



Meet a manager

ENGINEERING MANAGER LARRY HORE

After spending five years working on telephone exchanges and repeater stations in Papua New Guinea, Larry joined the Port Authority in 1996.

Initially working as an electrical engineer, Larry brought considerable experience gained through the overseas stint and previous time with the then Civil Aviation Authority.

Over the following two years he also worked as a Senior Engineer and Maintenance Manager at the Port Authority before being appointed to his current position in 1998.

He has a Bachelor of Engineering, a Master of Business Administration and is a member of the Institute of Engineers.

Port picks up pointers from international mariner

AN international maritime expert was in Townsville recently to share planning and development knowledge with Townsville Port Authority's management team.

Captain Bill Shewell - the Harbour Master of Victoria and Alfred Waterfront located in Cape Town, South Africa - met with local civic and maritime leaders to discuss the success of Cape Town's development.

Townsville Port Authority Planning and Environment Manager Caryn Anderson said it was a unique opportunity to hear about one of the most successful maritime developments of its kind.

"Captain Shewell has a wealth of experience in commercial and residential development, and we hope to draw on his knowledge in our own future development projects," she said.

The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront is a mixed-use property development located around the historic Victoria and Alfred Basins that formed Cape Town's original harbour.

The Waterfront area attracts up to 20 million visits annually, and includes taverns, seven quality hotels, an aquarium, cinemas, an IMAX theatre, art and craft markets, office space and a luxury marina residential component.

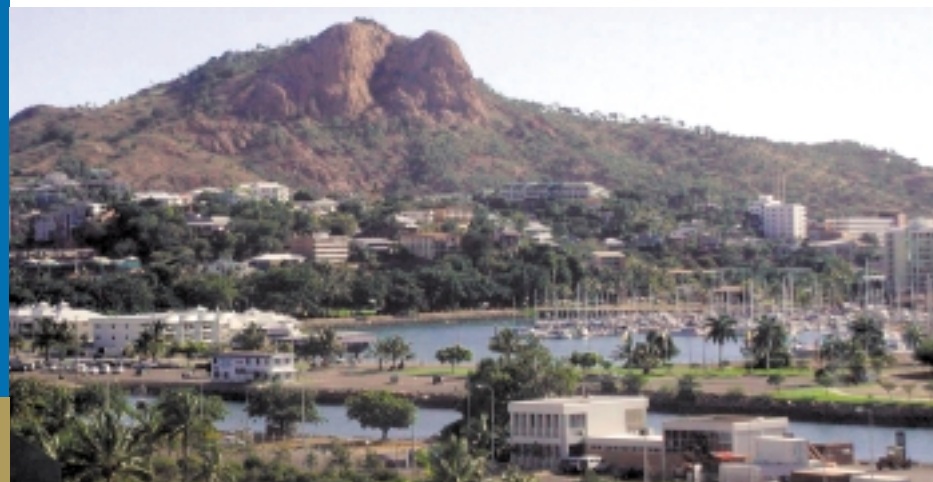
The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront Company acts as both developer and property manager for tenancing, security, cleaning, maintenance, marketing and administration.

Room with a view

AMONG the most common misconceptions of the wider community is that everyone at the port has an office with an ocean view.

The reality is most of us who are actually fortunate

enough to have offices with windows look out onto car parks or cranes. The one exception, though, is our port services officers who enjoy some of the most breathtaking views of the city and the harbour from the third floor of the tower.



events june

3: Next Red Cross visit to the port 8.30am - 3.30pm. To make a booking please call the donor mobile on 0411 669 331

august

20: Townsville Port Authority annual charity golf day

What's on our website

OUR website contains a wealth of information on our facilities and events to keep our community up-to-date with what's happening at our port.

Among the features are an on-line shipping schedule, port and shipping directory, and emergency procedures handbook.

You can also view our latest trade statistics and annual report, access our complaints procedure and submit a complaint on-line, and check out our latest media releases. This newsletter and all our current brochures are located on our website.

→ You'll find all the information you need at www.townsville-port.com.au

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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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PORT of
TOWNSVILLE
Nexus North Queensland



Report praises port performance

TOWNSVILLE Port was among Queensland's highest export value ports during the 2002/03 financial year, according to a report recently released by Queensland Transport.

Trade statistics for Queensland ports for the five years ending 30 June 2003 revealed Townsville Port accounted for more than 12 per cent of the total value of exports from Queensland ports.

