PORTAL

OCTOBER 2022

PortTaranaki
the west gate

UP FRONT

We recently produced our annual report for the 2021-22 financial year – my first as chief executive of Port Taranaki.

Aside from the very pleasing year-end result of a $9.91 million after tax profit, a rise of 8% on the previous year, reading through the report and recalling the many activities of the past 12 months, I was taken by just how much has been achieved, and continues to be achieved, by our dedicated and skilful team.

Being new to the port sector, the past year has been one of learning the industry and getting a real appreciation for the importance of shipping and ports to the regional and national economies.

Our report highlights this and, with a theme of opportunity, illustrates that as a business we are constantly adapting, being open to innovation, and investigating how we can grasp opportunities that will help our business, our customers, and our region prosper in the future. You can read the full report at www.porttaranaki.co.nz/assets/Annual-reports/Port-Taranaki-Annual-Review-2021-22.pdf.

Fittingly, this edition of Portal also focuses on opportunity.

One such opportunity is offshore wind energy, which has received high-profile coverage as a likely key energy solution in a low-emissions future. Taranaki is front and centre of the discussion, as our strong, consistent offshore wind makes our region perfect as a production hub.

As our article *The answer may be blowing in the wind* mentions, we are engaging with a number of developers to understand how our port can provide support during the construction, production and ongoing maintenance of one or more offshore wind developments.

As New Zealand's premier energy port in New Zealand's premier energy region, we believe we have the ability, knowledge and skills to play a key role in the evolution of the energy industry, while at the same time supporting our oil and gas partners to ensure ongoing energy security.

To support developments and opportunities in trade, our critical assets must be fit-for-purpose, and we are carrying out a programme of work to repair areas of our wharves where salt water has caused damage to the concrete structure (see article *Port wharves get some TLC*).

This is just one example of the ongoing work we carry out to maintain and improve our assests, and adapt our land and buildings to fit the needs of our customers and prospective customers.

This forward-looking, innovative mindset is what we encourage in the people who work at Port Taranaki, and isn't restricted to their professional lives.

Port Taranaki structural engineer Ingrid de Bod, who is the focus of this edition's *Day in the Life*, is a prime example. She's someone who has innovated and grasped an opportunity – in this case, moving to New Zealand from South Africa, and living with her family in an off-the-grid container house on a farmlet just outside New Plymouth.

Such rich and varied personal experiences really help to build a diverse work environment, where new and different ideas, opportunities, and innovations can be brought forward to blossom.

Thank you to the Taranaki community for welcoming my family to the region. Our first year has been full of new experiences and meeting fantastic people who want the best for this community.

Ngā mihi nui

Simon Craddock
Chief Executive

INFRASTRUCTURE

Port wharves get some TLC

Work is under way to ensure the longevity of Port Taranaki's key assets – the wharves.

Over time, salt water can enter the wharf piles and under wharf structures through cracks in the concrete. If left unrepaired, this can lead to corrosion and deterioration of the reinforcing steel within, compromising the integrity of the wharves.

Port Taranaki is carrying out a concentrated programme of work across Moturoa Wharf, Blyde Wharf and the Newton King Tanker Terminal to identify and repair areas above the tidal, or splash zone of each wharf.

Using a technique where the inspection area is hit with a hammer and the returned impact sound is assessed to determine the presence of defects under the surface, a specialist contractor has worked with Port Taranaki engineers to inspect the structures and determine how an area should be repaired.

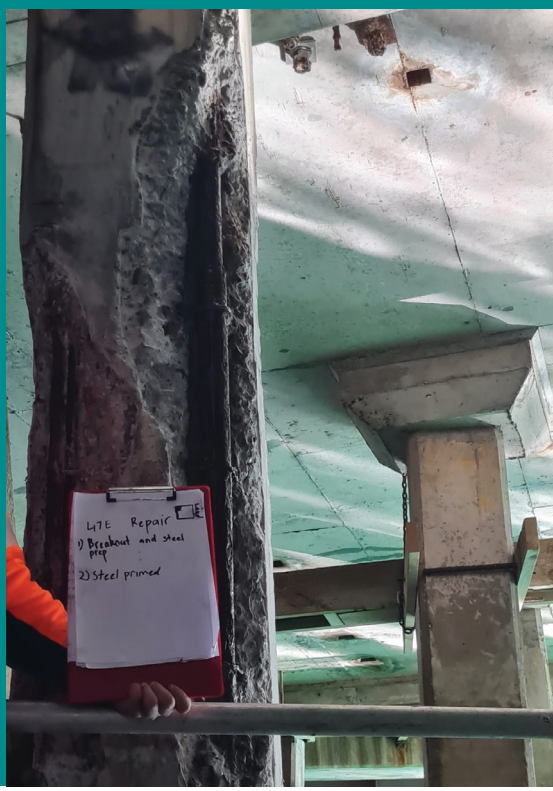
Working on a barge under the wharf, the contractor then uses various specialist products – cements, grouts, and epoxies – to fix each specific issue.

