



Guy Roper  
Chief Executive

## Upfront

Welcome to our first Portal magazine for 2016.

As most of you will be well aware, times are changing, particularly around commodity prices. There's no doubt they are creating a challenge for our energy and rural sector customers.

Naturally, Port Taranaki's half-yearly volumes, and therefore revenue, are down as a result, but it is worth remembering they are still at the level they were two years ago.

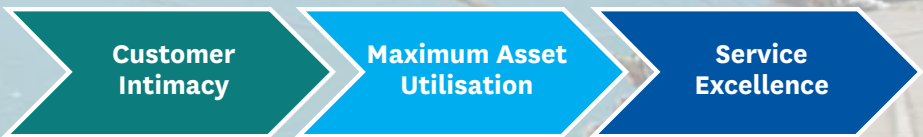
I can see even lower levels of activity in the next year or two, and probably longer in the oil and gas business, with off-shore exploration suffering most in that time.

As the Port's chief executive, I have three goals. Firstly, we have to be a successful, sustainable business. That's something the company has been since it was set up in the late 1980s.

Secondly, we have to seek growth and new business opportunities, and finally, my executive team will lead our business and our people to be the best we can be.

One example I'm proud of is the way we adopted ShoreTension™. Port Taranaki is leading the way with new technology to overcome the problems associated with breakages in ships' moorings as a result of long period waves. That has been an ongoing problem but the days of ships having to leave the Port until the waves have dissipated are over.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say to our customers, "what more can we do for you? Please let us know. We pride ourselves on providing solutions and we'll continue to do so. Our team is passionate about the service we provide and is ready to deliver answers and results."



## What's happening on Port land

With so much happening at Port Taranaki at the moment, Operations and Infrastructure Manager Alistair Simmers has little chance of being bored. Alistair gives Portal readers a brief update on recent developments.

**Refurbishment of the tank farm** at 283 Centennial Drive has started. Port Taranaki acquired the terminal in December and, once upgraded, it will be leased to BP. There is a pipeline that will also be refurbished and modernised to provide a connection to Newton King Tanker Terminal (NKTT).

Wellington firm Aurecon is doing the design work for us and finalising the scope before we go out to tender for the work. It needs a new truck-loading gantry, a new control system, some new tank-gauging systems and we need to overhaul pumps and valves.

The system hasn't been used since 2010 so it hasn't been maintained for a while and it needs to be brought up to current legal and industry standards. We knew we'd have to refurbish it because of its age. It'll be good for the community as it will get tankers off the road. At the moment all petrol is trucked into the region.

**There is also refurbishment taking place under NKTT.** The terminal is a concrete structure and that doesn't last forever, particularly in marine conditions. Chlorides from the sea get into the concrete and start the rusting process. To address that, we're spending \$1.5 million a year for the next three years. There are three stages to it and we plan to complete one stage every year. Basically we'll have teams getting under the wharves and giving them a jolly good tidy up, blasting off the



damaged concrete, cleaning up the reinforcing bar and packing the concrete back in again.

**A pipe support replacement programme** has also started at NKTT. Pace Engineering is demolishing some of the old pipe supports so we can replace the old corroding ones with new ones. Salt water gets into the paint and starts working away at the steel so the new supports we're putting in will be galvanised and painted for extra protection. That will take us

to August to complete.

**Finally, there is a new traffic management system and roundabout** in operation. Port users will have noticed a whole bunch of new road markings. Traffic safety has often come up as a concern, because there were hardly any markings. So we've defined the roadways and constructed two new roundabouts. They will help ease the flow of traffic and reinforce the normal road rules that apply at the Port as well.



our people



## Time to come home

Canada's loss is Port Taranaki's gain.

In January, Jeremy Hudson started work at the Port, after spending the last three years in Calgary working as an auditor for international accounting firm PWC. He holds the position of Financial Controller.

Despite loving his time there, Jeremy says the decision to come back home was an easy one.

