Future Plans For The Inner Harbour

As part of the continued expansion of Bunbury’s Inner Harbour, the Bunbury Port Authority (BPA) is planning to develop Berth 3 from a dolphin berth into a landbacked berth.

Berth 3 is currently used only for loading woodchips so the landbacking will allow an increase in the number of ships that can use the berth for handling bulk and general cargo.

A submission for the funding of the project was put to the State Government in February and a business case will be submitted later this year. If this is approved, the BPA intends making the upgraded facilities available from 2015.

The proposal to landback Berth 3 will include the installation of a rail-mounted shiploader and a state-of-the-art, fully enclosed conveyor for handling bulk cargo.

At the adjoining Berth 5, a new Waste Water Management System will be constructed to meet environmental standards. Berth 5 is the proposed location of export facilities for urea produced by Perdaman Chemicals & Fertilisers.

Perdaman plans to export up to 2 million tonnes of urea per year through the Bunbury Port and is awaiting financial closure in order to commence construction of its Collie coal-to-urea plant late in 2014. The new owner of Griffin Coal, Lanco Infratech, is also in negotiations with the BPA regarding future coal exports.

Late last year, Alcoa marked a milestone when it welcomed the 4000th ship to its alumina loading facilities at Berth 4 in the Inner Harbour. Alcoa is one of the mainstays of Bunbury Port and has been exporting alumina continually since 1976. The BPA congratulated Alcoa at a celebration attended by business leaders and State Government representatives.

In February, Tokyo-based company Mitsui and Co purchased all shares in the company Hansol PI, which has owned and operated woodchip processing and export facilities at the Inner Harbour for many years. There were no changes to the operations.

Another milestone was marked when Wren Oil commenced exporting from its new facilities at the Inner Harbour. On March 5 the inaugural cargo of 3137 tonnes of processed used-oil products was loaded onto the ’Stolt Sakura’ bound for Christmas Island.

Bunbury’s new Pilot boat ‘Freycinet’ arrived on May 11. Bunbury Port Authority staff and contractors were keen to take a ride in the purpose built vessel, including Grahame Coves, Adrian Richardson, Les Turner, Ron Swansen, Cpt. Rob Liley and Udhaya Arambawela on the back deck, with Garry Seamark at the helm. The ‘Freycinet’ was built by Kirby Marine in Fremantle using a Naiad design from New Zealand. Her specifications are: Length 11.3 metres, Beam 4.1m, Weight 6.9 tonnes. She is propelled by two 225 horsepower D4 Volvo engines with two legs and four propellers.
Did you know?

By the time Alcoa welcomed the 4000th ship to its Berth 4 ship loading facility at Bunbury Inner Harbour on October 22 last year, the company had exported in excess of 157 million tonnes of alumina!

The Australian ‘Portland’.

Seeing double!

‘Portland’ was a good name for Bunbury Port on March 23. Not only was the Port busy, but in an unusual coincidence, two ships named ‘Portland’ were berthed at the Inner Harbour on the same day.

The MV ‘Portland’, carrying the Australian Flag, arrived at Berth 4 on March 23 and the MV ‘Portland’, under the Marshall Islands flag, arrived nine hours later.

The two ships were in port together for two days.

BPA Officer Grahame Coves said it was the first time he had seen such a coincidence in his 25 years working at Bunbury Port.

New People

Cpt. Adrian Richardson

Marine Pilot Captain Adrian Richardson joined the Bunbury Port Authority in August last year, relocating his family from Gove in the Northern Territory.

Adrian’s career, which began with a cadetship at BHP, has included work for Rio Tinto and Alcan. His previous position as Assistant Harbour Master at Gove was his first step into pilotage.

As a Marine Pilot, Adrian says conditions on the water in Bunbury differed from Gove because the channel is more technical and there is less turning area in the Inner Harbour.

He is looking forward to assisting with the future expansion of Bunbury Port, at the same time as improving systems and keeping people and infrastructure safe.

Adrian, his wife Michelle and children Kyle (6) and Joel (4) are loving the Bunbury lifestyle, playing sport and taking advantage of the city’s proximity to Perth and Margaret River.

Naming And Blessing The ‘Freycinet’

The Bunbury Port Authority’s new Pilot Boat ‘Freycinet’ was officially named and blessed on May 19 at the Bunbury Sea Rescue facilities.

