



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission

# bubu sagul

'bu-bu sag-ul'



SCHOOL  
YEARS  
K-3

SCHOOL  
YEARS  
4-6

## Background

One of the many water games observed being played at Mabuiag Island in the Torres Strait.

## Language

*Bubu sagul* means 'tide play'. Players sing a song as they are circling in the water.

### **Bubu nuri (repeated)**

*Tide is going round.*

## Short description

A group of players run in a circle to form a whirlpool and then lie down and float.

## Players

- Groups of about ten to 14 players work best

## Playing area

- A swimming pool with water about waist to chest deep for the players

## Game play and basic rules

- To begin the game, players stand in a circle and splash the water as much as they can. When the splashing has reached a peak they lie on top or dive under the water.
- After this the players then either hold hands in a circle or line up behind each other.
- They begin to run in a circle as fast as they can to form a 'whirlpool' with the water.
- On a signal players stop running and lie down on their backs and float as they are carried around in the water.

## Variations

- Players run in one direction and then float. On another signal they stand up and start running against the flow of the water and make a whirlpool going in the other direction. Repeat.
- Players attempt to hold onto each other by the leg as they float around.

## Comment

This is a fun activity that needs careful supervision. Care needs to be taken that players are not 'spun' out of the whirlpool into deeper water or into the side of the pool.

## Teaching points

- In a circle. Ready.
- Splash, splash.
- Stop. Floating.
- Start running this way. Faster, faster.
- Keep going.
- Stop. Float. Lie down.
- Up. Back the other way. Run. Faster.
- Keep going. Float.
- Stop and splash.