

**PORT of
TOWNSVILLE**

Nexus North Queensland

DECEMBER 04

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rapPORT

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



Annual Report Released

TRADE records, revenue increases and major infrastructure were key milestones reached in 2003/04 by the Townsville Port Authority, according to the organisation's annual report.

Tabled in parliament on Friday 12 November, the annual report showed the previous fiscal year was peppered with a range of trade, business and financial successes:

TRADE RECORD

Townsville Port smashed its previous trade record and reached its seventeenth consecutive year of record trade with 10,171,101 tonnes.

There were four import records set including motor vehicles (15,630 tonnes, 9,878 vehicles); oil (977,866 tonnes); nickel ore (3,870,413 tonnes) and; cement (305,998 tonnes).

Export Records - sugar (1,475,730 tonnes) and lead concentrates (372,587 tonnes) also set trade records for the Port of Townsville in 2003/2004.

CAPITAL WORKS

Approximately \$750,000 was allocated for essential works including safety upgrades, installation of new water mains for port customers and upgrading of the seven kilometre internal road network.

A tender was awarded to the value of approximately \$1.3 million to upgrade security at the three port entrances and security at wharves. Three new CCTV cameras were installed at a total cost of \$100,000.

FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

Revenue from all operations increased from \$25.7 million in 2002/03 to \$27.18 million in 2003/04. Operating profit before Interest and Tax

was \$3.78 million. Net Profit was \$1.23 million and Net Assets were \$108.29 million.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Work on Queensland Sugar Limited's 400,000 tonne capacity third sugar shed was completed, with its' first storage of raw sugar coming from Giru in September 2003. It stored 370,000 tonnes in the first six months of operation.

MAINTENANCE

Concrete repairs to wharves were undertaken at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million. The demolition and clean up of the old timber wharf deck under Berth 3 was completed at a cost of \$400,000.

A major repair program on the Ross Creek ferry terminal was carried out to the value of \$90,000.

COMMERCIAL PORT OPERATIONS

This year the Port welcomed 25 naval ships and four passenger ships during 2003/04. 714 ships docked at the Port in total. The majority (262) were bulk carriers followed by general cargo vessels (191) and tankers (109).

Commenting on the successes of the past financial year, Ron McLean, Chairman of the Townsville Port Authority said: "It's been an excellent year for the Port of Townsville with many achievements and exciting developments. Reaching our 17th consecutive year of record trade is among the greatest in this long list."

More than ten million tonnes of cargo passed over the Port's wharves during the 2003/2004 year, surpassing last year's trade record by around 200,000 tonnes.



Mr. McLean paid tribute to the people responsible for the results. "Such milestones could not have been achieved without the dedication and hard work from a committed and progressive Port community. It is to our customers and employees that recognition is given for this notable achievement."

Speaking on the future of the Port he said: "We aim to ensure the Port continues to move forward by working closely with our port users and customers, looking to expand and tap into overseas markets, and continuing and nurturing relationships already made with industries and sister cities in neighbouring nations."



Dredging up the past...

Cobb & Co. coach heading west in the 1860-1870's. They maintained regular services between Townsville, Ravenswood and Charters Towers.

At the helm - from the CEO



Trade statistics (tonnes) year to date ending 31 October 2004

IMPORTS:

Cement	145,680.00
Concentrates Zinc	83,188.00
Fertiliser	79,201.00
General Cargo	36,363.00
Motor Vehicles	5,896.00
Nickel ore	1,484,198.00
Oil - general purpose	278,017.00
Oil - Yabulu	43,483.00
Sulphuric Acid	10,085.00
Sulphur	28,167.00
Imports Total	2,194,278.00

EXPORTS:

