

JULY
2018

NORTH QUEENSLAND **BULK PORTS** CORPORATION

PORTLIFE

WEIPA
ABBOT POINT
MACKAY
HAY POINT

Cowboys back in town

North Queensland legends
inspire the next generation



Future proof

Plans to grow at the
Port of Mackay



New walkway

Hay Point's floating
walkway open



Pilot training

See inside a
ship simulator

nqbp.com.au



North Queensland spirit

The cooler months are always busy in North Queensland and this edition is all about showcasing some of the amazing projects we've been part of in our port communities.

We look back at our successful Bowen Bulk Port Blitz with our community partners, the legendary North Queensland Cowboys, and share stories from other popular events in this season's calendar

including the Mackay Marina Run and the Weipa Fishing Classic.

We also announce our most recent EcoPorts grant-winning schools and their innovative sustainability projects and introduce you to a few of our most experienced marine pilots, who recently spent some time honing their skills in a ship simulator!

For all the latest news, keep up to date on our social media channels and be sure to get in touch via our website if you have questions about this edition or any of our ports.

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



Strides to Southern Breakwater

A record-breaking 3,300 locals and visitors put feet to pavement for the 10th annual Mackay Marina Run, which took place around the Port of Mackay's Southern Breakwater.

We were proud to take centre stage in one of Queensland's premier community events and were able to facilitate access to the Southern Breakwater during the repair works under way after Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Budding athletes and first-timers took part in three, five and eight-kilometre events, as well as the signature half-marathon race – a gruelling 21.1 kilometres.

NQBP property coordinator Sharone Carter took part in the five-kilometre dash alongside her fellow NQBP team members, finishing in a respectable 39 minutes and 10 seconds.

"It was amazing to see the Mackay community come out in force to support this great event and it was fantastic to share it with my colleagues," Sharone said.

"It was a great feeling to be on the start line in our team shirts and as we all made our way to the end – with some faster than others – the support continued as we passed each other, throwing a few 'high fives' and cheering each other on."

"Everyone from tots in prams to golden oldies participated. I was actually overwhelmed with a sense of pride to be part of the Mackay community," she said.

"I was overwhelmed with a sense of pride to be part of the Mackay community..."

Mackay Marina Run event coordinator Chrissy Evangelou said the use of NQBP's breakwater was a highlight of the event.

"The location of our run has to be one of the most beautiful and we thank NQBP for providing access to the breakwater for the Mackay Marina Run," Chrissy said. ■



THE NQBP TEAM BRAVE THE EARLY MORNING CHILL.



LEARNING TO PLAY THE COWBOYS WAY – QUEENS BEACH STATE SCHOOL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL DAVID INSCH, STUDENTS MIA COLLISON, CLEA DOPPER, BROOKE FALLON-JOHNSTON WITH COWBOYS FIVE-EIGHTH KYLE LAYBUTT AT THE NQBP BULK PORT BLITZ IN BOWEN.



SKILLS AND DRILLS WITH STUDENTS FROM QUEENS BEACH STATE SCHOOL.



Cowboys touchdown in Bowen

Our partnership with fellow northerners, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys, continues to inspire the next generation at our Bulk Port Blitzes.

Hundreds of local kids and community members have enjoyed the two-day, action-packed Blitzes this year, honing their skills both on and off the field.

Off the back of a successful Mackay Blitz in March with Cowboys centre Kane Linnett, the program made its way to Bowen with five-eighth Kyle Laybutt and Cowboys legend Brent Tate.

Students from Queens Beach, Bowen, Merinda and St Mary's primary schools, as well as Bowen State High School, heard from their sporting heroes about making the right choices for success.

Players from the Bowen Seagulls Junior Rugby League Club were also part of the action and club secretary Monika Piggott said the kids had an absolute ball.

"The highlight for my two boys was definitely meeting Brent and Kyle, and taking part in the kick and chase drills," Monika said.

"The program was run incredibly smoothly and the young Seagulls learned so much from the afternoon with the Cowboys."

"...the kids had an absolute ball."

NQBP acting chief executive officer Dr Rochelle Macdonald said the partnership with the Cowboys builds on both organisations' shared values of leadership, engagement and integrity.

"We want to inspire and educate young people in our port communities to make positive life choices," Rochelle said.

"We're also pleased to have raised more than \$700 during May for the Bowen Hospital through the Mackay Hospital Foundation to improve patient comfort."

The next Blitz will touch down in Sarina on Monday, 13 August to Tuesday, 14 August. For full details, check out our Facebook page. ■

Top marks in sustainability



Our long-running EcoPorts grants program continues to help students grow their knowledge of and love for the environment.

