

GPC breaks through the 80mt of deliveries mark Port sets record as coal exports soar

By KIERAN MORAN

THE Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) has announced a record throughput of more than 81 million tonnes in 2009.

Chief executive Leo Zussino said the port was moving from strength to strength and these figures were an indication of that.

"This is the first year the port has broken through the 80 million tonnes of export per annum," Mr Zussino said.

"2009 was a year of milestones, with records broken not only in coal exports but also in grain

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GPC CEO LEO ZUSSINO

exports."

Mr Zussino said total grain exports for 2009 exceeded 486,000 tonnes.

"This record was achieved through an increase in wheat and sorghum exports as well as an increase in chickpeas and cottonseed exports, Mr Zussino said.

"In 2008 total grain exports were just over 196,000 tonnes."

Mr Zussino added that a bumper grain crop in 2009 was the reason for the massive increase in grain exports through the port.

"Coal exports also exceeded previous years," Mr Zussino said. "Last year the port exported



SHIPPING IT OUT: The Port of Gladstone exported 58 million tonnes of coal, an increase of 3 per cent on 2008.

over 58 million tonnes of coal, an increase of 3 per cent on 2008. This increase was managed despite the global economic downturn in the early half of 2009."

Mr Zussino said GPC employees had stepped up a level to ensure

the port smoothly managed the increase in coal demand as the year progressed.

"GPC is continually improving

the way things are done at the port and implementing improvements in the way the port handles coal exports."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Short story comp

FANCY yourself as a bit of a writer? Why not enter the short story competition being run in conjunction with the Women's Festival, which is to be held at the PCYC on Sunday, March 7 from 10am to 3pm. The Theme is "Living life as an everyday goddess". The winning entry will best capture the theme, while being inspiring, positive, empowering and entertaining.

There is a \$5 entry fee and the competition is open to women over the age of 16 years.

First prize is \$250, donated by Chris Trevor and Associates, and second prize is \$150, donated by QAL. Entries close at 4pm on February 25.

Contact the Women's Health Centre, or for further information, 4979 1456 or whealth@gladstone-womenshealth.org.au.

Internet porn study

IN the first study of its kind researchers are investigating how addiction to internet porn affects people's work, finances and relationships.

Some 70 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women access internet porn, according to Dr Gomathi Sitharthan, the researcher behind the study and deputy coordinator of the University of Sydney's graduate program in sexual health.

Internet porn addiction is a growing problem partly due to its easy accessibility in the comfort of people's home, according to Dr Sitharthan. But currently there are limited treatment options.

The survey is looking to further an understanding of internet pornography addiction and how best to offer assistance to overcome it.

Dr Sitharthan hopes there will be broader public discussion of the issue, particularly given the recent spotlight on the topics of sex addiction (in the case of Tiger Woods) and the ready availability of explicit images online (in the case of the Macquarie banker caught viewing revealing pictures of Miranda Kerr).

Caring obituaries

A WRITTEN tribute to your loved one can be a lasting memorial. *The Observer* is seeking information and photographs for obituaries. All obituaries are handled with sensitivity and compassion. If you would like to discuss having a tribute written, please contact Ren Lanzon on 4970 3028 or email ren.lanzon@gladstoneobserver.com.au.

Assets sale planned before 2009 poll, says LNP

By KIERAN MORAN

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh and Labor were secretly planning to sell Queensland assets well before the 2009 election, the LNP said today.

Leader of the Opposition John Paul Langbroek said Queenslanders no longer believed Premier Bligh's claims that the decision to sell off state assets was

made after the election.

"Premier Bligh and Treasurer Fraser have consistently claimed that the decision to sell off Queensland assets was not made until after the election, but the evidence suggests otherwise," said Mr Langbroek.

"Now Queenslanders are being presented with clear evidence that Bligh and Labor concocted a plan

to conduct a series of privatisations well before the March 2009 election, but deliberately did not reveal those plans as part of Labor's election strategy."

Mr Langbroek said Premier Bligh had selectively quoted from a Cabinet document from October 2008 which included a recommendation to sell a number of government assets.

"I call on the Premier to table before the parliament a copy of the Cabinet submission," Mr Langbroek said.

"Until such time that she does so, Queenslanders can be forgiven for believing that she lied to them before the election, and that her plans to sell off state assets in a fire sale after the election were already a done deal."

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