This equated to approximately \$2.6 billion of the State's \$21 billion exports, with Townsville Port firmly cemented as the fourth highest value exporter among Queensland's 14 ports.

Townsville Port Authority Chairman Ron McLean said the export figures were an excellent achievement for the entire port community.

"It reflects the importance of North Queensland industries serviced by the port," he said. "Refined metals from Xstrata, QNI and

Sunmetals all made a significant contribution and reflect the strong value adding industries in the region."

The report also showed Townsville Port exported more sugar than any other Queensland Port with 1,256,180 tonnes shipped from Townsville during 2002/03. Townsville Port also ranked number one in the State for import and export of non-ferrous metals, petroleum product imports and live cattle exports.

During a site visit to Townsville Port last month, Minister for Transport and Main Roads Paul Lucas praised the port's performance.

"Townsville Port has worked hard to maintain its position as one of the State's leading ports, and its continued success plays a vital role in Queensland's economy and development," he said.



Dredging up the past...

PORT pioneers take part in early dredging activities at Townsville Port.

supPORTing

OUR ENVIRONMENT



Townsville Port's piece of paradise

UPON stepping in to Townsville Port's flourishing environmental park, it is easy to forget you are less than a kilometre away from a bustling commercial hub.

With a leafy canopy of interlocking weeping paperbark and dune-shaped mounds of lush, sprawling vines, the eight hectare site could be any natural shoreline along the North Queensland coast.

But less than two years ago the site of this blossoming oasis housed just a handful of trees and resembled a barren strip of dusty land crying out for some love and care.

"The land had been reclaimed so the soil quality was less than ideal, and it was dry and barren because it had been left to weather the elements and harsh North Queensland sun," Townsville Port CEO Barry Holden said.

"It was also bordering the main road entrance to the port and parallel to the ocean and a strip of beach, so when the environmental park was proposed it seemed like the ideal location to commence the project."

But when stage one of the project did commence so too did an impressive and painstaking story of seed collection, germination and nurturing over six months by a dedicated four-person team.

It began when Townsville-based landscape architects WSA came up with a visionary blueprint for the area to resemble a coastal dune system, which included 90,000 plants and species like Beach Spinifex and Lovegrass not widely cultivated for commercial use.

Revegetation Contractors, selected by the port to undertake the park's planting and maintenance, were given the daunting and arduous task of sourcing thousands of seeds and cuttings for more than 50 native species.

"We put in 16,000 Spinifex plants, the blue grass that lines the road, and I've never seen these plants on anyone's plant list for large projects so they are not produced anywhere in the numbers required," Revegetation

Contractors' Horticultural Manager Kath Salter said.

"Spinifex doesn't get used much because it is a specialist grass so people haven't thought of it. If it's not in the marketplace or if a landscape architect can't source it, the plant won't be put in the plan. This was special in that we had to make sure we got those plants up front."

The meticulous collection process was a self-confessed labour of love for Ms Salter and her team of equally avid environment lovers, who gave up weekends to source plants for the park from Townsville's surrounding beach areas like Cunggulla, The Strand and Pallarenda.

With relative ease they used sharp secateurs to carefully lop off small runners from mature plants like Beach Grass, Beach Spinifex and Clerodendron Inerme, placing cuttings directly in specially prepared potting mix for germination.

"You have to be careful because you can't take too much. You have to be very responsible in your collection," Ms Salter said.

But it was the seed collection that proved trickier, with the group having to wade their way through permits before being able to embark on the time-consuming collection and treatment processes. Some seeds also require special treatment, like 24-hours of soaking prior to planting.

Seeds for the flowering groundcover Beach Morning Glory, which peppers the park's undergrowth, were among the most time consuming to collect - a task compounded by the fact 1,436 such plants were required.

"These seeds are in a brown capsule and it can split and go flying in to the sand," she said.

"If you can get the capsule before it splits, then that's good. Then you have to clean it all and open it before you can get it out. It's quite a bit of work."

Although there were some disheartening times, these problems were balanced with the ease and satisfaction of sourcing large quantities of seeds for other species like the

attractive Lovegrass that borders the park.

"As far as I know this particular Lovegrass has never been cultivated before and we did 6,000 of it," Ms Salter said.

"What you have to do is keep going back to the area you see the grass and wait for it to be at the right maturity to pick - you don't want it too green. Once the time is right all you need do is run your fingers up the head of the plant and take seeds off."