"Our wharves are clearly a key strategic asset so these repairs are very important and are about increasing the life of our main structures and bringing our wharves back to their original design," says Port Taranaki engineering manager Ludo Galliegue.

"Once this concentrated period of work is complete, identification and repair work will come under a routine maintenance schedule."

As the work takes place on the water and under the wharves, the weather, wind and shipping schedules have impacted the project.

"Unfortunately, Taranaki's unsettled autumn and early winter weather meant we weren't able to get as much done as we had hoped. However, some work and trials on areas has been completed, and the contractor will return for three months from October-November to complete the work," says Ludo.



COMMUNITY

Home made a little sweeter for kororā

Wielding shovels, spades and wheelbarrows, an energetic bunch of volunteers mucked in recently to help make the little blue penguins' village at Port Taranaki a safer and more homely place to live.

Port employees and their families joined with Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society members and their families to plant native coastal flaxes and plants around the kororā (little blue penguin) nesting boxes to help protect and shelter the breeding area.

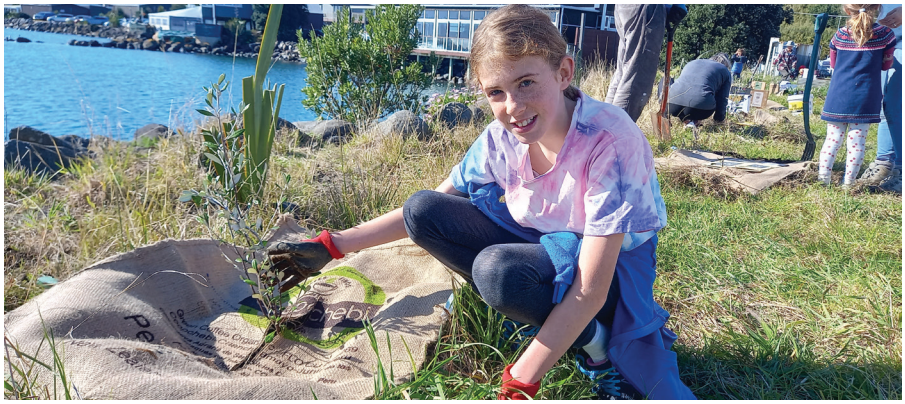
The flurry of activity also involved placing soil around recently installed nesting boxes, donated by Whitaker Civil Engineering, to help regulate the penguins' temperature, ensuring they aren't too cold in winter or too hot in summer.

"It was great fun and a fantastic way to meet up with members of the Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society and play a small part in helping them look after these native birds," says Port Taranaki head of commercial Ross Dingle.

"Port Taranaki's vision is to be The Pride of Taranaki, and a large part of achieving this is ensuring our environment, and the care of it, is a priority throughout all our operations. As we work in and alongside the environment every day, we have a real desire to help protect and enhance it.

"A number of organisations, including the Ngā Motu Marine Reserve Society, Department of Conservation, and Ngāti Te Whiti hapū, do a great job around the wider port area to support the wildlife on land and in the water, and we're always happy to help out."

While most of the residents weren't home during the working bee, the few kororā who were in had their microchips scanned as part of the society's ongoing monitoring work.



CUSTOMERS

Trans-Tasman teamwork has project on track

We may be fierce competitors on the sports field, but the teamwork of Aussies and Kiwis at the Tui oil field ensured phase two of the decommissioning project was a success.

Over four months, Australia-based specialist Shelf Subsea disconnected and removed about 360 tonnes of subsea steel structures and almost 40km of flexible lines from the Tui oil field.

Purpose built diving vessel Southern Star supported the work at the field throughout, with about 100 personnel onboard during the initial diving and preparatory period, and 70 during the equipment recovery.

"Most were Kiwis, which was great to utilise their knowledge and expertise," says Shelf Subsea project director David McCarthy.

And the Trans-Tasman teamwork didn't stop there. During the course of phase two, Southern Star made 12 visits to Port Taranaki to deliver the retrieved equipment, and David says regular communication was crucial to the project staying on schedule.

"We had some weather delays – the weather and swell conditions at the site can be quite different and more severe than here in New Plymouth, where we are a bit more protected.

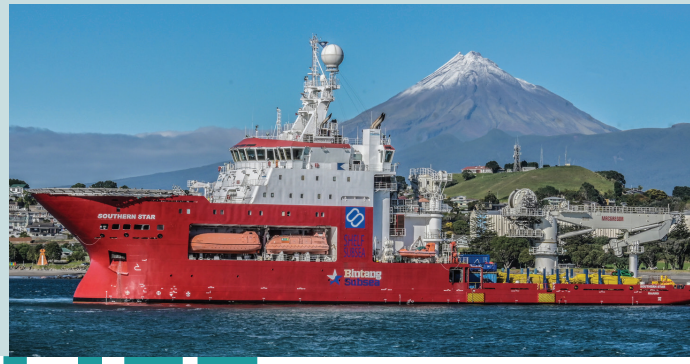
"But overall, the guys offshore did a fantastic job of maintaining the schedule, and Port Taranaki were amazing. They understood we were running an offshore operation that could be affected by weather, so flexibility of schedule was needed. I was really impressed with how accommodating they were, especially at short notice a number of times," David says.