Recipients of the 2018 grants have been announced. Among the 10 North Queensland schools to receive a \$1,000 grant towards their sustainability initiative is Gumlu State School.

Gumlu State School principal Thomas Harrington said all students in years three to six were working to create a sustainable garden, growing everything from melons to sugar cane.

“With the grant we received from NQBP, we plan to design a sustainable garden and monitor it using digital technology. The technology will inform the students when to water the crops to ensure we maximise the potential to grow clean and healthy fruits and vegetables without water wastage,” Thomas said.

“This project will provide students with a hands-on learning experience that can be incorporated into our surrounding larger farms.”

The students also plan to build a website to show the project throughout its life cycle so other schools can learn from them and take on similar initiatives.

The 10 grant-winning schools include:

Alligator Creek State School

Glenella State School

Gumlu State School

Mackay Christian College

MacKillop Catholic Primary School

Merinda State School

Northview State School

Sarina State High School

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Western Cape College Weipa Primary.

We look forward to seeing students bring their projects to life and help make their community a better place to live! ■



YEAR 3 GUMLU STATE SCHOOL STUDENT RILEY CHAPMAN AND NQBP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR KIRSTY MUGRIDGE.

Fuel for fishing

The NQBP team got up bright and early to put on a free barbecue breakfast for families and anglers taking part in the annual Weipa Fishing Classic.

As boaties set out to wet their lines, we served up sizzling snags at the Evans Landing Boat Ramp over the June long weekend.

Thousands of locals and interstate visitors took part in Cape York’s largest community event and we were proud to be a platinum sponsor for another year running.

We’re now looking forward to the next big sporting event on the calendar – the inaugural Weipa Running Festival on Sunday, 12 August, starting and finishing at Andoom Oval. NQBP is sponsoring the 42-kilometre marathon run, which traverses much of Weipa’s unique terrain across road, dirt, bush and beach. ■



NQBP’S JOHN CLARK, ROBERT OLSEN AND ROB WATKINS COOKING UP A FEAST.



BREAK BULK PASSING THROUGH THE PORT OF MACKAY EARLIER THIS YEAR.

Ports for the next generation

NQBP acting general manager engineering and development Tim Lewis had a lot to say about the next generation when we caught up to talk through the ports' latest projects.

"We're always looking for ways to improve our capability to meet future vessels' needs," Tim said. "We need to set ourselves up to grow."

By way of example, he referred to a recent \$9.8 million infrastructure project to upgrade the fenders on wharves four and five, and enable roll-on roll-off (RORO) capability at the Port of Mackay.

"Before we started, we reviewed the likely future trends in vessel sizes and types. We spoke to current and potential port users, who talked us through their plans to transition to larger vessels. From there, we were able to anticipate future market demand in our fender designs."

Fenders are installed on the side of the wharves to act as a sort of 'bumper' between the ship and the wharf. The old fenders prevented vessels of a certain size from berthing at the port, but the new designs open up a range of possibilities for expansion.

Trade development manager Darren Fursman said the RORO capability is also attracting the attention of heavy machinery businesses around Australia and overseas. The ability to bring oversize overmass vehicles bound for the Bowen Basin directly into Mackay has huge cost and safety benefits.

"RORO capability is attracting the attention of heavy machinery businesses around Australia and overseas."

More than 100,000 tonnes of break bulk cargo (heavy machinery) passed through the Port of Mackay in the 2017-18 financial year, a substantial uplift on the 7,700 tonnes of the year prior. With RORO ready to go from August, the port begins the year ahead in an even stronger position.

"What's more, because many of these shipments are re-positioned fleets that often require assembly, cleaning, re-painting and so on before heading out to the mines, there's an associated pick up among local businesses too."

Directly adjacent to Mackay is the suburb of Paget, a mining equipment, technology and services (METS) hub.

The Port of Hay Point has also seen its share of action over the past few months. Our new floating walkway for recreational vessels at Half Tide Tug Harbour will become a community asset for generations of keen boaters to come, while behind-the-scenes operational projects are putting new technologies to good use.

"We've recently upgraded the under keel clearance system used at Hay Point to make sure it is using world-leading technology," said Eddie Mallan senior manager commerce and trade.

The system uses a computer to calculate the depth of water under a ship as it comes into port and to relate this to tidal patterns and other factors, he explained. This helps to improve port productivity, as it widens the window in which ships can be loaded and increases cargo capacity. ■

Super view of superboats



More than 500 members of the community attended NQBP's Family Fun Day in April to get the best view of the superboats from the historic Bowen Jetty.