"I have a seven-month old son, Luca, and soon after he was born my wife Chelsea said we should start looking at coming home. Within a week the Port job came up, so the timing was brilliant."

"I'm originally from New Plymouth and the job was ideal. The leadership team here is focused on improving things for the better and I'm really enjoying that."

"There is also the potential for growth here, which is important to me. I didn't want to come home just for any role, because we were happy in Canada."

Still only 30, Jeremy is very much into snowboarding and says that was a major factor in his original decision to shift to Canada.

"I got a transfer through PWC, and I chose Calgary because of the snow and I also wanted oil and gas experience."

While many of us immediately think of Calgary as the home of the annual Stampede, it is also the energy centre of Canada.

One thing Jeremy loves about his new job is the amazing sea views he has from his second floor office.

"I couldn't believe them when I arrived. Auditors generally get stuck in back rooms, and in Calgary my office was one of those. I've sent a couple of photos back to my workmates in Canada, and to say they are impressed is an understatement!"

Jeremy is a real outdoor man and admits to a love of speed. "I like snowboarding, obviously; fishing, diving and anything going fast. I need to buy myself a motorbike, I didn't have one in Canada - it's hard to ride it in the snow," he says with a laugh.

## Tacky, a stickler for safety

Brent McNab, known to everyone as Tacky, is the new Permit System Coordinator at Port Taranaki.

In fact, he is the first person to be appointed to such a position, which is yet another example of Port Taranaki's continued commitment to ensuring the highest standards of health and safety at the Port.

Tacky started in the role in October, after spending the last 22 years in various roles at STOS.

He's enjoying his job and says he has been pleasantly surprised at the lack of resistance from staff who may have spent many years performing various tasks in a particular way and are now being asked to change how they do things.

"What I do is manage the way work happens on site," explains Tacky.

"I keep an overview and manage who is on site and what they are doing. It's important to keep conflicting activities well apart, for instance."

"This way we are keeping staff and visitors safe and meeting our obligations under the new Health and Safety Act. The biggest thing is getting all of the knowledge staff already had written down. Identifying what they do and what the actual hazards are is really important."

The high volume of petrochemical products going through the Port meant identifying potential hazards and taking preventative steps was vital, he said.

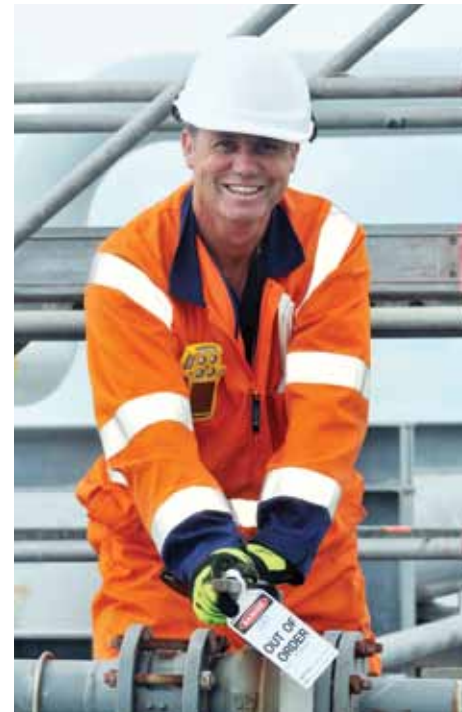
"They all go through the Newton King Tanker Terminal of course, but we are adapting our permit system to reflect different types of risk. So far it's going well."

Married with three children, Tacky is a 'Naki man through and through. He's also a keen golfer and plays at Manukorihi off an eleven handicap.

"I have been down to an eight, but that was when I was working nights and could play three or four times a week. Now it's just weekends."

Finally, in case you're wondering just how Tacky got his nickname, the explanation is simple.

"Dad worked at Shell for many years before me and his nickname was Sticky. So when the son of Sticky started, it was only natural that I was called Tacky." And so it's been ever since.



