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WALZ MARINE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Having A Whale Of A Time

With whales regularly breaching around their Self Elevating Platform (SEP) 4.5km out to sea in Dalrymple Bay near Mackay in Central Queensland, it's easy to believe the team when they claim to love their jobs and the company they work for.

Walz Marine was established in 2006 to support the growing Central Queensland shipping industry following the massive resources boom the region has experienced over recent years. It is a subsidiary of the Walz Group, which incorporates Walz Construction, Walz Maintenance, Total Paint Protection, Watson Engineering, Walz Building, Capricorn Tug & Barge and Suresteel Detailing.

According to Walz Marine General Manager, David Toone, safety, forward thinking and a genuine concern for caring for the environment is what sets his team apart from the rest.

"I have never worked with a team so focused on success," David says.

"Before we start a job, the whole team gets together and we discuss the project from start to finish. All potential problems are pulled to pieces and glued back together with the team's sound problem-solving skills."

David smiles when he talks about the special file called "Max's Stuff". This file, named after Project Coordinator Max Lane, contains sketchings of a variety of potential problem areas that have been overcome with the team's innovative solutions.

It was this process, together with Walz Marine's added benefit of the skills and knowledge of the Walz Group of companies, that inspired the team to invent a platform to help the crew get from the launch boat onto the barge safely and securely in adverse sea conditions.

Project Manager Max Lane explains of the importance of the design and patent of the team's new working platforms and the docking system that are currently being used on their piling project at Dalrymple Bay in Mackay.

"The new design incorporates a reusable, modular system that is attached to the initial piles and then bolted together quite easily as opposed to the welding and hard work that used to be part of this process," Max continued.

“A monorail system then extracts them from underneath the headstock frame and bracing once the structure is complete.”

At the mercy of the wind and waves, any work undertaken by Walz Marine is done with stringent safety procedures in place and with a fully briefed and experienced crew.

According to Site Surveyor Peter Robinson, an ocean-based environment requires particular attention to engineering the safety hazards out prior to starting jobs.

“There are great risks involved with piling on a seabed, as benching can easily cause the pile to slide down the sea wall.”

“We use state of the art computer modelling to build 3D models of the ocean floor to ensure the piles are driven in the correct place and will last a lifetime.”

Good planning, good people and good procedures enable Walz Marine to deliver safe and successful jobs for clients.

With a strong focus on retaining employees that bring highly sought-after skills and specialist knowledge, Walz Marine now has a stable team of 25 people who are all experienced at sea and in handling marine projects. Their expertise in working on water, combined with a good understanding of structural and mechanical engineering, is what makes Walz Marine industry leaders.

Working so close to one of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef, it goes without saying that Walz Marine does everything in their power to operate in synch with the sensitive environmental areas along Australia’s coastline.

Good vessel maintenance, particularly on hydraulics and fuel systems, along with spill prevention and management procedures and a crew that are trained in spill management, ensures that all environmental regulations and requirements are not only met, but exceeded.

A chain is only as strong as its individual links, and no team could function in the marine environment without the use of excellent plant and equipment. At the same token, the equipment wouldn’t mean much without the expert knowledge of the team to utilise the equipment in the correct way for each application.

Walz Marine’s extensive fleet, that includes a 30.5m x 18m Self Elevating Platform with a lifting capacity of 380t, a 12m and 8.5m workboat, pontoons, and a fleet of small dinghies.

With Safety Health Environment and Quality systems, experienced, trained Management and a dedicated workforce, Walz Marine has the ability to think creatively and to deliver practical workable solutions and high quality work for our clients.

During its reasonably short time of operation, Walz Marine has successfully completed a ship loader boom removal and reinstallation, piling of channel navigational marks, and extensive wharf works in Central Queensland.

The team is currently doing piling and dolphin installation on a new wharf in Dalrymple Bay near Mackay, and is looking forward to future works along Australia’s eastern seaboard.



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For further information

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