Cattle	1,094.00
Concentrates - Copper	186,424.00
Concentrates - Lead B11	126,785.00
Concentrates - Lead B7	8,200.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 11	45,184.00
Concentrates - Zinc Bth 7	99,240.00
Copper refined	46,898.00
Feed pellets	267.00
General cargo	36,523.00
Higher analysis fertiliser	230,118.00
Lead ingots	40,940.00
Meat products - by products	7,680.00
Meat products - frozen	10,216.00
Meat products - tallow	4,707.00
Molasses	210,045.00
Nickel - refined	4,262.00
Sand/gravel	5,234.00
Sugar	436,046.00
Sulphuric Acid	4,019.00
Timber	21,113.00
Zinc ingots	9,189.00
Exports total	1,534,184.00

TOTAL - IMPORTS & EXPORTS 3,728,462.00

DREDGING

Dredging in the inner harbour, outer harbour and the shipping channel has concluded for this year. The new depths are updated in the port and shipping directory on our website.

Dredging of the Port is essential to ensure sufficient water for ships to operate and to maximise the amount of cargo ships can load in the Port.

MAINTENANCE

Concrete repairs on berth 1 are still ongoing and on target. These works are due for completion by early next year.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report for the 2003/2004 financial year has been tabled by the Minister for transport in the Queensland Parliament in November. Copies are available from the Authority's offices and also available on our website www.townsville-port.com.au.

It details another year of record trade for the Port and I'd like to congratulate everybody involved in making it happen.

LOST TIME INJURY

I congratulate the Authority's employees on reaching 12 months without a lost time injury. This achievement

reflects the effort being applied by the Safety Officer, the active Safety Committee and the excellent safety culture in the Port environment.

SECURITY

Installation of the security gates at Benwell Road, Lennon Drive, and Hubert Street is now complete. I'd like to extend my appreciation to all of our port users for their patience and assistance during the gate installations.

BE PREPARED

It's cyclone season. During this time moored boats may be subject to strong winds and currents. In this issue of rapPORT we have included a feature on precautions that should be taken by small boat owners. The Authority has also launched an awareness campaign on television. A brochure detailing the precautions that should be undertaken is also available from the Authority or from Maritime Safety Queensland's office in Ross Street.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

2004 is drawing to a close and we look forward to celebrating the festive season. I wish all of the port community a very happy Christmas and a healthy, productive, and safe New Year. Our offices will be closed from lunchtime on 24 December, reopening on 4 January 2005. The port will continue to operate as usual with the Port Control manned around the clock.

AQIS pest alert

→YELLOW CRAZY ANTS

YELLOW 'crazy ants' are an aggressive species of tramp ant that present a very real threat to Australia's environment. The name 'crazy ant' is derived from the ants' frantic movements and frequent changes in direction - especially when disturbed. Worker ants are amber in body colour, have unusually long legs and antennae and are approximately 4 mm in length.

Transported in goods, packaging and pallets in containers, yellow crazy ants are very good hitchhikers. Established colonies have been controlled in Cairns and Brisbane through locally-managed control programs. Crazy ant infestations on Christmas Island and in the Northern Territory have caused considerable environmental degradation.

Crazy ants form 'super-colonies' with multiple queens in which the density of worker ants can reach 1,000 per square metre. Super-colonies can expand by three metres a day - or one kilometre in a year.

Crazy ants were detected at Townsville seaport on a pallet in a shipment from Papua New Guinea in 2002 during routine post arrival inspection. Although the ants were contained, it provides a reminder of the need for vigilance at our border. If you see an ant fitting the description, please contact AQIS on 07 4789 4888.

Photo: *Anoplolepis gracilipes* courtesy AQIS Entomology Brisbane



Under the Microscope - Queensland Nickel Pty. Ltd.

Name: Queensland Nickel Pty. Ltd.
Location: Yabulu Refinery, Greenvale Street, Yabulu, 4818.
Chief Operating Officer: Tim Netscher.
Employees: Approximately 1,000 employees and contractors.
Website: www.qni.com.au.

QNI is a division of BHP Billiton, the world's leading diversified natural resources company. Part of BHP Billiton's Stainless Steel Materials Group, QNI is involved in the exploration, processing, and marketing of high quality nickel and cobalt.

