



ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Since 1946

HALL

CELEBRATING

75

years





CELEBRATING 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

As a child raised in poverty, suffering from polio and with a very limited education, Les Hall was once told he would never amount to anything.

Despite his challenging start to life, my grandfather worked hard to purchase a surplus army truck and establish the family business in 1946, supplying sand and gravel on the Sunshine Coast.

Fast forward 75 years, and his one-man operation has grown from humble beginnings into Australia's largest dredging, civil construction and marine civil contractor. Not a bad achievement for someone who supposedly would never amount to anything.

Today we boast Australia's largest dredging fleet, a formidable civil contracting business in South-East Queensland building large master-planned communities and public civil infrastructure, a marine civil business which has undertaken climate change adaptation works on some of the most remote islands in the world, and a specialised water and tailings business focused on tailings dam remediation works. We have offices in Belgium, Malaysia, Australia and Fiji and have carried out work in 10 countries around the Pacific and South-East Asia.

As Hall continues to grow, I have no doubt my grandfather would be incredibly proud to see how the business has evolved, with a range of loyal clients joining us on the journey. Clients such as Henzells at Pelican Waters have

stuck by Hall for over 30 years without once going to another contractor. In more recent years, clients like North Harbour, Stockland, Halcyon and Double R Group have similarly seen the benefit of working with us from stage to stage on their large projects.

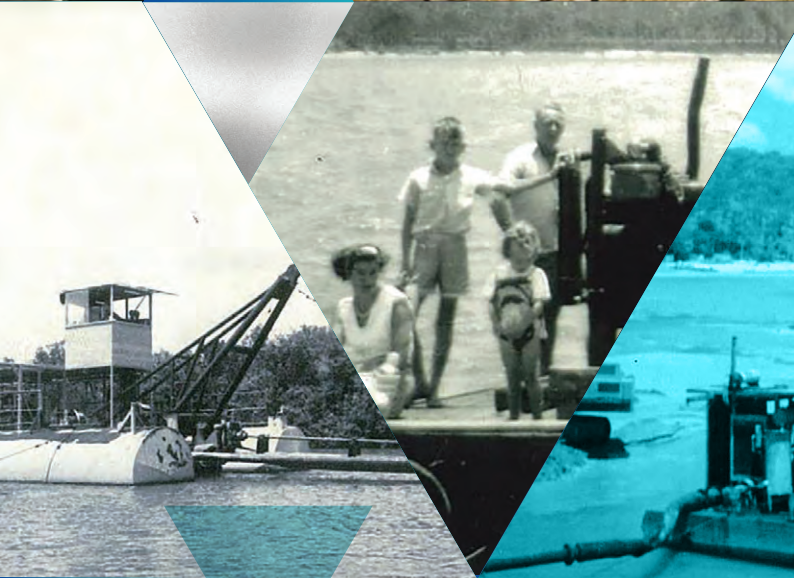
Then there are our incredible staff members. There are multi-generational families working within Hall. Families such as the Williamses, Cronins, McCurdys, Kowalds, Gripskes and many others, where sons, sisters, cousins and nieces have all joined our team and helped make Hall the business it is today.

Numerous team members have joined our Hall of Fame, which recognises those who have dedicated more than 10 years of service to Hall Contracting. Some employees have even reached over 30 years with the business, which is a true testament to their unwavering loyalty and dedication, and says a lot about what it is like to be part of the Hall Contracting family.

The last 75 years of Hall are quite the story and it has been great to celebrate that anniversary in 2021. I look forward to seeing the business grow and develop further over the decades to come.

C. Hall

CAMERON HALL, CEO

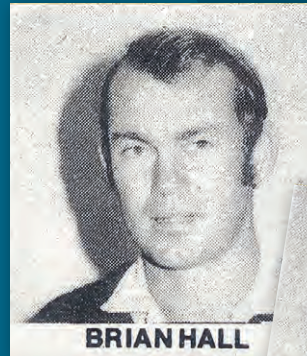




WHEN LES AND MARY HALL – DRESSED IN THEIR MOST RESPECTABLE ATTIRE – ARRIVED AT THE DAY & GRIMES BUILDING SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS IN NAMBOUR IN THE LATE 1950S SEEKING A LOAN FOR A SECOND TRUCK, THEY WEREN'T TAKING NO FOR AN ANSWER.

75

years
ON....AND GOING
STRONG



BRIAN HALL



PETER HALL

The two Hall Contracting founders had appealed to the local banks without success and were determined to expand the burgeoning sand and gravel business they had worked so hard to establish in 1946.

Rumour has it that when Mr Grimes advised he couldn't lend them money for a second truck but would happily provide finance for an extension to their home, Mary – ever rational and with a head for business – quietly calmed Les' flaring temper and signed the dotted line.

While the house extension curiously never went ahead, the coveted truck soon arrived on their doorstep.

- 1946**..... Les and Mary Hall purchase army surplus truck and establish sand and gravel contracting business at Mooloolaba
- Early 1950s**..... Les and Mary Hall acquire Diamond T and Austin trucks. Les Hall builds gravel-pumping barge with help of Sunshine Coast mechanic Alex Smoothy
- 1963**..... Brian Hall joins business
- 1968**..... Hall purchases cyclone wash plant for washing sand
- 1967-1973**..... Hall purchases and upgrades multiple dredges
- 1974**..... Peter Hall joins business
- 1977**..... Hall undertakes first civil contracts for small subdivisions on Sunshine Coast
- 1983**..... Hall spreads its wings further afield carrying out small dredging contracts in Cairns, Mackay, Gold Coast, Whitsundays, Adelaide and Melbourne
- 1983**..... Hall purchases concrete plant and launches Readymix concrete supply division
- 1985**..... Hall expands concrete supply division with purchase of second plant
- 1986**..... Hall starts Ban Ban Mining Co. and begins mining for gold at Ban Ban Springs Gold Mine
- 1989**..... Hall sells its concrete, sand and gravel supply business to concentrate on civil and dredging contracting services
- 1990**..... Hall undertakes first major dredging project in Torres Strait for the Australian Government, and is appointed principal contractor at Pelican Waters development, where it remains the only contractor used on that project in 30+ years
- 1992**..... Hall purchases cutter suction dredge *Everglade*
- 1996**..... Hall purchases cutter suction dredge *Warraber*, and becomes one of the first contractors in Queensland to adopt GPS machine-guidance technology for earthmoving equipment

Les and Mary's sons Brian and Peter Hall recount the story with a laugh and acknowledge that while their parents' methods were somewhat audacious, this was the leg-up that helped Les and Mary bring their vision to life.

"Dad grew up in poverty, suffered from polio and had a limited education, so owning and operating a business in the wake of WWII was a big step personally and professionally," Brian said.

"He started out carting timber, sand and gravel on the Sunshine Coast – shovelling it on his truck in those days, of course – and he transported grain during the Darling Downs grain season."

After acquiring the second truck (a second-hand Diamond T), and later, a more modern Austin truck, Les turned his attention to streamlining his operations and minimising the amount of manual labour required.

"He implemented all sorts of innovations such as fixing a Berryman loader and other contraptions with wire ropes and pulley systems to the tray to simplify the loading process," Brian said.

"He also acquired a six-inch gravel pump and a Hercules diesel engine in the early 1950s, and with the help of a local mechanic, built a gravel-pumping barge from 44-gallon drums, which he operated using hand winches to control and lift the suction nozzle.