While sourcing specialist plants was not new for Revegetation Contractors, the quantities needed were large. They then had to use their horticultural skills to prepare the plants for the site and its unique environmental conditions.

Hardy plants with good root systems were preferred, both for their natural appearance and resilience to Townsville's characteristic humid and dry conditions.

"We have a policy of "tough love" - once a plant germinates it goes out in full sun and if it doesn't survive then it is not strong enough to put into the ground," Ms Salter said.

"A lot of nurseries look after plants very carefully, but we look at it from a different point of view. We're going in to very harsh environments - the glare and heat from the sand, along with the wind."

By all accounts Revegetation Contractors' approach to the park was both practical and appropriate, with the flourishing site proof of their success in establishing the natural coastal environment initially envisaged.

While the roadside reveals only a narrow strip of green vegetation dotted with the occasional flowering yellow groundcover, the sweeping expanse of the park is revealed in all its glory once you take just a few steps inside.

There are sounds of birds and the wind gently rustling the leaves - the only thing that gives away the location is when you see, in the distance, a little hint of the port's white storage tanks rising above the foliage.

Port security upgrades

SECURITY upgrades are currently underway at Townsville Port in accordance with the Federal Government's maritime transport security legislation.

The legislation aims to establish a regulatory framework to safeguard maritime transport and protect ships, ports and port facilities.

Port services officers have now re-occupied the Benwell Road gatehouse, and tenders have been called for the reconfiguration and upgrade of boom gates at three entry points.

Other plans include fencing of the port and port facility areas, nomination of land-side and water-side exclusion zones, and alert level signage at entry points and boat ramps.

→ For more information visit www.townsville-port.com.au or www.dotrs.gov.au



Annual report excellence

TOWNSVILLE Port Authority's 2002/03 annual report scooped a prestigious award from the Institute of Internal Auditors Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards.

The Authority was one of only two organisations to receive an excellence award in the category "Government Owned Corporations and Statutory Authorities."

Nine organisations contended the category, with three others receiving merit awards and four taking commendation prizes.

The annual report, designed by Brisbane-based company JSA Design, also received a Bronze Award from the Australasian Reporting Awards last month.



Recognising regional exporters

THE region's top exporters, business and government leaders gathered last month to officially launch the 2004 Townsville Region Export Awards.

Minister for Child Safety and Member for Townsville Mike Reynolds officially opened nominations for the awards that recognise exporting excellence by companies in the region.

The launch also included an address by Townsville Port Authority Chairman Ron McLean, who outlined the key role exporters have played in the region's economic prosperity.

Nominations for this year's Townsville Region Export Awards close on 30 July, with the winners to be announced at a gala dinner later this year.

Categories in the Townsville event include agribusiness, large advanced manufacture, tourism, and the Port of Townsville Exporter of the Year Award.

→ Online applications for the 2004 Awards are available at www.sd.qld.gov.au/exportawards or by contacting the State Development and Innovation Centre on (07) 4799 7068.

At the helm - from the CEO



STATISTICS recently released by the Queensland Department of Transport showed Port of Townsville was the fourth highest value exporter among Queensland's 14 ports - this was a significant achievement for our port and region.

Approximately 12 per cent of the total value of exports from Queensland ports passed over our wharves.

In monetary terms, this meant \$2.6 billion of Queensland's \$21 billion exports.

We are working hard to ensure our port remains competitive and performs well in the export market, and such results indicate this hard work has indeed paid off.

The achievement, of course, would not have

been possible without continuing high performance by companies in our port community.

Among the contributing factors is Queensland Sugar Limited shipping more than a million tonnes of sugar.

Substantial export contributions also came from refined metals and metal concentrates, and last financial year's live cattle export record.

I would like to congratulate our port community on their high performance and contribution to this significant milestone.

Barry Holden

Trade statistics (tonnes) year to date ending March 2004

IMPORTS:

Cement.....	225,983.00
Concentrates Zinc.....	187,619.06
Fertiliser.....	68,160.53
General Cargo.....	86,658.72
Motor Vehicles.....	10,443.02
Nickel ore.....	2,874,442.80
Oil - general purpose.....	547,812.16
Oil - fuel oil and naptha.....	199,018.89
Sulphuric Acid.....	0.00
Sulphur.....	60,717.00
TOTAL.....	4,260,855.18

EXPORTS:

