

Taking grip of tyre sales

Businesses are merged to create a network

TONY RAGGATT

A TOWNSVILLE-BASED investment fund is diversifying into the automotive industry with agreements to acquire five retail tyre businesses in North Queensland.

It will form the basis for National Tyres which plans to expand further into western Queensland and ultimately establish a profitable national footprint.

Townsville businessman Adam Wheeler, a former dealer principal at Rising Sun Honda, is chief executive of National Tyres.

"By merging the current strengths of these North Queensland businesses we will have a greater product offering which will increase our servicing capability for our customers from Townsville to Mount Isa," Mr Wheeler said.

Investment fund Marathon Consolidated is acquiring the businesses, subject to conditions.

The businesses are Twin City Tyres in Townsville and Cloncurry, Towers Tyres in Charters Towers, as well as both Hughenden and Richmond Tyre Centres.

The sites provide services including tyres, battery replacement and wheel alignments.

Peter Staub who has operated the Townsville business for more than 20 years will remain to manage the



Adam Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer of National Tyres, and Matthew Smith, director of National Tyres with Peter Staub (centre) at Twin City Tyres. Picture: EVAN MORGAN

operation and all staff will be retained. Marathon Consolidated is a global growth fund of Townsville-based investment manager Menninger Capital headed by Matthew Smith, grandson to the late Townsville television pioneer Jack Gleeson.

Mr Smith said they had acted after being approached and had since been approached by other similar businesses.

"National Tyres is set to provide avenues for opportunistic growth, and we look forward to working with our management team to create a stalwart business that builds on the solid foundation the owners have laid," Mr Smith said.

A director of National Tyres, Christopher Rockemer, said they planned for the business to service the entire western Queensland re-

gion and expand to a profitable national footprint.

The acquisition further diversifies Marathon Consolidated's investment portfolio which has holdings in food services, real estate services and hotel accommodation.

Marathon acquired a 24.8 per cent stake in Property Vine in 2019, the buyer of the management and letting rights to apartment complex-

es Holborn, Kensington, Islington, Dalgety and Riverway Point in Townsville.

Marathon has also invested in MBL Food Services in Western Australia.

The annual revenues of the tyre businesses exceeded \$10m and the acquisition at a multimillion-dollar price is expected to be finalised in February.

Four people hurt in Hyde Park crash 'Walkies' gets pups' hearts pumping

EMERGENCY crews rushed to the scene of a serious multi-vehicle crash at a major local intersection yesterday afternoon.

The two-vehicle crash happened about 4.20pm at the intersection of Bayswater and Kings roads, Hyde Park, and reportedly involved a Holden Commodore and a black utility. Queensland Fire and Rescue crews, police and paramedics descended on the scene to assess injuries and perform traffic control.

A Queensland Ambulance Service spokesperson said that four people involved in the ac-

cident were treated for minor injuries. Police duty officer Senior Sergeant Scott Warwick said the crash was being investigated.

"Fortunately there were no serious injuries to any of the occupants," he said.

"Two occupants of the green Commodore suffered very minor injuries and don't require any treatment, but a male passenger from the black SUV has been taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries but just as a precaution.

"We have police here investigating the circumstances."

IF YOUR dog gets overexcited when you mention the word "walk", you're not alone.

The phrase "walkies" is the most likely to get your four-legged friend's heart-rate up.

A three-month study by researchers at OnBuy found that a dog's heart-rate increased by 36 per cent on average when the word was mentioned.

Several other words or phrases were also likely to provoke a similar response - "dinner", "food" and "eat" raised a dog's heart rate to about 152 beats per minute, up 32 per cent from

their resting rate. "Treat" was also a favourite, as were "get it", "fetch", "toy" and "good boy/girl".

The five breeds of dog most likely to get excited by "happy" commands were french bulldogs, beagles, rottweilers, labrador retrievers and dachshunds.

International study authors surveyed more than 4000 pet owners to determine which words dogs reacted to the most.

They identified the most common responses before monitoring 60 pooches' heart rates when each of the words or phrases was mentioned.



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