"Dredged material was pumped up to an overhead bin, which washed vegetation and silt from the gravel. This was a significant step forward as Dad no longer had to wash the gravel manually, and he could load the trucks from above using gravity rather than shovelling the material on by hand."

Brian said as the business grew and evolved, so too did its fleet of equipment.

"When I joined the business in 1963, Dad had one other employee and a handful of trucks for pulling various semi-tipper trailers and 4WD loaders," he said.

"We went on to buy and upgrade some old dredges and a cyclone wash plant, which we used to supply sand to major companies on the Sunshine Coast including Readymix. It was a 24-hour operation with three semi-tippers working during peak periods.

"After Peter joined the family business in 1974, we started winning dredging contract work clearing channels for harbours and marinas, prompting us to upgrade our dredging fleet with better cutters, hydraulics and pipelines."

Peter said by the early 1980s, the team had carried out small dredging contracts as far afield as Cairns, Mackay, Gold Coast, Adelaide and Melbourne; however, the business' original income stream was proving less profitable.

"We weren't earning a reasonable price for our washed sand product at that point in time, so after much discussion between Brian, myself and our parents, we decided to purchase a single silo concrete plant and diversify our product offering," Peter said.

"Mum and Dad had ownership of two industrial blocks in Maroochydore, so we erected the plant there despite significant opposition from other concrete companies.

"Brian and I crunched the numbers on the back of an envelope and concluded we needed to sell 400m³ of concrete in the first month to break even. We were thrilled when the end of the month arrived and we'd sold 800m³ – well above our expectations."

Peter said the business had continued to grow from strength to strength, with Hall acquiring a second concrete plant in Kawana 18 months later and operating around 10 concrete agitator trucks and two mini trucks.

"It might surprise a lot of people to know we also dabbled in gold mining during this time at Ban Ban Springs Gold Mine in Queensland, although we quickly discovered it wasn't a profitable endeavour," Peter said.

"I believe it was one of the property owners who later summed it up well saying there was a lot of gold on the mountain but also a lot of Australia mixed in with it!

"By the time the late 80s rolled around, the concrete business was flourishing and we were eager to ramp up our dredging operations and move into the civil construction space, where we had identified significant opportunity," Peter said.

"In 1989, we made the decision to sell the concrete plants to the Mansell Group for around \$3 million, which was a very significant sum of money in those days.

"Sadly, our mother passed away unexpectedly before the sale went through, so she never got to see the fruits of her labour after so many years of hard work."

Brian said the sale of the concrete plants enabled Hall to purchase its first Ellicott cutter suction dredge, *Kikilu* and a 120ft barge, *Mary Ellen* – named after Mary Hall – which it employed on its first major dredging contract in the early 1990s.

"We were engaged by the Australian Government to dredge the entry channels of seven islands in the Torres Strait," Brian said.

"We lived aboard *Mary Ellen*, which was towed from island to island and housed all our machinery as well as our mobile workshop."

After finishing the Torres Strait Islands project six months ahead of schedule, Hall was approached by Henzells Agency and Pelican Waters to undertake a range of civil works at the Pelican Waters canal development on the Sunshine Coast.

Peter said the initial contract involved carrying out earthworks and concrete works on the south-western side of Lake Magellan, which was completely undeveloped at the time.

"It was a mutually beneficial partnership, as we were afforded steady civil work and Pelican Waters benefited from our willingness to deliver advance works, which enabled them to offer a continuous supply of lots to the market," Peter said.

- 1998..... Hall completes the Mackay Small Craft Harbour project and commences work on the Greg Norman-designed golf course at Pelican Waters
- 1999..... Hall acquires 4,000hp cutter suction dredge *Scorpio* and carries out the Dampier Marine Supply Base project
- 2000..... Hall purchases cutter suction dredge *Mabuig*
- 2001..... Hall uses *Scorpio* to dredge Darwin East Arm Rail Bund project
- 2002..... Hall expands dredging services into Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei using small cutter suction dredges
- 2003..... Hall commences dredging projects in four ports in Papua New Guinea
- 2005..... Hall opens Pacific Islands branch and commences flood mitigation dredging for the Fiji Government
- 2006..... Hall expands civil business to deliver projects for major developers including Stockland, FKP and others

- 2007..... Hall carries out first project for FMG in Port Hedland
- 2009..... Hall purchases cutter suction dredge *Navua*
- 2011..... Hall establishes board of directors and acquires 10,000hp cutter suction dredge *Eastern Aurora*
- 2015..... Hall carries out major land reclamation works at Pelapas, Malaysia using *Eastern Aurora*
- 2016..... Hall carries out first of many international aid projects in the Pacific Islands, undertaking coastal protection and remediation works in Tuvalu
- 2016..... Hall wins major capital dredging project in Port Hedland for FMG, undertakes major works on the Brisbane Airport New Parallel Runway project, and expands civil footprint to Brisbane and Gold Coast
- 2017..... Australian private equity firm Crescent Capital acquires a 70 per cent stake in Hall
- 2018..... Hall wins major contract dredging Lumsden Point wharf facility in Port Hedland for Pilbara Ports Authority

“What we didn’t know at the time was that this was the beginning of a business relationship that would span more than three decades.

“Hall has delivered every lot, canal, park, road, lock, weir and bridge within the popular Pelican Waters community to date, and we’re incredibly proud and grateful to be part of such a longstanding and prosperous partnership.”

Peter said it was when delivering the 18-hole, Greg Norman-designed championship golf course at Pelican Waters that a third generation of the Hall family joined the business.

“Cameron Hall – Brian’s youngest son – had completed an engineering degree at university a year or so earlier and joined the team as a site engineer,” he said.

“He earned his stripes at Pelican Waters, then spent some years overseas gaining additional industry experience before returning to Hall in 2005 and assuming a leadership position alongside Brian and me.

“By this point, we’d acquired several additional cutter suction dredges and had expanded our dredging operations to Asia and the Pacific Islands, where we had been engaged to undertake pond dredging in Thailand, trench dredging in Brunei, capital dredging in Papua New Guinea and flood mitigation dredging in Fiji.”

Cameron said Hall soon set its sights on securing larger-scale dredging projects that would enable the company to compete with major dredging companies from Belgium and the Netherlands.

“In 2011, we were on the hunt for a large cutter suction dredge and located one in Taiwan that was much more powerful than anything else in our dredging fleet,” Cameron said.

“After purchasing it and undertaking an initial hull refurbishment, we towed the dredge, *Eastern Aurora*, to Indonesia and lengthened the hull significantly, added a spud carriage, anchor booms and swing winches, and upgraded the dredge’s hydraulic system.

“The acquisition of such a game-changing piece of equipment enabled us to secure a large-scale capital dredging and reclamation project in the Northern Territory, where we dredged approximately 700,000m³ of material to form the Darwin Marine Supply Base approach channel, swing basin and berth.

“This was a real turning point for the business and put us on the map as Australia’s largest dredging contractor.”

The company has continued to grow significantly in the years since,

expanding its dredging and civil footprint, service offering and fleet of equipment with Cameron and a board of directors now at the helm.

“In addition to delivering numerous dredging, urban development and civil infrastructure projects across Australia and beyond, we have also become widely recognised for our marine civil capabilities and expertise in the mining and heavy industrial sectors,” he said.

“We’ve also expanded our dredging fleet to include 10 cutter suction dredges, two backhoe dredges – including the largest Australian-owned backhoe dredge, *Woomera* – and two amphibious dredges.”

Cameron said while growing Hall from such a small business into a large company operating on the international stage had undoubtedly provided its fair share of obstacles, he relished the challenge.

