

Prayers for woman's recovery as tributes flow for crash victim



TRAGEDY: Our report on the fatal crash on Tuesday.

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THERE were tributes on Facebook yesterday for a 42-year-old father tragically killed in a crash and prayers that his injured wife would pull through.

Debbie Winner, 41, was still in a critical but stable condition at Townsville Hospital yesterday, recovering from serious injuries sustained in the collision that killed her husband, Richard.

Mr and Mrs Winner were riding a motorcycle, which

collided with a four-wheel drive at Blacks Beach on Monday afternoon.

Posts on social networking site Facebook included tributes to Mr Winner and well wishes for the injured Mrs Winner.

One friend wrote: "R.I.P. Richard Winner, the world will be a different place without you, I owe you so much and I'll never get to say thank you for everything. All my prayers to the Winner family... Debbie Winner, please pull through."

Another wrote: "He (Mr

“R.I.P. Richard Winner, the world will be a different place without you.”

Winner) was a brilliant teacher and a great fella. My thoughts are with you and your family. Stay strong!"

Mr Winner was a former Pioneer State High School teacher. The Bucasia couple has four children.

One of their daughters wrote on Facebook that the

family was appreciative of everyone's outpouring of love, sympathy and kindness.

"I am sorry that I can't individually thank you but your loving memories of dad and your thoughts and prayers for all of us and mum are all we can ask of you," she wrote. Mrs Winner has been in a

critical but stable condition in Townsville Hospital since early Tuesday morning.

She was rushed to Mackay Base Hospital immediately after the crash. Emergency department staff and operating theatre staff worked until 2.30am to stabilise Mrs Winner. She was then airlifted to Townsville Hospital.

Police are still piecing together how the crash occurred.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

RESOURCES INDUSTRY: COAL BOOM DRIVES EXPANSION

Mackay leading the charge

Our region's manufacturing companies best-performed in Australia

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MACKAY companies are leading the manufacturing charge in Australia.

Manufacturing remained flat throughout the nation last month but Queensland companies, especially in the Mackay region, have thrived.

Queensland was the only state to record expansion in manufacturing, the Performance of Manufacturing Index, published by Australian Industry Group, shows.

“Simon Mortess: We are looking for new products, new customers and new markets.”

Minister for Manufacturing Jan Jarratt welcomed the news and agreed Mackay industries were leading the charge.

Director of Mackay-based MACS Engineering, Simon Mortess, said the company recently opened a new engineering workshop at Paget.



GROWING FORCE: MACS Engineering manager of engineering Danny Beard (left) and directors Simon Mortess (centre) and Ross Fredrickson at the company's new engineering workshop at Paget yesterday.

PHOTO: LAUREN REED

MACS Engineering started as a manufacturer and supplier of light vehicle equipment but has been able to expand in recent years to encompass medium rigid trucks and engineering and fabrication services.

As well, it offers associated support services to the mining, energy, infrastructure and government sectors.

Mr Mortess said the company had tapped into the booming resource industry.

Although thankful for the mining boom, he said the company now faced challenges in relation to recruiting and holding staff.

"We are an industry that is heavily reliant on the resource sector," Mr Mortess said.

"So (because) we supply to the mining industry, when it gears up that is a good thing... but as it ramps up we find it more difficult to recruit staff," he said.

"This has made the company more innovative and we now look outside the box and are looking at new ways to recruit."

"We are always looking for new products, new customers and new markets, to find ways to manufacture more efficiently."

"We now have a number of workshops in town, as well as the new facility here (in Paget) and we also have the recently opened branch in Brisbane."

Mr Fredrickson said the company has an expansion plan underway and, if all went to plan, the company would continue to invest in manufacturing in Mackay.

GROWTH

Company comes a long way

ESTABLISHED in the 1960s as a company that supplied parts for light vehicles, MACS Engineering is now one of the major suppliers to the resource industry.

MACS Engineering director Ross Fredrickson said the company has come a long way since it was first established in Mackay in 1965.

"In the early days MACS was just a shed with about six workers," he said.

"We are always looking for new products, new customers and new markets, to find ways to manufacture more efficiently."

Mr Fredrickson said the company has an expansion plan underway and, if all went to plan, the company would continue to invest in manufacturing in Mackay.

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