

# Refining Moments



## Scholarship Makes Dream a Reality

Local CQUniversity student Palisa Huoth's dream of a career in engineering is one step closer to becoming a reality after she was awarded the 2010 QAL Scholarship.

Palisa, a first year Bachelor of Engineering (co-op) and Diploma of Professional Practice student, will receive \$5 000 per annum to go towards her studies.

QAL Managing Director, Phil Campbell, said the scholarship provides a much-needed financial boost to the students.

"We are investing in Gladstone's future by assisting a student to develop into a valued member of our community and someone who will contribute to the economic sustainability of our local area.

"Scholarship recipients also have the opportunity to gain valuable experience by participating in our paid vacation employment or work experience programs," Mr Campbell said.

Palisa said the scholarship would enable her to cut back on part time work and focus on broadening her skills.

"I'm not certain which engineering path I will pursue at this stage," she said.

"At the moment I'm leaning towards civil and structural engineering so I'm taking on more work experience and vacation work in that area until uni starts back next year."

Palisa's interest in engineering began after attending the Schools Science Challenge in year 10. She has since discovered more about the field by attending programs such as the Engineering Link Program and the Enterprise Management Project at CQUniversity's Rockhampton campus. Palisa hopes to make a difference and have a successful career in engineering.

CQU Acting Head of Campus, Dr Andrew Wallace, said even a small amount of support can make such a positive difference in a student's life.

"We recognise QAL's wonderful work supporting Gladstone students through this scholarship," he said.

Encouragement Awards, worth \$700 each, were also presented to Bachelor of Business student, Max Halpin, and Bachelor of Engineering (co-op) and Diploma of Professional Practice student, Brett Robinson.

Selection of the QAL scholar is based not only on academic excellence, but also community involvement and extracurricular activities.

The QAL/CQU scholarship was established in 1975 and is open to full-time first year CQUniversity

students residing in the Gladstone Regional Council area and studying in the areas of applied science (including environmental studies), business, engineering or information technology.

Palisa Huoth accepts her scholarship award from Managing Director Phil Campbell





## A Message from QAL'S Managing Director

Dear fellow  
community  
members,

Welcome to the Summer edition of Refining Moments, our quarterly community newsletter designed to keep you up to date with QAL operations.

At this time of the year, we traditionally reflect on the year that was 2010, and the challenges over the past twelve months. Whilst important for our business, we also need to recognise the challenges that the majority of Queensland has faced in the past couple of months.

We were very fortunate in Gladstone to not have been severely impacted by the floodwaters in central Queensland, however we have banded together as a community to assist those who were not so fortunate and in need of support.

This ability to come together and achieve exceptional outcomes is also the case at QAL, with our employees and contractors working throughout 2010 to make good progress against the majority of our targets. We achieved some significant results, particularly in the area of safety and the quality of our product.

The health and safety of our people is critical to our business and in 2010, we achieved the best safety performance in the refinery's 43 year history. Whilst this is a great achievement, we recognise that there are many improvement opportunities for us

to work on to ensure our people go home safely to their families at the end of each shift.

The delivery of a new package boiler was also another important milestone for the business. Once commissioned, the boiler will allow QAL to maintain production and steam levels during maintenance periods. In addition, the environment will also benefit with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through the use of a cleaner fuel.

We have been fortunate to host 20 vacation students in the past 12 weeks, and I continue to be impressed by the quality of work our students are producing during their time at QAL. The students have come to Gladstone from all over the state, and we hope to see them return to our region, once their studies are complete.

QAL's 20 new apprentices began their careers at QAL in January and I look forward to informing you of their progress in the next edition of Refining Moments.

I trust you will enjoy reading the information contained in this issue of Refining Moments. As always, we encourage your feedback on any of our publications or our operations via phone 1800 181 110 or email [feedback@qal.com.au](mailto:feedback@qal.com.au)

Kind regards

Phil Campbell



## Industry Offers Vacation Destination for University Students

While school holidays are over across Australia and students return to their studies, a group of 20 students are reflecting on their experiences gained during vacation work at one of the world's largest alumina refineries, QAL.

