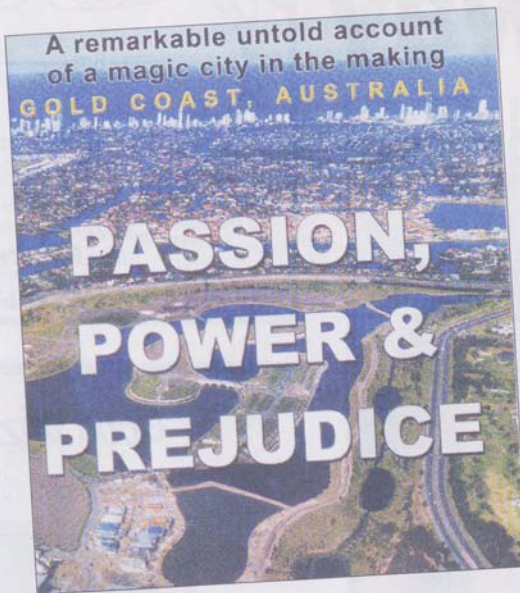


Bring back the spirit

Coast according to Burchill...

- On Gold Coast flooding: "Without action on flood mitigation, the city is poised for a disaster."
- On Russ Hinze, famed 'Minister for Everything': "I saw Hinze on his private property business at his house on Saturday mornings, if I could get past the great and nasty rottweiler, Brutus, who looked remarkably like his owner... I believe that he was a truly great man in the history of the Gold Coast's development."
- On the Gold Coast: "Las Vegas is not unlike the Gold Coast. Its economy is based on big tourism business, but its city council knows which side its bread is buttered on... The Gold Coast Mayor and some councillors who were trying to frustrate the annual Indy motor racing carnival and possible cruise ships terminal are serious signs for the strategic place of tourism in the future of the Gold Coast... The most telling of all judgments on the Gold Coast is the fast rate at which more and more people come to visit and stay to live."
- On developers: "They got us into a mess at each boom and bust."



Claim Coast has 'gone soft'

By MURRAY HUBBARD

A TELL-all book being launched today claims a cloud of mediocrity has settled on the Gold Coast and will have serious consequences for the city's future.

Author, master planner and Coast identity Geoff Burchill says a major concern is that land which should be used for tourism is being converted to commercial and housing use.

"Many events in the 1990s and 2000s showed me that tourism infrastructure development in the Gold Coast, to attract continuing rapid global tourism growth, has lost out," Mr Burchill will tell those at today's launch.

Mr Burchill, an international master planner



Geoff Burchill

with decades of Gold Coast experience on the city's biggest projects, will launch his 680-page book 'Power Passion And Prejudice' - *The Inside Story Of Gold Coast Development In The Past 30 years*.

Mr Burchill worked on such major resorts as Sanctuary Cove, Hope Island Resort, Royal Pines and Palm Meadows.

In the book he says due to a number of factors the Gold Coast has lost the entrepreneurial spirit that built the city in the first place.

He also blames the residents for 'objecting to tourism activities' since 1970 with the result that fast urban growth has squeezed spaces needed for tourism business.

Although the book is pro-development, Mr Burchill takes no prisoners, singling out developers, the council, residents and the State Government for severe criticism.

"The whole of the state's city-building community - councils, departments, consultants, the courts, and developers - is in a kind of universal partial paralysis that has slowed the development of many parts of Queensland where rapid growth can happen," he will state this morning.

"We have the 'emperor-has-no-clothes scenario' where everyone knows there is something seriously wrong, but no one will speak first.

"Certainly not the

'won't-take-no-for-an-answer' way of the creative people who invested massive sums and built the Gold Coast structure that everyone thinks is so great."

Mr Burchill said when the development industry decided to do something, by funding candidates in the 2004 elections, it resulted in the current CMC inquiry, which was 'very uniduly'.

"Developers will learn useful lessons," he said.

"My book suggests that, for the first time for quite a while, the development industry got off its bottom to do something to clear the decks at council of the people who were seen as holding things back.

"As one of the city's biggest major industries and employers, this industry has a right to do this (raise funds for elections) and must continue to have that right and obligation."

He said the lesson learned from the 2004 elections and the current CMC inquiry was that the development industry was in a new era 'having to better explain the value of the role it takes in the creation of world-winning cities and the environment'.

He lamented the lack of entrepreneurial civic leaders following council amalgamation.

"Previously we had many entrepreneurs creating new visions and council's reacting to good ideas in an orderly and responsive way that recognised the value of money invested," said Mr Burchill.

"Now we have what is against the nature of the Gold Coast: council dictating from high on quite different points of view, the 'Colonial Government' with people who do not understand the unique factors that drive resort city growth."

GOLD COAST Sun

Australia's largest regional suburban Newspaper

Wednesday, December 7,

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

