



'New breed' enjoy a rails run to fun

THE Gold Coast Turf Club is still waiting for a firm plan for the future of its Bundall facility but it is certainly pulling the whip out when it comes to getting backside trackside.

Patronage at the racecourse is up 8 per cent year-on-year due mainly to a focus on the social side of racing, backed up with some clever marketing.

Next on the agenda is the Gold Coast Stakes, which this year will be run for the first time on a Saturday.

Helensvale's Emma Holden is typical of the new breed of racegoer, lured by the excitement of the sport, the social scene and, of course, the chance to dress to impress.

"There is a big interest in racing among younger people on the Coast, who I think are attracted to it because of its atmosphere," she said.

Meantime, Queensland Racing chairman Bob Bentley has not ruled out the club keeping a majority share in a redeveloped facility - telling the *Sun* this week that the issue was 'open for discussion'.

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Emma Holden is looking forward to frocking up for the Gold Coast Stakes race day at the Gold Coast Turf Club.

Picture: INGA WILLIAMS