Providing 12 weeks of paid employment, the QAL Undergraduate Vacation Program allows students to work alongside professionals in their field to assist with projects and gain valuable real work experience, relevant to their degrees.

QAL Managing Director Phil Campbell said the vacation program proved to be another resounding success.

"The vacation student program provides an excellent opportunity to gain work experience in a large organisation before graduating and entering today's competitive job market.

"Our vacation student program provides hands on opportunities for learning, which offers the practical experience to compliment coursework at the Universities.

"The students have done exceptionally well during their placement and they should be very proud of their achievements during their time at QAL." Mr Campbell said.

## Behind the Scenes

Glenn Butcher

QAL Shift Maintenance Supervisor, Glenn Butcher is well known not only out 'on the field' at QAL, but also the local football fields as President of Gladstone Rugby League. A key player in the Gladstone sports community, Glenn manages the Queensland Under 18 Maroons with Queensland Rugby League and is also a life member and former President of the Wallabies Club.

Glenn thinks that Gladstone is a great community where everyone is friendly and looks out for each other.

Part of the QAL team for the past 18 years, Glenn is also a member of the First Response Team, and the guys love nothing more than getting together for the odd weekend camping trip. He also likes to tackle the barbeque and spend time with his friends and family.



SAFER. CLEANER. BETTER.



## Boiler Brings More Steam Supply

**The Boilerhouse at QAL will soon have an additional steam supply, with the delivery of a new package boiler to the refinery last month.**

At a cost of \$4 million, the 143 tonne gas fired boiler arrived in Gladstone on 31 December following a two month journey by ship from the United States.

QAL Engineering and Maintenance Services Manager, Peter Barnwell said the new boiler would produce 100 tonnes per hour of steam at 5 000 kPa pressure.

“The production of steam is an integral part of the refining process and QAL currently has seven coal fired boilers and a gas fired package boiler on site. The new boiler will compliment the existing equipment by maintaining steam and overall production levels, particularly during planned maintenance and wet weather periods,” Mr Barnwell said.

Managing Director Phil Campbell said QAL installed the first gas fired boiler in 2007 and there were many environmental advantages producing steam from gas.

“The main advantage of the gas fired boilers is that they greatly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions when in use, as less carbon dioxide is produced per tonne of steam compared to the coal boilers.

“In addition, gas is a cleaner fuel which does not produce any visible emissions, so the boilers are of great benefit to not only QAL, but also the environment.” Mr Campbell said.

The new boiler will be located on the eastern side of the plant, adjacent to the Boilerhouse and commissioning is scheduled for March.

The new package boiler was transported to QAL using two prime movers

For vacation student Emma Riles, working in QAL's Research and Development section is the ideal way to put theory into practice.

Studying chemical engineering at the University of Queensland, Emma's 12 week project focussed on particle attrition through the interstage cooler pump, which is located in A Row of Precipitation.

Emma said her work was just a small part of a bigger project currently being staged in Precipitation.

“My project involves doing a numbers balance of the suction and discharge particles in the pump and then comparing the generation rate to the agglomeration rate.

“My work is part of a major project being carried out by the Research and Development Team to make a model of Precipitation in order to increase control,” she said.

Emma continued to say that the chance to participate in safe plant sampling, plus design and experiment work in a laboratory, has been an invaluable experience which she would not have been able to get anywhere else.

“It's been great getting to see how things are done at QAL. I've really learnt a lot,” Emma said.

“Using state of the art laboratory equipment has probably been one the major highlights of my time here at QAL.”

Although the main focus of the Undergraduate Vacation Employment Program is on engineering disciplines, there are also opportunities within science, chemistry, commercial, business, human resources, community relations and accounting fields. The students will be working on site until 11 February 2011.



## Providing Flood Relief

**As the long recovery process begins for central Queensland towns affected by flooding, QAL and its owners, Rio Tinto have provided some much needed relief.**

Rio Tinto initially made a \$1 million donation to victims of the Queensland floods, which saw thousands of people evacuated across central Queensland in the past months. After damage continued to escalate throughout the state, Rio Tinto donated an additional \$1 million to assist those in need.

