

# Swartkops River needs to be developed — Bush

Weekend Post Reporter

**YACHTSMAN** Allan Bush, back in his home sailing waters in Port Elizabeth — with a brand new Springbok blazer — is convinced that the Swartkops River is the finest undeveloped watersport asset on the doorstep of any South African city.

Allan and his twin brother, Graham, grew up in Port Elizabeth within a stone's throw of the river, and the Bush twins were among the most successful sailing teams in the Swartkops Yacht Club's history.

Their feat of never having been defeated in a class race in the river championships is believed to be unequalled.

Graham now lives in Australia.

On holiday in Port Elizabeth this week, Allan said he was delighted to see dredging going ahead in the river and said he would like to see the sailing waters brought back to the standard he knew as a boy.

"There isn't another river like this. It is so close to the city — it could become a mecca for watersports."

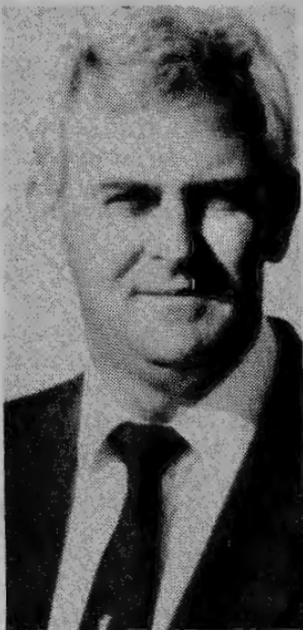
He said the river could be developed as an asset while preserving its ecology.

Allan represented South Africa at Lowestoft, in Suffolk, in the 1988 world championships in a Flying 15.

His crew, John Dain, also received Springbok colours at a recent ceremony at the Point Yacht Club in Durban, where Allan and his family now live.

Sailing a Flying 15, he came first in the nationals in 1986 and '87 and second in '88 and '89 and first in Natal's provincial championships in '86, '87 and '88.

He was chosen to repre-



**Springbok yachtsman ALLAN BUSH, one of the Bush sailing twins, is on holiday at Swartkops with his wife, Gail, and daughter, Bridget.**

sent SA in Hong Kong in 1986 but SA's entry was refused.

From an early age, Allan was surrounded by boats

and he graduated from "washing yachts for a cooldrink" to sailing, at the age of six.

He started with a Dabchick and then went on to a Sprog in which he won the East Cape championships.

He bought an old Sharpie, which he sailed with five others to make up weight.

He won his first national championship at the age of 16 in 1964 in an Andy.

In 1966 he teamed up with Graham in a Tempo and later they sailed in a Flying Dutchman.

Two Fireballs followed, Algabú and Twinalgra in 1975.

He represented SA twice in Fireballs against Rhodesia in 1973 and '74.

Graham left for Australia in 1981. He won the South Australian championships in his class for five years in a row.

Allan was commodore of ZRC in 1975 and in the centenary year of '83.

His wife, Gail, organised the bridge for many years.