



# Race is loud but bookings are not

BOOKINGS are down for trackside units during Indy just three weeks before the four-day motorsports festival gets away from the starting line.

Surfers International Realty representative Malcolm Catchpole said the situation was 'unheard of'.

"The phone is not ringing and there is far less demand for units this year," he said.

"We have been adver-

By ANDREW POTTS

tising which we normally wouldn't have to do but nobody is calling.

"In the past we fought people off."

Mr Catchpole said several factors contributed to the lower number of renters.

"It is a sign of the times with the struggling economy," he said.

"Also because Indy is no longer a championship race, I don't think it will bring in as many

people as it will have in past years."

Gold Coast Accommodation Service proprietor Faye R Kimber-McMillan said it was not unusual.

"We have received reports things are quieter but there are still many places on the Gold Coast booked out," she said.

"I am sure it will be a rip-roaring race."

Indy annually attracts more than 300,000 visitors to the glitter strip

and injects nearly \$60 million into the local economy.

Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce president Laura Younger said Indy would give the Gold Coast much-needed attention.

"It always brings a lot of people in and gives the local economy a shot in the arm," she said.

"Indy is advertising you can't pay for."

Indy begins October 23.