To choose a name for the vessel, the Authority ran a competition through 27 local schools and 143 suggestions were submitted. The list was narrowed down to one name ‘Freycinet’ which is the name of an early French explorer. In 1803 French explorers Captain Nicolas Baudin and Lieutenant Louis de Freycinet, sailing the ships ‘Geographe’ and ‘Casuarina’, made the first maps of what is now known as Koombana Bay and the City of Bunbury.

The Pilot Boat Naming Competition was won by Justin Visser, a ten-year-old from Bunbury John Calvin School. Justin attended the naming ceremony where Captain Rob Liley from the BPA presented him with a prize.

Father Graeme Weaver of the Mission to Seafarers blessed the vessel.

The ‘Freycinet’ replaces the aging ‘Koombana’ which is recognised as one of the nation’s historic vessels by the Australian National Maritime Museum.

A new air berth has been installed for the ‘Freycinet’. An air berth lifts the vessel above the waterline when it is not in use but still allows the vessel to be dispatched quickly.

Made by Marine & Allied Distributors, Bunbury’s new air berth is the 100th to be manufactured in Australia and the largest in Western Australia.
Dredging The Channel

The annual dredging of the Bunbury Port approach channel was undertaken from March 7 to March 28. This maintenance dredging was conducted by the 66.62-metre trailing suction hopper dredger ‘Volvox Anglia’ which operated around the clock to complete the task. Maintenance dredging is undertaken by the Bunbury Port Authority to ensure the navigational channel is kept at a safe depth for ships arriving and sailing from the Port of Bunbury. This year, 30,000 metric tonnes of material was removed from the channel and, in accordance with the Authority’s Sea Dumping Permit, was taken to the spoil ground off Bunbury Port.

Support for the SW Community

Bunbury Port Authority is proud to support a range of community groups and events throughout the South West Region. Recently sponsorship has been given to:

- Geographe Training – the ‘Good Seeds Good Deeds’ project in Busselton.
- Chefs Long Table Lunch 2011 – Gold Sponsorship.

The BPA is a long term supporter of the educational precinct in Bunbury, which includes sponsoring Edith Cowan University South West Campus since 1998, the South West Institute of Technology (formerly TAFE) since 2004 and Manea College since it opened last year.

At The Port

Administration Assistant Carol McKenzie is the happy face that greets visitors to the Bunbury Port Authority’s Administration Building on Casuarina Drive.

Carol joined the BPA in October from her previous job working in administration for Bunbury Hyundai and Volkswagen.

“I love it and the people here are fantastic,” she said.

“The Port is pretty busy and it’s a lot bigger than you think.

“My role at the Port provides an opportunity to meet lots of interesting people and a diverse working day.”

Carol is originally from Zimbabwe and emigrated seven years ago with her husband Peter and their now adult children Tarn and Kendal.

The Screen Wall

A screen wall marking the southern boundary of the Port has been erected alongside Koombana Drive.

Stage 1 of the wall is 950 metres in length, running from the Koombana Drive and Austral Parade intersection to the boundary between the WAPRES (woodchips) and Bemax (mineral sands) sites.

Artwork representing local icons such as the Leschenault Homestead and Bunbury’s dolphins has been etched into some of the wall sections.
Two Bunbury Tug Masters Say Goodbye To Port Work

Tug Masters George Newby and Bill Lee both retired last year after serving the Bunbury Port for many years. George started his career in 1960 and worked in Bunbury for 32 years from 1978 till 2010, while Bill had been in the industry since 1964 and worked in Bunbury for 18 years from 1992 till 2010. Both men were in Bunbury and remember the dredging of the Inner Harbour which opened in 1975.

A Tug Master drives a Tug Boat and is responsible for assisting ships in and out of the Port under the direction of the Pilot who is at the helm of the ship.

One or two tugs may be attached to a ship via towing lines and the comparatively tiny tugs push and pull huge ships into position alongside a berth or in the shipping channel ready to leave Port.

George and Bill look back on their time as Tug Masters at the Bunbury Port with fondness and big smiles.

The two men have their own colourful descriptions of their former occupation, saying being a Tug Master is like “Being a monkey on a string” and that using a small boat to push a big ship around is “The ultimate contact sport”!

Retired Tug Masters Bill Lee and George Newby overlooking Bunbury’s Outer Harbour where they worked for many years.

Obituary: Rob Childs

The live-in caretaker who carried out some of the recent renovations to Leschenault Homestead, Rob Childs, sadly passed away on April 7 this year. On behalf of the Board and staff of Bunbury Port Authority, Chief Executive Officer Kevin Schellack sent condolences to Rob’s wife Sue and expressed gratitude for the couple’s work on the homestead.