Port Taranaki head of commercial Ross Dingle says the port was pleased to have worked alongside Shelf Subsea to ensure the important project was carried out efficiently.

"We had a great relationship with their team and it's great our port – our facilities, lifting equipment, laydown areas, and skills – were utilised throughout."

Port Taranaki is also looking forward to supporting the third and final phase of the decommissioning – the plugging and abandoning of the wells.

"This work is expected to begin late summer, and Port Taranaki will again provide berth space for offshore support vessels, and receive and store the well head equipment."



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Ingrid de Bod

Ingrid de Bod is living the good life.

The Port Taranaki structural engineer, who moved with her husband to New Zealand from South Africa six years ago, lives in an off-grid container house on a farmlet, just outside of New Plymouth.

The couple constructed the house almost entirely from recycled materials, including building the home's roof and walls from bits and pieces of an old calf shed they demolished.

The family, including their two young children, live completely off the grid, using a solar system for power and rainwater for drinking.

"We even have an off-grid spa in a section of native bush that's filled from a fresh water spring and heated with a wood burner," Ingrid says.

They organically farm cows and chickens, they have a fruit orchard and vegetable gardens, they make their own kombucha, yoghurt, and biltong, and dehydrate excess fruit.

"It started because we spent most of our money on the land so needed to come up with an affordable housing solution. Now, we get a kick out of living sustainably and reducing our footprint, and since having kids we're even more invested in the future of our planet and ensuring our children and grandchildren have a clean and healthy world to live in."

What does your role involve?

I look after the structural side of the port's infrastructure, which includes the wharves, bollards, sheds, offices, wave wall, and light towers. I help with creating and reviewing lift plans for the complex lifts of cargo at the port, and plan the likes of our dredging campaigns. I'm also looking into how Port Taranaki can support new energy solutions, such as offshore wind.

What do you like about the role?

Every day is different and interesting – there's so much to learn – and the location and people I work with are fantastic.

What are the challenges?

Coming from the oil and gas industry, the first challenge was to learn the port and shipping jargon – I had to make myself a list in the front of my notebook! Also being an engineer it's easy to get sucked into the detail and get too technical, the challenge is to find a balance between the theory and what's practical.

ENERGY

The answer may be blowing in the wind

The winds of change are blowing through the energy industry, and Taranaki is expected to be at the centre of the development and production of one favoured solution.

For decades the hub of New Zealand's oil and gas industry, Taranaki is also being touted as the prime spot for the emerging offshore wind industry – an industry that is gaining momentum as the world transitions to a low-emissions environment to tackle the effects of climate change.

As New Zealand decarbonises, demand for renewable energy in New Zealand is expected to increase markedly to keep up with population growth and the electrification of transport and industry. Offshore wind electricity production is likely to be crucial in meeting that demand.

The huge turbines of offshore wind farms use the higher speeds and greater consistency of wind at sea to generate large amounts of power.

"Taranaki, and South Taranaki in particular, has what is regarded as the best wind resource in New Zealand, and New Zealand has the fifth best wind resource in the world," says Port Taranaki head of commercial Ross Dingle.

"Consequently, a number of offshore wind developers are interested and are in the early stages of investigating the potential for offshore wind energy production in Taranaki. It aligns beautifully with the Government's strategy of decarbonisation and renewable energy, and it will be important for Taranaki as a region as we seek a just transition to a low-emissions future."

Should one or more developments become a reality, Port Taranaki is expected to play a key role throughout the construction process and provide ongoing support during the operations and maintenance phase of the wind farms.

"We're the only deep water port on the west coast of the North Island in close proximity to the wind resource and a mature and highly skilled engineering sector, and we've already been the port of entry for the componentry of two onshore wind farms in the lower North Island," says Ross.

"So we have experience and expertise for bringing wind farm equipment into port, lifting it and storing it. And for these larger components we have access to undeveloped land for their laydown and storage.

"There's also the opportunity for us to be involved in ongoing operation and maintenance – as we do with the offshore oil and gas sector – by providing berths for support vessels and providing offshore support."

Port Taranaki is actively engaged with multiple offshore wind farm developers, and has hosted members of joint developers the New Zealand Super Fund and renewable energy investment company Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, who are investigating a project off the South Taranaki coast.

"We're building good relationships with developers and are confident offshore wind production will become a reality," says Ross.

"Should multiple offshore developments occur, there's the added possibility that excess generation could be used to produce the likes of hydrogen or other chemicals, which could then be exported both locally and internationally through Port Taranaki.

"The possibilities are exciting, and it would be great to think that in 10 years our port and the region's fantastic engineering businesses are supporting the budding offshore wind sector."

Photo by Nicholas Doherty on Unsplash