

MARCH  
2018

NORTH  
QUEENSLAND **BULK PORTS** CORPORATION

# PORTLIFE

WEIPA  
ABBOT POINT  
MACKAY  
HAY POINT



## The big picture

Break bulk cargo grows as projects pick up in the Bowen Basin



### Under the shell

Bowen volunteers' latest turtle rescues



### Foodie focus

Menu favourites at Mackay Marina



### Cowboys return

Are you ready for the next round of Bulk Port Blitzes?



# #AsNorthQueenslandAs

**By now, you may have seen some of our #AsNorthQueenslandAs videos in your Facebook or Instagram feeds.**

We want to thank everyone who got involved in these shoots. From members of the kart club at Weipa to the PCYC at Bowen, the Mad Mountain Bike Club in Mackay or the Sarina Coconut Festival, it's the people that make the difference in our

port communities. And we're so pleased these videos celebrate their stories.

If you haven't seen them yet, search 'NQBP' on YouTube.

Meanwhile, you can go behind-the-scenes with our filming company on page 7, get to know our neighbours at the Mackay Marina on page 4, hear from a few port customers on page 2 and much more in this edition of PortLife.

It's going to be a big year and we hope you'll be part of it. Keep up-to-date via our social media channels or get in touch via our website anytime.

Until next edition, **the North Queensland Bulk Ports team!** ■



## Mental health champions

**AFL legend Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico and ex-AFL player Jake Edwards paid Mackay and Bowen a visit in February.**

Local sporting teams and families from across the region flocked to hear Jake's and Dipper's stories of tough experiences on and off the field. Heather Woods, president of Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce said they were proud to promote community wellbeing.

Dipper said "we're here to educate and help people get the support they need to never feel alone and isolated". Jake spoke about the journey that led him to found Outside the Locker Room, which works with young people to raise awareness and encourage candid conversations about mental health.

The events were presented by Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce, Harrup Park and Bowen Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with North Queensland Bulk Ports.

Remember, if you or someone you know is struggling, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. ■



ROBERT 'DIPPER' DIPIERDOMENICO, MAYOR GREG WILLIAMSON, MACKAY REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBER LIAISON OFFICER CHRISSEY EVANGELOU, NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT DR ROCHELLE MACDONALD, JAKE EDWARDS

## Getting schooled in sustainability

**Did you know we offer \$1,000 grants to help students and teachers set up sustainability and environmental projects?**

Last year we received more than 20 applications from schools across our port communities for the 2017 EcoPorts grants program. Ten schools from Mackay, Weipa and Bowen were selected to receive a \$1,000 grant each to put towards an environmental project.

At St Patrick's College in Mackay, students used their grant to purchase eco-friendly,

biodegradable cutlery, plates and straws to help reduce the amount of plastic waste created by the school.

Another successful project at St Joseph's Parish School in Weipa saw students create a community kitchen garden, taking guidance from the local indigenous residents.

And St Francis Xavier Mackay students learnt about landscaping and the value of using native plants in their native habitats.

Keep an eye on our website and social media for how to apply this year! ■



BUDDING GREEN THUMBS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER MACKAY



## ⤴ The break bulk stops here

**The BBC Emerald is a striking silhouette as it glides into Port of Mackay against the setting sun one fine December evening. On board, five MT4400AC trucks await discharge, bound for the Bowen Basin.**

The vessel is one of 13 break bulk shipments to come through the port since last July, carrying more than 40 trucks and heavy machinery items. It's a good news story for the region.

This shipment, in particular, gives locals something to smile about. The oversized mining vehicles are returning home after two years on loan in Bunbury, Western Australia.

They have travelled up the coast past Broome and across northern Australia, before sailing down the eastern shoreline of Queensland to support a pick-up in local projects. Other break bulk cargo has arrived from even further afield including Indonesia, China and Canada.

"The Port of Mackay really is the ideal gateway for cargoes bound for the Bowen and Galilee Basins," said Darren Fursman, North Queensland Bulk Ports' trade development manager.

"Government figures are showing the state's commodity exports increased meaningfully in 2017 and with that you get the commensurate growth in imports of equipment to service the industry."

