

APRIL  
2019

NORTH QUEENSLAND **BULK PORTS CORPORATION**

# PORTLIFE

WEIPA  
ABBOT POINT  
MACKAY  
HAY POINT



## Big cargo

The Höegh Trapper arrives at the Port of Mackay

PHOTO CREDIT: HOSSEIN SAADAI



### Spotlight on marine habitats

Seagrass monitoring dashboard goes live



### On your marks

Competitors gear up for Cruisin' the Coast



### Cowboys legends touch down

NQBP Bulk Port Blitzes are underway

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



# Message from the CEO



## It has been a busy start to the year at NQBP and in our communities.

The state has been lashed by wild weather, from cyclones in the Gulf to heavy rain along the east coast and floodwaters spreading unprecedented destruction across western Queensland.

This was my first experience of a Queensland “wet season” and it demonstrated to me the real meaning of the Queensland spirit.

While our ports were closed and re-opened multiple times, we were spared any major damage.

However, the tales of heroism and resilience in the face of utter devastation and heartbreak have been inspiring.

Among the heroes were our community partners, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys. It was great to see footage of professional rugby league players helping to rescue residents from rising waters.

We are proud of our ongoing partnership with the Cowboys and I enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with some of the players and staff last month when they visited Mackay for the first Bulk Port Blitz of the year. The Cowboys will visit Weipa, Hay Point and Bowen in the coming months, as part of our partnership.

See page 5 for more details.

Supporting our port communities is important to us. Among the pages of this edition of PortLife, you will read about other community events and initiatives that we’re proud to be part of.

You’ll also see the great work that our teams are doing to boost trade through our ports and provide opportunities for our customers.

For more from NQBP, follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

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

## Grand arrival

### BIG things are happening at the Port of Mackay — literally!

In March, one of the world’s largest roll-on roll-off (RoRo) vessels called at the port, carrying cargo destined for the Bowen Basin.

Hundreds of people lined the Southern Breakwater to watch the Höegh Trapper arrive in port. At almost 200 metres long and with the capacity to carry up to 8,500 cars, the Höegh Trapper is one of the world’s largest automobile RoRo vessels.

On board the vessel were brand new truck trays, which were being shipped directly from the manufacturer in Freeport, Texas, to be assembled in Paget before making their way to the Bowen Basin. Mining trucks from Western Australian were also part of the heavy load.

The Höegh Trapper was the third RoRo vessel to visit the Port of Mackay in the past six months. And more big ships are on the horizon.

NQBP CEO Nicolas Fertin said the organisation was committed to investing in and upgrading port facilities to attract new trade opportunities.

“In the past 18 months, we have invested almost \$10 million in infrastructure upgrades at the Port of Mackay,” Nicolas said.

“This has enabled us to attract large, international RoRo vessels to the port, which then has a flow-on effect for the community. Large mining equipment can now be shipped directly to the region and assembled locally, providing the opportunity for local jobs growth.”

The Höegh Trapper is now making the long journey to Asia and Europe.

THE HÖEGH TRAPPER WAS AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT AS SHE MADE HER WAY INTO THE PORT OF MACKAY.



## HÖEGH TRAPPER FAST FACTS

**Built in  
2016**

**199.9  
metres long  
36.5  
metres wide**

**Deck  
space of  
71,400  
square metres**

**Carrying  
capacity of  
8,500  
car units**

**Gross  
tonnage of  
77,000  
megatonnes**

### Record fuel trade

Alongside RoRo cargo, the Port of Mackay has also been busy notching up record trade when it comes to fuel. In December, a monthly record of 215.3 million litres passed through the port on its way to our region — pipping the previous highest monthly throughput figure recorded in June last year.

**In fact, the fuel trade in the first half of this financial year hit almost 988 million litres. With around 92% of the port's fuel import being diesel, the port is not only helping to power the car you drive, but also the mining activity in our region.**

### New trade opportunities

Regional businesses, particularly those in the mining and agricultural industries, now have a new storage area at the Port of Mackay to make the trading of bulk materials faster and easier.