## Making it work for everyone

"The boaties love it!"

That was the reaction of Port Taranaki Corporate Support Manager, Bronwyn Clement to the new parking and monitoring systems introduced at the Lee Breakwater car park in December.

While the new charges have attracted plenty of media attention, the reality was an increasing number of businesses located there, increased popularity of the coastal walkway and larger boats meant increased congestion and parking problems.

Bronwyn said car park-users towing boats were pleased because the new system had brought some much-needed order to the car park.

"It's all about managing the area better. What used to happen was cars would park in the middle of a trailer area so the boaties were unhappy because they couldn't park their trailers. We now have allocated trailer areas, for both commercial and recreational boat users, spaces for cars only, including some accessibility car parks, and shared spaces for both cars and trailers as well."

Bronwyn said it has resulted in more efficient utilisation of the car park.

"We went for the simplest system, which was pay and display, 24/7, for all users."



Parking fees are \$1 an hour with a maximum of \$10 per day. Bronwyn said money from the parking fees will go towards further development of the area. Already new bike stands have been provided near the Bach on Breakwater cafe, lane lines have been repainted on the boat ramp, concrete blocks formerly used for demarcating car parks have been removed and additional rubbish bins and signs installed.

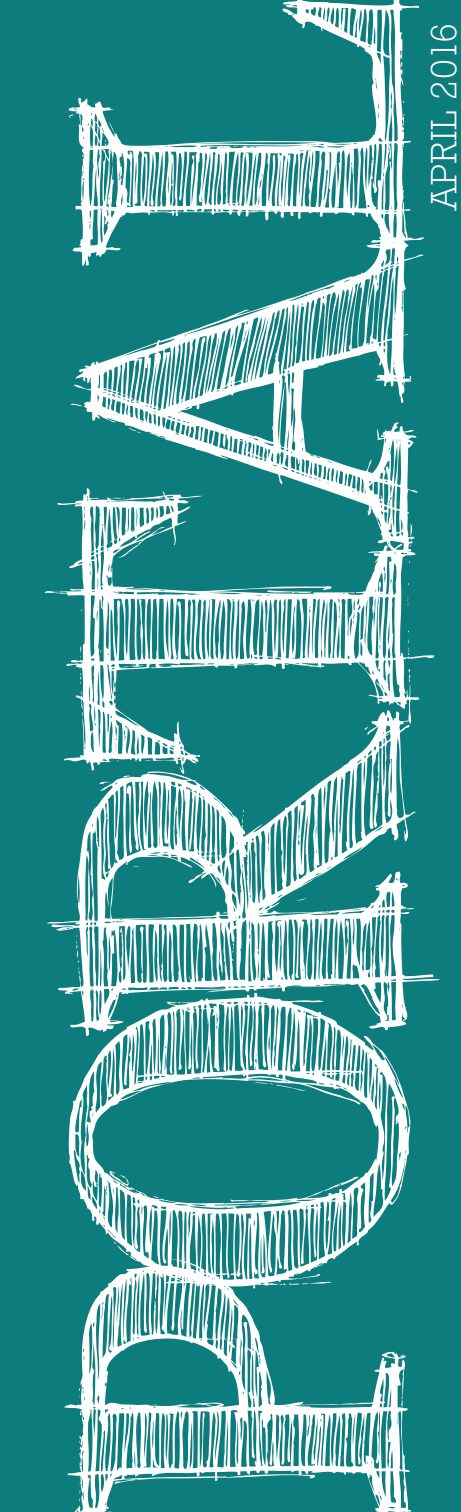
"It's also important the public realise there is still ample free car parking in the area, with 240 free car parks along or in the vicinity of Ocean View Parade."

Regular boat ramp-users, including fishers and charter operators, can purchase parking permits. Enquiries should go to port@porttaranaki.co.nz or phone (06) 759 9739 during normal working hours.



