



**PORT of
TOWNSVILLE**

Nexus North Queensland

APRIL 04

rapPORT

→ A [W]RAP UP OF OUR ACTIVITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY



Students get taste for Townsville Port

TOWNSVILLE Port has joined forces with a nearby primary school for an innovative school-based education program.

The new program will see Townsville South State Primary School feature port-related topics in the classroom and participate in “hands-on” outdoor education. The latter will involve approximately 60 students from grade four upwards taking part in field trips, monitoring the environmental park and visiting ships docked at the port.

Townsville Port Authority CEO Barry Holden said the program was part of the port’s commitment to forging relationships with the nearby community.

“These children are our city’s future and we are delighted to be able to share our port with them,” he said.

“The proximity of the school to the port

means students can actively and regularly participate in port activity, which will be both educational and fun for them.”

Although parts of the program are still under development, Townsville South Principal Clayton Carnes said it was likely to focus on the port’s trade, industry, commodities and environmental issues. He said the school community was already highly supportive of the program and learning about the city’s maritime and industrial sector.

“It will present some very unique, interesting and invaluable educational opportunities for our students,” he said.

“We believe the students will respond well and enjoy participating in outdoor education, particularly field trips to the berths and other hands-on projects.”



Mr Carnes said grades one to three would also partake in classroom-based activities.

“Typically the younger students take a little extra time to settle in to the school year, so they will join the program in June this year,” he said.

“We are aiming to set up an email

exchange with a ship that regularly visits the port, so the students will be able to track its progress and communicate with the crew.”

To compliment the program, the school is also looking at participating in activities run by the non-profit Australian Marine Environment Protection Association.



Dredging up the past...

TOWNSVILLE Port and the local maritime industry have come a long way since it began some 107 years ago – from horses and basic cranes to today’s sophisticated mechanical systems.

At the helm - from the CEO



IN recent weeks there has been a major focus on the maritime security upgrades that are taking place at all Australian ports as part of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code).

For some time our port community has been working on a security plan that addresses exclusion zones, access control arrangements, communication procedures and port-wide responses to specific security levels.

In late February this year the final version of our plan - which is an enhancement and expansion of security arrangements that currently exist - was submitted to the Department of Transport and Regional Services for approval.

The plan is required to be implemented by 1

July 2004, and we will soon commence introducing parts of the plan into everyday practice. This includes increased monitoring of port access and drafting tender specifications for road modifications to port entry points.

We are committed to ensuring the port continues to operate at full capacity and there is minimal disruption for those who have a legitimate reason to enter the port. We will continue to communicate with you as our upgrades progress and keep you informed of any other matters likely to arise in the near future.

In the meantime, you can find more information on the code by visiting the Department of Transport and Regional Services website www.dotrs.gov.au

Trade statistics (tonnes) year to date ending February 2004

IMPORTS:

Cement.....	203,891.00
Concentrates Zinc.....	177,548.06
Fertiliser	68,160.53
General Cargo	74,814.54
Motor Vehicles.....	8,158.24
Nickel ore	2,558,726.80
Oil - general purpose	507,530.34
Oil - fuel oil and naptha.....	192,503.82
Sulphuric Acid.....	0.00
Sulphur.....	52,563.00
TOTAL.....	3,843,896.33

EXPORTS:

Cattle	4, 214.00
Concentrates - Copper	354,873.50
Concentrates - Lead (B11)	212,390.00
Concentrates - Lead Bth 7	4,599.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 11	103,750.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 7.....	135,444.30
Copper ore.....	0.00
Copper refined	88,250.15
Feed pellets.....	623.50
General cargo	81,300.64
Higher analysis fertiliser.....	548,246.00
Lead ingots	78,776.00
Meat products - by products.....	9,127.08
Meat products - frozen	21,148.36
Meat products - hides	0.00
Meat products - tallow	7,719.39
Molasses	192,817.95
Nickel - refined	8,606.31
Sand/gravel	4,836.00
Sugar	1,074,433.00
Sulphur acid	16,085.55
Timber.....	104,693.41
Zinc ingots	73,934.16
TOTAL	3,125,868.30

AQIS pest alert

→ GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL

THE Giant African Snail (GAS) carries parasitic human diseases and has an insatiable appetite for more than 500 plants such as breadfruit, cassava, cocoa, papaya and most legumes.