A representative from Hastings Deering, the company that brought in the MT4400s, agreed.

"We are seeing an uptick in demand for our products and services in and around the Mackay and Bowen Basin area," he said.

"Having a port on the doorstep and connecting to key coal mining operations throughout the region is very valuable."

And the friendly North Queensland-nature of the people at the Port of Mackay does not go unnoticed.

Global account manager at CMX Global Logistics, Kira Seeley, who executed the shipment for Hastings Deering, praised the port team for their efforts.

"Dealing with ports all over the nation on a regular basis, we can honestly say that working in cooperation with the Port of Mackay is always a pleasure," she said. ■



# Destination focus: Mackay Marina

Right around the corner from the Port of Mackay, our Marina neighbours are the heart and soul of the waterfront precinct.



## Casu Jacks Café

**Owners:** Pauline Mordue and Garry Day

**How long have you been at the marina?** Four and a half years **Three words to describe your business:** Friendly little café **Your favourite time of day at the café?** Breakfast **Must-try on the menu:** Savoury mince eggs benedict.

• [facebook.com/casujacksmackay](https://facebook.com/casujacksmackay)



## Latitude 21, Clarion

**Head Chef:** Darren Deacon

**How long has Latitude 21 been at the marina?** 14 years **Three words to describe your restaurant:** Modern, diverse, innovative **Your favourite time of day at the restaurant?** Sunset by the pool **Must-try on the menu:** Our new crispy-skinned pork belly.

• [mackayaccommodation.com.au](https://mackayaccommodation.com.au)



## Kool Temptations

**Owners:** Tanya and Paul McKay

**How long have you been at the marina?** We just opened in December **Three words to describe your business:** Unique, exciting, refreshing **Your favourite time of day at the café?** Each day has something special, but we love the moment a new customer tries their first Bubble Tea **Must-try on the menu:** Iced or Milk Bubble Tea and Kakagori Shaved Ice.

• [facebook.com/kooltemptationsmackay](https://facebook.com/kooltemptationsmackay)



## George's Thai Restaurant

**Owner:** Neila Quintero

**How long have you been at the marina?** George's opened in 2006, but I bought the business in 2015, after working with George for years. I have big shoes to fill! **Three words to describe your business:** Authentic, beautiful, hospitable **Your favourite time of day at the café?** Saturday nights are always lively **Must-try on the menu:** Our betel leaf entrée is an original dish you won't find anywhere else.

• [georgesthaimackay.com.au](https://georgesthaimackay.com.au)



## The Deck, Steakhouse, Sails

**Owner:** Janet Paull; pictured, Lighthouse familiar face Tammy

**How long have you been at the marina?** 15 years this year **Three words to describe The Lighthouse:** Family-friendly, casual, for everyone **Your favourite time of day at Sails?** Late afternoon or early evening is the perfect time to come down for a drink **Must-try on The Deck menu:** Our steaks are famous for a reason! • [thedeckmarina.com.au](https://thedeckmarina.com.au)



## Breakwater Bar and Restaurant

**Owner:** Latasha Ford; pictured, waitress Tanya

**How long have you been at the marina?** We opened in August 2017 **Three words to describe your business:** Relax, dine, repeat! **Your favourite time of day at the café?** I would say Sunday lunch. Lots of families come in to soak up the views, listen to live music and generally enjoy each other's company **Must-try on the menu:** We recommend our seafood platter! Great size and well-priced.

• [breakwaterrestaurant.com.au](https://breakwaterrestaurant.com.au)



## Angelo's on the Marina

**Owner:** Angelo Leonforte

**How long have you been at the marina?** Almost since the start! A little over 17 years now **Three words to describe your restaurant:** Vivacious, flavoursome, relaxing **Your favourite time of day at the restaurant?** Sunrise and sunset. The views *are bellissimo* **Must-try on the menu:** Our pasta plates – our chefs make all our pasta from scratch, daily. And our olives, which we marinate ourselves fresh from the farm. • [angelosonthemarina.com.au](https://angelosonthemarina.com.au) ■



TRACEY BAZZO (CENTRE) AND THE BSTAR VOLUNTEER CREW

## Star volunteers make a difference

**Cyclones have a significant effect on our marine life and sea turtles can be among the hardest hit.**

All-too-often after wild weather events, they emerge on beaches along the North Queensland coast sick and injured.

