

DEC  
2018

NORTH  
QUEENSLAND **BULK PORTS** CORPORATION

# PORTLIFE

WEIPA  
ABBOT POINT  
MACKAY  
HAY POINT

## Set sail

Budding sailors take part in the Sail Bowen regatta



### Record results

Increased trade across  
NQBP ports



### Partnerships

Working with  
traditional owners



### New CEO

Q&A with  
Nicolas Fertin

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



# Strong trade and positive trends

The 2017-18 financial year saw record trade for NQBP, as we completed several important infrastructure and operational improvement projects. The momentum continues in 2018-19.



THE FIRST RORO VESSEL VIKING DESTINY MAKES ITS WAY IN TO THE PORT OF MACKAY

## Celebrating our achievements

**It is with great pleasure that I bring you the final edition of *PortLife* for 2018 – and my first edition since joining North Queensland Bulk Ports as CEO just a few months ago.**

The stories and photos within these pages clearly show the enthusiasm and passion that exists around our ports and I am very proud to have taken on leadership of an organisation that contributes so greatly to Queensland's regional communities.

You can read a little about my background and priorities for NQBP overleaf and get our latest trade update on this page. This edition also has a great feature on NQBP's work with traditional owners across our ports.

In the months ahead, I will be focused on maintaining and accelerating momentum across the business, as well as seeking new opportunities to promote trade growth and supply chain efficiency for our ports and our terminal partners, tenants and customers.

On behalf of everyone at NQBP, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

**Nicolas Fertin**  
**CEO, NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS**



Over the year, 187.7 million tonnes of throughput passed through the four trading ports of Hay Point, Mackay, Abbot Point and Weipa — a 10% increase on 2016-17.

NQBP chief executive officer Nicolas Fertin said the team's commitment to facilitating trade, developing opportunities and investing in ports and people was clear.

"Each of our ports offers unique advantages to the state and, in the year ahead, we will continue to support regional growth and deliver value for our ultimate shareholders, the people of Queensland," Nicolas said.

Major infrastructure projects will continue to play a role in growing NQBP's capability. For example, new fenders and a wharf upgrade at the Port of Mackay mean roll-on roll-off (RORO) vessels can now ship cargo directly in and out of the port for the first time.

Meanwhile, at the Port of Hay Point, several productivity improvements were made in 2017-18. The port's dynamic under-keel clearance system was updated to further enhance planning capabilities and sailing drafts.

This clever technology, which Hay Point was the first port in the world to implement in 1993, enables vessels to use real-time meteorological data to more safely and efficiently plan and execute shipping movements, while maximising the amount of cargo they can carry.

### First quarter trade up 4%

Strong results have continued into the first quarter of the 2018-19 financial year, with throughput totalling more than 30 million tonnes across all four ports for the three months to end-September 2018.

Trade growth at Abbot Point is up 20% on the prior corresponding period. Similarly, the Port of Mackay has seen a 10% increase in throughput versus the same time last year, with fuel imports continuing to rise after record 2017-18 results and sugar exports back up after being hit last year by ongoing Tropical Cyclone Debbie impacts.

### Port of Weipa welcomes additional exporter

Small Australian resource company Green Coast Resources also recommenced shipping at the Port of Weipa in September, exporting around 90,000 tonnes of bauxite to China over three shipments.

The company has the potential to export up to 750,000 tonnes of bauxite per year, although this will depend on demand and various operational factors.

NQBP is pleased to be part of the project, which helps to diversify our port and provide additional local employment. ■





# Community clean-up

**One of Mackay's most dynamic wetland habitats recently received a helping hand.**

The Kommo Toera Trail is a one-kilometre boardwalk traversing almost every habitat found in the Port of Mackay conservation area.

More than 20 volunteers from NQBP, Mackay Regional Council, Yuwibara, Conservation Australia and Lendlease kindly offered their time for a half-day clean-up of the trail.