“Our current-day business dealings are undoubtedly a lot more formal than they once were. Hall has gone from working with relatively small, local clients to delivering projects for governments, international aid agencies and large-scale mining and development companies who have very stringent requirements regarding quality, safety and environmental management systems, third-party accreditations and reporting.

“Long gone are the days when agreements were made over an old-school handshake!”

Cameron said while much had changed, there were some elements of the business that would remain forever ingrained in Hall’s company culture.

“We continue to embrace the family values my grandmother and grandfather held dear when they first started the business 75 years ago; we always do what we say we will do, we find solutions and take on projects others find too difficult, we always choose the safest way to deliver projects, and we treat our clients, team members and suppliers fairly,” he said.

“The feedback we receive is that our people genuinely feel like they’re part of a family business rather than a faceless corporate, which is incredibly important to us.

“As I look back on Hall’s 75-year history, I can’t help but be proud of the legacy my grandparents created. Without their vision, ingenuity and determination, Hall would not exist, let alone have grown to become Australia’s largest dredging, civil construction and marine civil contractor.

“Here’s to the next 75 years, whatever they may have in store!”

“AS I LOOK BACK ON HALL’S 75-YEAR HISTORY, I CAN’T HELP BUT BE PROUD OF THE LEGACY MY GRANDPARENTS CREATED. WITHOUT THEIR VISION, INGENUITY AND DETERMINATION, HALL WOULD NOT EXIST, LET ALONE HAVE GROWN TO BECOME AUSTRALIA’S LARGEST DREDGING, CIVIL CONSTRUCTION AND MARINE CIVIL CONTRACTOR.”

Cameron Hall

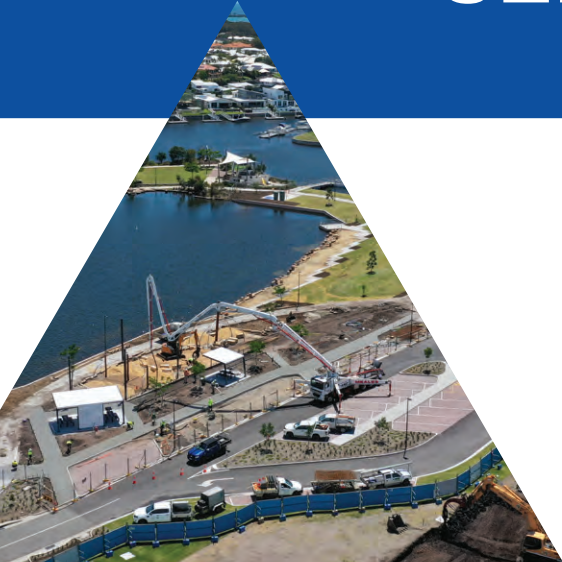
- 2019 Hall acquires the largest Australian-owned backhoe dredge, *Woomera*, which commences work on Cairns Shipping Development Project
- 2020 *Woomera* journeys to Gladstone to undertake major capital dredging works in the Clinton Channel
- 2020 Hall starts work on the Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade, constructing a 2.2km rock wall and dredging 32 million m³ of materials
- 2021 Hall celebrates 75 years in business and acquires a second backhoe dredge, *Nulla Nulla*, in readiness for delivering the Spoilbank Marina project in Port Hedland



Above: A feature article from the 1970s celebrating 30 years of Hall. The article shows the first print advertisement Les Hall placed in the first edition of The Advertiser newspaper in 1951.



CELEBRATING 2021



MARKING 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

- › Commencement of annual Mooloolaba entrance channel dredging for Department of Transport and Main Roads
- › Commencement of Bluewater Canal maintenance dredging for Cairns City Council
- › Hall awarded dredging contract for Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade
- › Moranbah North Coal Handling and Preparation Plant dam desilting works resume for a third year
- › Matthew Cahill celebrates 10 years at Hall

- › Commencement of civil works for final stage of Warner Lakes development
- › Commencement of civil works for stages 25, 26 and 27 at North Harbour development
- › Commencement of Noosa Civic expansion
- › Commencement of civil works for second stage of B by Halcyon retirement village
- › Commissioning and handover of Pelican Waters lock and weir



JANUARY



APRIL



- › Recreation areas officially reopen at Ewen Maddock Dam following upgrade
- › Hall supports RizeUp Easter appeal
- › Drydock Café opens at Hall head office
- › Commencement of civil works for final stage of Cooloom Ridges development
- › Commencement of civil works for stages 4D-2, 4E and 4F at Pelican Waters development

- › Completion of 2.2km rock wall at Port of Townsville
- › Barbara Bennetts celebrates 25 years at Hall
- › Tim Tull celebrates 10 years at Hall
- › Commencement of Bing Bong load-out facility dredging at McArthur River Mine

- › Completion of Jacobs Well (Main Channel and Calypso Bay) dredging project
- › Acquisition of two new bulldozers, two 60t excavators, two 89t excavators, two water trucks and a 12-seater bus
- › Michael Ballinger and Tyler Maes commence pipelaying traineeships with Hall



JULY

OCTOBER



- › Hall sponsors Mooloolaba State School Run Club
- › Commencement of bulk earthworks for mixed industry business area at North Harbour development
- › Completion of road upgrade works at Nambour Aquatic Centre
- › Hall awarded civil construction contract for Pindari Rise residential development in Yandina



- › Completion of dredging and sand renourishment works at Holloways Beach for Cairns Regional Council
- › Commencement and completion of superyacht berth dredging at Gold Coast City Marina & Shipyard
- › Jason Fairhall celebrates 10 years at Hall
- › Dig Deeper Leadership Conference held in Marcoola
- › Hall sponsors JCU Saints Junior Rugby League Club in Townsville



FEBRUARY

MAY



- › Acquisition of two 73m material handling barges for Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade project
- › Wayne Hawke completes mobile plant technology apprenticeship with Hall
- › Handover of stage 4 of Pelican Waters development
- › Commencement of civil works for stages 2 and 3 of Mooloolaba Transport Corridor Upgrade

- › Completion of Bing Bong load-out facility dredging at McArthur River Mine
- › Commencement of Molongle Creek access channel dredging project
- › Acquisition of new bulldozer, grader, three 40t articulated dump trucks and five 25t-85t excavators
- › Commencement of pedestrian bridge construction at Pelican Waters development

- › Commencement of civil construction works at Aspect Estate in Gympie for Double R Group
- › Commencement of civil works for Palm Lake Resort at Pelican Waters
- › Commencement of civil works for stages 28, 29 and 30 at North Harbour development



AUGUST

NOVEMBER



- › Hall partners with On Common Country to provide employment and training opportunities to First Nations people at Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade
- › Hall awarded dredging and civil construction contract for Yorkeys Knob boat launching facility in Far North Queensland
- › William Blank appointed Vice-President of Australia Pacific Islands Business Council
- › Commencement of seawall renewal works at Port of Brisbane
- › Commencement of stage 5 earthworks at Pelican Waters development



- › Acquisition of second backhoe dredge, *Nulla Nulla*
- › Completion of Maroochydore beach replenishment dredging
- › Commencement of bulk earthworks for North South Urban Arterial at North Harbour
- › Commencement of emergency repair works to sandbag wall at Tallebudgera Creek for Gold Coast City Council
- › Handover of stages 25 and 63 at Coolum Ridges development



MARCH

JUNE



- › Hall Water & Tailings established
- › Joep Bastiaans commences mobile plant technology apprenticeship with Hall
- › Commencement of civil works for stage 9 at Chambers Pines development
- › Commencement of civil works for stages 3, 4, 8 and 9 at Aura Industrial Park

