

Retire? Never!

It is a widely assumed fact that those who retire from the workplace have a sudden increase of 'spare' time available to sit back and ponder the workings of the world. Not the case for members of the QAL Retirees Club!

The Club, which formed over 14 years ago has a membership base of over 200 people and aims to provide social opportunities for former QAL employees as well as providing a communication channel between members and the refinery itself.

With the Club's permanent headquarters at QAL Community House, committee members work tirelessly year-round to provide fun and interesting activities for members

such as theatre visits, BBQs and tree planting sessions. Of particular note also, members volunteer their time to conduct QAL's public plant tours each Monday morning.

Club Secretary Mr Lloyd Curtis says the group enjoys maintaining its link with QAL however, its aim is to provide a social link between members for the present and future.

"There is a misconception out there whereby people think all we talk about is the past. Our club motto is 'We Don't Talk Shop! We're a group that simply likes to maintain a healthy social calendar and the QAL Retirees Club enables us to do just that", Mr Curtis said.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl says the Retirees Club is true testament to QAL's strong history and links within Gladstone.

"The Club receives full support from QAL and we consider members to be just as important as our current employees", he said.

"In November last year for example, QAL celebrated 100 million tonnes of alumina production. We recognise employees, both past and present are the key to reaching milestones such as this and we were fortunate enough to have the Club Committee there with us to help mark the occasion".



New Apprentices Start



QAL's 2006 intake of Apprentices began their careers with the world's largest alumina refinery in February, bringing the refinery's total number of apprentices on site this year to an impressive 86.

As one of the state's largest apprentice employers, QAL is committed to providing youth in the region with viable employment opportunities through the apprenticeship program.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl said employing apprentices was of long-term benefit for both QAL and the Gladstone community.

"It makes perfect sense from a business point of view. Our apprenticeship scheme not only provides young people in the region with solid employment, but also ensures us a future of skilled workers, which is necessary for growth," Mr van Zyl said.

Of QAL's new apprentices, seven are mechanical, eight are electrical and instrumentation, two are boiler-making and one is refrigeration and electrical.

2006 = 2100 Trees

With a new year brings a new annual tree planting target for QAL's Community Tree Planting Committee. The goal is to plant 2100 trees by year end, continuing to revegetate the buffer zone area between QAL and the community.

So far, over 13,000 native species trees have been planted in the area and include a variety of Acacias, Casuarinas, Eucalyptus, Hibiscus and Melaleuca.

The first planting session for 2006 is planned for May. 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.

REFINING MOMENTS

APRIL 2006

A Message from QAL's MD



Welcome to the first edition for 2006 of QAL's Refining Moments community newsletter. What an outstanding year 2005 was with 2006 set to be just as exciting with a number of positive initiatives and achievements already underway.

I am pleased to report that since our last newsletter, there has been significant progress made with a number of our environmental improvement projects. In February this year, the refinery's three old calcination section stacks were removed, signifying QAL's change to a new operational era. With the skyline changed forever, their removal was certainly a milestone in the refinery's 39 year history.

Of note also was QAL's recent re-certification to ISO 14001 – the international standard for environmental management. QAL has been certified to the standard since 1999, however this year's re-certification was significant in that the refinery was upgraded to the new 2004 international standard. More details can be found on page 3.

In February this year, QAL formed a new partnership with Queensland Health and launched the Gladstone Men's Resource Centre. Located at the QAL Community House, the centre aims to encourage men to adopt healthier lifestyle choices and be proactive in maintaining their

health. Encouraging our workforce to be proactive when it comes to their health is a priority for QAL and we are proud to be taking an active role in Gladstone's own Men's Resource Centre.

This edition of Refining Moments also features an interesting article on QAL's alumina. As the world's largest alumina refinery supplying close to seven per cent of the world's total alumina demands, it isn't surprising that QAL's alumina travels to just about every corner of the globe. Page 2 provides details on the journey our alumina can make when it leaves the QAL wharf.

I am also pleased to report that our 2006 intake of apprentices began their careers with QAL in February, bringing the refinery's total number of apprentices on site this year to an impressive 86. I wish QAL's 18 first year apprentices well over the next three to four years and trust our apprenticeship program offers them a stepping-stone for future employment in our region.

Thank you for taking time out to read about our activities and I look forward to presenting you with another update mid year.

