

One Million Hours Serious Injury Free

On 23 August, QAL achieved one million hours serious injury free for the first time in the plant's 40 year history.

This milestone means that over 1 400 employees and contractors have worked for more than three months without a single lost time injury, restricted work injury or medical treatment injury.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said the outstanding performance was a combination of contractor and QAL safety programs, changing behaviours and attitudes, as well as a drive towards a safety culture of mates looking after mates.

"Employees and Contractors are not only more vigilant towards their own safety and that of their mates, but also understand the reasoning behind

using the safety tools available," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"The families of the workers want their loved ones to return home from work every day in the same healthy state in which they arrived. In order to achieve this, people now have the mindset that they need to give safety top priority and look out for their workmates at all times,"

"Employees and Contractors have proven that by adopting safe work practices, keeping focused and actively utilising the many safety tools available, particularly QSafe, our behavioural safety observation process, an injury free workplace is



indeed possible." he said.

The milestone follows the target of 750 000 hours without a serious injury, being passed on 30 July. This goal was set in 2005 after the plant had previously accomplished 500 000 hours without a serious injury.

Solar Schools

Toolooa State High School is now harnessing the power of the sun through a Solar Schools partnership between Ergon Energy, QAL and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The installation of a \$25 000 photovoltaic system has enabled the school to generate renewable energy to help power its own buildings, whilst also protecting the environment.

Ergon Energy General Manager Operations Peter Billing said the project would help students and teachers learn about solar power and sustainability and save the school around \$500 in energy costs each year.

"By utilising 175 watt photovoltaic panels and a purpose-matched inverter system, the project will save

around 3.2 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year and the school will save money on its power bills." Mr Billing said.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said the company was proud to be a sponsor of the Solar Schools program at Toolooa State High School.

"QAL is committed to the local and global environments, and supporting sustainable projects in our community further enhances that commitment," Mr van Zyl said.



"This project is an excellent way for us to assist with education and environmental sustainability, and pass on knowledge and commitment to the next generation at the same time."

Toolooa State High School is the second school in the Gladstone region to benefit from the Solar Schools partnership.

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 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

enquiries), email media@qal.com.au, visit our website at www.qal.com.au/

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REFINING MOMENTS

SPRING 2007

A Message from QAL's MD



Welcome to the third edition for 2007 of Refining Moments, QAL's community newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date with our activities.

I am very pleased to announce that QAL employees and contractors have set a record recently, by reaching one million hours serious injury free (no lost time, restricted work or medical treatment cases). This is the first time in the 40 year history of the plant this has occurred and is a substantial achievement and testament to the commitment of everyone on site to utilise the safety programs and tools available to them for an injury and incident free workplace

Whilst the result is very satisfying, we are not resting on our laurels. I am confident that this safety record will continue as we work towards our vision of an incident free workplace.

Waste reduction on site has reached a new standard with the introduction of a new recycling system. Colour coded bins are just one of the new initiatives QAL is utilising in partnership with SITA-CEC Environmental Solutions. More information is available on page three of this edition.

QAL's commitment to the environment outside of the organisation was further enhanced with the installation of solar panels at Toolooa State High School. The Solar Schools partnership between Ergon Energy, Environmental

Protection Agency and QAL provides an innovative educational tool for students, as well as cost savings for the school and benefits for the environment.

We are also pleased to have been able to assist our local farmers by donating our crop of Rhodes Grass to feed their stock. More information is available on page three of this edition.

This edition features the last special historical feature article 'From the Archives'. With the 40th celebrations fast approaching in October, I encourage you to take part in some of the events listed on page two and join us in marking this special occasion.

I trust you will enjoy reading the information contained in this issue of Refining Moments.

Kind regards

Johann van Zyl
Managing Director



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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From the Archives

Growth of the Giant

Whilst celebrations of the official opening for the initial plant continued, work had already commenced on the first expansion of QAL.

The second stage would further increase the annual output of the refinery to 900 000 tons. This was not to be the first expansion though and a pattern of almost continuous construction over a decade ensured that previously itinerant construction workers were able to make their home in Gladstone and continue working at QAL.

The first expansion was officially opened in March 1969, with an announcement that a second expansion would proceed to provide an additional 375 000 tons of capacity.

The second expansion was opened in 1971, a year after work had commenced on a third which would lift capacity by another 725 000 tons, to

increase production beyond the original prediction of 1.8 million tonnes.

