



• Warren McGrath hopes his catchment group's good work will not disappear down the drain. Photo by Chris Thomson

# Catchment group caught out

by CHRIS THOMSON

VINCENT council's knockback of staff costs for Claise Brook Catchment Group means the group will launch no new initiatives in the town.

"If we're to achieve outcomes like Smith's Lake and Robertson Park, we need local government support," the group's chair Warren McGrath told the *Voice* this week. "It's all about leveraging resources into the town and to do that you need paid people – it's beyond volunteers."

On June 12, a motion to grant the

group \$27,795 – mainly for salary expenses – was unanimously rejected by Vincent councillors [*Voice*, June 16, 2007].

While she was outside the council chambers, several councillors argued that their colleague Sally Lake – who's also the catchment group's part-time co-ordinator – would be the grant's main beneficiary.

"The reasons given for refusing funding seemed to be because we employ a catchment co-ordinator who also happens to be a councillor ...," Mr McGrath said.

"However, some of the projects proposed would have been delivered by staff of the North Metropolitan Conservation Group, as our co-ordinator

has existing commitments ..."

While the City of Perth has come on board with funding, Mr McGrath said his group had not seen one cent of Vincent money in its decade restoring some of the town's scungiest waterways.

"This marks the end of two years of discussions with the Town of Vincent over which time we have spent much time and resources preparing proposals," Mr McGrath lamented. "For the end result to end up with no projects is disappointing for both our group and residents of the Town of Vincent."

Although there'll be no new projects for the group in Vincent, Mr McGrath said current projects would be completed.