

Vol. 1 Issue 1 March 2001

## **TOWNSVILLE WAREHOUSING AND CONTAINER SERVICES PTY LTD SIGN \$1.8 MILLION CONTRACT**

Townsville Port Authority and business partner Townsville Warehousing and Container Services Pty Ltd, have signed contracts for the construction of a \$1.8 million warehouse and hardstand facility to be built within the area formerly occupied by Queensland Phosphate. The Authority obtained the land back from Western Mining Fertilizers in 1999.

The new warehousing and hardstand facility will be built by S & P Constructions and will provide the Port of Townsville with much needed storage facilities.

Townsville Warehousing and Container Services Pty Ltd is confident that the facility will provide the company with a strategic marketing advantage in securing cargo that requires undercover storage both before export and upon arrival at the Port of Townsville.

Under the arrangement, Townsville Port Authority will fund the construction of the facility with TWCS operating the facility under a ten year arrangement.

Port Authority Trade Development Manager, Darrin Pearce, said that,

'The Authority was now focussed on being more than a landlord and is taking a lead in developing partnerships with customers whose interests were in alignment with the port'.

'TWCS see an opportunity in the port for the provision of warehousing and hardstand facilities, particularly as the port continues to grow in terms of tonnage and the types of cargoes being handled, which in turn meets our need to facilitate the provision of appropriate infrastructure in the port to handle this growth,' Mr Pearce said.



**Construction began on Townsville Warehousing & Container Services' new facility in February 2001.**

Building work began in February 2001 and the facility is expected to be complete and operational by mid May 2001.



**At the construction site of Townsville Warehousing & Container Services Pty Ltd, from left: Jason Mahlberg, Development Works Manager, Martin Norman, Acting CEO and Dennis Payne, Manager TWCS.**

## **WMC FERTILIZERS LOAD RECORD SHIPMENT**

One of the port's newest customers, WMC Fertilizers, reached a milestone at the end of February with a record shipment at their Duchess plant.

The record 38,500 tonnes of granulated diammonium phosphate was destined for Latin American countries, principally Argentina.

WMC Fertilizers began production in December 1999 and exported 115,787 tonnes to Vietnam, Bangladesh and Thailand. Opportunities for expansion exist in Japan,

Korea and South America and these are expected to increase export levels to 420,000 tonnes this year. Last year 130,945 tonnes were

sold to Australian markets and domestic sales were expected to rise to 430,000 tonnes this year.



WMC Fertilizer reached a milestone in February 2001.

## **PORT TAKES LEAD ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTRODUCED MARINE PESTS**

Townsville Port Authority and CRC Reef Research, are working together to identify what marine pests live in the waters around the Port of Townsville. CRC Reef Research has completed the process of sampling in various locations in close proximity to the port.

Marine plants and animals can be transported across thousands of kilometres of ocean on the hulls of recreational, fishing and commercial vessels, and in the ballast water of ships. Most of these species will not survive the journey. But, if conditions are right, those that do survive can thrive in their new environment and become pests.

Many different sampling methods were undertaken in October 2000 including diver

pile scraping, video photography, beam trawling and wharf pile scraping. Crabs, shrimps, fish, algae, invertebrates, plankton and dinoflagellate cysts are amongst the species that CRC Reef Research are sampling. CRC Reef Research is now in the process of sorting and identifying what marine pests (if any) live in the port.

The results of the survey will be used in Australia's Decision Support System (DSS). The DSS incorporates results from port surveys around Australia to assess the risk associated with both commercial and recreational marine transport. The purpose of this activity is to determine whether a particular vessel could be a carrier or vector of a foreign marine species, and prevent an outbreak of unwanted marine pests.

The project started in September 2000 and is expected to take about 9 months. A progress report is due to be released in March 2001 and a final report in May 2001.



Divers sampling for marine pests in the port.

## "WERRA" ARRIVES TO ACCOMMODATE PORT USERS

The request from Townsville Port Authority for increased towage capacity was met late last year with the redeployment of the *Werra* to Townsville waters.

The *Werra*, operated by North Queensland Marine Towing, was brought to Townsville to meet the port's projected growth requirements. Trevor Cullinger from NQMT said, 'the towage capacity and larger physical size of the tug means improved handling and efficiency especially on outer berth jobs'.

The new tug is expected to meet all anticipated shipping requirements as well as increased combined towage capacity for the port.

The tug that was formerly operated by Waratah Towing in Sydney is 32 metres in length and has a bollard pull of 45 tonnes. The tug has a speed of 12.75 knots and has a total of

3600 Brake HorsePower in the engines.

The *Werra* replaces the *Burdekin* and is berthed alongside the *Giru* at Townsville Port. It is yet to be decided where the *Burdekin* will be redeployed to.



*Werra* was involved in the successful salvage of the *Bunga Teratai Satu* that ran aground on Sudbury Reef off Cairns in November 2000.