The new common-user handling area will provide businesses that need to import or export bulk materials—such as minerals, timber, scrap metal, sugar and grains—the opportunity to get their product to market earlier, grow trade and, potentially, lead to the development of their own storage and handling facilities.

Ideal for one-off, short-term or emerging bulk material trades, the area has a large storage capacity — enough space to store around 48,000 tonnes of grain. ■

# On the run

**The time of year is fast approaching when we pull up our socks, tie our laces and hit the road to raise much-needed funds for the Leukaemia Foundation.**

The 11th annual Mackay Marina Run will take place on Sunday 2 June, and will showcase the best of what Mackay has to offer — from the newly repaired Southern Breakwater, to the beautiful Pioneer River.

Last year, the event raised more than \$50,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation's local Mackay branch. An incredible \$320,000 has been raised since its inception in 2009.

Race director Tim Magoffin said they're expecting another bumper crowd for this year, with close to 500 out-of-towners travelling the distance to compete.

"We're pleased to have Mackay Marina Run ambassadors and running legends Pat Carroll

and Benita Willis supporting us this year. We also have more than 120 volunteers and local service clubs helping out on the day — we couldn't do it without them," Tim said.

NQBP is once again sponsoring the 21.1km Half Marathon event, which starts at the Marina and meanders inland past the Big Banana, Gooseponds, Bluewater Boardwalk and back towards the Marina to finish.

"The NQBP team has been fantastic supporters of this event, especially throughout the repairs of the Southern Breakwater. They have really bent over backwards to make sure everything was set up for us," Tim said.

There is still time to register for the 3km Junior Dash, 5km Fun Run, 5km Corporate Challenge, 8km Run or 21.1km Half Marathon. Visit [www.mackaymarinarun.com](http://www.mackaymarinarun.com) to sign up. Online registrations close Friday 31 May. ■



EAGER RUNNERS GEAR UP AT LAST YEAR'S MACKAY MARINA RUN.

## > Larger-than-life legacy

**With support from NQBP, the Slade Point water tower is set to undergo a facelift as part of a creative resurgence throughout Mackay to help boost tourism.**

Backed by the Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch Community Group and Mackay Regional Council, the water tower project will soon see the region's most iconic wildlife — the humpback whale and black cockatoo — emblazoned on the structure, when local artist Cara Saunders puts paintbrush to concrete.

The Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch Community Group raised an incredible \$30,000 to fund the project through a number of grants, including \$5,000 through NQBP's Port Communities Program, to help turn the water tower's blank canvas into art that locals and visitors can appreciate. Dulux has also come on board to supply the paint.

Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch Community Group member Tammy Laval said she reached out to Cara to tackle the large-scale artwork after she saw her striking whale paintings. "We then realised she was originally from the Mackay area, so we absolutely had to get her involved," Tammy said.

The design will also reflect the local indigenous community and incorporate the elements of sky, sea and land.

It is hoped this water tower will be just one of many pieces of infrastructure in the region to receive a new lick of paint, with plans to form a tourist art trail from the reef to the forest. ■



LOCALS PASS THE SLADE POINT WATER TOWER ON THE TRIPLE TREAT WALKING TRAIL. PHOTO COURTESY OF BLANKA CROSSAN.



THE PORT OF MACKAY TOUR INCLUDED AN OVERVIEW OF PORT SURVEILLANCE AND SECURITY.

## Connecting with community

**Our Community Reference Groups (CRGs) at the ports of Mackay and Hay Point continue to gain momentum as they explore issues relating to port operations and development.**

At their most recent meeting, members heard the latest on trade throughput, break bulk operations, sponsorships and donations, and Hay Point maintenance dredging.

Members from the Port of Mackay CRG also had the opportunity to discover more about the port, with an informative tour earlier this year. The group learnt about port boundaries, accountabilities, how the port operates and opportunities for trade growth.

