dismissed by the science community, which is sceptical that additional energy can be produced beyond the traditional gravity fall of water.

But Stephen Hall, dean of engineering at Ballarat University, believes the idea should be investigated and has established a post-graduate research program on it.

Professor Hall will present the concept to business this week as part of Ballarat's innovation festival.

"There is enough potential there to look into it further," he said.

"We will replicate Paul's design in the labs either this week or next to see what results are found," he said.

Mr Kouris has been working on the concept for 10 years.

In 1998 he patented the technology in Australia and overseas and then built a prototype using large water tanks.

Mr Kouris found that the vortex created up to 27 per cent additional power.

The idea has also been applied in the Austrian town of Obergrafendorf since 2005, successfully powering up to 14 homes.

Mr Kouris is involved in a dispute over patent rights.

<http://www.kourispower.com/>