The group helped to remove broad-leaved pepper tree—an invasive and easily spread plant—by treating the stumps and disposing the green waste.

NQBP environmental coordinator Carl Ptolemy said the volunteer day was a huge success.

“Unfortunately the pepper tree has become quite dominant within Kommo Toera, so this initiative was the first step toward reclaiming

the natural beauty of the Melaleuca wetland by removing dense patches of the tree within the understory,” Carl said.

**“...this initiative was the first step toward reclaiming the natural beauty of the Melaleuca wetland.”**

Volunteers also listened to presentations from Mackay Regional Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Reef Catchments and Healthy Rivers, followed by a well-deserved barbecue.

Mackay Regional Council pest management officer Maria Ferraro said everyone learnt something from the clean-up.

“It was fantastic to work with and educate the community about restricted invasive matter and we look forward to being a part of the next Kommo Toera Trail volunteer day.” ■



NQBP SENIOR MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING KEVIN KANE, LENDLEASE CANELAND CENTRAL MARKETING MANAGER HOLLY COLLINS AND MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL PEST MANAGEMENT OFFICER MARIA FERRARO LEND A HELPING HAND

# Plain sailing >

**Streams of budding sailors took to the Front Beach foreshore in Bowen for the annual Sail Bowen regatta.**

All classes of dinghies and catamarans competed across eight races, vying for the championship title.

Port Denison Sailing Club commodore Gary Bruce said Sail Bowen was a huge success for the fourth consecutive year.

“Sailors travelled from as far south as the Gold Coast and as far north as Cairns to enjoy the off-beach racing over two days,” Gary said.

“The Port Denison Sailing Club greatly appreciated the support NQBP provided to make this event so successful. Spectators, including parents and family members, enjoyed watching the racing from the vantage point organised by NQBP on the Bowen Jetty.” ■





# Cowboys: end of season wrap



**Thousands of fans, young and old, heard from their real-life heroes, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, this year, thanks to NQBP's Bulk Port Blitzes.**

The Cowboys and NQBP staged four blitzes across port communities, including visits to Sarina, Mackay, Bowen and Weipa.

The two-day action-packed community program aims to connect and inspire locals with the help of Cowboys legends such as Matthew Bowen and Brent Tate, emerging first grade players and development officers from the club.

Day one typically includes a free training session for local junior rugby league players, followed by an evening of networking with local businesses and community leaders.

The Cowboys visit local schools on day two, where they share with students positive life lessons.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the next round of Bulk Port Blitzes in 2019. ■



COWBOYS LEGEND MATTHEW BOWEN INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION AT THE SARINA JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE SESSION



## Voice of the people important for port progress

**Community Reference Groups (CRGs) at the ports of Mackay and Hay Point held their first meetings in November, providing a valuable link between the port authority and its communities.**

Following an application process, 28 representatives were appointed across the two CRGs on behalf of Mackay Regional Council, local business and industry, and indigenous, environment and community groups.

Although recently rejuvenated, our CRGs have been running for almost 20 years and provide a forum for NQBP and community members to discuss and raise important issues relating to port operations and development.

For more information about our CRGs, visit the NQBP website. ■



HAY POINT CRG MEMBERS



MACKAY CRG MEMBERS

# Getting to know our new CEO



NQBP CEO NICOLAS FERTIN TOOK THE REINS IN SEPTEMBER

**NQBP's new chief executive officer, Nicolas Fertin, started in September. After a busy few months, we caught up with Nicolas to get his first impressions and learn a bit about his story.**

## **How long have you been in Australia?**

I came to Australia from France with Mars (yes, the chocolate bar maker!) more than 20 years ago. I have an engineering background and at the time I had diverse roles in supply chain and logistics, information and communications technology, and organisational transformation across Asia. In fact, Mars manufacture many different food products and optimising the supply chain was becoming more critical to compete in a world market.