The wake of Tropical Cyclone Yasi in 2011 prompted Bowen local Tracey Bazzo to establish the Bowen Sea Turtle Assessment and Rehabilitation (BSTAR) Centre.

Tracey and her BSTAR volunteers have since continued their rescue efforts, keeping an eye on Bowen beaches for sick and injured turtles, and bringing them back to the five-tank facility for monitoring.

“We currently have two turtles in our care – Debbie, the first turtle we rescued after Tropical Cyclone Debbie, as well as a little hawksbill Sam. We hope to release them as soon as they make a full recovery,” Tracey said.

To help BSTAR protect one of our most treasured species, North Queensland Bulk Ports has been a sponsor since 2013, donating more than \$20,000 to the cause.

“The funding has allowed me to purchase medication, vet advice and the best squid to feed the turtles,” Tracey said.

**“I am incredibly grateful for the support we have received from NQBP.” ■**



STELLA MARIS BRINGING SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER TO THE MCP BILBAO CREW



## Seafarers find their land legs

**We often take the simple things in life for granted – reading a new book, playing a game of pool or calling a loved one.**

For many seafarers though, who spend up to 10 months at a time out at sea with only the bare essentials, these are the kinds of things they long to do once they hit the shore.

And there to greet them once they arrive at the ports of Mackay and Hay Point is the friendly team from the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre, a not-for-profit community organisation that cares for the needs of visiting seafarers.

Stella Maris provides bus transport and a recreational centre where crews can relax and make use of phones, free internet, foreign exchange services and a library. The three dedicated bus drivers also transport crew to medical appointments and local shopping centres as needed.

Stella Maris Seafarers Centre Manager Peter Cahill said during 2017, the organisation provided services to around 550 vessels and 4,250 crew members.

“Stella Maris has been operating since the 1950s, and we are proud to provide visiting seafarers with the opportunity to relax and unwind from the pressures of being on board their ships for long periods,” Peter said.

“I remember one time I was doing a head count to take a crew back to their ship and I came up one person short.

“After a quick look around, I found the crew member, shoes off, sitting in the grass in the backyard of our centre.

**“He said he just wanted a few more minutes with the feeling of the grass beneath his feet.”**

“In that moment, it really hit home that these guys spend so long on ships without the everyday basics that we have. It’s quite humbling and we enjoy being able to give them some respite while they are in port.”

North Queensland Bulk Ports has been a long-time supporter of Stella Maris, donating more than \$2,000 each month towards the running of the buses. We’ve also sponsored their shoebox appeal for a number of years. Last Christmas nearly 700 shoeboxes filled with necessities and gifts were distributed to visiting crews.

If you’d like to find out more, just search ‘Stella Maris Seafarers Centre Mackay’ on Facebook! ■

# Marine monitoring

Did you know there are more than 58 different species of seagrass living in our oceans around the world?

At least 15 varieties of these important aquatic plants live off the Queensland coast within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Not only do they provide a home to a number of juvenile fish and crustaceans, and food for turtles and dugong, they are a valuable indicator of marine health.

That's why North Queensland Bulk Ports partners with James Cook University (JCU) to deliver a robust environmental monitoring program that tracks seagrass, coral and water quality.

Led by JCU's Tropical Water & Aquatic Ecosystem Research Centre (TropWATER), the program collects extensive data from waters around the ports of Mackay, Hay Point, Abbot Point and Weipa. Dr Michael Rasheed, TropWATER principal research scientist and co-director of the partnership, said the seagrass research initiative is one of the biggest in Australia.

"Some of the work which has stemmed from the monitoring we're doing in the ports has led to some pretty big advances in our knowledge of how seagrass works and how it grows," Michael said.

Michael began collaborating with the ports back in 1994 and the TropWATER team's work with North Queensland Bulk Ports now includes 18 water quality monitoring points, 23 seagrass meadows and 36 different sites of coral at six coastal islands.



