



Port Hedland School of the Air brought together 50 students for in-term swimming lessons last week.

Picture: Kim Kirkman

## Technology advances port berths

FORTESCUE Metals Group has ordered 24 automated mooring units for Anderson Point 4 berth, the company's fourth berth at Port Hedland.

The Cavotec units will moor vessels ranging in size from 174,000 dead weight tonnes to 206,000 dwt and are designed to withstand the rugged conditions at the berth, where winds gust up to 30m per second.

"This technology is changing the industry in ways we never thought possible. It's safer and quicker than conventional mooring and generates substantial infrastructure savings," FMG Port Hedland general manager Tony Swiericzuk said.

This will be the second berth at Port Hedland to use automated mooring units with 14 Cavotec MoorMaster MM200B units already in operation at Port Hedland's Utah Point.

## Rare chance for students to get valuable lessons

KIM KIRKMAN

FOR the first time in six years, Port Hedland School of the Air students took a break from isolated study to learn an imperative skill last week.

Spread out across 560,000 square kilometres and usually educated from remote stations via satellite, 50 students enjoyed swimming lessons together in Port Hedland.

PHSOTA principal Michael Jennings also said it was the first time a Port Hedland School had conducted in-term swimming lessons for six years.

"The planets aligned, because we got swimming teachers and accommodation - the two toughest things to find here," Mr Jennings said.

He said the focus was on giving the children quality swimming tuition, as well as a relatively rare opportunity for the PHSOTA community to

come into town and spend time with their teachers and peers.

"We had about 25 families come in from all over the Pilbara," Mr Jennings said.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore provided accommodation for the families, without which, Mr Jennings said, the school's first ever swimming class would not have been possible.

Lessons were conducted from Tuesday to Thursday at Gratwick Aquatic Centre.

"The intensive nature seemed to work, water safety skills in some children improved up to three or four swimming stages," Mr Jennings said.

Mr Jennings said children who live remotely actually swim quite a lot, because many of the pastoral stations they live on are near rivers.

"There is a real necessity for them to be water wise and safe from a young age," he said.

## Group will tackle local noise and air pollution

THE State Government has appointed an advisory group to provide a forum for discussion on noise and air pollution in Port Hedland.

The group will collaborate with the Department of Environment and Conservation to support and provide advice on air quality and noise management, and share information with the broader community.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion last week announced Roger Richardson, a lifelong Hedland resident, as chair of the new group.

Mr Richardson was previously employed for 35 years as a shipping superintendent with BHP Billiton.

"As a third generation Port Hedland resident, with an extensive background in the field of environmental regulation, Mr Richardson is a committed representative of the community who is well suited to this role," the minister said.

In March, 2010, the State Government released the Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan, prepared by the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce.

The plan included recommendations to establish an advisory group to work collaboratively with DEC.

Mr Richardson will serve a five-year term, expiring June 30, 2016



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