The snail spreads as a hitchhiker on virtually anything it can crawl onto, particularly imported vehicles, machinery, shipping containers and plant material.

To prevent the snails from entering Townsville Port, AQIS require all containers and cargo from countries with GAS be stacked inside a salt barrier and thoroughly inspected before leaving the wharf. There is also a regular surveillance and trapping regime at the port, with AQIS inspecting all vessels arriving from international ports for GAS.

The snails have alternating light and dark brown bands on a conical shaped shell, and can grow up to 20 centimetres in shell length. One hermaphroditic snail can produce up to 1200 cream coloured eggs, approximately 5mm in diameter, in one year.

→ Sightings of these snails should be reported to AQIS on (07) 4722 2685.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AQIS

Thriving timber trade

MORE than 100,000 tonnes of locally grown timber has been shipped from Townsville Port to Asia since a new exporting arrangement began last July.

The milestone follows Pentarch Forest Products Pty Ltd exporting approximately 20,000 cubic metres of Caribbean pine soft wood sourced from Cardwell-area plantations every eight weeks.

Pentarch's North Asia Sales Manager Damien Boyer said the company was delighted to notch the milestone this financial year.

"We are pleased to reach this milestone and we aim to ensure the company continues its high trade performance next financial year," he said.

"There is a strong demand for plantation grown softwood in Korea, China and Japan and as the only major softwood exporter from mainland Australia we have successfully tapped into this growing market."

Mr Boyer said the project had generated a range of economic benefits for the local region, providing a \$1million injection into the economy and 80 jobs.



Promoting our port to the world

TOWNSVILLE Port Authority Business Development Officer Frank Gedling (pictured) recently embarked on two overseas trade missions.

The first took him to Brunei, Philippines and Vietnam where he met with local meat importers and toured the nations' meat holding and processing facilities. He also got the opportunity to sample local cuisine, including "tasty and nutritious"

curried camel. In March he spent four days in sunny New Caledonia, as part of trade mission run in conjunction with Townsville Enterprise and the Department of State Development.

The mission aimed to encourage local nickel ore smelter SLN and the owners of two other mine and refinery projects to use Townsville suppliers and contractors.



supPORTing

OUR ENVIRONMENT



Making Australia shine



LAND surrounding Townsville Port received some TLC when a record number of port employees took to the streets for Clean Up Australia Day on March 7.

Organised by Townsville Port Authority's environment department, the clean-up targeted the port's environmental park, Ross Street, Archer Street, Hubert Street and Benwell Road.

Townsville Port Authority Planning and Environment Manager Caryn Anderson said this was the sixth time port employees had participated in the nation-wide initiative.

"Townsville Port Authority began participating in the event in 1998, but this year's clean-up attracted more participants than ever before," she said.

"Our participation in this event is part of our commitment to being environmentally responsible in the workplace and the surrounding port area."

Forum to foster community feedback

PRELIMINARY plans are underway to establish a forum allowing interested community groups to meet with port personnel and comment on port-related activities and development plans.

Townsville Port Authority will soon seek formal expressions of interest from people wishing to take part in the initiative that aims to foster an open dialogue between the port and wider community.

Townsville Port Authority Planning and Environment Manager Caryn Anderson said the forum would provide a formal avenue for community groups and the port to discuss and address concerns that may arise.

"The forum is expected to promote the development of a cooperative and consultative relationship between the Authority and wider Townsville community", she said.

"It will also ensure port operations remain sensitive to the interests and expectations of the community."

Ms Anderson said those interested in taking part would be required to complete an application form addressing several criteria, with this process to ensure the final composition of the group reflected a balanced representation of interested parties.

"Applicants will be required to address several criteria, and explain why they are interested in participating in the forum," she said.

"Participants will be required to attend and participate in quarterly meetings that will be convened by an appointed chairperson and cover key aspects of current planning and operational matters."

→ A formal expression of interest registration and draft terms of reference will be made available on our website www.townsville-port.com.au in the coming months. Expressions of interest advertisements will also be placed in the local newspaper.

Our environmental park

PLENTY of watering and spasmodic rainfall ensured plants in the port's eight hectare environmental park survived and remained green over the hot summer.

The native plant species are flourishing under these conditions, so much so that it would be easy to mistake the area for any natural shoreline along the North Queensland coast.

