

Flu focus turns to women

By **KIERAN CAMPBELL**
kieran.campbell@capnews.com.au

Pregnant females most at risk of developing complications

PREGNANT Rockhampton women have been urged to take special precautions against swine flu.

Information sent exclusively to *The Morning Bulletin* yesterday from the office of Queensland's chief health officer Dr Jeanette Young, revealed

pregnant women were one of the most vulnerable groups to the potentially deadly virus.

Central Queensland's confirmed cases of the flu yesterday grew to 28, up three cases from Tuesday.

But a Queensland Health spokesperson

said they could not break down where the particular cases stemmed from in the CQ health district, which stretches from Rockhampton south to Gladstone and west to Emerald and Longreach.

The spokesperson said Queensland Health

had released more case details before the state's suspected swine flu cases passed 30,000 and confirmed cases rose about 500.

Dr Young yesterday said since the state had moved into the 'protect' phase of swine flu, a focus was on pregnant women as one of the

vulnerable groups.

"While pregnant women do not appear to have a higher risk of contracting swine flu, they do have a higher risk of complications such as pneumonia and early labour from this and any type of flu," she said.

"Studies conducted

on previous pandemics in the early and mid-1900s suggest there can be adverse outcomes in pregnancy, particularly if pneumonia develops.

"Since H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) is a novel virus, we cannot guarantee there will not be

FLU NUMBERS

The state's swine flu cases yesterday grew from 1188 to 1484 including 28 cases in Central Queensland.

unforeseen adverse effects."

Dr Young said pregnant women should be vaccinated against normal seasonal flu.

Kart racers go wild at refurbished track

BEING behind the wheel of a race vehicle isn't new to Allan Reinikka.

He doesn't just race to photo shoots as a *Bully* photographer – Reinikka also drives rally cars.

But yesterday he was made to look like an amateur at Kenrose Park on the newly refurbished go-kart track.

Reinikka was shown up by hot-headed competitors Bronwyn Fenech, Mitch Grayson and Mark "Chooky" Edwards as the new track between Rockhampton and Yeppoon was unveiled.

Reinikka's problem? He said he just couldn't keep the kart on the bitumen.

Around turn two the fair-haired photographer pushed too far, spinning off the track and into the dust a few times.

But he blamed "lack of speed" in the kart for his slow time.

Reinikka, who refused to label himself a sore loser, pointed the finger at the lead karts for their 10-minute warm-up pre-race.

The spotlight was turned early on experienced kart racer Chooky, who slowed behind the lead pack on lap one of 20.

It looked as though the Sea FM morning presenter was off his

game but separating himself from the herd of eager racers proved a successful tactic for Chooky.

After 20 laps he had notched up the third-quickest time of 29.172 seconds.

In the lead was an imposter – Bryce Millar from Mad Dog Productions, who went right off road to cut through half the track and score himself an illegal time of 26.4 seconds.

The rightful leader was pint-sized Fenech.

The fiery red-haired business owner showed her tenacity during her warm-up drive, signalling to the crowd for support as she skidded around the bends at blistering speeds.

From the race start Fenech went toe-to-toe with ABC's rural reporter Grayson, a country boy who couldn't match Fenech's red-hot form.

"The reason she won is because she weighs nothing," the untainted Reinikka said.

"With those sorts of things, weighing less is always an advantage."

Fenech's time of 28.723 topped Grayson's 29.218, which put him in



TIGHT TURN: *Bully* photographer Allan Reinikka steers hard into a corner at Kenrose Park yesterday.

PHOTO: KIERAN CAMPBELL KC08/0709/45

third place behind Chooky.

Not even a last-minute dash through the pit could help Grayson beat Fenech to the chequered flag.

Park owner Jason Rose said the rough competition was what the refurbished track was all about.

He said the park would re-open tomorrow after being on a break for the refurbishment.

– *Kieran Campbell*



LOOK, IT'S ME: Kieran Campbell flies across the finish line during a warm-up lap.

PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA AR08/0709/3



TOP SPOT: Rockhampton businesswoman Bronwyn Fenech salutes the crowd after her win at Kenrose Park.

PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA AR08/0709/2



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