- › Commencement of Mount Martha beach renourishment works
- › *Mabuia* arrives at Molongle Creek
- › Commencement of civil construction works at Amaroo Street development in Morayfield for RM Developments
- › Zacchary Manners commences civil construction apprenticeship with Hall

- › Commencement of civil works for final stage of Ingenia Bethania over-50s lifestyle development
- › Commencement of sand extraction works for Cement Australia at Tannum Sands
- › Commencement of Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade for Department of Transport and Main Roads



SEPTEMBER

DECEMBER



- › Completion of Mount Martha beach renourishment works
- › Completion of annual Mooloolaba entrance channel dredging
- › Hall celebrates 75 years in business
- › Hall donates 75 back-to-school packs to SunnyKids to mark 75-year anniversary
- › Acquisition of new tip truck

- › End-of-year celebrations take place across business
- › Townsville team members support RizeUp Christmas appeal
- › Tait Mitchell commences civil construction apprenticeship with Hall
- › Handover of Hinterland Adventure Playground roadworks at Cooroy



Since 1946
HALL
CELEBRATING
75
years





DREDGING BETTERS BOATING CONDITIONS

Boaties have benefited from a dredging campaign in Queensland's south east, with Hall having dredged more than 80,000m³ of material from the Calypso Bay Access Channel and Main Channel North and South at Jacobs Well in 2021.

Hall General Manager – Dredging Mark McCurdy said the works had improved navigability for recreational and commercial vessels accessing the Moreton Bay Marine Park and Gold Coast Broadwater.

“With sand and other fine material accumulating in the channels as a result of tidal movements, our team was tasked with dredging the shallowest areas to improve accessibility,” Mark said.

“We also focused on eliminating shoaling, which is where surface waves increase in height when entering shallower water, placing boat operators at greater risk of running aground.

“As part of the works, we installed three booster pumps and more than 6km of sunken, land-based and floating pipeline to pump dredged material to the Calypso Bay development, where it will be used to create new residential lots.”

Mark said some of the more challenging aspects of the project included maintaining safe passage for vessels at all times throughout the six-month period of works and contending with tidal flows.

“The currents were consistently strong and increased during periods of heavy rain and flooding on the Gold Coast, so we elected to use one of our more robust cutter suction dredges, *Saibai*, to carry out the project,” he said.

“*Saibai* is equipped with a spud that anchors it in place, enabling it to withstand the strong currents.”

Mark said the team had also given careful consideration to protecting the surrounding marine environment throughout the project.

“The area is home to various oyster beds, fish habitats and seagrass meadows, so meticulous planning was undertaken to prevent any negative impact on local marine life.

“Water quality monitoring buoys were installed, which enabled us – in conjunction with water quality monitoring consultants BMT – to track water turbidity levels in real time and prevent any sediment from covering the oyster beds.

“Team members were also trained in marine fauna observation, and they strategically placed pipes, pumps and other equipment in a way that did not disturb the seagrass.

“We’re incredibly proud to have completed the project with no environmental or safety incidents.”

The works were carried out on behalf of Gold Coast Waterways Authority and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with the project delivered on time and within budget.

**HALL GENERAL
MANAGER – DREDGING
MARK MCCURDY
SAID THE WORKS
HAD IMPROVED
NAVIGABILITY FOR
RECREATIONAL AND
COMMERCIAL VESSELS.**




Scan to
view project
video





PALM LAKE PROJECT RIGHT AS RAIN

Months of rainy conditions couldn't stop the Palm Lake over-50s lifestyle resort development at Pelican Waters from getting off to a flying start in 2021.

Hall Project Manager Jacob Landers said the La Niña weather pattern impacting much of Australia had resulted in increased rainfall towards the end of the year, with the team recording 835mm of rainfall on site between August and December.

"On average, the area receives around 440mm of rain during that period each year, so we had to contend with almost double the usual amount of rainfall," Jacob said.

"To combat this, we were able to direct excess water into the existing irrigation lake at the back of the site, which previously formed part of the Pelican Waters golf course.

"Unlike most civil construction companies, we were fortunate to have access to large-scale pumps through our dredging division, which enabled us to manage the large volumes of water effectively and dewater the lake in preparation for the wet season, ensuring earthworks could commence."

"We also split the site into multiple work fronts during bouts of rain, allowing us to focus on getting one area up and running after a large downpour. This ensured we could progress operations while the remaining work fronts dried out."

Jacob said Hall had been tasked with undertaking clearing, environmental rehabilitation, habitat translocation, bulk earthworks, landscaping, services installation and lake extension for the project, which will feature 321 custom-designed homes with water frontage and direct access to the Pelican Waters Golf Club on completion.

"The crew will also construct three bridges, various lake revetment walls and a new car park for the golf club throughout the three-year period of works," he said.

"Despite the wet conditions, we managed to complete all clearing works, install pilings for the road bridges, make solid headway on constructing the new car park, and carry out approximately 20 per cent of the earthworks by the end of 2021."

Hall Health, Safety & Environment Manager David Honour said environmental considerations had been an important

focus area, with the resort site home to several threatened fauna species including the water mouse, swamp crayfish, wallum sedge frog, wallum froglet and wallum rocket frog.

"To protect these species and other fauna on site, we engaged local fauna spotter catchers from Australia Wide Environmental Consultants (AWEC) who undertook four days of trapping prior to commencing clearing works," David said.

"Once clearing began, the workers remained on site to catch any remaining fauna. The animals were then relocated and released back into the wild safely.

"The AWEC team also undertook electrofishing to ensure the existing lake could be drained safely. This involved attracting fish to a localised area where they were caught and later released unharmed in a safe location."

David said maintaining water quality was also paramount, with the Hall team monitoring surface water and groundwater on site on an ongoing basis.

"We regularly use our internal water testing kits to measure a range of parameters such as pH, electrical conductivity and groundwater height, and we also send groundwater samples to a laboratory that is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for analysis each month," he said.

"With the golf course's internal lake system and Bells Creek nearby, we're always mindful of minimising runoff and meeting strict release criteria."

Hall General Manager – Civil Daniel Grey said the commencement of the Palm Lake project had provided a positive boost to the local economy.

"All of the workers and sub-contractors contributing to the project have been sourced from South-East Queensland, so there's a real focus on supporting local," Daniel said.

"At present, we have around 15 full-time team members and 20 sub-contractors working to deliver the contract, and we expect more than 50 workers will be on site each day at the project's peak."

Civil works for Palm Lake Resort are expected to conclude by early 2024.

“ALL OF THE WORKERS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN SOURCED FROM SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND, SO THERE’S A REAL FOCUS ON SUPPORTING LOCAL”





HALL SITE SUPERVISOR JAMIE COOK SAID WITH SOME AREAS OF THE PROJECT BASED WITHIN THE STUNNING GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK, THE TEAM CONTINUED TO TAKE EXTREME CARE TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

After successfully wrapping up beach renourishment works at Holloways Beach in February 2021, Hall further cemented its presence in Far North Queensland, commencing a three-year maintenance dredging contract on behalf of Cairns Regional Council.

Hall General Manager – Dredging Mark McCurdy said the team had been engaged to dredge the Bluewater Canal system and outlet channel, maintaining safe passage for recreational and commercial vessels.

“The entrance channel is highly susceptible to sediment build-up and requires constant monitoring,” Mark said.

“As the sand accumulates, we dredge each area to re-establish safe navigational depths, then repeat the process as required.”

