

Stent to lead MAG

By **YVONNE THOMPSON**

THE Rockingham Marina Action Group has appointed Danny Stent as its new group president.

He said there had never been a more important time for the group to stand up for the aquatic needs of Rockingham.

"There is so much emotion being displayed on this issue that anything could happen. What is needed is a sense of fairness, objectivity and understanding in order to achieve a good result," he said.

"The group recognised the need to improve our boating facilities many

years ago. Since then, those needs have only increased. Every time there is a storm, we have boats washed up on the beach.

"For this reason, larger boats are kept in Fremantle or Mandurah at a cost of \$3000 to \$6000 a year in pens' fees. That is a huge loss to the people of Rockingham."

Mr Stent said the group welcomed the recent proposal for the development of a Wanliss Street Jetty, which would provide space for Rockingham, but said it would not address many of the other required facilities.

"It will not help our local boating,

fishing and yacht clubs (have a look at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing Club as an example of what can be done)," he said. "It will not provide for the needs of our Sea Rescue Group, nor those of schools to enhance their marine studies.

"It will not provide hardstand facilities, nor cater for boat servicing and repairs, which will still need to be carried out at Fremantle or Mandurah, and we miss out again.

"We either make some meaningful progress toward improving our facilities or we should abandon our 'Your Aquatic Playground' label," he said.