In our fourth year sponsoring the Australian Offshore Superboats Championships in Bowen, we were excited to offer locals an amazing vantage point, as well as live music, entertainment, rides and more at the first ever NQBP Family Fun Day.

Hosted on the foreshore by the jetty, the new event looks set to become a favourite addition to the superboats weekend. Local school groups, dance classes and bands took to the stage, while younger attendees made the most of a dedicated kids' corner with face painting and games.

"It's one of the most popular weekends in Bowen for the year," said Paul McLaughlin, owner of Bowen's Rose Bay Resort and member of the event organising committee.

Event organiser Gillian Jurgens agreed.

"It's just a really happy day out for local families. Everyone goes home with such a buzz. I've already started planning for next year!" ■



SUPERBOATS ON SHOW IN BOWEN.
PHOTO CREDIT: EMB PHOTOGRAPHICS.

New walkway to float your boat



Hay Point's new floating walkway is now open to the local community.

The floating walkway, installed alongside the Half Tide boat ramp, was designed with the community firmly in mind and we're pleased to have brought this much-anticipated project to life with funding from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

"...the new walkway is fantastic."

Salonika Beach local Tom Andrews said the new walkway is "fantastic" and he is pleased the community now have a purpose-built facility to help them use the harbour for recreational purposes.

"I've been pushing for the pontoon for a while now so I can embark and disembark from my boat more easily," Tom said.

"I'll be using it as often as possible to head out fishing, depending on the weather."

The floating walkway measures 40 metres in length and at high tide can accommodate up to six vessels at once.

NQBP project engineer Leigh Baughurst said he enjoyed being part of a community-led project where everyone worked together to get the best outcomes.

"Throughout the works we had tonnes of locals coming down to say hi and check on our progress. There's no doubt they've been looking forward to the end result!" ■



SMC MARINE INSTALLING COMPONENTS FOR NQBP'S NEW FLOATING WALKWAY.

☺ All hands on deck

Last month, three of North Queensland Bulk Ports' most experienced marine pilots undertook training to bring a new type of vessel into the Port of Mackay for roll-on roll-off (RORO) cargo.

So where do marine pilots go to practise berthing a 200-metre long, 32-metre wide ship with 40,000 tonne capacity? A ship simulator, of course!

Smartship Australia, located in the industrial park behind Brisbane Airport, is one of Australia's major maritime training centres. Entering through its unassuming concrete exterior is a bit like stepping into a giant video game: there are impressive gadgets, high-octane graphics and surround sound.

The virtual ocean is indeed so convincing that just two minutes on the full-mission bridge simulator can leave you feeling a tad seasick – despite the fact the room remains stationary.

For training purposes, however, this hyper realistic simulation is invaluable, said North Queensland Bulk Ports' manager of pilotage services Bryce Bathe.

Smartship used hundreds of photos to faithfully recreate Mackay harbour for the NQBP team, simulating all three breakwaters, the Mackay Marina and the port.

"We practise all the worst-case scenarios," said Bryce. "You have to consider everything that could go wrong to make sure you get it right."

"Today, we're practising bringing in a RORO ship ahead of upgrades at wharves three and four that will allow these vessels to dock at the Port of Mackay for the first time.

"The RORO ships are quite different to other models we pilot, as the bridge is at the front of the ship. This means most of the vessel is behind us, which gives you a lot less visibility and changes how you have to approach the port."

Fortunately, Bryce and his fellow pilots Philip Palmer and Craig Andrews have spent decades at sea and are ready for the new challenge.

"My father and my grandfather were both in the maritime industry," Craig said. "So when I finished year 12, I became a cadet deck officer and spent several years working on ships before becoming a tug master in Newcastle. I've been a marine pilot now for about 11 years."

Phil is in a similar boat.

"I never had any doubt of where I would end up. I left school, applied for three shipping companies and took off from there," he said.

With RORO capacity available at the Port of Mackay from August, there's no doubt these vessels will be in safe hands. ■

Community and port announcements

Remember to keep an eye on our website and Facebook for all our latest project updates.



Cultural Heritage Management Plan

In a significant step to protect, promote and manage the cultural heritage values within NQBP port land and waters, we signed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan with the Yuwibara people. The plan covers Mackay and Hay Point and means cultural heritage can be addressed with certainty for future activities within the ports. Field work with Yuwibara representatives commenced in mid-July to identify areas of cultural heritage significance and we look forward to sharing more with our port communities as this important work progresses.



#AsNorthQldAs

Thanks to everyone who got on board with our #AsNorthQldAs social media competition. Our winner was Sharon Vella for her happy beachside snap above. Sharon and family enjoyed a long weekend on us at the Big4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort earlier this month!