QNI's products are sold to customers who use them in the manufacture of stainless steel, speciality steels, alloys, and chemicals.

QNI refines imported nickel ore into a range of nickel products and a speciality cobalt product at QNI Yabulu refinery.

HISTORY

QNI commenced operations in 1974 with the first railing of ore from the Greenvale nickel deposit. The Greenvale mine was exhausted in 1992. QNI has imported nickel ore since 1986, sourced from New Caledonia, Indonesia, and Phillipines. Billiton finalised the purchase of QNI in December 1998. Billiton then merged with BHP in July 2001.

VISION

An integrated world-class nickel and cobalt refining business, based on innovation, industry leadership in safety, and sustainable growth.

VALUES

- A safe and healthy work environment.
- Openness, honesty and trust that encourages participation and involvement.
- Treating people with dignity and fairness.
- Quality in everything we do.
- Outstanding internal and external customer supplier relationships.
- The challenge of operational and technical excellence.
- Making business decisions that are good for business, the environment, and the community.

THE FUTURE

In 2004 the development of the Ravensthorpe Yabulu nickel project in Western Australia was approved by BHP Billiton.

Capital cost of the combined project is expected to be US\$1.4 billion.

Ravensthorpe concentrate will be imported through the Port for further refining at Yabulu, increasing nickel production at Yabulu by more than 140% to an estimated 76,000 tonnes per annum, with the life of the refinery being extended a further 25 years.



Unloading nickel ore from a vessel at the Port. The nickel ore is carried by train to Yabulu where it is refined into nickel.

These people aren't mugs



A constant emphasis on safety in the workplace has resulted in employees of the Townsville Port Authority beating all previously held records in the organisation.

Employees have gone 12 months without a lost time injury (LTI) which means that nobody has had to take time off work due to any injuries incurred on the job. This was well below the previous year and much lower than the industry average in Australia.

To recognise this event, the Authority has presented each employee a specially designed drinking mug with the words 'Have a safe day' emblazoned on it - a reminder to keep up the good work.

Barry Holden, Chief Executive Officer of the Townsville Port Authority said: "With over seventy employees this is a great achievement for the Authority.

"A large proportion of our employees work outdoors in higher-risk conditions including working in confined spaces, under wharves, abrasive blasting, working at heights and working with machinery."

He went on to say that "we place a large emphasis on safety in the workplace. Recording a zero LTI reflects well on our education policies, practical approach, active safety committee and a positive safety culture among Authority employees."

Customs Introduce Electronic Cargo Management System

IN October Customs introduced a new electronic system for export cargo.

The new procedures improve controls over cargo and its movement. It is part of the trade moderation process being undertaken by Customs.

The new system requires exporters to report all cargo by electronic means to Customs for clearance and for shipping agents to advise Customs electronically that a ship is ready to sail so they can obtain the vessel's Customs clearance.

Of particular interest was a new procedure of 'gate reporting'. This requires stevedores to report all containerised cargo arriving on a wharf to Customs and obtain permission to load the goods onto a ship.

It also requires transport operators to carry Customs Export Declaration details for the goods and present this to the stevedore.

The new system is one of the largest Information Technology projects ever undertaken in Australia and is a world leader in cargo clearance.

The next phase of this process involves imported cargo and is expected to commence in May 2005.

Customs will be holding industry information sessions in the coming months.

Further information is available on the internet at www.customs.gov.au or calling the Customs Information Centre on 1300 363 263 or Townsville District Office on 4722 3700.

supPORTing

OUR ENVIRONMENT



Avoid Dengue this Wet Season

TOWNSVILLE Port Authority, in association with a number of Townsville organisations, has entered into an agreement to participate in the identification and management of various harmful insects such as the dengue mosquito.

These organisations include AQIS, Townsville City Council, Townsville Airport, Royal Australian Air Force in Townsville, the Tropical Public Health Unit of Queensland Health in Townsville.