Kind regards

Johann van Zyl
Managing Director



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

HPD/QAL2625

The Journey of QAL's Alumina

As the world's largest alumina refinery supplying close to seven per cent of the world's total alumina demands, it isn't surprising that QAL's alumina travels to just about every corner of the globe.

QAL produces alumina on behalf of a consortium of three aluminium companies – Alcan, Comalco and Rusal. Owners are supplied with alumina in proportion to their equity. A tolling charge per tonne of alumina is applied to recover the costs of processing, including operating, maintenance, raw materials, energy and administration.

Once the alumina is produced, QAL's three owning companies can take it through their own smelting system or sell it to third parties.

The following map indicates where QAL's alumina travelled to in 2005.

- China
- Dubai
- North Sumatera
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Rotterdam
- Iran
- Egypt
- Russia
- New Zealand
- New South Wales
- Tasmania
- Queensland



Men's Health Given A Boost

Queensland Health and QAL have joined in a unique partnership to introduce a Men's Resource Centre in Gladstone to assist in identifying and addressing specific men's health needs.

The Men's Resource Centre, located at the QAL Community House will aim to encourage men to adopt healthier lifestyle choices and be proactive in maintaining their health.

Such a facility was identified following a men's health forum held by Gladstone Community Health in 2004. In response, a Men's Health Working Party was formed which recognised that current services available to men were limited, fragmented and not widely accessed by men.

The Centre is resourced and staffed by Queensland Health with two Registered Nurses providing a

variety of services including health screenings, referral, information and support, advocacy and health promotion through groups and community education. The Centre has also been designed to promote an open and confidential environment for men to access free of charge.

The Men's Resource Centre is open on Wednesdays between

10am–2pm and all men are welcome to use the free services of the Centre. The Centre is located at the QAL Community House, corner of French and Agnes Streets. No referrals are required and the Centre is private and confidential. For any queries or further information, please phone Gladstone Community Health on 4976 3130.



Environmental Project Update

QAL Achieves ISO 14001 Re-certification

QAL was recently upgraded to the new 2004 version of ISO 14001, the international standard relating to environmental management.

QAL has been certified to the 1996 version of the international standard since 1999 and has maintained certification through six-monthly surveillance audits and two re-certification audits. However, Lloyds Register Quality Assurance recently audited QAL to determine if the refinery qualified to be upgraded to the new 2004 standard.

The overall objective and requirements of the 2004 standard are

essentially the same as the 1996 standard, however, there are some significant changes to align with the quality standard ISO 9001. Some of these changes relate to improved records of training and changes to the legislative compliance system.

ISO is the international organisation for standardisation. ISO 14001 provides independent third party certification of a company's environmental systems.



QAL's Skyline Changes

The view from QAL's Lookout provides a very different picture today than what it did just over a month ago.

February marked a significant time in QAL's history with the removal of the refinery's old calcination section stacks – changing the skyline forever.

QAL's three 68 metre stacks were dismantled over a number of weeks, signifying the refinery's change to a new operational era following the operation of the new \$175 million gas suspension calciners.

Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Mr Ross

Greenhalgh said the stack removal is a major milestone in the refinery's history.

"The stacks have worked extremely hard during their 38 year history, producing over 82 million tonnes of alumina since August 1967", Mr Greenhalgh said.

"As the first major heavy industry in Gladstone, QAL provided work for hundreds of people so I'm sure there are still many locals who remember their contribution to this plant and maybe even more specifically, to building the stacks".

Environmental Improvements Continue

QAL's environmental improvement program has again progressed with the successful installation of another \$7 million baghouse to reduce fly ash emissions.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Mr Ross Greenhalgh said the recent installation of a baghouse on Boiler 5 is a significant milestone in the project's three year history.

"This installation means that the centre stack on our skyline now has two baghouses attached to it eliminating visible emissions", he said.

"With five baghouses now installed, we are nearing the end of a four year planned project meaning reductions in visible stack emissions are becoming more noticeable," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"As each boiler comes off line for its four yearly statutory maintenance shutdown we install these dust collection units which reduce fly ash emissions from around 80mg/Nm3 to less than 20mg/Nm3. At these levels, stack emissions are not visible," he said.

The progressive installation of baghouses on the seven boilers at QAL is part of a \$233 million investment into environmental improvement.

A baghouse acts like a vacuum cleaner bag, filtering fly ash from the boiler flue gases before they are released into the atmosphere.

The baghouse project will be complete by March 2007 when the last boiler is converted.