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## Responding to change

Port Taranaki Chief Executive Guy Roper is well aware of the recent world-wide drop in commodity prices.

Many of the Port's key customers come from the energy or rural industries, the sectors which are suffering the most.

"We have many customers who are involved in those sectors and facing low commodity prices and milk price – even in March Fonterra announced another reduction. That has a flow-on effect on our customers, and of course, the Port," says Guy.

Despite those difficult trading conditions, in its half-yearly report to its shareholder, the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC), the Port posted a net profit of \$4.5 million for the six months to 31 December 2015.

That enabled the Port to pay an increased dividend of \$2.24 million to the TRC, up 10% on the same period last year.

While Guy was relatively pleased with that performance, he says it is important the Port takes the opportunity to re-examine all aspects of its business.

"The reality is that we can see even lower levels of activity in the next one to two years, and it will probably be longer than that in the oil and gas business.



"Off shore exploration is suffering as the level of activity by our customers in that business is way down."

Some factors, such as the world-wide price for oil and dairy, are obviously issues Port Taranaki has no influence on.

"That means we need to focus on being effective in the areas we can influence. It's a checkpoint of where we are as a business, in terms of our infrastructure and the way we go about our business with our people. That has to be right."

"That's where our company's three key pillars come in: knowing what our customers want, utilising our assets and our resources and providing service

excellence. Being firmly focused on those means I've required my team to look at ways to increase productivity and flexibility, identify the best practices and how we build on and leverage those. The other part of the equation is to examine all aspects of our overall cost structure."

Guy says all of those exercises are well underway. "We'll complete the review over the rest of our financial year, till the end of June. Options remain open in some areas. The power station demolition has been completed, for example, so we do have opportunities for growth with new customers to utilise that site."

## Port sponsorship vital to Cup success

The annual Flannagan Cup Open Water Swim has become an iconic Taranaki event and this year celebrated its centenary.

Held at Ngamotu Beach, Port Taranaki has long been a sponsor of the event and Flannagan Cup administrator, Julie Owen, says the support given by the Port over the last 20 years has been vital to its continued success.

"Our sponsorship is always limited and it has been spent on the safety crew who look after the event. Competitors have been extremely safe while in the water and we always have St John™ at the beach," she said.

"We thank the Port for their continued support given to us and hope our good relationship will continue."

With the centenary event assuming greater importance than ever, it was fitting that the race was won by New Plymouth long distance swimming star Charlotte Webby.

She completed the 3.6km course in 47 minutes 38 seconds, three minutes ahead of another New Plymouth swimmer, Julian Weir.

It was also fitting that Marion Alexander, the daughter of Bill Davis, who won the first Flannagan Cup in 1916, attended a special luncheon put on by the organisers to mark the centenary.

The event has always been popular with mature swimmers, some of whom have been swimming in it for more than 50 years. "This year we had some swimmers in their 80s who remember swimming in the Flannagan Cup when they were boarders at New Plymouth Boys' High School."

"It's a wonderful event and many past entrants have fond memories of the Flannagan Cup."

Port Taranaki Chief Executive Guy Roper said the Port has been more than happy to support the event.

Photo courtesy of John Velvin.



## No danger of Zika here

Port Taranaki is happy to reassure our neighbours and visitors that they are in no danger of being exposed to the Zika virus through the Port.

The only cases reported in New Zealand involved people who were recently in countries where an outbreak was occurring. Zika can be found in Central and South America, parts of Africa, southern Asia and the Pacific Islands. None of the mosquitoes in New Zealand are thought to be capable of spreading the infection.

Anyone concerned at media reports about the Zika virus are reassured that Port Taranaki works closely with the Taranaki Public Health Unit (PHU) to detect and intercept any exotic mosquitoes that may enter the region through the Port.

Port Taranaki Senior Health and Safety Advisor, Carlie Yukich, says staff are encouraged to be vigilant in ensuring that mosquito breeding habitats are minimised and to report stagnant water or unusual insect sightings.

