



Congress bid to bridge the gap

NABIL Edgton is the rock star of Australian bridge.

The 19-year-old from Sydney is on the Gold Coast this week with 2000 players from around the world for the Gold Coast Bridge Congress.

Edgton, one of Australia's youngest representatives in open bridge tournaments, was runner-up in the world championships last year.

He is part of a push to get more young people playing bridge in Australia and every competitor under 25 received free entry to the contest.

The congress, being played at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, wraps up on Saturday and organisers estimate \$4 million will be injected into the city's economy over eight days.

Organiser Therese Tully said competitors were spending about \$2000 each on accommodation, restaurants, theme parks and shopping.

"This year we're encouraging players to get out and see the Gold Coast including theme parks, beaches and shopping malls," she said.

Professional and amateur players gather on the Gold Coast for the bridge congress. Inset: Star player Nabil Edgton.

Photos: BRENDAN RADKE