TROPWATER PRINCIPAL RESEARCH SCIENTIST DR MICHAEL RASHEED AND NQBP SENIOR MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING KEVIN KANE

## What does seagrass tell us?

Like most plants, seagrass responds to changes in its surrounding environment. Changes in light, nutrients and water quality, for example, could affect the way seagrass grows.

"Seagrasses are a critical, coastal marine habitat and they perform some really important roles. It's essential to monitor because it's not a constant – there's seasonality, like a lot of plants, with some seagrasses in the ports for only a few months of the year," Michael said.

"If you want to make sure you've got healthy seagrass, you need to get a good handle on how it changes naturally and put that into perspective when there are potential impacts around."

## This information can help us to understand broader changes that may occur in our port areas.

## Long-term commitment

NQBP senior manager environment and planning Kevin Kane said the ports have a track record of taking a long-term strategic approach to environmental monitoring and research.

"Our work with TropWATER to date has provided valuable insights around seagrass assessment and protection, and demonstrates that ports and seagrasses can successfully co-exist," Kevin said.

As part of our commitment to environmental monitoring and sustainable development, we also released two reports at the end of last year on our progress in these areas:

**Your Ports is a guide to our environmental program, which includes information about our activities with JCU and other partners.**

**The Sustainability Review outlines the progress we have made in implementing our Sustainability Plan 2015+.**

[www.nqbp.com.au/sustainability](http://www.nqbp.com.au/sustainability)

## Cowboys back in town

The start of the 2018 footy season brings a new year of Bulk Ports Blitzes with our community partners the North Queensland Cowboys.

The Blitzes are two-day, action-packed programs that include Cowboys-hosted training sessions and school visits, using the personality power of the players to encourage kids to get involved and make the right choices for success.

The first Blitz will take place in Mackay on 26 and 27 March, followed by Bowen on 28 and 29 May.

Stay up-to-date on upcoming Blitz activities and locations via our Facebook page. ■



NAPRANUM PCYC KIDS TAKING PART IN THE BULK PORT BLITZ LAST YEAR



CREATIVE DIRECTOR DAMIEN HERSE PREPARES THE PERFECT SUNSET SHOT WITH NQBP PORT SUPERVISOR JOHN CLARK IN WEIPA



SMOKE CREATIVE CREW RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER OF THE TEAM AT CAPE HILLSBOROUGH



SMOKE CREATIVE DIRECTOR AND CREW DAMIEN HERSE, API IPO AND MATT HOWARD AT A SUGARCANE FARM IN KUTTABUL



## Behind the scenes

### You may have seen our new #AsNorthQueenslandAs videos. What went on behind-the-scenes?

We spoke to Ged Williams, business director at Smoke Creative, the production house that made the films, to find out.

“Ultimately, we wanted to capture the essence of what North Queensland is and remind people of the essential role the ports play,” Ged said.

“What started as a ‘day in the life’ concept turned into something truly special: a showcase of real people doing real things.”

Filmed and produced over the course of six months, the videos shine a light on some of the region’s undiscovered treasures.

And the local talent featured in the videos were more than willing to get on board.

“It all happened organically for the most part. Once the word spread that we were filming at certain events and locations in Mackay, Bowen, Abbot Point and Weipa, people just turned up – we couldn’t have asked for more,” Ged said.

“We met a police sergeant in Bowen while capturing the offshore superbos and she

arranged for us to film at the local PCYC the next day, and then film on her farm with quadbikes that afternoon. Nothing was a problem and the flow-on effect was remarkable – that was the one thing that stood out.”

Ged and the film crew also admired the NQBP workers who featured in the videos.

“What shone through with the NQBP team was their love and passion for the work they do.

**“We’re not a town, we’re a community.”**

“We met some absolute characters along the way, including Jumbo and Kel who have worked with the business for more than 30 years, as well as marine pilot Brendan O’Grady who linked us to the mountain bike club in Mackay.

“While we were filming, someone used the phrase ‘we’re not a town, we’re a community’. The stories are so authentic and it’s great when you live in the city to see this lovely slice of life.”