**Where was the first place you lived when you arrived?** After I was offered the amazing opportunity to relocate from Europe to Australia, my UK colleagues had promised my wife and young daughter a beautiful beach lifestyle, but we were first based in Ballarat ... Although this is one of the coldest places in Australia, we found the weather much nicer than in northern Europe and lived there for seven years. We very much enjoy the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of Australia's regional towns and their communities.

## **Tell us about your career journey.**

After Mars, I joined P&O Ports as Global Technical Services Director, responsible for all infrastructure operations and development across 26 ports in 12 countries. Although based in both Melbourne and London, I ended up relocating with my wife to

India and Dubai. I really enjoyed managing an international team with lots of different cultures. I also spent more than six years working for Pacific National, Australia's largest rail operator that provides freight services throughout Australia. Before joining NQBP, I was CEO at Southern Ports in Western Australia for three years.

**What career achievement are you most proud of?** I am proud of having left behind organisations that are safer with stronger capabilities and connections with their customers, communities and stakeholders. I am very proud of the work accomplished at P&O Ports, where all "fall from heights" incidents were eliminated within 18 months. It is critically important to me that everyone returns home safely every day.

**What have been your first impressions at NQBP?** I've been very impressed with the passion our people show for our ports and our port communities. From our operations crew to our environment team, our office staff and everyone in between, there is a real commitment to setting a global standard in sustainable trade and port development.

## **What are you most excited about?**

Because we have accountability for four different ports, I think we have an amazing opportunity to share knowledge and help shape future prosperity throughout Queensland. Each of our ports offers key strategic advantages for the state and it is

our role to bring these opportunities to life. The world is changing fast and we have a role to play in adapting our ports and shaping the supply chain they are part of.

## **Can you describe a typical day as NQBP CEO?**

I don't know if there's such a thing! I enjoy spending as much time as I can at each of our four ports, so if I'm in Mackay I might get up early and go for a walk along our beautiful breakwater before heading out to the port to meet some of our port users. If I'm up in Weipa, I'll make a few early site visits before the day gets too hot and then spend the afternoon talking with as many local stakeholders as possible. And if I'm lucky, I'll finish up with fresh barramundi for dinner!

## **Do you have any unusual hobbies?**

I am still a bit French and love cooking a nice meal. Sorry – this is not very unusual! I used to do a lot of kite surfing but my body (and my doctor!) no longer permit such activities. I stay active with running, gym and some tennis and, being in Queensland, I hope to get back into sailing.

## **When I was five years old I wanted to be a ...**

fireman. With my four brothers and one sister, we lived opposite a fire station, so I wanted to join them. We lived in Caen, a town in Normandy in northern France, which was destroyed during the D-Day landing. I still have vivid memories of watching the fire trucks being called to help the army remove unexploded ordnance. ■

## Studying ports

**In 2018, we launched a unique new program with our long-term environmental monitoring partners James Cook University.**

Two JCU students, Ella Smyth and Kelly Sissons, will spend four weeks immersed in field activities with the university's research teams and NQBP at its Mackay offices.

The students have been awarded a \$2,000 bursary, as well as full accommodation as needed.

NQBP director sustainability and external relations Gary Campbell believes the program is a terrific way for students to see how science can be applied in industry.

"Few opportunities exist in Australia for university students to gain real-world experience in port environmental management," Gary said.

Dr Michael Rasheed, a principal research scientist at JCU, said the internship gave an opportunity for students to realise the significance of what's learnt in the classroom on a day-to-day basis

"As researchers, it's incredibly rewarding to see our work inform port operations and strategic planning and we're thrilled our students can now experience this too," Michael said. ■



# Partnering with traditional owners



JESS VAKAMEILALO AND NQBP'S JULIE KEANE AT THE PORT OF ABBOT POINT

**NQBP's long-standing relationships with indigenous representatives have helped guide its approach to cultural heritage, port management and development for more than 10 years.**

In 2018, we've worked closely with traditional owners in each of our locations to kick off some exciting new projects and achieve important milestones.

