



Indy injection to get cash registers racing

By ANDREW POTTS

INDY Carnival operators are expecting locals to spend big and join the party at the event, later this month.

Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce president Laura Younger said Surfers Paradise retailers would benefit significantly from the four-day event, which annually turns the Gold Coast into Australia's motor-sports Mecca.

"We encourage everyone to come to Surfers Paradise to celebrate Indy this year," she said.

"It is a great event which puts the Gold Coast on show for the whole world and will give the local economy a real shot in the arm."

In past years Indy has brought in nearly \$60 million for the local economy.

Surfers Paradise Alliance chief Rowena Howe said retailers would look forward to the crowd of 314,000.

"It's a major event for Surfers Paradise because it attracts international attention and has a major impact on the local econ-

omy," she said.

"I'm confident retailers will trade strongly during the four days of Indy."

Gold Coast Combined Chamber president John Preston said the recent fall in interest rates would give the event a boost.

"I think people will be more comfortable in their spending," he said.

"Indy gives Surfers Paradise retailers the opportunity for increased business during the period leading up to and during the event, with so many people coming through the area.

"Indy is a time of year which certainly brings well needed income to the Gold Coast because everyone from accommodation providers to food and beverage companies benefits."

Mr Preston said Indy had become one of the Gold Coast's most recognisable events.

"It's an important one for the Gold Coast as it weathers the current economic storm," he said.

"I'm sure everyone involved

with Indy will be working to keep it here on the coast."

Indy begins on October 23.

Meanwhile, local motorsports fans will get a four-stroke start to Indy proceedings this weekend at the third annual Motorsport Expo and Karting Street Race.

During the two-day event 30 Prokart drivers will go head-to-head in a 12-hour endurance race at Parklands Showgrounds.

For the first time, the event will be split into three separate races to capitalise on the audience's attention span.

"Most spectators in an endurance race enjoy the first hour and their attention wanes after a while unless you are a real enthusiast," said Queensland Prokart competitor Mark Johnson.

"We're expecting a major event this year, so audiences will have three opportunities to watch the race start."

The expo, starting from 7am on Saturday, will also feature sprint karts and vehicles from all forms of motorsports.



Carnival call to steer clear

MOTORISTS are being urged to avoid travelling through Surfers Paradise during next week's Indy Carnival.

From Monday morning, The Gold Coast Highway will be closed for seven days between Tedder Avenue and the Ferny Avenue and Surfers Paradise Boulevard intersection.

Traffic will be reduced to a crawl, with one lane open both north and south at 40km/h.

"If you don't need to go through Surfers Paradise, find alternate routes," said Gold Coast Regional Traffic Co-

ordinator Inspector Ron Barry.

Insp Barry urged motorists to be mindful of the changed traffic conditions.

"Be careful at the major intersections," he said.

"Especially during this period, the bus lane and emergency vehicle lane cannot be used by the public."

Indy event director David Bennett

(pictured) said the work would finish on time.

"We urge residents to plan their journey ahead of going into Surfers Paradise," he said. "We hope everyone will be very careful on the roads."