HALL EXPANDS FNQ FOOTPRINT



Hall Site Supervisor Jamie Cook said with some areas of the project based within the stunning Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the team continued to take extreme care to protect the marine environment.

“We have rigorous water quality monitoring processes in place that measure pH levels, dissolved oxygen and a range of other factors daily. These require a significant amount of coordination with local laboratories to ensure results are returned within tight timeframes,” Jamie said.

“We also undertake regular benthic surveys to assess the health of the subtidal habitat and monitor where any silts placed in the offshore spoil grounds are migrating to.

“As you would expect, the Department of Environment and Science and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority have enforced strict parameters regarding water quality discharge, turbidity and working near marine flora and fauna, which we take very seriously.

“I’m proud to say we have had no environmental incidents on site and have not received any non-conformance reports from the regulator.”

Jamie said cyclone season had threatened to wreak havoc on dredging operations in March 2021, with Tropical Cyclone Niran moving dangerously close to the Queensland coastline.

“The Bureau of Meteorology issued a cyclone warning predicting winds of up to 100km/h, heavy rainfall and abnormally high tides in coastal areas,” he said.

“Adhering to our cyclone management plan, we ceased operations, relocated the dredge to safe waters and secured the dredge pipeline and other infrastructure.

“Thankfully, the cyclone did not make landfall and after four days, we were able to resume operations.”

Jamie said cyclones were not the only adverse weather conditions Hall had to be mindful of, with large swells and windy conditions regularly putting the team to the test when dredging the outer channel.

“When you’re working 1km out to sea, there really isn’t any shelter from the elements, so we take a lot of precautions to ensure we avoid any harm to personnel or equipment,” Jamie said.

“Whenever we’re dredging the outer channel, we set the dredge on three wires to minimise wear and tear on the spuds, and we adjust our work schedule if the conditions are too rough for team members to safely carry out their duties.

“Safety is, of course, our main priority, and we’re pleased to have carried out the project to date with zero lost time injuries.”

Hall will continue delivering maintenance dredging services within the Bluewater Canal system until 2024 and hopes to secure a one-year contract extension to 2025.





BUSTLING BRISBANE ROAD UPGRADE

Following the successful extension of Naroo Court and widening of Walan Street in Mooloolaba in 2020, Sunshine Coast Council awarded Hall a further two stages of the Mooloolaba Transport Corridor Upgrade (MTCU) in 2021.

Hall Project Manager Richard Hooper said the stage 2 and 3 package of works included upgrading Brisbane Road to four lanes and constructing a new bridge at Mayes Canal.

“Our team carried out a range of service relocations in 2021, including installing new Telstra, Optus, and TPG conduits and nbn fibre optic cabling, as well as relocating water supply infrastructure,” Richard said.

“We also replaced overhead power lines with underground Energex services, which involved boring beneath the Mayes Canal. This enabled us to safely demolish the existing pedestrian bridge in preparation for construction of the new four-lane bridge, which will feature shared pedestrian and cycle paths on both sides.”

Richard said one of the most challenging aspects of the project involved building two temporary piling platforms in the canal.

“As the canal environment is tidal, we discovered it had been impacted by scarring and erosion, which meant we had to work harder to ensure the platforms were stable and could be certified by a geotechnical engineer,” he said.

“We also installed silt curtains to protect the canal from further erosion, and ensured the platforms were a minimum of six metres apart to allow recreational vessels to transit through the canal throughout the construction period.

“Once we obtained certification, the Wagstaff Piling team installed 12 bored piles in the canal, enabling us to construct two abutments and two headstocks in readiness for landing the bridge decks in early 2022.”

Richard said the team had overcome constraints associated with working on a brownfield site in the heart of bustling Mooloolaba.

“The site is located in close proximity to numerous businesses and private residences, so in addition to managing more than 10,000 vehicles travelling on Brisbane Road each day, we have also been working within a confined space with a small laydown area,” he said.

“With this in mind, we scheduled deliveries in a way that enabled us to carry out day-to-day works without exceeding the laydown area’s capacity, and carefully prioritised the materials that could be stored on site.

“For example, knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing industry-wide supply chain disruptions, we opted to purchase water main materials soon after commencing the project and store these in the laydown area to avoid material shortages and price increases.

“However, when excavating an area of the site to install 100 metres of reinforced box culverts, we made the decision to transport excess fill to other local construction sites for beneficial reuse as opposed to stockpiling it due to the space restrictions.

“This is an ongoing challenge, but the team has done a fantastic job in managing this to date.”

Richard also commended crew members for their efforts in engaging with the local community regarding the works.

“THE SITE TEAM HAS DEVELOPED A STRONG RAPPORT WITH NEARBY BUSINESS OWNERS AND RESIDENTS AND THEY DO A GREAT JOB OF KEEPING THEM INFORMED.

“Council also issues regular construction notifications to key stakeholders, which is incredibly important for such a prominent, high-traffic site.”

Richard said more than 300 workers had contributed to the project in 2021, with all staff and sub-contractors hailing from South-East Queensland.

“We’re proud to be supporting the South-East Queensland economy and contributing to local employment.

“Some of the local contractors we have engaged as part of the works include consulting engineers Covey Associates, geotechnical engineering firm Tectonic and electrical sub-contractor Trafflec.”

Stages 2 and 3 of the MTCU project are scheduled for completion in late 2022.





ALL-TIDE ACCESS FOR MOLONGLE CREEK COMMUNITY

It's a project that has been almost 60 years in the making, and for Burdekin boaties, the Molongle Creek access channel dredging works couldn't have come soon enough.

Located approximately 140km south of Townsville in North Queensland, Molongle Creek is the gateway to Cape Upstart National Park, a scenic headland that houses more than 240 properties and lacks road infrastructure.

Molongle Creek Boat Club Project Officer Joe Linton said access to the area had long been restricted by tidal conditions, with boating enthusiasts only able to reach offshore waters at high tide.

"We first began lobbying the state government to fund all-tide access at Molongle Creek back in 1962," Joe said.

"The need for a new access channel became even more pressing in 2019, when around 500mm of rain fell at the Molongle Creek catchment as a result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Penny, causing significant damage to the existing channel.

"At that point, boating access was limited to approximately 25 per cent of daylight hours, which posed safety risks for residents and visitors who could not always access emergency services quickly when needed.

"One man sadly passed away after suffering a medical episode at Cape Upstart, and others have been stranded for hours after injuring themselves in a fall or standing on a stonefish."

To address these issues, the Department of Transport and Main Roads engaged Hall to widen the existing channel to 12 metres and deepen it to two metres below lowest astronomical tide (-2m LAT), creating all-tide access to Cape Upstart and offshore waters.

Hall General Manager – Dredging Mark McCurdy said the team had also been tasked with extending the existing boat ramp to service the new channel.

"It's fantastic to be delivering a project that will benefit local residents and bolster tourism in the area," Mark said.

"Our crew has been welcomed with open arms, and we're thrilled to be expanding our footprint in North Queensland."

Mark said inclement weather conditions in the early stages of the project had added a layer of complexity to the works, delaying cutter suction dredge *Mabuiag's* arrival from Cairns by one week.

"We had initially planned to take advantage of a very high tide in mid-September to tow *Mabuiag* into Molongle Creek, enabling us to dredge outwards from the boat ramp towards Cape Upstart," he said.

"However, large seas and stormy weather prevented the dredge from arriving on schedule, forcing us to commence dredging offshore and work our way inwards instead.