This comes as a result of outbreaks of dengue fever and other diseases in Townsville over the past number of years due to our warm climate. The most recent outbreak in Townsville this year saw 58 people confirmed with the disease.

CAUSES

Dengue Fever is caused by a virus spread by one type of mosquito which lives in North Queensland. The dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, breeds around the house or workplace and generally bites you indoors during daylight hours.

It is transmitted by a bite from the dengue mosquito which has previously bitten a person infected with the virus. It only takes one mosquito to infect a number of people in a short time.

Dengue Fever symptoms include: sudden onset of fever lasting three to seven days, intense headache, especially behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea, skin rash, minor bleeding and extreme fatigue.



Throw out rubbish that collects water

The time from being bitten by an infected mosquito to developing the disease ranges from three to 14 days, but is commonly four to seven days.

PREVENTION

The best way to avoid getting dengue fever is to get rid of mosquito breeding sites around your home or workplace.

Dengue mosquitoes breed in containers that hold water. Check your house and yard each week, tip out any containers that hold water, then store them in a dry place or throw them out. Also, throw out any rubbish that may contain water.

Water pools in bases of pot plants can provide an ideal mosquito-breeding habitat. Either empty, dry and clean the base at least once every seven days, remove base, fill base with sand, every month treat using S-methoprene (Altosid) pellets, every three months treat with a cockroach surface spray or plug any slots with a sponge or appropriately sized mesh.

In an industrial area the mosquito breeds in any item that holds water for an extended period. These could include packaging like polystyrene boxes, plant and equipment, drums, bins, pipes, and car bodies.

Gutters that get blocked by leaf debris can also become a major mosquito-breeding site. Even 1 mm of water can be enough to sustain mosquito larvae.

Tyres that hold water are also a favoured breeding site for dengue mosquitoes. Either dispose of the tyre or drill holes (20-50mm wide) in the bottom of the tyre so that all the water drains out.

Any space below the drain pipes will hold water and provide an idea breeding site. These are often located in driveways, parking lots or other large concrete pads.

Fill any space below the drain pipe with concrete, regularly treat using S-methoprene (Altosid) pellets or every three months treat with a cockroach surface spray.

Black plastic, tarps or awnings can hold water in the many small pockets of folded plastic. Either remove or store under cover, treat it with cockroach surface spray every three months or push the water collecting in the tarp, or awning, out with a broom.

Other personal preventative measures include using personal insect repellants, using insecticide mats to kill mosquitoes, screening living, working and sleeping areas, wear long, loose clothing when outdoors,

COMMON BREEDING SITES FOR DENGUE MOSQUITOES ARE:

- Pot plant bases
- Tyres
- Roof guttering
- Tarpaulins
- Fallen palm fronds
- Buckets
- Tin cans & plastic containers
- Rainwater tanks
- Boats
- Coconut shells

The dengue mosquito does not breed in rivers, swamps, open drains, creeks or mangroves.

WEEKLY TASKS TO STOP THE DENGUE MOSSIE:

- ✓ TIP THEM OUT - Tip out containers which can hold water
- ✓ STORE THEM DRY - Store containers in a dry place
- ✓ THROW THEM OUT - Throw out containers you don't need