To see our #AsNorthQueenslandAs videos for yourself, search NQBP on YouTube. ■

## Community and port announcements

### Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for our latest updates.

#### Southern Breakwater restricted access

A reminder that vehicle access to the Southern Breakwater at Mackay Marina is restricted while repairs are under way. It remains open to pedestrians and cyclists.

#### Hay Point MOF works

Sections of rock wall at Half Tide Tug Harbour are undergoing repairs following damage sustained in Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Work began in January and is expected to complete in March.

#### Maintenance for Bowen Wharf

Maintenance works, including the removal of deteriorated fender piles, and repairs to select areas of the Tug Wharf and concrete pavement, are expected to take about six months, with only a few days where public access will be restricted. Works will have no impact on community events, including the Bowen Superboats.

#### Live air quality data on our website

We’re committed to long-term environmental monitoring at and around all our ports. And we want to share that information with our communities. So, we’ve launched live reporting of air quality data. Visit our website to find out more: [nqbp.com.au/sustainability/air-quality](http://nqbp.com.au/sustainability/air-quality).

#### New lead lights

Lead lights help ships manoeuvre more accurately into port, making life easier for marine pilots. Local contractors Comlek Group carried out a \$270,000 project to install six new lead lights at the Port of Mackay at the end of last year. New lead lights were also installed late last year at the Port of Abbot Point. ■

# Waste not want not

**ASX-listed waste management specialists Toxfree have had a base in Mackay Harbour for the past seven years, servicing customers throughout the region.**

We spoke to the facility's business unit manager Graeme Taylor—who has been in the waste biz for close to 30 years—to get a snapshot of the ins and outs of safe and sustainable waste management.

**Q: What services does Toxfree offer in Mackay?**

A: We look after every aspect of waste removal, including solid and liquid waste. We provide all sizes and types of bins, including cube front lifts; skips and hook lifts; waste chemical sampling; collection and disposal; tank cleaning and liquid waste removal. We are also proud suppliers of the Paintback scheme, where we divert unwanted paint and packaging from ending up in landfill and our waterways.

**Q: What industries do you service?**

A: From basic household and commercial waste removal right through to large-scale mining and construction projects – we do it all.

**Q: How many people work at the Mackay facility?**

A: We have nine permanent staff and more than 30 casual staff we use on a regular basis. They are one of the best groups of people you could ever work with and they're very passionate about what they do.

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about the history of the Mackay facility?**

A: Toxfree acquired Mackay Maintenance Services—a leading provider of industrial services to the resource sector—in 2011, which gave us exposure to the Bowen Basin.



JOHN BENHOLM AND GRAEME

The acquisition gave Toxfree the opportunity to expand on an already successful business, offering a wider range of services to the Mackay and Bowen areas.

**Q: How important is sustainability to Toxfree? What portion of waste is recyclable?**

A: Sustainability is an integral part of our daily operations. As a company, we pioneered the 'plasma arc incineration process', which allows previously landfilled chemicals and wastes that cannot be recycled to be incinerated at temperatures in excess of 10,000 degrees centigrade, leaving no residues whatsoever.

In Mackay, we strive to recycle as much of the collected waste streams as possible. We recycle more than 75% of all wastes collected, either by direct recycling into like-for-like products such as cardboard and used oils, or by breaking down wastes for use in the production of fuels, like paints and oil filters.

**Q: Do you have any particularly interesting projects at the moment?**

A: We're currently servicing the Byerwen coal mine camp where we supply all the waste services and drinking water to the 400-man campsite, which is something new for us. We are continually expanding and innovating to provide a complete service to our customers.

**Q: What are your top waste tips at home?**

A: Segregation of waste would be my number one tip: separating your recyclables from your general waste so less waste goes to landfill.

**Q: Hailing from the UK, how have you settled into life in Mackay?**

A: Mackay is such a laid back, friendly town with terrific weather! We've already been here for 18 months, but each weekend we become tourists and explore the region.

**Toxfree, 103 Spiller Avenue, Mackay ■**

**Stay in touch**  
nqbp.com.au