## Land management and mentoring with the Juru People

In September, we committed to a two-year contract with Juru Enterprises Limited (JEL) for land management services at Abbot Point.

The Juru People are the Native Title holders of the land at the Port of Abbot Point. NQBP signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Juru in 2012, although we first began working with them in 2005.

Since signing the ILUA, the Juru have monitored and consulted prior to any development happening at the port. This year we were pleased to strengthen our partnership by engaging JEL for the land management contract, which includes weed management across the area.

A team of nine local indigenous and non-indigenous workers, aged 18 to 34, now help look after port land.

The team is led by 33-year-old Jessica Vakameilalo, who went to school in nearby Bowen State High School and has grown up with a strong understanding of the importance of the land around the port to her people.

NQBP has also agreed to bring forward funding allocated through the ILUA to facilitate business growth for JEL, which aims to expand its land management services and client base throughout the Bowen region.

Juru Enterprises Limited manager Ricky Dallachy said the Juru's long-term collaboration with NQBP delivers valuable benefits to both parties.

"We're able to assist NQBP with our deep knowledge on country and I'm personally very excited about the opportunities NQBP can potentially offer our young people in mentoring, career progression and development," he said.

NQBP's first mentorship will take place when Jessica joins our environment team in the Mackay office for a week.

NQBP principal development adviser Julie Keane said she was looking forward to welcoming more young indigenous people in various capacities around our ports in the future.

"At the heart of our partnership with the Juru is a commitment to sharing and valuing each other's knowledge and expertise," she said.

"Having Jessica in our office is also a terrific way for her to pass on some of her insights to our employees, who might not otherwise get a chance to learn from her experience on country."

## Cultural heritage with the Yuwibara People

After signing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Yuwibara People for the ports of Mackay and Hay Point, NQBP conducted a reconnaissance survey with traditional owners in July.

Yuwibara representatives joined NQBP planning and environment team members, as well as a qualified archeologist, for a three-day field survey that included a helicopter flight over Dudgeon Point and the Mount Hector conservation area and a walk through the area just north of the Port of Mackay.

NQBP media and community engagement adviser Kirsty Mugridge accompanied the group.

"It was really interesting to observe the land around the port through the eyes of a traditional owner and notice significant elements I wouldn't normally see," she said.

The traditional owners identified several different types of bush tucker, for example, in the land around the port.

"We ate some green ants, a few berries and wild grapes," Kirsty said. "And they pointed out plants that definitely shouldn't be eaten, too."

Julie noted the diversity of ecosystems.

"You really noticed the difference between the top of the dunes and the swales.

"Atop the dunes, it is hot and dry. But as soon as you walk down into the swales they're beautiful and cool. There's lichens, moss and really lush vegetation. It's a whole different habitat," she said.

Our next step working with the Yuwibara People will be to produce a cultural heritage induction for the port areas, Julie said.

## Touring the Cape with the Alngith People

In September, the NQBP field team also travelled to Weipa to complete a cultural heritage assessment on country with the Alngith People.

NQBP signed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Alngith, Wik and Wik Way people in 2004, relating to the south channel area at the Port of Weipa.

It's important to note that cultural heritage can apply to both land and water, both of which may contain elements of cultural significance or story sites for traditional owners. ■



REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ALNGITH PEOPLE ON COUNTRY WITH NQBP FIELD TEAM



# Loco for coconuts

**NQBP was proud to sponsor the stage at the third annual Sarina Beach Coconut Festival, a popular day out on the local events calendar.**

The free family festival saw around 5,000 people take part in kite flying, camel rides, bubble soccer and sand art, and of course, coconut tree climbing! Coconuts were also front and centre at the several food stalls on offer.

Event organiser and founder Meaghan Thompson said she was overwhelmed with the positive feedback from the community and has found the whole experience incredibly rewarding.