Cattle.....	4,214.00
Concentrates - Copper.....	392,645.50
Concentrates - Lead Bth 11.....	244,668.00
Concentrates - Lead Bth 7.....	10,599.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 11.....	113,754.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 7.....	160,250.60
Copper ore.....	0.00
Copper refined.....	99,008.13
Feed pellets.....	623.50
General cargo.....	89,582.44
Higher analysis fertiliser.....	627,078.00
Lead ingots.....	87,676.00
Meat products - by products.....	9,357.28
Meat products - frozen.....	21,148.36
Meat products - hides.....	0.00
Meat products - tallow.....	7,719.39
Molasses.....	198,373.59
Nickel - refined.....	9,438.76
Sand/gravel.....	4,836.00
Sugar.....	1,166,896.00
Sulphur acid.....	16,085.55
Timber.....	104,693.41
Zinc ingots.....	75,133.17
TOTAL.....	3,443,780.68

AQIS pest alert → EXOTIC ASIAN HONEY BEES

A SWARM of exotic Asian honey bees were recently detected and destroyed at Cairns Port. AQIS officers worked closely with Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries staff to ensure no bees strayed from the vessel that came from West Papua.

Asian honey bees pose a significant risk to Australia's domestic honey industry and to the agricultural industries that depend on pollination by honey bees. The bees carry exotic mites that could weaken domestic honey bees, reducing their ability to gather nectar and pollen.

The only way to eradicate the mites is to destroy all bee colonies and hives in the affected area. AQIS rigorously inspect vessels from high risk countries to ensure the pest does not spread.

→ Report pest sightings to AQIS on (07) 4722 2685



PHOTO COURTESY OF AQIS

Talking trade

OVERSEAS delegates from a trade mission to North Queensland stopped by Townsville Port recently to learn more about the port's livestock handling and exporting.

Meat importers from Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia and Malaysia were briefed on the port's operating procedures and toured the livestock facilities at berth ten.

The group included Malaysian Government Minister and Rural Development and Agriculture Chairman Y.B. MD Yunos Bin Husin, pictured with Business Development Officer Frank Gedling.

The trade mission was organised by the Department of Primary Industries, as part of the Global Beef Export Development Project.

Over the last year the project has facilitated four trade missions to international destinations, and one to Queensland.



Multi-million dollar contract awarded

AN ENGINEERING construction company has been appointed to undertake a major multi-million dollar port infrastructure maintenance project.

McMahon Marine Constructions Pty Ltd will soon commence encapsulation work on the 190 piles on berth one that are affected by Alkalie Aggregate Reaction, which causes the concrete to expand and crack.

Townsville Port Authority Construction Manager Udhaya Arambawela said this key maintenance project would extend the life of berth one by approximately twenty years.

"An ongoing inspection and maintenance program allowed the early detection and treatment of Alkalie Aggregate Reaction, ensuring safe product transfer operations at Townsville Port," he said.

"By encapsulation we can reduce further cracking of the piles and also improve the strength of the pile."

It will involve the application of 175mm thick reinforced concrete from one metre below the seabed to the slab soffit level.

Work will commence from the sea end of the structure, with approximately 2,000 metres encased in concrete during the project's 40 weeks.

Berth one was constructed in 1964 and has piles that are 400mm circular, 500mm circular and 457mm octagonal in cross section.

Located at the tip of Townsville Port, berth one is a dedicated bulk liquid common user wharf used for tankers carrying bulk oil, fuel, gas and sulphuric acid discharge.

Another contract to repair the berth one driveway girder ends was awarded to CSS Corpro Pty Ltd, with work expected to be completed in approximately 8 weeks.



Major sediment removal plan

DREDGES are not often used for land-based activities at Townsville Port, but that was the strategy adopted by Queensland Nickel to address sediment in an evaporation pond.

The company used a small dredge to restore the pond's storage ability to capacity by removing sediment, from wash-downs and dust suppression, that built up in the pond.

Queensland Nickel Materials Handling Superintendent Steve Carkeet said the dredge material was dried and returned to Yabulu for processing, while clean water was returned to the settlement pond.

"We used a local firm as site supervisor for the duration of the task, and Northern Shipping and Stevedoring built a bunded storage area from dry ore to store the sediment," he said.

"Queensland Nickel's environment department monitored storage water compliance daily during dredging operations to ensure levels were within site licence limits." He said the project also had to take into consideration the pond's 200mm gravel base.

"The gravel base presented some challenges in removing trapped sediment as mobile machinery could not be used as it could potentially damage the liner. It was determined that a suction dredge was the most appropriate method of removal without damaging the liner."