

Safety System has Stamp of Approval

Employees and contractors on site are now working under world class standards for Health and Safety following an extensive plant wide audit by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance.

The accreditation, under Australian Standard AS/NZS4801:2001 and International standard OHSAS 18001:1999, puts QAL in an exclusive group.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said the approval from Lloyds was a great achievement and would

contribute significantly towards the vision of an injury free workplace.

"The groundwork for this was put in place two years ago, and it has taken a lot of hard work and dedication to get to this point," he said. "This is a particularly special accomplishment for us, and is a great credit to our employees who make the system work on a daily basis – the people who understand and want to protect their right to go home in the same condition in which they came to work."

QAL has also had an accredited Environmental Management System in place since 1999.

Retirees Reunite

A chance to catch up with old workmates was too good an opportunity to pass up for the 150 QAL retirees who attended the recent annual luncheon.

They travelled from near and far for the special occasion, which included a three course meal at the Boyne Island Community Centre and optional tour of Boyne Smelters Limited.

Community Relations and Media Specialist Mellissa Case said the annual event has been held for the past 14 years and is a much anticipated outing on the Retirees Club social calendar.

"QAL recognises the important role that the retirees have had, and continue to have with the organisation," she said.

"They have a great enthusiasm for having worked at QAL and a wealth of knowledge of the journey towards



becoming the world's largest alumina refinery. This was very evident at the luncheon and also demonstrated by members who are still locals and act as tour guides for our weekly plant visits."

The QAL Retirees Club was set up in 1992 and has proven to be a successful initiative in maintaining social contact between those who have retired from QAL. It is an active organisation with frequent social activities and has a membership base of over 200 members. For more information on how to join the QAL Retirees Club, contact President, Herb Linwood 4979 1894 or Secretary, Lloyd Curtis 4973 9710.

Investing in our Community

As the oldest and largest corporate citizen in Gladstone, QAL has a long history of contributing to the growth and development of the region. From large scale projects such as the establishment of the Gladstone Green Belt in the 80's through to supporting charities with an employee payroll deduction scheme, QAL has been an integral part of the local picture for almost 40 years.

QAL's sponsorship and donations program provides support in the areas of environment, education, community development, youth, art, music, culture, health, welfare, sport and recreation. In 2006, almost 130 groups received either direct financial or in-kind assistance. Groups receiving financial assistance included Gladstone Harbour Festival, Ecofest, Tannum Sands Life Saving Club, Queensland Training Awards, Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards and the Gladstone Eisteddfod.

In addition to financial support, in-kind redundant equipment such as lighting, computer equipment and conveyor belt was donated to local community groups.

QAL aims to support the local community in a variety of areas and encourages requests for assistance from non-profit groups. Proposals are to be received in writing and addressed to QAL Community Relations, Parsons Point, Gladstone 4680.



REFINING MOMENTS

DECEMBER 2006

A Message from QAL's Managing Director



Welcome to the final edition for 2006 of Refining Moments, QAL's community newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date with our activities.

I am pleased to report that QAL has joined an elite group of organisations accredited to world class standards for Health and Safety. These are the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4801:2001 and the International Standard OHSAS 18001:1999. This is a great achievement for the refinery and testament to the hard work of employees who are constantly striving towards QAL's vision of being Safer, Cleaner, Better.

Being an active community member is very important to QAL and as such, this issue of Refining Moments includes a few examples of recent partnerships, including the announcement of our QAL/CQU scholarship recipient; information on the Peter Doherty Awards and our QAL retirees luncheon.

QAL's commitment to reducing its impact on the environment continues and our program was further enhanced with the installation of a \$2.4 million cascade chute at the South Trees wharf alumina loading facility. Although only in the early stages of trials, preliminary results clearly demonstrate a most significant improvement and decrease in alumina dust emissions during the loading of ships.

The chute is part of QAL's commitment of more than \$200 million towards environmental projects over five years. Capital projects have included the demolition of lime kilns, the installation of baghouses to capture

dust particles and the commissioning of a thermal oxidiser to control odour. Future issues of Refining Moments will continue to provide updates on our progress.

The achievements of the tree planting committee are to be congratulated, with a total of 2100 trees planted in the buffer zone between QAL and Barney Point during the year. QAL appreciates the efforts of the numerous community members, QAL retirees and employees who enthusiastically volunteered their time to assist with our planting goal for the year.

Speaking of community achievements, QAL gives heartfelt thanks to our Community Forum members who have provided valuable input and volunteered their time for another constructive year of information sharing and continuous improvement. Our last Community Forum meeting for 2006 will be held in December with the group reconvening in February next year.

I take this opportunity to thank you for taking an interest in QAL's operations and wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. The year 2007 marks an important milestone for QAL, with celebrations for our 40th year of operations. A number of events and celebrations are planned, which I look forward to reporting details of along with other QAL news early in the year.

Kind regards

Johann van Zyl
Managing Director

Target of 2100 Trees Reached

QAL is pleased to report that the tree planting committee reached their goal of 2100 trees for 2006 at the refinery's final tree planting session for the year in September.

Thank you to the staff and community members who volunteered

throughout the year, helping us continue to revegetate the buffer zone area between QAL and Barney Point, excluding the natural tidal area.

Over 15,000 trees have been planted in this area now, with plans in place to continue the planting sessions next year. For more information, please contact QAL Community Relations on 1800 181 110.

We value your support of our operations. If you would like to know more about information inside this edition, or would like to give feedback on the impact of 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 inquiries), email media@qal.com.au, visit our website at www.qal.com.au or mail: Parsons Point, Gladstone Queensland 4680 Australia.



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED



QAL Awarded for Science Program

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) was recognised for their outstanding and innovative contribution to science and science education in Queensland recently, as a recipient of the Peter Doherty Industry Science Education Award.