“The idea behind the Coconut Festival is to achieve recognition for the Sarina Beach area. It started within our local region but the festival has become highly recognised interstate as well,” Meaghan said.

**“We’ve seen people travelling from further afield and staying longer in Sarina to attend the festival...”**

“We’ve seen people travelling from further afield and staying longer in Sarina to attend the festival — it’s fantastic for tourism and it’s something fun for the local people in our region too.

“We’re so pleased to have had North Queensland Bulk Ports’ support for the third year running.” ■

# Pedal power

**Cyclists put the pedal to the metal for the annual River 2 Reef Ride in Mackay to raise funds for two local charities.**

Around \$60,000 was raised for RACQ CQ Rescue and Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association thanks to more than 1,500 riders who took to the road.

NQBP sponsored the ride for another year, while our emergency manager Anthony Lee completed the gruelling 135-kilometre event, finishing in a respectable four-and-a-half hours.

“This was my first River 2 Reef Ride and it was fantastic to see so many people on their bikes supporting two great causes.

“The volunteers who supported the riders were also outstanding,” Anthony said.

“We had a good bunch of riders who stuck together for the whole 135-kilometre ride, which made it more enjoyable. Riding that distance solo is not much fun.”

**“... it was fantastic to see so many people on their bikes supporting two great causes.”**

While Anthony’s choice event is the triathlon where he averages around 200 kilometres on the bike per week in training, he looks forward to competing and representing NQBP in the River 2 Reef Ride again next year. ■



NQBP EMERGENCY MANAGER ANTHONY LEE  
CYCLING FOR A CAUSE





# Breaking new ground

**ZEMEK Engineering has had a solid base in Mackay for more than 40 years, working with mining giants to improve the performance of heavy equipment.**

We had a chat with co-owner and managing director Paul Hockings to discuss the ins and outs of equipment refurbishment and innovation.

## **How did ZEMEK Engineering come to be?**

ZEMEK Engineering was started by Dud Zemek in 1975 when the mining industry was in its early development phase in the Bowen Basin. Dud had his workshop set up in an old shed in Carlyle Street in Mackay, where he was also locksmithing on the side. He eventually decided to retire so I bought the business with Wayne Short in 1990.

## **What do you offer your customers?**

We started off as a refurbishing business, repairing dragline components and other mining equipment. It was a solid market for us but we found that when the mining industry was doing particularly well, organisations would prefer to buy new equipment instead. So in the late nineties, ZEMEK branched out into both markets and we have broadened our scope of mobile plant equipment to include rope shovel, loader, digger and bulldozer components.

## **Have you completed any interesting projects recently?**

We've developed some innovative parts using advanced polymers, replacing steel and bronze bushing. Used in a range of heavy mining



OPERATIONS SALES EXECUTIVE RAY KEMP, MANAGING DIRECTOR PAUL HOCKINGS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TONY MUSCAT INSPECT A SET OF REFURBISHED HOIST CHAINS USED ON DRAGLINE BUCKETS

equipment, polymers are self-lubricating, prolonging availability to the machine should the lube lines be damaged.

## **What sets you apart from your competitors?**

We're always looking for innovation and improvement. We say, "we stand behind our product and beside our customers". We also have a solid team who go beyond expectation.

**"We stand behind our product and beside our customers."**

## **What has kept the business going for more than 40 years?**

It's the people. We've had changes over the years, but everyone who has worked at ZEMEK

has had the right intent. We've also moved with the times and continue to innovate.

## **What's your background?**

I've owned a lot of businesses in a range of industries – hotels, manufacturing, hospitality, even a drive-in picture theatre! I never thought I had an engineering bone in my body but I absolutely love it.

## **What do you love about living in Mackay?**

I've only lived in Mackay for the last three years, but it's a great environment. You can make it as quiet or as lively as you like, without the hustle and bustle of city life.

**ZEMEK Engineering, 11 Presto Avenue, Mackay Harbour ■**

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