The Taranaki PHU also undertakes regular weekly mosquito surveillance at the Port. In the unlikely event of a species capable of transmitting disease being identified, the unit has a regularly-updated contingency plan in place. All Taranaki District Health Board staff are trained and refreshed on it each year.

our community

## Cruise ships and underwater restaurant

Port Taranaki continues to be a gateway for all sorts of vessels.

In the last two months the Port welcomed two luxury cruise ships and also farewelled something even rarer – an underwater restaurant.

New Plymouth-based Fitzroy Engineering spent the best part of ten months building, painting and outfitting the underwater restaurant, which is only the second of its type in the world.

The 18 metre by five metre structure left on the morning of Wednesday 10 February, bound for its ultimate destination, a resort in the Maldives. Now secured in place, the 450 tonne restaurant sits underwater on a coral reef in the Indian Ocean as a permanent tribute to the ingenuity of the Fitzroy Engineering team and their subcontractors.

In late January, New Plymouth Mayor Andrew Judd greeted passengers embarking from the first of two cruise ships to visit New Plymouth in the space of a month.

British-based *MS Caledonian Sky* was here for a matter of hours only, cruising into Port Taranaki at lunch time and departing in the early evening. Buses took passengers to Mt Taranaki and Pukekura Park and their feedback was very positive.

The ship, which can carry 114 passengers and 74 crew, last visited Port Taranaki in 2014.



On 15 February, the *Silver Discoverer* arrived at Port Taranaki at 8.00am and again Mayor Judd welcomed passengers to the district. They were taken for a three-hour tour of Mt Taranaki and visited Pukekura Park and the Len Lye Centre.

The luxury 103 metre long ship carries around 100 passengers and nearly 100 crew.

While Port Taranaki can't accommodate large cruise ships,

the smaller cruise market is a potential source of ongoing tourism revenue for the region.

Port Taranaki Marine Services Manager, Neil Armitage, said there are three boutique cruise ships already booked for next season. "They're trying to find different places to offer to their customers," he said.

And as we all know, Taranaki is a place like no other!

## Environmental Report

In the last six months some ocean-going visitors were seen in Port and they didn't appear on the shipping schedule!

On three occasions since August, killer whales were spotted right inside the harbour, swimming along the breakwaters and even diving under vessels moored on Newton King Tanker Terminal.

On Monday of Waitangi weekend a pod of five orcas came within 50m of Ngamotu Beach shore, prompting nationwide news stories!

Port Taranaki provides a lunch stop and rest break for orca families. They can rest in the calm water and feed on the stingrays in the harbour.

Since there are only around 200 of these impressive whales in New Zealand waters, we are lucky to have them visit so regularly.

Other threatened species also make their home at Port Taranaki.

Little blue penguins (national population less than 100,000) nest on Ngamotu Beach and the breakwater rocks.

We see hundreds of New Zealand fur seals basking on the rocks and sand bars around Mikotahi and the Sugar Loaf Islands. As there are only 100,000 fur seals in New Zealand, this is a colony of

nationwide importance.

There are around 300 reef herons in New Zealand, and one of the smartest lives here! Chaddy's Charters passengers spotted a heron using bread as bait to lure fish in close so they could be easily caught.

Taranaki Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and the Ngamotu Marine Reserve Society have recently launched *Project Hotspot* to record sightings of orca, little blue penguins, New Zealand fur seals and herons.

If you see any of these species, you can log them on *Project Hotspot* by going online at [www.hotspot.org.nz](http://www.hotspot.org.nz) and uploading information and photos.

From the sightings collected so far, it is clear that Port Taranaki is an important habitat for all of these endangered species.

The fact that so many visit or make their home within the Port is a reflection of the healthy marine environment created here, and the care that Port Taranaki takes to protect it.

(Article by Bridget Harrison, Port Taranaki Environmental Manager)



Photo courtesy of Chaddy.