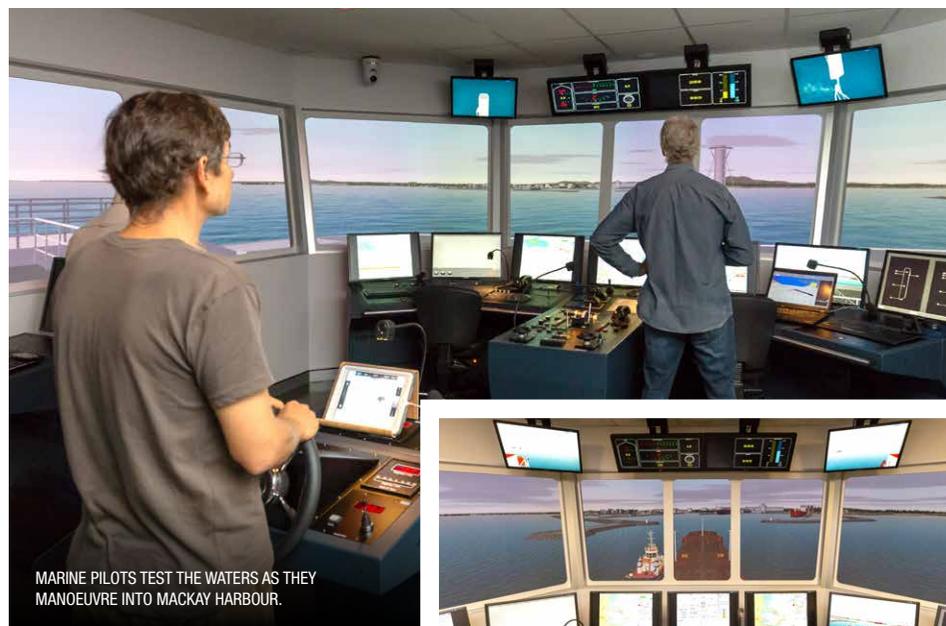
Safety Foremost Award

NQBP took out the Safety Foremost Award at the Resource Industry Network's annual ceremony in May for its holistic employee wellbeing program Balance.



Southern Breakwater

Repair works due to TC Debbie damage on the Southern Breakwater are progressing well and are expected to be completed by the end of 2018. ■



MARINE PILOTS TEST THE WATERS AS THEY MANOEUVRE INTO MACKAY HARBOUR.



CO-OWNER AND DIRECTOR CORALYN WARREN, BUILDING SUPERVISOR DARREN SHEEHY AND CO-OWNER AND DIRECTOR NEIL WARREN.

Nailing it

There's no fence sitting for the crew at local family business Mackay Fencing.

We spoke to owner and founder Neil Warren about his go-getting team and what's kept his fencing business upright for more than 20 years.

Q. Who do you service in Mackay?

We service the domestic, commercial and industrial markets, as well as the mining industry.

Q. How many people form the Mackay Fencing team?

We have 17 people in our team, some of whom have been working for me for 15-plus years.

Q. What has kept the business going for more than 20 years?

Value for money, good service, quality products and workmanship, and accountability to our customers. If something goes wrong, we'll go and fix it.

As a business, I'd say we've installed between 15,000 and 18,000 fences since we started back in 1998.

"I'd say we've installed between 15,000-18,000 fences since we started back in 1998."

Q. How do you determine the best fencing material for the job?

Local conditions, history of the site and customer needs all play a part in selecting the right materials. Because conditions in Mackay are quite harsh, we need to consider materials that don't rust to get the long-term life out of the fence. We will always use galvanised fittings and treated timber for example.

Q. Does the old timber fence still take pride of place in most people's backyards?

Yes, the timber fence is still popular in backyards to secure the dogs and kids. But over the last few years, I've found people are spending more money and getting a bit more decorative with their front fences to improve the streetscape.

Q. Have you completed any interesting projects recently?

We've just installed 250 metres of security fencing at Pioneer State High School, which took six weeks to complete. At the moment, we are in the process of installing 275 metres of timber palings and 350 metres of black powder-coated security fence at Mackay District Special School.

Q. What do you love about living in Mackay?

My family moved up from Adelaide in 1995 because we heard Mackay was the boom town. I absolutely love the weather, love the people and love the lifestyle.

Q. What do you like to do when you're not building fences?

I'm a passionate golfer and Sydney Swans supporter. I like to head out to the Mackay Golf Club on Fridays for social games and on Saturdays for competition golf.

Mackay Fencing, 70 Satellite Crescent, Mackay Harbour ■

Stay in touch
nqbp.com.au

