

Paul, 70, in the ring of confidence

AT 69 years young, Paul Mittag pulled on a pair of boxing gloves for the first time.

Now 70, the Palm Beach local will have his first fight in the ring tomorrow night in front of family and friends at Jupiters Hotel and Casino.

Mr Mittag grew up with the dream of becoming a boxer, but it was one he never pursued.

Decades later, with the help of Fight Like a Pro trainers and the life-changing experience of his granddaughter falling ill, Mr Mittag will fulfil his dream.

"My young granddaughter recently became very sick," he said. "I realised I was still fit and healthy and had to make the most of it."

Fight Like a Pro founder Gavin Topp said Mr Mittag was an inspiration to all the men at his gym.

Mr Mittag, who will find out who he is fighting on the night, said he was confident he would give whoever it was a "run for their money".

The Fight Like a Pro Night of Champions starts at 6.30pm tomorrow. Go to fightlikeapro.com.au



Paul Mittag, 70, is training for his first boxing match on the Fight Like a Pro card at Jupiters Casino tomorrow.

Photo: GLENN HAMPSON

Car show in a spin

World's top TV act driven from Coast by council bureaucracy

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INTERNATIONAL television car show *Top Gear* – which boasts 350 million viewers each week – has been driven from the Gold Coast because of a noise row.

The BBC-produced show wanted to use the Norwell Performance Driving Centre to film the Xbox One-sponsored V8 Supercar, which has been given a wildcard entry into the Bathurst race next month.

But the deal was never stamped, with the Gold Coast City Council unable to grant an exemption to a noise management plan in time.

The show will now be filmed at Warwick – four hours west of the Coast.

It is believed the show's stars – Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond – are staying on the Gold Coast.

Former V8 driver and Performance Driving Centre boss, Paul Morris, said losing the show was a "major blow" to the economy.

"The Gold Coast says it is open for business but we couldn't get the show here," he said.

"This is the biggest show and it would have showcased the Gold Coast to the rest of the world.

"Clarkson was going to drive the car himself.

"It's bureaucracy gone mad.

"The pen-pushers are strangling this town with red tape."

Mr Morris said he had contacted the council after a request from the managing director of Skaife Racing, Mark Skaife, for the Norwell precinct to host the crew.

"I was on to council immediately for an exemption, but they couldn't turn it around in the timeframe –

not even for this show," said Mr Morris.

The Norwell Noise Management Plan was put in place after several years of bitter feuding between residents and the driving centre.

An agreement was struck in court this year allowing certain cars to race at the track without exemption.

To race the Xbox One Commodore which is promoting the November release of both the new Xbox One console and racing game Forza Motorsport 5, an exemption was needed.

It is understood it was BBC's preference to film on the Gold Coast because they had filmed here before.

The request was lodged on September 7.

Area councillor Donna Gates said the initial request for the exemption was 24 hours but this was later pushed out to four days.

"There had been a long legal process in place and the 24 hours given was simply not enough time to make that exemption," said Ms Gates.

"It was an opportunity we didn't want to pass up but we had no choice because we have to comply with the plan."

Mr Morris said the noise management plan was "ridiculous".

"There are cars on the road which are louder than the cars we have in here," he said.

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Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

Gold Coast Hospital is moving

Gold Coast Hospital on Nerang Street Southport is moving to the new Gold Coast University Hospital this weekend.

In case of an emergency, call 000.

New street address:
1 Hospital Boulevard
Southport, QLD 4215

New phone number:
1300 74 4284

Getting there:

GCUH can be accessed by car, bus or taxi, and in the future light rail. Current bus timetables are available online:
www.translink.com.au

Parking:

Car parking is available in an on-site car park. Hospital staff and commercial rates apply, details are available online:
www.secureparking.com.au



To find out more, visit www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au