"This change in direction resulted in our work hours becoming very tide dependent, as we required a tide of 1.7 metres or higher to journey out to the dredge via a workboat.

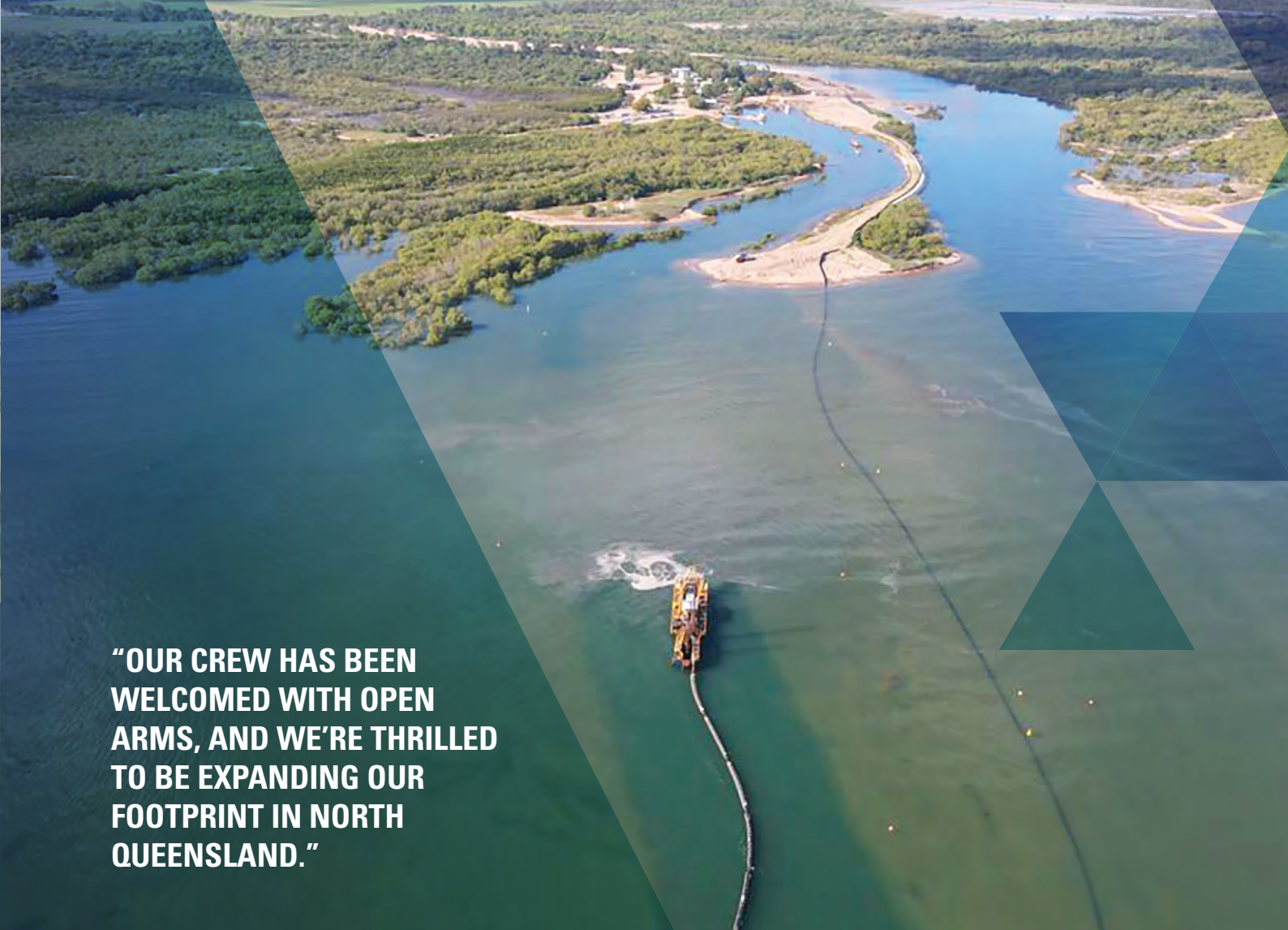
"It was a constant juggling act, and some days the low tide prevented us from commencing work until 11am or midday, but the team did a great job of adapting to the ever-evolving schedule."

Mark said environmental considerations had been a key focus area throughout the project, with the team trained in megafauna spotting and employing a drone to assist with daily plume monitoring.

"We regularly flew the drone over our work area to observe any plume surrounding the dredge and confirm it was contained within a 100-metre radius," he said.

"We also undertook daily water quality monitoring in the disposal ponds where we pumped the dredged material, ensuring the water could be safely released back into Molongle Creek without any negative impact to waterway users, marine life or the nearby Great Barrier Reef Marine Park."

Dredging wrapped up in June 2022, with Hall also undertaking boat ramp extension works as part of the project.



"OUR CREW HAS BEEN WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS, AND WE'RE THRILLED TO BE EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT IN NORTH QUEENSLAND."



SEQ

CIVIL IN FULL SWING

THE SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND CIVIL FRONT HEATED UP IN 2021, WITH HALL UNDERTAKING A RANGE OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

ASPECT ESTATE STAGES 3-4

CLIENT Double R Group
LOCATION Gympie, QLD
TIMEFRAME August 2021-February 2022

Hall expanded its South-East Queensland footprint into Gympie in 2021, undertaking civil works for stages 3 and 4 of Aspect Estate on behalf of Double R Group.

Featuring over 9.8 hectares of environmental reserve, the development sits amongst peaceful surrounds at Southside.

Since successfully completing the 68 generously sized lots, Hall has been engaged to deliver an additional four stages of the development (stages 6-9).



PELICAN WATERS PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND STAGES 4-5

CLIENT Pelican Waters
LOCATION Pelican Waters, QLD
TIMEFRAME July 2021-July 2022

The Pelican Waters marina and town centre began to take shape in 2021, representing the final piece of the award-winning Pelican Waters master-planned community.

Hall carried out civil works for stages 4 and 5 and commenced constructing a 168-metre-long, five-span pedestrian and cycle bridge, which connects Bells Creek and the coastal pathway to Pelican Waters Central Park.

The team successfully managed marine clays, acid sulfate soils, high groundwater and sensitive marine environments while undertaking the works.



NOOSA CARPARKS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

CLIENT Noosa Council
LOCATION Cooroy, QLD
TIMEFRAME July 2021-November 2021

Hall constructed more than 30 new carpark spaces around Maple Street and Lower Mill Road in Cooroy to support Noosa Council's new all-abilities Hinterland Adventure Playground.

The team also built a new raised pedestrian crossing at Maple Street between Apex Park and the Cooroy Library, constructed new pathways between the Lower Mill Road heritage area and the new playground, and widened the existing pathway at Apex Park.

The Hinterland Adventure Playground combines adventure-based play with open green space.



BIRTINYA NORTH (PHASE 2)

CLIENT Stockland
LOCATION Birtinya, QLD
TIMEFRAME August 2021-May 2022

In addition to delivering a range of civil works for Stockland at Aura Business Park, Hall was engaged to undertake further works at the Birtinya North commercial development in 2021.

Phase 2 involved undertaking bulk earthworks, installing sewerage and water supply infrastructure, and constructing roads and retaining walls.



NOOSA CIVIC

CLIENT Stockwell Development Group
LOCATION Noosaville, QLD
TIMEFRAME January 2021-September 2022

As one of the Sunshine Coast's largest retail and commercial hubs, Noosa Civic Town Centre is a popular shopping destination.