Importantly, each CRG has \$5,000 in sponsorship funds available to support an initiative that will deliver an environmental, social or cultural benefit to their port community. Members of the community are encouraged to put their ideas forward to their local CRG member, or to contact NQBP via [communications@nqbp.com.au](mailto:communications@nqbp.com.au) by 31 May 2019. The proposed initiative is required to meet the sponsorship and donations guidelines available on the NQBP website. ■

## Cowboys blitz our port communities

Now that the NRL season has well and truly kicked off, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys are set to stage the next round of Bulk Port Blitzes in Weipa, Hay Point and Bowen.

The Blitzes are a two-day, action-packed community program run by Cowboys legends, such as Matthew Bowen and Brent Tate, alongside development officers from the club and in partnership with NQBP.

This partnership builds on both organisations' shared values of leadership, engagement and integrity, and a strong focus on indigenous communities and children.



KICKING GOALS WITH STUDENTS FROM QUEENS BEACH SCHOOL IN BOWEN.

The Blitzes feature a junior skills session, school visits and an event for local community and business leaders. As well as skills on the field, students have the opportunity to learn first-hand how success is built on commitment and making the right choices off the field.

The Cowboys visited Mackay last month and have their sights set on Weipa on 27 and 28 May, Hay Point on 24 and 25 June and Bowen on 13 and 14 August.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more information about the upcoming Blitzes. ■

## Supporting our communities

Engaging and supporting our port communities to help them achieve success is one of our key priorities and part of our everyday operations. Here are a few more snapshots of our recent community sponsorships, totalling more than \$3,500.

### SLADE POINT RUGBY UNION CLUB

New maintenance equipment for the Club, including a mower and whipper snipper, will help to keep Cathy Freeman Oval looking neat and tidy for game day. For decades, the 7.5 acre recreational space has been maintained by volunteers.

### INSPIRE ADVENTURE FILM FESTIVAL

The 21 Degrees South Multisport (21DS) Inspire Adventure Film Festival will be held in Mackay on 11 May. 21DS is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation that provides unique, fun and challenging opportunities and events to inspire an active community. Food and beverage proceeds from the event were donated to Cystic Fibrosis Queensland.

### ZONTA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BRUNCH

The Zonta International Women's Day Brunch, which was held on 10 March, helped to raise more than \$20,000 for the Mackay Women's Centre, Domestic Violence Resource Centre and the George Street Neighbourhood Centre. The Zonta Club of Mackay empowers women through service and advocacy.

### WEIPA RUNNING FESTIVAL

Runners in Weipa can also put feet to pavement on 21 July when the Weipa Running Festival comes to town. Budding athletes are encouraged to participate in the 2.5km, 5km, 10km or 21km runs, or the gruelling 42km event, all in aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. To register, visit [www.weiparunningfestival.org.au](http://www.weiparunningfestival.org.au). ■



REPRESENTATIVES FROM BENDIGO BANK SARINA, SARINA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB, WILMAR SUGAR, SARINA HANDRAILS AND LATTICE, CANCER COUNCIL QUEENSLAND AND CROYDENS CONTRACT CARRIERS JOIN FORCES TO LAUNCH CRUISIN' THE COAST.

## Cruisin' the Coast

Another run to mark on the calendar is the inaugural Cruisin' the Coast Sarina Beach Fun Run, set to hit our shores Sunday 5 May.

Competitors can choose from five events — a 3km, 5km and 10km run, a 5km team event and a 5km walk.

Funds raised from Cruisin' the Coast will be donated to the Cancer Council, as well as the Sarina Surf Life Saving Club, which plays a significant role in the local community.

"Like most small clubs, we're hoping to raise funds to contribute to the ongoing operation of the club," said Sarina Surf Lifesaving Club Deputy President Kent Street.

"We get to appreciate the beautiful beachfront every day, so we thought, why not share it in the form of a fun run?"

Kent is hoping to see up to 300 locals compete across the three events.

NQBP is proud to sponsor the 5km and 10km beach runs, which will make the most of the scenic Sarina beachfront and inlet. To register, visit [www.sarinafunrun.com.au](http://www.sarinafunrun.com.au). Registrations close Friday 3 May. ■

# Online dashboard: Seagrass monitoring

**NQBP has launched its second environmental online dashboard. This dashboard allows the public to monitor the health of seagrass communities across our four ports.**

Seagrasses are a critical coastal marine habitat and a key indicator of overall marine health.