The majority of the funds will go to the Premier's Flood Relief Appeal and the remainder will directly assist charities and organisations in the Emerald region.

On a local level, QAL joined the Gladstone community's relief effort with the donation of approximately 3 000 pairs of water-resistant gloves.

The gloves, which were delivered to the residents of Theodore in January, are essential to the clean up effort as hundreds of families try to salvage the remains of their flooded homes.

In the midst of the local flooding, Gladstone residents rallied together in support of our neighbouring towns, donating thousands of essential items and clean up equipment for those who are battling through their toughest hour.

Relief coordinator, Cass Sorrensen, said 18 shipping containers were loaded with supplies, ranging from clothing to

cleaning products and delivered to the areas most in need.

"It's been absolutely overwhelming to see the local community and businesses alike get involved and help these people who have lost everything," Ms Sorrensen said.

"QAL's glove donation is fabulous. They will be vital to the Theodore residents trying to recover treasured belongings."

QAL Managing Director Phil Campbell said QAL was quick to act when the call was received for assistance.

"We received an urgent call asking for gloves or PPE that could be used to protect people when cleaning up their houses and within a couple of hours we had despatched as many boxes as we had available in stock.

"Safety is one of our core values at QAL and I believe people have already experienced enough hardship in the floods, without having to deal with an injury as well. It is important that people have the tools to keep safe during this arduous task, particularly at a time when there are so many outside distractions.

"QAL was pleased to be able to assist and trust that the gloves will be put to good use," Mr Campbell said.

Donations of money can be made to the Premier's Flood Relief Appeal at any Commonwealth Bank, NAB, Westpac, ANZ, Suncorp, Coles, or by phone on 1800 219 028.

Volunteers happily accept the donation of 3 000 gloves from QAL

## In Brief

### Boiler testing

QAL will be conducting tests as part of the commissioning process of the package boiler, spanning over a three week period commencing Thursday 10 February. Short periods of high noise levels may be experienced between the hours of 9am and 5pm whilst steam blow throughs are performed to clean debris from the steam header, boiler and superheaters.

The gas fired package boiler is located on the eastern side of the plant and will be used to produce additional steam for the processing of bauxite, particularly during planned maintenance outages of the existing coal fired boilers.

For further information, contact the QAL Community Hotline on 1800 181 110.

### Funds for Charity

In 2010, QAL employees and contractors raised a total of \$25 000 for the Queensland Cancer Council, Beyond Blue, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Benaraby Rural Fire Brigade, Tannum Sands Life Saving Club, the Jane McGrath Foundation and the Salvation Army.

### Mine to Market Tours

During 2010, almost 1 400 people took advantage of guided tours through QAL and Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL) on the Mine to Market Tours, operated through the Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Bureau. The tours depart at 9.15am each Friday and can be booked by calling 4972 9000.

### Latest News in Your Inbox

QAL's fortnightly employee newsletter Aluminews and quarterly community newsletter Refining Moments can be delivered straight to your email inbox. If you would like to be added to the QAL communications database, please call the community hotline 1800 181 110 or email [feedback@qal.com.au](mailto:feedback@qal.com.au)

### Community Support

QAL is proud of its long history of providing community support for the betterment of the region. In 2010, QAL's community investment program including financial and in kind contributions equated to \$225 000. Some of the recipients of support included Alumina Ladies and Men's Bowls Club, Gladstone Independent Schools Music Association, Calliope Junior Soccer Club, Tannum Sands Kindergarten, Gladstone Harbour Festival, Gladstone Arts Council and the 1770 Festival. The QAL marquees provided shelter at 49 community events during the year.

We value your support of our operations. If you would like to know more information from this edition, or would like to give feedback on QAL's operations, please contact QAL Community Relations, Parsons Point, Gladstone, Queensland 4680, telephone 1800 181 110 (for community related issues) or (07) 4976 2211 (for general enquiries), email [feedback@qal.com.au](mailto:feedback@qal.com.au) or visit our website at [www.qal.com.au/](http://www.qal.com.au/)

