



**NO BULL:** Broome sea rescue assists the stray cow to shore.

## Cow swims to freedom

THE Broome Volunteer Sea Rescue has received call-outs to emergencies for overboard crew and stricken vessels, but has experienced none as strange as a recent operation.

Commander Bruce Zencich was in a support boat helping with the Fatty Albert Day fishing tournament on July 22 when he received an unusual call about 11am.

"We were on our way back in when we got a call from a boat saying there's a cow in the shipping channel," he said.

Mr Zencich and four crew found the distressed animal treading water about 1.8nm off Gantheaume Point.

"I'm not too sure if the cow came

off a boat or off the jetty," he said. "We lassoed a couple of ropes around it to hold it next to the boat and keep its head above the water and then idled in to Reddell Beach."

Travelling slowly, it took the boat and cow – estimated at about 400kg – about an hour to reach shore.

Mr Zencich called ahead to alert Shire rangers and police but said rescuers lost control of the beast when it reared up and took off up the beach.

The cow was spotted by Broome resident Keith Clinch who said the animal not only chased four girls on the beach but destroyed a shade sail before disappearing.