In one of our longest-running environmental programs, NQBP conducts surveys every year, covering more than 30,000 hectares of seafloor.

The data we gather has proved to be an invaluable resource that enables us to track distribution, density and seasonality of the seagrass. It also allows us to establish naturally occurring fluctuations and determine how

external factors may potentially impact these important marine habitats.

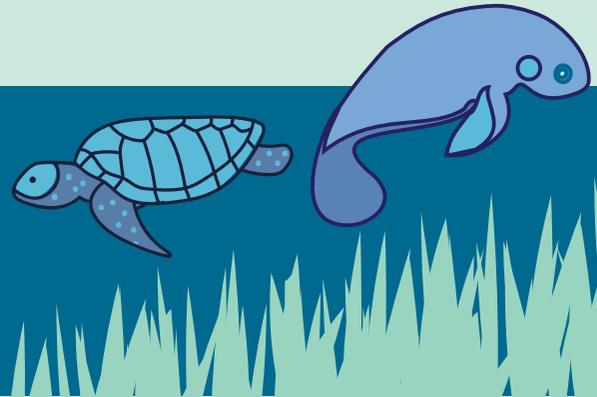
“Conservation of the natural environment is at the forefront of NQBP’s business planning and operations,” said NQBP senior manager environment and planning Kevin Kane.

**“Through our partnership with scientists at James Cook University (JCU), we have been able to collect data on seagrass growth around our port sites for more than 20 years.”**

In addition to informing NQBP environmental activities and port operations, the seagrass data has contributed to advances in an international body of seagrass knowledge through JCU’s academic research and regional report cards developed to help monitor the health of our waterways.

The seagrass monitoring dashboard complements our air quality monitoring data which went live last year. To see the seagrass monitoring dashboard in action, visit our website. ■

**DID YOU KNOW** seagrass meadows provide crucial habitats for fish, dugongs and turtles? They are a major food source for dugongs and green turtles and provide nurseries for other marine animals, including fish.



## Internship program

Two JCU students were recently provided an environment-focused internship to learn the ropes from our team based at NQBP’s Mackay office. We had a chat with intern Ella Smyth about her real-world experience.

### What are you currently studying at JCU?

I’m in my third year of Marine Science.

### Why did you apply for the internship?

I am very passionate about the environment and sustainability. I saw this internship as an opportunity to gain practical experience and learn how science can be applied to achieve better environmental outcomes.

### What were you hoping to gain from the internship?

Industry experience in environmental management, and more specifically, how ports operate to ensure minimal impact on the marine environment.

### What did you get up to during the internship?

I had the opportunity to undertake a range of activities throughout my week at NQBP, including going out in the field, conducting environmental audits, vegetation mapping, and tours of the Port of Mackay, Hay Point and quarantine waste facility.



NQBP SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR NICOLA STOKES AND JCU INTERN ELLA SMYTH.

I also had the opportunity to assist with data processing and development approvals, and observe a number of meetings.

### What was the most interesting thing you learnt?

I was surprised at the breadth of environmental elements that are addressed by NQBP. The work was varied and it was interesting to see the different programs NQBP is involved in, such as ambient water and air quality monitoring, as well as seagrass and coral monitoring.

### Would you encourage others to take part in this opportunity?

Yes, for sure! There aren’t many opportunities to gain industry experience while studying an undergraduate degree in science, and this program is particularly valuable due to the knowledge and expertise of NQBP’s environment team.

### What are your plans for the future?

I would definitely like to be involved in port environmental management, as well as other marine industries, such as fisheries or tourism. My overarching goal is to improve environmental outcomes for our oceans, and this is what drives me to pursue a career in this field. ■

# Maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point

## NQBP is conducting maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point from late March until early May 2019.

Maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point is critical for maintaining port infrastructure. Just like roads, shipping channels require maintenance to keep ports operating effectively.