When new works Manager Joe Haydel arrived at the plant in 1973, he commented that "the third expansion was one of the greatest steps in the evolution of alumina technology and resulted in the most advanced Bayer unit ever conceived."

QAL was officially declared 'completed' by Deputy Premier and Treasurer Sir Gordon Chalk, in November 1973. This proved to be a stepping stone rather than a finale though and subsequent technical and 'sweetening' expansions have ensured that QAL has remained as one of the world's largest alumina



refineries, with a current production rate of around four million tonnes per year.

Source: Breakthrough. The Establishment and Development of Queensland Alumina, John Fogarty and Noel Wootton, Hargreen Publishing, 1992.

40th Anniversary

Join hundreds of former employees and contractors who worked on the construction and establishment of QAL to celebrate the 40th birthday of Gladstone's first major industry.

Festivities will commence with a historical exhibition "The Giant that Never Sleeps: 40 years of QAL" at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum from 1 – 29 October. With a distinct focus on the construction of QAL, the exhibition will present ephemera and memorabilia from the QAL and city collections augmented by loans from the community. The exhibition will be open Monday to Saturday 10am – 5pm and admission is free.

The weekend of 19 – 21 October promises to be eventful with a number of activities scheduled.

Friday 19 October, 6pm – 40th Anniversary Cocktail Party. Tickets cost \$20 and are available Gladstone Entertainment Centre by phoning 4972 2822.

Saturday 20 October, 11am – Exhibition celebration and book launch at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum. Join Managing Director, Johann van Zyl and discover the history of QAL. Free guided bus tours of the refinery will be conducted on the hour from 10am – 2pm. Contact Community Relations on 1800 181 110 for tour bookings or the Gallery/Museum on 4976 6766 to attend the function.

Saturday 20 October, 6pm – 40th Anniversary Formal Dinner. Past and present Managers will reflect on 40 years of QAL operations. Tickets cost \$30 and are available Gladstone Entertainment Centre by phoning 4972 2822.

Sunday 21 October, 8.30am – Retirees Reunion Mystery Tour and Lunch. Soak up the surrounds of the Gladstone region and enjoy lunch at the Marina as the finale to the weekend. Tickets cost \$30 and are available Gladstone Entertainment Centre by phoning 4972 2822.



Environmental Update

Partnership Provides Drought Assistance

With Calliope Shire drought declared in January this year, and many other regions in Queensland struggling to find feed for their stock, QAL and Toll transport have joined forces to help where they can.

QAL has over 300 hectares of buffer land surrounding the site and over the years has progressively revegetated areas of residue ponds with Rhodes grass (*Chloris gayana*). Each year the grass is cut, baled and used for mulch within the tree planting areas or for dust suppression on any bare areas of earth around the refinery site.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said this year QAL will donate all bales of hay cut to farmers in need of feed for their stock.

"QAL is delighted to be able to make a contribution to our local

farmers during the drought and continue to grow the relationship between rural and industrial sectors,"

"We estimate there will be 1000 round bales of hay produced from the buffer zone this year. Farmers mostly from properties in the central Queensland region including Boyne valley, Calliope, Dululu and Raglan have taken advantage of our offer."

Mr Greenhalgh said.

Calliope president of AGFORCE, Leo Neil-Ballentine, has been assisting QAL in ensuring that the hay goes to the farmers who need it most and NQX Freight System (a business unit of the Toll Group) will provide a discounted transport rate to ensure the hay arrives at the farmers doorstep.



Waste Reduction Improvement

Caring for the environment is a high priority for Queensland Alumina Limited as it heads for a cleaner future.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said QAL's commitment for continuous improvement and to reduce, reuse or recycle waste has seen some significant changes in the plant's operations. The biggest being the establishment of an on site waste management facility in 2003.

"Since the waste transfer station was officially commissioned over 10 000 tonnes of materials have been recovered, recycled and reused, resulting in a major reduction of waste going to QAL landfill," Mr van Zyl said.

"In an effort to further enhance the operation of the facility, QAL has recently appointed SITA-CEC as its waste and recycling service provider. The appointment will enable QAL to ensure consistent services across the site and work towards the development of innovative strategies to set benchmark waste reduction and recycling goals."

A key feature of the new system is the installation of high profile and colour coded waste bins throughout the refinery. SITA-CEC commenced on site in September.