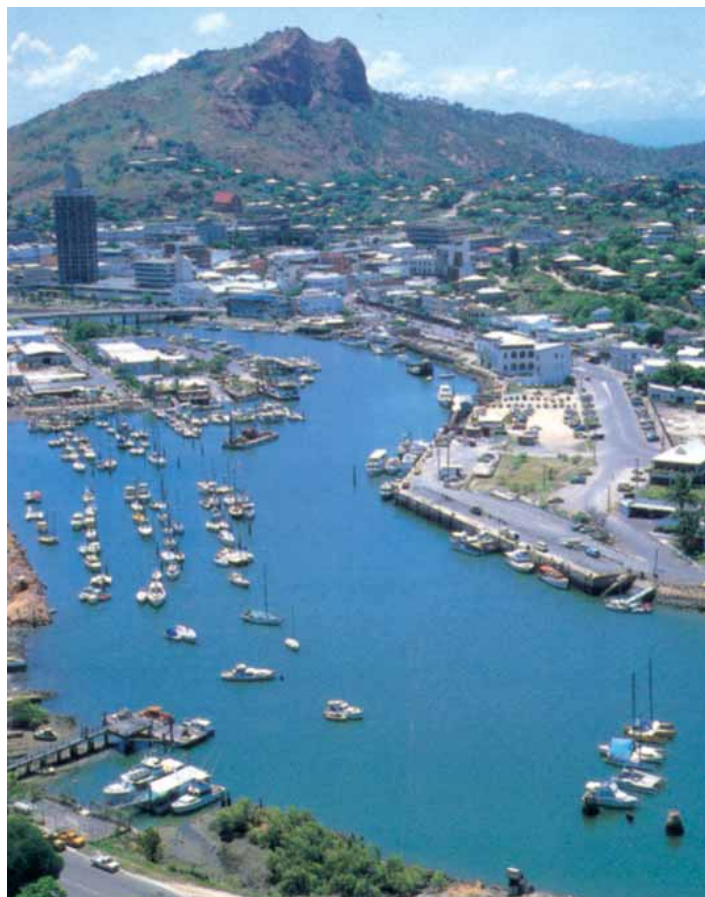
and spray indoors in dark places e.g. behind filing cabinets, with knockdown spray.

The Tropical Public Health Unit Director of Environmental Health Services, Mr. John Piispanen, said: "This year's outbreak began when a person who had contracted the dengue virus overseas, most probably Papua New Guinea, came into contact with local dengue mosquitoes, which then spread the virus to local residents."



Pot plants are an ideal dengue mosquito breeding area

Be Prepared - A Checklist for Small Boat Owners



FROM November to April is cyclone season in North Queensland. During this time, moored boats may be subject to strong winds and currents. Townsville Port Authority and the Regional Harbour Master, Townsville, are reminding boat owners that they should now be taking precautions to ensure the safety of their vessels.

Captain John Preston, Regional Harbour Master, Townsville, with Maritime Safety Queensland said: "It is very important to make sure your boat is prepared, to prevent damage to your vessel and others. In particular, attention should be paid to the condition of mooring lines that may have been damaged and weakened by UV rays from the sun." Townsville Port Authority Chief Executive Officer,

Barry Holden encouraged boat owners to check their vessels prior to commencement of inclement weather.

"We are encouraging owners to check their vessels now instead of trying to do something at the last minute.

"In the past, vessels have broken their moorings and either washed away, sunk or damaged other vessels."

A brochure recommending a number of precautions that should be taken is available from the Townsville Port Authority or Maritime Safety Queensland.

Precautions should include the following:

- Position the vessel, bow facing upstream, to avoid damaging adjacent vessels.
- Check the condition of mooring lines and anchor wraps.
- Check ropes subject to stress.
- Double up on lines if necessary.
- Ensure bilge pumps are operational and self-draining openings are clear.
- Inspect boat cleats and mooring fittings and store all loose gear below deck (hatches, boathooks, buckets, fishing gear, floats, life rings).
- Deflate and store inflatable dinghies to minimise losses.
- Higher than normal tides could be experienced along with a storm surge so additional chain should be let out on vessels at anchor.
- Reduce wind loading to a minimum.
- Remove all furled sails and covers.
- Disconnect shore power and water leads.
- Advise the appropriate authority of contact details if your boat is to be left unattended.

Port Authority Sponsors major category in 2004 North Queensland Tourism Awards



THE 2004 North Queensland Tourism Awards took place on 22 October. The Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre was transformed into the 'White Orchid Room' where the theme for the night was the Rat Pack era of the 1940s.

The event, which attracted about 400 people, recognised industry leaders and their teams for their achievements and commitment to excellence during the past 12 months.

