

Industrial wonderland: a tourist's view

Having come from the bright lights of the US, tourist **TIFFANI AMO** surprised even herself by how quickly she fell for dusty mining town Port Hedland.

I've been on the road for a year-and-a-half now. I've seen a lot, but my most memorable experience was one of the most unlikely. Before I even got to Port Hedland, people were telling me I should leave. When I finally arrived, people asked me why I stayed. I guess I could see where they were coming from. Temperatures so high it feels like there are two suns in the sky, a high-vis parade as soon as you arrive at the airport, short-term accommodation the size of a cardboard box. But the thing is, you have to think outside of the box.

I can't say that everyone who comes to the town will have as much fun as I did. The FIFO crews don't seem to find it all that exciting, but I think you just have to look in the right places and say hello to the right faces.

For me, Hedland is an industrial wonderland. A surreal world of iron ore, salt and steel. Raw, powerful paradise where everything is larger than life. Ships four times the size of the Titanic being guided by mammoth tugs in and out of the harbor carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of freight. Trains dragging the weight of hundreds of cars neatly necked with iron ore. A sun that sets behind rows of towering power lines oozing with high voltage. Beyond the port, flat, empty acres of space interrupted on the



Tiffani Amo and Alex Wightman.

horizon by goliath excavators whose life-like limbs claw at the earth in slow motion.

Even the animals are industrial, sturdy, efficient. Long-nosed lizards sprint around town on two legs, friendly junkyard dogs patrolling the streets. Sea turtles nest on the beach in the moonlight, giant bats glide across the night-sky. The frogs bark and the cicadas sing. The breeze is always warm. This kind of stuff will really grow on you. The people who live in Port Hedland all told me the same thing: "When I first got Port Hedland, I was thinking, 'What the hell am I doing here,' but it grows on you.



Port Hedland and the Pilbara: "it grows on you". Picture: Tiffani Amo

You come to love it." They're right. You just have to get to know the place.

And just because you're staying in Port Hedland doesn't mean you

can't take a weekend trip to Point Samson or Eighty Mile Beach. Even Karrijini National Park is just a few hours down the road.

At the end of the day, you can ei-

ther complain about the heat and sit around criticising the locals, or you head out to Spoil Bank when the tide is low and throw a line in the water, cold beers in the esky.



EAST PILBARA SHIRE UPDATE

Welcome to the heart of the Pilbara February 2013

President's Message

I'd like to begin by offering my congratulations to the Shire's Chief Executive Officer Allen Cooper who was awarded a Public Service Medal as part of the Australia Day Honours, recognised for his outstanding commitment to the East Pilbara. Allen has dedicated over 18 years to the East Pilbara region and is unquestionably deserving of this prestigious award. Please read more about Allen's contribution to the East Pilbara in this update.

Australia Day was celebrated in style across the region with community events in both Newman and Marble Bar. It's always a fantastic day when we celebrate this wonderful country of ours and it's important that those who received awards for their dedication to the Shire of East Pilbara are acknowledged. The following individuals were recognised as part of the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Awards:

Newman
Lynne Craige - East Pilbara Citizen of the Year
Bob Nicholson - East Pilbara Citizen of the Year
Anthony Jessen - East Pilbara Young Citizen of the Year
6 New Radio - East Pilbara Community Group or Event of the Year

Marble Bar
The Marble Bar VES Unit - East Pilbara Community Group Award.

Nullagine
Peta Asplin- East Pilbara Australian of the Year (Nullagine)

Please take the time to read the latest news affecting the Shire of East Pilbara and for more information visit our website www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au

Lynne Craige - Shire President.



What's Happening around the Shire...

Clean Up Australia Day
DATE: Sunday 03 March 2013
WHERE: Newman Youth Centre
TIME: 8.00am - 11.00am including refreshments
For more information contact Carole Carbone on 08 9175 1963

Rugby League Clinic
The Newman Youth Centre is hosting Rugby League Clinics every Friday for the next five weeks.
4pm - 6 pm.
Come along and bring your friends for some fitness and ball skills.

CEO Awarded Public Service Medal
The Shire of East Pilbara would like to congratulate Chief Executive Officer Allen Cooper for receiving the Public Service Medal as part of the 2013 Australia Day Honours for his dedication to the Shire of East Pilbara. Allen has been the Director of the Board of Management, Local Government Managers Australia, Western Australia Division since 2003. He was also the Acting Chair of the Pilbara Area Consultative Committee and member since 2002, retiring in 2010. He was the Past Chief Executive Officer of the Pilbara Regional Council. He has also been the Past President of the (then) North Branch of the Institute of Municipal Managers Australia. He is also Fellow of the Local Government Managers Australia. Allen's involvement with his local community groups and clubs is also of note. He is a 5th Dan instructor of the Newman Tae Kwon Do Club and a 2nd Dan member of the Newman Hapkido Club. He is also a member of the Returned and Services League of Australia as well as an avid member of the Freemasons Newman.



Newman Continues its Retail and Business Growth

Stage One of the Newman Mixed Business Precinct has opened for registrations of interest after the announcement from Lands Minister Brendan Grylls of a dedicated mixed-use precinct for business in Newman.

The new Mixed Business Precinct was announced to meet the demands for quality commercial land in Newman and provide greater business opportunities.

"The opening of the Mixed Business Precinct is great news for Newman as it provides much needed commercial space to cater for the burgeoning growth of businesses in Newman," said Chief Executive Officer Allen Cooper.

"This land also means that the residents of Newman will have access to additional retail and service enterprises providing better opportunities for shopping and other needs.

The Mixed Business Precinct Stage 1 comprises nine lots ranging from 1,744sqm to 4,120sqm. Registrations of interests opened on February 7th and close at 2pm WST on Tuesday, 12 March. To register your interest contact Landcorp via their website www.landcorp.gov.au



East Pilbara Young Australian of the Year Anthony Jessen with his family