



Port for the Future

As this issue of Portfolio goes to print, the container ship *Rena* is being relieved of its cargo as the vessel remains aground on Astrolabe Reef, 24 kilometres from the Mount.

As Chief Executive, I am humbled and very proud of the response of our staff to the *Rena* crisis. Our operations team, led by the inimitable Nigel Drake, have shown professionalism, fortitude and tireless commitment in the face of what has been, for all of us, a heartbreaking event.

I am also proud to be associated with the Tauranga-based contractors and other companies in the port "family" that have performed above and beyond the call of duty, ensuring that the port has remained open and free of debris. They have worked alongside the salvage company, Svitzer, and container cleanup specialists, Braemar Howells, in the most trying of conditions.

I thank also the thousands of volunteers who have banded together as a community to get our beaches cleaned up and care for affected birds and seals.

We are cooperating fully with the Maritime New Zealand and Transport Accident Investigation Commission inquiries currently under way. We will of course welcome any moves to ensure such disasters are prevented as much as possible in the future, and that New Zealand is as prepared for them as best we can be.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

I would like to wish our customers and stakeholders a safe and restful Christmas.

I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Mark Cairns

MARK CAIRNS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Bay of Plenty open for summer visitor season

Port of Tauranga has thrown its weight behind the campaign to attract visitors to the Bay of Plenty in the wake of the *Rena* grounding.

Port of Tauranga's Commercial Manager, Graeme Marshall, who is also Tourism Bay of Plenty's Chairman, says the region's businesses, councils and other agencies were joining the tourism organisation in promoting the "Love BOP" message.

"We can turn the attention on the Bay of Plenty into future visitors to our region," he says.

"The *Rena* grounding has been a terrible tragedy, but the community response has harnessed people's passion and pride in the Bay of Plenty."

"All of us now need to reaffirm this area as a fantastic place to visit, stay and enjoy."

Cruise ship visits have been unaffected by the *Rena* grounding, with 82 visits scheduled for the season.

A special *Rena*-related tourism website has been established at: www.lovebop.co.nz.

Keeping the harbour open

Port of Tauranga has been kept open and the harbour free of debris with the help of Greg Cox and his team at Discovery Marine Limited (DML).

Using the most highly sophisticated towing equipment available - Side Scan Sonar and Magnetometer - the DML team was able to detect objects on the sea bed and mid-water column. Greg says that although both devices have slightly different functions, they work well together. Side Scan Sonar is useful for looking at targets on the seabed while the Magnetometer senses any ferrous objects.

"If any suspicious looking objects are located, we run several sweeps past to confirm location and dimensions, before reporting the contact," says Greg. "The responsibility then falls to the company contracted by the salvors to deal with container recovery operations".

Some debris was located, although fortunately no containers came into the harbour. As a precautionary measure, port operations were suspended overnight on 13 October to monitor the situation and keep the channel clear.

Greg says the focus was to provide support to Port of Tauranga and its customers by doing everything possible to ensure the shipping lane was kept open and clear and allow operations to continue with minimal disruption.

Greg started Discovery Marine Limited in 1998 and the company has been

contracted to Port of Tauranga since May 2007. Greg says he feels very much part of the "family" and proud to be able to quickly assist when the *Rena* disaster unfolded.

While underwater searches looked for sunken containers, Port of Tauranga staff and contractors Glencoe Marine were recovering floating debris from around the stricken *Rena*.

Port of Tauranga Works Supervisor, Pat Barrow, says the first few days were intense due to the reasonable swell and the amount of debris in the water.

With the aim of keeping the channel open and clear, swimmers (and some divers) recovered floating containers. Most were in poor repair with no sides or bottoms. While some single containers were retrieved, others were found hooked together in twos and sometimes threes.

Once collected, container remnants were taken to corrals; temporary moorings to hold the debris before being towed ashore.

Days were spent recovering the debris and work focused around A Beacon and the shipping channel to ensure shipping operations were able to continue as normal.

Pat's team and Glencoe Marine have been on standby from the time of the incident and every day since, waiting for containers to fall into the water for collection.

Discovery Marine's Greg Cox



Customer profile: Ballance Agri-Nutrients

Bulk importer Ballance Agri-Nutrients is one of Port of Tauranga's longest-standing customers.



The organisation was established in 1955 as the Bay of Plenty Fertiliser Co-operative and the first imports of finished products arrived soon afterwards. The fertiliser factory adjacent to the Mount Maunganui wharves opened in 1957, allowing the co-op to import raw materials and process them into products for farmers.

Ballance Chief Executive, Larry Bilodeau, says the company's long association with the port has been mutually beneficial.

Reliability of supply and minimising inventory is vital to Ballance, says Larry.

"Our customers want the products available when they need them and that is where shipping and port services can make such a big difference," he says.

"Port of Tauranga has invested in infrastructure to achieve speedy discharge of our ships in a cost effective way. The port's efficiency is extremely important."

Ballance, which is owned by 18,000 farmer shareholders, imports around one million tonnes of bulk products each year and around 60% of that passes through Port of Tauranga. The imports come from China, Vietnam, North Africa, the United States, Canada and Europe.

Nearly 20,000 truckloads of the fertiliser ingredients are transferred from the port to Ballance's harbour-side factory. Once processed, the products are destined for farms in the Bay of Plenty, Waikato and lower North Island.

Ballance's Supply Manager, Jack Herder, says Port of Tauranga has been very progressive in making things work for their customers.

"Port of Tauranga is very forward thinking when it comes to bulk cargoes. In the last 20 years, they have invested in upgrading equipment such as hoppers and weigh bridges, and worked with us in improving environmental performance," says Jack.

He says the opportunity to introduce larger vessels could bring more efficiencies for Ballance customers and the company has supported Port of Tauranga's application for permission to widen and deepen shipping channels.



Ballance's Supply Manager Jack Herder