There were 25 categories to present and the Authority sponsored the major category - the Richard Power Award

for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to the Tourism Industry. This award honoured the late Richard Power, former CEO of Townsville Enterprise.

John Domelow, a prominent business identity from Magnetic Island, was the recipient of the award. He has been involved in the North Queensland tourism industry for many years, serving on the board of Townsville Enterprise for more than a decade.

Mr. Domelow and Richard Power worked closely together during the formative years of Townsville Enterprise.

In Brief

FEMPORT

A new era has hit the Port of Townsville with the launch of 'Femport' - a network of the women working in or around the Port.

The first 'Femport' networking event was held at the Victoria Park Hotel on Friday, 12 November and was attended by over 35 women.

MARINE INCIDENT FIGURES RELEASED

Maritime Safety Queensland has released the marine incident figures for the period of January to September 2004.

The Townsville region accounted for 38 incidents from a total of 453 in Queensland.

This is an increase of 5 incidents from the same period in the previous year. Of these none were fatalities, compared to nine in total for Queensland.

The Townsville region encompasses the area from Cardwell to Bowen.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Our office will be closed for business from 1 p.m. 24 December 2004 to 9 a.m. 4 January 2005.

The port control tower will be staffed as usual during this time, and can be contacted on (07) 4781 1684.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and an excellent year for 2005.

Dredging Completed at the Port of Townsville



Dredging vessel the *Brisbane* at work in the Port of Townsville.

AS part of annual port maintenance, the 2004 dredging campaign has been completed in the inner harbour, the outer harbour and the shipping channel by the trailing suction dredge *Brisbane* as part of on its annual northern dredging campaign, which included visits to the ports of Weipa, Cairns, Mackay and Gladstone.

The dredging involved removing natural infill from Cleveland Bay and Ross River.

The program cost approximately \$2.3 million and was undertaken in accordance with strict environmental guidelines.

Barry Holden, Chief Executive Officer of the Townsville Port Authority, said: "Dredging of the inner harbour area is an essential part of the Port's operations to ensure sufficient water for ships to operate and to maximise the amount of cargo ships can load in the Port.

"This improves the efficiency for our customers and makes the Port, and the industries it serves, more competitive," he said.

events

december

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

24: Port Authority offices close at 1 p.m. for Christmas break.

january

4: Port Authority offices re-open for business at 9 a.m.

State Award for Customs Brokers

NORTH Queensland Customs Services took out the prestigious state award at the Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) Centenary Conference at the Sunshine Coast in October.

This is the first time a regional area in Queensland has taken out this award which is open to all Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders around the state.

Chris McMahon, Director of North Queensland Customs Services (NQCS), said: "We are very proud and surprised to be the recipients of this award. It's the first time that it was awarded to a business outside Brisbane. It recognises the importance of regional Queensland and our role in the national and international trade community."

North Queensland Customs Services is a locally-owned company and has been in operation in Townsville for 25 years. The company handles both air and sea cargo internationally and nationally.

The CBFCA functions as a peak industry body and voice for importers, exporters, manufacturers and other associated groups concerned with international trade.

Editorial: Lesley Giblin

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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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Magnetic Island Swimming Assoc. Gives Thanks



THE Townsville Magnetic Island Swim Association has thanked the Port Authority for providing a vessel for the 2004 Suncorp Magnetic Island Swim.

A certificate was awarded to Jeff Aitkenhead, skipper of the vessel *Arthur Titley* which towed Leigh Bool to fourth place and the Townsville Tourists Relay Team to second place.

Meet a Manager



Manager Marine Services -
David King

WITH more than 18 years experience in the port industry, David has an extensive knowledge of port operations and procedures.

In his present role, he oversees the port services team that is responsible for port control, dangerous goods management and security.

He holds qualifications as Master Class 5, Workplace Health and Safety Officer in Construction and Manufacturing and completed university courses in management and dangerous goods management.