## IN AND OUT OF THE PORT

*Joides Resolution* berthed at Townsville from 3/01/01 to 08/01/01.

The *Joides Resolution* is the world's largest scientific research vessel. The *Joides Resolution* visited Townsville before embarking on a 2 month expedition to collect samples of limestone from the floor of the Great Barrier Reef.

*USS Paul Hamilton* visited Townsville from 20/01/01 to 25/01/01. The Guided Missile Destroyer held an Open Day on Sunday 21 January 2001 that was open to the public free of charge. Families took advantage of the event with over 500 people visiting the navy vessel.

*USS Fletcher* visited the port from 25/01/01 to 29/01/01. The American Destroyer held an Open Day on Saturday 27 January 2001 with approximately

700 people coming through the port to view the vessel.

The *Silver Wind* cruise ship visited Townsville Port on Friday 9/2/01 for the day. With 182 passengers and 207 crew on board, this cruise ship is one of the more luxurious passenger liners. The *Silver Wind* is on an around the world trip and after visiting Townsville will go to Cairns and Darwin before departing for Bali.

The *HMAS Manoora* and *HMAS Kanimbla* docked at Townsville Port on the 10/03/01. These ships carried out amphibious watercraft exercises with Townsville based army units 5 Aviation Regiment and 10 Forward Support Battalion as part of preparation for May's exercise Tandem Thrust – a joint Australian and United States amphibious assault exercise. *HMAS Manoora* departed on 14/03/01 with 237 crew on

board and *HMAS Kanimbla* departed on 12/03/01 with 230 crew.

The *Silver Cloud* docked at Townsville Port on 12/03/01 for a day visit. The luxury cruise ship came from Noumea and stopped while on journey to Cairns and Darwin. With 104 passengers on board and 208 crew, this vessel is definitely one of the more expensive and luxurious cruise ships.



*Silver Wind* visited Townsville Port on an around the world trip with 182 passengers on board.

# MAINTENANCE WORK IN THE PORT

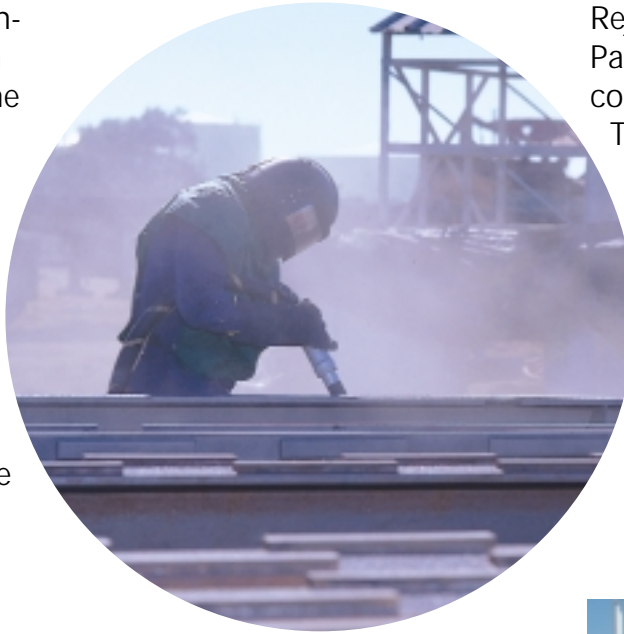
Maintenance works are constantly being undertaken in various locations around the port.

We recently completed a major upgrade of concrete repairs to berth 8 and 9. Repairs were made to the support piles and walkway soffits that had been cracked and damaged. The repairs were completed in November 2000.

The fabrication of the steel fenders on berth 2 and 3 is expected to start in mid May. The work entails 570 metres of wharf that will have a re-designed fender system. This project is programmed over the next three years as work can only be done during windows in shipping.

Currently blast and paint maintenance is being undertaken on berth 2 to the crane support piles. There are 90 piles in total, which is expected to take about a month to complete. This will address any corrosion of the steel piles.

The *Eric Netterfield*, a 220 cubic metre split hopper barge,



Sandblasting underway at the Port of Townsville.

has undergone maintenance work. Safety rail replacement and repairs to the deck and hoppers as well as blast and paint repairs were completed at the end of February.

Berth 10 is also undergoing some fender work with renewal of timber whalings and chaffing strips.

We are in the process of undertaking quarterly soundings of Platypus Channel and the Outer and Inner Harbour.

Rejuvenation of the National Park Pontoon is expected to be completed by the end of March. The pontoon has undergone some maintenance repairs, and blasting and painting will begin soon.

If you would like further information about port maintenance work, please do not hesitate to contact us.



A TPA employee undertakes maintenance work under one of the berths.

## in depth

This newsletter is a regular publication of Townsville Port Authority and is available free of charge. Correspondence is invited on any subject concerning the Port of Townsville and the shipping industry, which you would like featured in this newsletter. Reproduction of information

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