Stockwell Development Group contracted Hall to expand the precinct, delivering 23 new lots and associated roadworks. Team members also installed underground utilities including sewerage and water supply infrastructure as part of the project.



NORTH HARBOUR EARTHWORKS AND STAGES 25-29 AND 38

CLIENT North Harbour Holdings
LOCATION Burpengary East, QLD
TIMEFRAME August 2020-December 2021

2021 was yet another busy year at North Harbour. Hall completed 140 residential lots for stages 25-27 and widened Buckley Road to create a new entry point. The team also continued constructing an 850m trunk water main, which involved horizontal directional drilling adjacent to busy Buchanan Road in Morayfield.

Three new civil stages commenced towards the latter half of the year, including construction of a new wetland, and Hall also undertook bulk earthworks for the North South Urban Arterial.



BEERBURRUM TO NAMBOUR RAIL UPGRADE

CLIENT Department of Transport and Main Roads
LOCATION Landsborough and Nambour, QLD
TIMEFRAME October 2021-Early 2023

Hall kicked off early works for the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade (B2N) project at the end of 2021.

The project includes the realignment of Steve Irwin Way to accommodate the B2N rail realignment, construction of a new carpark at Landsborough Station, intersection upgrades to existing local streets, and upgrades to the Nambour Station carpark.



INGENIA BETHANIA STAGES 3 AND 4

CLIENT Ingénia Lifestyle
LOCATION Bethania, QLD
TIMEFRAME August 2021-June 2022

Ingénia Bethania is an over-50s lifestyle community located between Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Hall was engaged to undertake sediment and erosion control, earthworks, internal roadworks and landscaping for stages 3 and 4 in 2021.

The team also constructed retaining walls and installed sewerage and water supply infrastructure as part of the project.



AMAROO STREET

CLIENT RM Developments
LOCATION Morayfield, QLD
TIMEFRAME September 2021-March 2022

Civil works have wrapped up at a 29-lot subdivision in Morayfield.

The residential development is the first project Hall has delivered on behalf of RM Developments.

Our team undertook bulk earthworks, installation of sewerage and water infrastructure, construction of roads and retaining walls, and landscaping as part of the project.



PROTECTING VICTORIA'S COLOURFUL COASTLINE

MEMBERS OF THE HALL TEAM MIGRATED SOUTH IN OCTOBER 2021 TO UNDERTAKE BEACH RENOURISHMENT WORKS AT MOUNT MARTHA BEACH NORTH ON VICTORIA'S MORNINGTON PENINSULA.



Since 1946
HALL
CELEBRATING
75
years



Hall General Manager – Dredging Mark McCurdy said the project – delivered on behalf of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) – involved dredging and spreading 25,000m³ of sand along the Mount Martha foreshore.

“With the stretch of coastline prone to erosion and heavily impacted by severe weather events, our team was tasked with increasing the beach width to protect the shoreline and associated vegetation,” Mark said.

“We employed one of our compact demountable dredges, *Warraber*, to dredge sand from Port Phillip Bay, and the crew assembled 900 lineal metres of pipeline to pump the material ashore.”

Mark said the project involved working around some of the region’s iconic bathing boxings, which line the Mount Martha cliff face.

“These colourful beach shacks are historically significant and really add to the character of the area,” he said.

“Our team was mindful of carefully planning and undertaking works in a way that prevented damage to the shacks and the sensitive beach environment.

“We constructed a bund in front of the bathing boxes that protected against erosion while carrying out the beach renourishment works.”

Hall Site Engineer Riley Darrant said environmental considerations were at the forefront of operations, with team members undertaking marine fauna observation each day to ensure the safety of local marine life.

“With Port Phillip Bay home to a huge array of flora and fauna, we sighted various turtles and pods of dolphins throughout the project and made sure to minimise any disturbance to their environment,” Riley said.

“We also continuously monitored the dredge plume, ensuring it did not exceed environmental limitations.”

Riley said ever-changing weather conditions also kept the crew on its toes, with Hall at the mercy of the elements.

“We had to contend with a lot of northerly swells throughout the project. Due to Mount Martha’s positioning, weather fronts that approached from the north or west typically generated large swell and made it almost impossible to continue dredging operations.

“On one occasion, the wind was forecasted to reach 40 knots, so the Site Supervisor, Dan Lauriston, enacted our plan to tow the dredge back to a nearby marina until the extreme weather conditions passed. All of our equipment was safely anchored by the time the windy conditions hit, which is a testament to the team’s efforts in undertaking crucial pre-planning.

“While adjusting our work schedule in line with weather conditions proved to be an ongoing balancing act, it ensured the project could be successfully completed without compromising the safety of staff or equipment.”

Mark said COVID-19 restrictions also put the team to the test, making it challenging to rotate crew members during the two-month project.

“Typically, we would switch dredge operators during a project of this duration; however, border closures prevented this from happening, so the project team delivered the entire eight-week schedule of works without a changing of the guard,” he said.

“We’re incredibly appreciative of their dedication to the project as it ensured the works could be completed prior to Christmas, when locals and tourists alike flock to the Mornington Peninsula for the holiday season.”

Hall is no stranger to delivering beach renourishment works in Victoria, having previously undertaken the Rosebud Beach Renourishment Project on behalf of DELWP in 2019 and 2020.



Scan to
view project
video



ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY WAS THE DONATION OF NUMEROUS LEGO SETS TO HEARTKIDS...





LEADING THE FIELD

Following the tumultuous, pandemic-affected year that was 2020, Hall opted to kickstart 2021 on a positive note with the delivery of its third Dig Deeper Leadership Conference.

Sixty leaders from across the business came together at Surfair Events Centre in Marcoola to network with their peers and learn valuable leadership and communication skills.

Resilience expert and former Australian Comic of the Year Marty Wilson delivered the keynote presentation, and business presenter Lynne Schinella educated, inspired and entertained audience members with her unique personality profiling system, providing insight into communicating

effectively with others.

Attendees put their teamwork skills to the test with a series of team-building activities in the afternoon, and wrapped up the day with dinner, drinks and an appearance from Ringo the Magician.

One of the highlights of the day was the donation of numerous Lego sets to HeartKids – a not-for-profit organisation providing support and advocacy services for families impacted by childhood heart disease.



MARKING MILESTONES



LONG-TERM STAFF JOIN HALL OF FAME

More than 40 Hall employees were inducted into the newly established Hall of Fame in 2021 – an initiative that recognises team members who have dedicated 10 or more years of service to the company.

Having been in operation for 75 years, Hall is fortunate to have had a loyal workforce along for the ride, including multiple generations of some families.

Hall CEO Cameron Hall said some of the company's longest-serving team members included Troy Cronin, who has been at Hall for 33 years, and Mark McCurdy and Annette Williams, who have both spent three decades at Hall.

"Our long-serving team members have watched the company evolve over the years as we've grown to become Australia's largest dredging, civil and marine civil contractor, and they have helped shape Hall into the thriving business it is today," Cameron said.

Payroll and Accounts Receivable Administrator Annette Williams attested to how far the business had come, laughingly recalling the days when the company had just one computer for team members to share.

"We had a gigantic Atari computer that used to sit in one corner of head office, and there was a ticketing system in place to access it," Annette said.

"Before it was introduced, we used to type the wording on every cheque, remittance, and envelope label on a typewriter, so we were beyond thrilled when we were able to print them off instead.

"WHEN IT CAME TO PAYING WAGES, WE WOULD SAVE THE DIRECT DEPOSIT FILE ON A FLOPPY DISK EACH WEEK AND DASH TO THE BANK JUST BEFORE 5PM TO ENSURE PAYMENTS WERE PROCESSED. THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS INTERNET BANKING!"

