



NEW ENTERPRISE

John's grave opening

By Katelin Nelligan

JOHN Thompson found the inspiration to start his new business while visiting his father's grave.

"I'd been sitting there talking to dad and I'd just cleaned his plaque when a man from interstate came up to me and asked if he could pay someone to clean his relative's head stone," Mr Thompson, 40, recalls.

The former cleaner saw it as a great opportunity to get out of an unemployment rut in which he'd been stuck for more than three years.

"When you're unemployed, you're right down there," he says, pointing to the floor.

"You feel like a second-class citizen."

Sponsored by employment service provider Work Skill, the Salisbury Park resident started a small business course through Knowledge Plus in January.

This month, Mr Thompson officially opened his grave site maintenance business, Forever In Rest, and hopes to attract customers, particu-



REST EASY: John Thompson has started up a grave site maintenance business Picture: Sam Wundke HF445362

larly from interstate and overseas.

"When you look at grave sites, there are a lot of people who don't have time to keep them clean and tidy, and I hope that's where we can step in.

"I've set up a website and I've had some inquiries from people in the Philippines, the US, UK, Greece and Italy."

Mr Thompson said starting the business had given his

life direction and encouraged others without work to look into small business.

"By doing this, I hope my son (**Tyson**, 20) will one day be able to leave his job and work for me and we can make it a family business right here in Salisbury."

nrM Knowledge Plus - www.knowledgeplus.com.au, Forever in Rest - www.foreverinrest.com