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.
- Keep going. Float.
- Stop and splash.