Plant operator and long-term employee Darren Evans said Hall's work sites had also evolved significantly since he began working for the company in the 1990s.

"All of our equipment is a lot more sophisticated these days, and the introduction of GPS technology has had a huge impact on the way we work," Darren said.

"In the early years, if you accidentally knocked a surveyor's peg out on site, you sometimes had to wait two days for a surveyor to arrive and put it back in place. These days, we can use GPS technology to resolve the issue immediately.

"GPS systems also help us to track the location of our equipment and accurately excavate and place material on site, which we previously carried out manually. We've undoubtedly come a long way."

In acknowledgement of the integral contribution long-serving staff have made to Hall, team members who have worked at the company for 10 years or more were rewarded with a gift of appreciation in 2021 and invited to attend the inaugural Hall of Fame celebratory dinner at Pier 33 in Mooloolaba.

Administrative team member Barbara Bennetts marked her long-awaited 25-year anniversary at Hall at the event and was recognised for her hard work and dedication. Sadly, Barb lost her battle with cancer in September 2021. Barb was a valued member of the Hall team and a friend to many, and we are deeply saddened by her passing.



GROWTH SPURT

Hall's fleet of equipment continued to grow and diversify in 2021, with the company acquiring a 1500hp backhoe dredge, *Nulla Nulla*.

Nulla Nulla – aptly named after Aboriginal weaponry for its strength and power – spans 48 metres in length and can dredge to a maximum depth of 19.5 metres.

Hall also purchased two material handling barges for use on the Port of Townsville Channel Upgrade project. Measuring 73 metres long, each barge is 1,669t in size and has a capacity of 4,718t.

Our Townsville site and various project sites in South-East Queensland also benefited from a range of new civil plant, with Hall acquiring three new bulldozers, seven 25t-89t excavators, two water trucks, three 40t articulated dump trucks, a grader, a tip truck and a 12-seater bus in 2021.

BLANK JOINS BUSINESS COUNCIL



Hall extends its congratulations to Business Development Manager William Blank, who was appointed Vice-President of the Australia Pacific Islands Business Council in November 2021. The organisation works to facilitate trade and investment opportunities between Australia and the Pacific Islands.

William brings a wealth of expertise to the role, having developed an extensive network of contacts in the Pacific and helped to secure various Hall projects in Fiji, Tuvalu, Tokelau and PNG in recent years.

HALL LAUNCHES NEW-LOOK DIVISION

With Hall having successfully delivered a number of projects in the mining industry over the years, senior management was eager to expand its footprint in this area and capitalise on identified growth opportunities.

To achieve this, a new division of the Hall group of companies – Hall Water & Tailings – was established in 2021. Hall Water & Tailings offers tailings dam dredging, slurry and water management, civil construction and remediation and rehabilitation services to the mining and heavy industrial sectors.

Hall CEO Cameron Hall said the board opted to establish the new brand to highlight the group's expertise in the mining and heavy industrial space.

"Hall Contracting is widely recognised across Australia for its dredging and civil construction capabilities; however, we found many workers within the mining industry were unaware we also offer mining-related services," Cameron said.

"THE NEW BRAND HARNESSES THE STRENGTH OF THE HALL NAME, WHILE CLEARLY COMMUNICATING OUR WATER AND TAILINGS CAPABILITIES."

"We are currently exploring a range of work opportunities in this space and look forward to securing additional contracts with some of Australia's most prominent mining and resources companies."



GIVING BACK

As one of the Sunshine Coast's longest-standing businesses, Hall commemorated 75 years in business in 2021 through the donation of 75 back-to-school packs to local charity SunnyKids.

The backpacks were distributed to children who have been impacted by domestic violence and economic hardship.

Hall CEO Cameron Hall said the donation was made in honour of his late grandfather, Hall Contracting Founder Les Hall.

"My grandfather was raised in poverty, suffered from polio and had a very limited education, but despite his challenging start to life, he managed to establish Hall and develop it into a thriving business," Cameron said.

"His success is testament to the potential that exists within all of us, so as Hall marked its 75th year in business, we thought it was only fitting to lend a helping hand to local youth facing challenging circumstances."

Cameron said each back-to-school pack included a backpack, pencil case, drink bottle and stationery, as well as a \$100 Rebel voucher to help with the cost of school shoes and sporting equipment.

"We compiled packs for primary and high school students of various ages in the hope of easing some of the pressure on Sunshine Coast families in need," he said.

SunnyKids General Manager Kathleen Hope said the donation had been gratefully received ahead of the 2022 school year, with demand for domestic violence support services having surged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"At one point during the pandemic, we recorded a 48 per cent increase in requests for assistance, which sadly highlights how prevalent domestic violence is within our community," Kathleen said.

"Many women and children who have experienced family and domestic violence flee with very few belongings, so these backpacks have been a welcome addition to families making a fresh start."

Kathleen said the backpacks had also assisted in providing students with a sense of belonging in the school community.

"Children impacted by economic hardship can often feel ostracised or embarrassed amongst their peers if they lack basic resources or have to come to school with a bag or shoes that are falling apart," she said.

"For a child who may have had to carry pencils to school in a plastic bag, being able to pull out a pencil case in their favourite colours or prints can make such a marked difference to their confidence levels.

"Education plays a critical role in breaking the cycle of disadvantage, so providing students with access to resources like this can help to encourage them to stay in school and achieve their full potential."

SunnyKids assists approximately 1,000 vulnerable children each year, providing thousands of nights of emergency accommodation, as well as counselling, domestic violence support, mentoring programs and more.

Hall is a proud member of SunnyKids' P100 corporate giving program.

IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Hall made Easter a little brighter for women and children in refuge in 2021, donating \$500 plus hundreds of chocolate bunnies and eggs to RizeUp's Townsville branch.

Our Port of Townsville crew also compiled a range of Christmas gifts for the charity, which supports families impacted by domestic and family violence.

JCU SAINTS SCORE SPONSORSHIP

The JCU Saints Rugby League Club's 2021 season got off to a flying start, with Hall committing \$3,000 to the Townsville-based club. The sponsorship benefited 140 players across 10 junior and senior teams, assisting the club to keep its registration fees low, provide all players with jerseys and host weekly barbeques.

WEST ARNHAM RESIDENTS WELCOME DONATION

Having wrapped up works at Ranger Mine in the Northern Territory in early 2021, Hall donated furniture and appliances from a four-bedroom home to the Red Lily Health Board Aboriginal Corporation (RLHBAC). The organisation aims to improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations people in the West Arnhem region.

The Hall team also purchased a range of fishing and outdoor equipment for RLHBAC's 'Healthy Minds' program, which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with mental health challenges.

POUNDING THE PAVEMENT

Mooloolaba State School students and teachers are exercising in style after Hall sponsored the purchase of new shirts for the school's Run Club.

Approximately 20 energetic youngsters participate in a 4km run to Alexandra Headland each week.

Photos:

1. SunnyKids General Manager Kathleen Hope and Hall Contracting CEO Cameron Hall with back-to-school packs
2. Hall Contracting team members Lars Hansen and David Honour packing back-to-school packs
3. JCU Saints Rugby League Club members
4. RizeUp Christmas donations from Hall Contracting
5. Mooloolaba State School Run Club participants

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Sunshine Coast!

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Les Hall's first truck, a 1941 Army Disposal Ford. It was caught in a flooded river en route to St. George.



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