

REFINING MOMENTS

OCTOBER 2005

A Message from QAL's MD



The last couple of months have been very pleasing with business results positive and production levels high. With price escalations, the challenge to remain focused has never been more important however, the refinery remains well placed to achieve its business objectives by the end of the year.

I am pleased to report on QAL's recent win at the Queensland Training Awards (see page 2). QAL is committed to ongoing improvement and is more acceptable to change than ever before. Employees are aware of the importance of keeping up with best practice and they understand that in order to achieve this, ongoing training must take place site wide.

With skill shortages throughout Australia, QAL is working hard to ensure it continues to attract and nurture highly skilled employees. As a stepping stone towards this goal, I am pleased to announce QAL's 2005 scholarship recipient (see page 2). The \$5000 per annum scholarship program is an important part of QAL's commitment to local education, the development of youth and the future of Gladstone.

On a similar note, it is also encouraging to see the new

partnership formed between QAL and Gladstone high school teachers (see page 4) which is aimed at boosting the number of students studying tertiary level science, maths and engineering. By working with teachers, we can support our local students and make an investment in our future.

Projects within QAL's environmental improvement program continue to progress with recent approval to upgrade the refinery's alumina load out facility at the wharf (see page 3). Once installed, visible dust emissions will reduce significantly. See inside also for details on QAL's recent upgrades to its environmental monitoring equipment.

This month saw QAL host another one of its highly successful family picnics for employees at the Yaralla Sports Oval. The picnic is great way to say thank you to employees and their families for their contribution (see page 4).

It has been a very busy year and much needs to be done before the year end. Thank you for taking an interest in our operations and I hope you enjoy the read.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. van Zyl'.

Johann van Zyl
Managing Director



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

2005 Scholarship Recipient Announced

QAL has announced local Central Queensland University (CQU) engineering student Nathaniel Dunnett as this year's scholar.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said the QAL \$5000 per annum scholarship program was 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.

Scholarship recipient Nathaniel Dunnett said the scholarship would be of significant benefit in managing university related expenses and 'getting ahead'.

"The scholarship will definitely help me out and means I won't be dealing with a big debt just when I'm trying to start my career. There is also a great opportunity through the scholarship to be involved with QAL vacation employment," Mr Dunnett said.

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 Tops the State

QAL was recognised for its ongoing employee training programs in July when it took out the award for Large Employer of the Year at the 2005 Queensland Training Awards.

After winning the regional awards earlier, QAL went on to defeat other large employers across the entire Queensland state and is now proudly contesting the Employer of the Year category at national level in November in Perth.

Managing Director Johann van Zyl said QAL's vision to be the best to work for and the understanding from employees of the importance of achieving this has driven a number of training initiatives on site.

"QAL is committed to ongoing improvement and the refinery is more acceptable to change than ever before. People are aware of the importance of keeping up with best practice and they understand that in order to achieve this, ongoing training

must take place site wide", Mr van Zyl said.

"It is always nice when special effort is recognised outside the company by an independent organisation. This is an excellent example of SAFER, CLEANER and BETTER in action", he said.

The Queensland Training Awards are proudly represented each year by the Department of Employment and Training and honour and reward the achievements of apprentices, trainees, vocational students, school-based apprentices or trainees, training organisations, employers and small business.



Environmental Project Update

Alumina Dust Reduction at Wharf



Significant reductions in alumina dust emissions at QAL's wharf facilities are a step closer with recent Board approval to upgrade the refinery's alumina loader.

Following detailed research, the chosen cascading chute technology is considered world class and is also utilised by a number of other alumina refineries within Australia.

The current telescopic chute technology allows alumina to gain significant momentum before exiting the chute into the ship's hold. However, the new cascading chute technology will dramatically reduce alumina dust by enabling the product to transfer down the chute onto the ship via a series of buckets minimising velocity and hence airborne dust.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl said the upgrade is proof of QAL's ongoing commitment to environmental improvement initiatives.

"The cascading chute technology is world class and QAL is confident that it will bring enormous benefits with photographic research showing significant reductions in visual alumina dust emissions", Mr van Zyl said.

The \$2.4million project is expected to be complete by the end of 2006.

Environmental Monitoring

Recently approved upgrades to QAL's environmental monitoring equipment will now provide 'real time', live data on the refinery's operations to QAL employees.

QAL undertakes continual air, water and noise monitoring to ensure appropriate controls are put in place to minimise the impact of its operations.

In the past, QAL's environmental specialists received data via regular

reports, which were downloaded from the monitoring stations. Once implemented, the changes will mean that data will be streamlined and accessible immediately via the click of a button on a computer enabling data to be easily viewed in 'real time'.

Specifically, the project involves upgrading the communications methods from the monitoring equipment to the Plant Information Book (a database containing QAL's process information), as well as some upgrades to monitoring equipment to enable faster communication.



Improvements Continue as Baghouse Project Progresses

QAL's environmental improvement program is progressing well with four out of its seven boilers now fitted with baghouses to reduce fly ash emissions.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said the progressive installation of baghouses on the seven boilers at QAL was part of a \$233

million investment into environmental improvement.

"With four baghouses now installed, we are over half way and on the home straight for the four year planned project. With the majority of boilers now complete, 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.

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.

QAL Community Forum Still Strong

August this year saw the QAL Community Forum celebrate its fourth year since its inception as a local, volunteer, community-based program aimed at raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues at QAL.

With 25 core members, the Forum has been exceptionally valuable to QAL in understanding community expectations and changing mythologies associated with the refinery's operations.

In particular, the Forum has enabled QAL to impart vast amounts of expertise with the Gladstone community in a bid to further raise the profile of the environment and

environmentally sound practices. The Forum provides a medium that directly contributes to raising environmental awareness and understanding in the local community.

If you have an interest in the impact of QAL's operations and would like to join the QAL Community Forum, please contact QAL Community Relations in 4976 2488 or toll free on 1800 181 110.

Opening the GATE to Further Education

How do you excite students about science and mathematics and encourage them to study it at uni?

With skill shortages across the board, QAL has formed a new partnership with Gladstone high school teachers in an effort to boost the number of students studying

tertiary level science, maths and engineering.

The Gladstone Area Teacher Enrichment Program (GATE) will provide local teachers with professional development programs and systems to enhance their capacity to influence their students to excel in learning maths, science and engineering at school level and to pursue further education and careers in related fields.

With resources in schools limited but those of GATE's partners being world class, teachers and students will benefit from accessing new technology used at universities and in 'real-life' industrial environments.

GATE is currently in the process of applying for a federal government grant which would enable the proposed pilot program to begin next year.



QAL Family Picnic a Success

QAL held one of its most successful picnics ever on Sunday 9 October when employees and their families gathered at Yaralla Sports Oval to enjoy a day full of family activities and fun.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said that the picnic was a way of saying thank you to employees and their families for their contribution.

"Employees are our most important asset and their families are their support network, so our picnics are very family orientated for that reason," Mr Van Zyl said.

"A highlight on the day was the money raised on the dunking machine. In excess of \$730 will be donated to the Salvation Army," he said.

"Feedback has been very positive – the event was very well organised with approximately 1,800 people having a lot of safe, clean fun."



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.