The Awards, were presented by Rod Welford, Minister for Education and the Arts, during an official function at Customs House, Brisbane.

QAL was one of two recipients for the Peter Doherty Industry/Business/Research Institution Science Education Awards, which recognises industry, business, or research institutions throughout the state that support science education and provide science experiences beyond the classroom.

QAL Managing Director, Johann van Zyl said QAL had a long history of creating partnerships with science education centres in the Gladstone region, with the formation of Gladstone



Area Mathematics, Science and Engineering Teachers Group (GAMSET), and the Alumina Learning Partnership Program (ALP).

"Such partnerships are formed on the basis of providing a solid

knowledge, experience and enthusiasm base for both students and educators through the provision of specialist QAL resources," he said.

"Approximately 8700 students in the Gladstone region have benefited over the last five years from QAL's partnership with the ALP program. Utilising QAL scientists and laboratory materials, the program educates primary school children on science and the environment through six modules presented in either the classroom, or on site at the plant," he said.

"Through the resource support of both of these groups and our own educational outreach and site-based activities, QAL has been and will continue to be a major supporter of science education in the Gladstone area."

The Peter Doherty Awards are part of the Queensland Government's 2003-

2006 Spotlight on Science initiative, which encourages productive science partnerships between schools and industry, business, government, research, and educational institutions.

Local Student Refines Studies

Local Central Queensland University (CQU) engineering student Alexander Bletchly, is the 2007 recipient of the annual Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Scholarship.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said Alexander, a first year student studying Bachelor of Engineering (Co-op) and Diploma of Professional Practice at the university, would receive \$5000 per annum towards his studies.

"The annual scholarship program is highly sought after and an important part of QAL's commitment to local education, the development of youth and the future of Gladstone."

"The selection of a QAL scholar is not only based on academic excellence, but also community involvement, overall personal presentation and commitment to the successful completion of studies as a full time student at Central Queensland University," Mr van Zyl said.

"This years scholarship attracted many applications, with three very strong applicants in particular. After much deliberation, Alexander was announced as the recipient on this occasion and we have also chosen to award two \$700 runner-up prizes to Andrew Williams and Joshua Worley."

"By supporting our local students we are fostering local talent and making an investment in our future. All

of our finalists will be able to access vacation employment and work experience at QAL to compliment their studies."

The QAL scholarship program has been running since 1975. It is open to CQU students whose homes are in the Port Curtis region, who are full-time first year students proceeding from year 12 and are enrolled in one of the following QAL industry related courses: applied science (including environmental studies), business, engineering or information technology.

QAL also annually awards school bursaries and tertiary academic prizes to support further education and development of young people in our region.

Environmental Project Update

Boiler Steams up Production

Boilerhouse operations will be going full steam ahead with the commissioning of a new \$4 million package boiler.

Manufactured in the United States, the package boiler is gas fired and will compliment the current steam production of the existing seven coal fired boilers.

The production of steam is an integral part of the initial processing of bauxite into alumina through the Bayer Process. After the mixing of ground bauxite into a caustic soda solution, steam and pressure is applied in tanks containing the mixture to dissolve the alumina content of the bauxite. A liquor of sodium aluminate is produced, which is then processed further through clarification, precipitation and calcination to produce the alumina powder.

Due for commissioning in January, the package boiler will be situated at the Boilerhouse and be utilised to maintain steam and overall production levels of the plant, particularly during planned maintenance outages of the existing boilers.



Work has commenced on design changes to QAL's Red Mud Dam.

Red mud, a by-product of the alumina process, has been disposed of by storing at the refinery's dams at Boyne Island since the commencement of operations in 1967. The original No. 1 dam was decommissioned in the 1980's while No. 2 dam, the current operational dam, is nearing its physical boundary limits and will be at capacity at the end of 2007 with the current mud disposal method.

Health Safety Environment

Chute combats dust emissions

Dust emissions have been significantly reduced at QAL wharf facilities with the recent installation of a cascade chute for the loading of alumina into ships.

The \$2.4 million chute was chosen following detailed research to address the issue of dust emissions from the old telescopic chute where the alumina exited into the hold of the ship at substantial velocity.

Utilised by a number of wharf facilities throughout the world, the cascade chute enables the product to cascade slowly down into the ships hold, minimising velocity and hence airborne dust.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl said the upgrade is proof of QAL's ongoing commitment to reduce environmental impacts beyond the plant's boundaries.

"The cascade chute is world class technology and QAL is confident it will bring enormous benefits to the refinery's operations with the more efficient loading of product and subsequent reductions in visual alumina dust emissions," Mr van Zyl said.



"The chute is still being fine tuned to obtain maximum performance, however the impact of the new technology is evident already. It is anticipated that even better results will be achieved once the trials have been completed."

QAL is committed to reducing the impact of its operations on the community and the installation of the chute is part of a program for environmental improvements over five years.

Red Mud Dam Modifications

and Communities Manager, Ross Greenhalgh said in order to continue to use the existing footprint of the dams to store red mud for another 50 years, a change in the disposal method was required.

"Until now, the dam capacity has been increased by a construction technique known as 'downstream' construction where clay and rock walls have been built progressively on the outside of existing walls," he said.

"As the limit on how far out these walls can be built has been reached, we now have to change to upstream construction to continue to store mud. To enable this to happen a processing

facility has to be built at the dam to thicken and neutralise mud from the plant so it can be utilised to construct walls internally within the existing walls. These walls can be revegetated as they are progressively raised, ensuring the dam blends in with its natural surroundings."

As such, the red mud surface will not be visible from ground level though the surface will be visible from surrounding high hills or the air.

The processing plant will be commissioned in September 2007 and the dam walls will be progressively constructed and revegetated over the life of the dam.