Maintenance dredging has only been carried out at the port twice in the past 10 years — in 2008 and 2010. In 2017, Tropical Cyclone Debbie significantly added to the accumulation of sediment within navigational areas of Hay Point.

The 40-day maintenance work will occur in existing navigational areas. Future maintenance dredging programs are expected to be of shorter duration.

The permits allow for the long-term, sustainable management of maintenance dredging at the Port and will safeguard the efficient operations of one of Australia's most critical trading ports.

NQBP's extensive environmental assessment reports found the risks to sensitive marine environments as a result of the maintenance dredging were low.

Environmental monitoring and management measures will be in place throughout the program to minimise the impact on the marine environment. Real-time water quality information gathered from water logger sites at Round Top Island, Victor Island, Slade Island and Freshwater Point is available on our website [nqbp.com.au](http://nqbp.com.au).

## Where is material being placed?

The built-up sediment, which comes from the sea, will be relocated at sea, six kilometres away from port operations.

## Will there be any community impacts?

Maritime Safety Queensland has issued a Notice to Mariners advising that unauthorised ships are prohibited from anchoring, berthing, mooring or operating within the water declared within the approved material relocation area during the works. The dredge vessel, as well as support vessels, have restricted manoeuvring capability. Local and visiting boaties are asked to take extra care during this time, take note of the warning flags and lights and stay well clear of these vessels. Your cooperation and understanding are appreciated. ■

## What is maintenance dredging?

Maintenance dredging involves relocating natural sediment which travels along the coast and accumulates over the years where our shipping operation occurs.

## How is it managed?

Activities to manage marine sediment in ports are highly regulated. Any dredging and dredged material placement is subject to detailed regulatory approval processes under international conventions, and under national and state legislation.

Commonwealth permits to conduct maintenance dredging at the Port of Hay Point were granted to NQBP following a thorough consultation and assessment process. The 10-year permits, issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, carry conditions that protect the marine environment.





# Shedding light on storage

Keeping treasured belongings safe and secure is no mean feat, but the team at Mackay Marina Secure Storage is doing just that. We caught up with owners Alan and Penny Wallace to talk about their state-of-the-art facility.

## How did Mackay Marina Secure Storage come to be?

Our livelihood is beef production, and with the crash of the live cattle trade industry, we needed to diversify and do something else. After regular visits to Mackay, we saw there was a need for people to store their boats and caravans in a secure location. We'd never done anything like storage before — we're cattle people. But here we are three years later! It has been a great learning curve for us.

## Why did you position the business by the harbour?

Alan: I've been associated with the harbour all my life. My uncle was secretary and treasurer of the Mackay Harbour Board from its inception until the 1960s, so we've spent a lot of time down here. We also have a unit by the harbour and noticed many of the other units needed extra storage. Almost all of our sheds are full!

## What storage options are available?

We have 52 secure storage sheds, ranging from 6x3 metres up to 12x4 metres. The smaller storage sheds can store anything from household items, office records and bicycles. The larger sheds are suitable for campervans, 4WDs and trailer boats. We also have an open tie down area where people can store their boat or car, and even advertise them for sale. Short, medium and long-term leases are available with 24/7 secure swipe card access.



ALAN AND PENNY WALLACE.

## Who makes up the Mackay Marina Secure Storage team?

While we are the owners, Mike Battilana and the team at Marina Realty manage the facility and they do a fantastic job working with our customers to find them the best storage solution.

## What's one of the strangest things you've seen someone store?

We don't see too much actually, but we've let people take the dividing wall out from between two sheds to create an even bigger storage area for their prized possessions.

## Have you always lived in the Mackay area?

We both grew up in Mackay, but we've been living in Clarke Creek, east of Middlemount, for a number of years to run our cattle property. Cattle and horses have always been our main industry.

## What do you love about Mackay?

Mackay is homely and it has the best climate on the coast. It's also so easy to travel around with the harbour only ten minutes from town.

**MACKAY MARINA SECURE STORAGE  
LOT 58, RON SEARLE DRIVE, MACKAY  
HARBOUR ■**

Stay in touch  
nqbp.com.au