The \$800,000 environmental facelift targeted the streetscapes of Benwell Road and Boundary Street, throughout the old phosphate loop area.

Maintenance of the site was formally handed over to Conservation Volunteers Australia and Department of Families in November last year.





On a mission

SINCE joining Townsville's Mission to Seafarers Centre five years ago, Deacon Graham Miller has heard many tales about the joys and woes of life at sea.

Revered Miller, the Chaplain Reverend Don Fernance and a dozen dedicated volunteers who operate the centre are among the first and often sole points of contact for ships' crew.

"The centre is an important link between working life at sea and the personal life of the crew members. It gives them a place to phone home, check their email and buy basic toiletries," Reverend Miller said.

"Crew also enjoy spending time in the informal air-conditioned canteen, or passing time playing pool or table tennis in the recreation area."

He said the centre played a key role in coordinating medical and advocacy services for crew who might feel isolated due to illness or victimisation.

"We've heard some sad stories of crew who experienced a hard time on the ships, and others who arrived in Australia only to hear tragic news from home."

Among the saddest stories was that of a 21-year-old from Ghana who, upon arrival, excitedly phoned home only to be told his father was killed in a guerrilla attack the day before.

But such low points are contrasted with the fun and socialising of the Christmas New Year period, which uniquely unites crew from a variety of nations.

"On Christmas Day we host a Christmas celebration for all crew in port. Gifts collected from the local community are distributed and every effort is made to ensure a memorable day," Reverend Miller said.

Multiculturalism and the affect of international events is another unique element of the centre.

"Services in our chapel are usually attended by a handful of crew from a variety of nationalities, and this gives the centre a great multicultural feel," Reverend Miller said.

"Another expression of this multiculturalism takes place around the television, with all international sports followed enthusiastically. National and international crises, such as SARS and the recent outbreak of Bird Flu, are also closely monitored by the crews."

→ Mission to Seafarers Canteen is located on the ground floor of the Port Control Building at Berth 9.

It is open every day of the year: Monday to Friday 9.30 – 13.00 and 18.00 – 22.00 and on weekends 18.00 – 22.00.

Port personnel are welcome to stop by anytime.



Port welcomes Rotarians

LOCAL Rotarians took time out from their busy meeting schedule to take a tour of Townsville Port last month.

More than 50 members of Townsville Rotary Club participated in the bus tour, which covered the entire port area and included a look inside WMC Fertilizer's storage shed.

The group later gathered for an informal meeting and dinner at the Authority's barbeque area.



Preserving port's past



A HISTORIC flagpole previously used as a navigational marker is being restored to its former glory by Authority tradesperson Eddie Newman.

The flagpole was originally located on Pilot Hill - the city's former maritime control installation - and during World War II Townsville Harbour Board employees added a new topmast from one of the booms of the old tug *Alert*, which was built in 1892.

When the hill was levelled to make way for the first bulk sugar terminal in 1958, the flagpole was moved to Breakwater Road where it remained until earlier this year. Once fully restored, the flagpole will be moved to a prominent position where its historical significance can be appreciated.

events april

19-22: Port of Townsville will again have a presence at the annual Carpentaria Mineral Province Mining Expo in Mt Isa. Our Business Development Officer will be on hand to answer any questions you might have about port operations and facilities. Stop by booth A1 and A2 to see how we can help you.

→To list an upcoming event email details to: lpennisi@townsville-port.com.au

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This newsletter is a regular, free publication of Townsville Port Authority. An on-line version of this and other publications is available at www.townsville-port.com.au

To submit suggestions for articles on Townsville Port and the shipping industry for future editions email publicaffairs@townsville-port.com.au

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Breaking the ice

A STOPOVER in tropical Townsville last month was a welcome change for crew aboard a United States Coastguard "ice-breaker."

The *USCGC Polar Sea* and its 180 crew were heading home to Seattle after spending several chilly weeks patrolling and breaking ice.

The 121 metre vessel was specially designed to operate in both Polar regions and break 2 metres of ice at a continuous 3 knots and 6.5 metres of ice by ramming. Two separate propulsion systems were built into the ship: 18,000 horsepower diesel electric motors for "normal" icebreaking, and 60,000 horsepower gas turbines for heavy ice (up to 6.5 metres thick).

