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Monday, 24 January 2011

For immediate release

Promising futures for new QAL apprentices

Some knew they always wanted to acquire a trade while some are on their second or third shot at finding their suited career, but all of the 20 new QAL apprentices who started last week are eager to learn the skills of their trade.

The 2011 apprentice intake comprises of ten mechanical, six electrical/instrumentation, two boiler makers, one refrigeration/air conditioning electrical and one High Voltage electrical.

Choosing a future career path is a hard decision to make but Kylie Beattie knew she wanted to be a QAL apprentice long before she had even finished high school.

Kylie, who will complete a dual electrical and instrumentation apprenticeship, said she had set her sights on a QAL apprenticeship after completing work experience at the plant.

“I really enjoyed my work experience and that helped make the decision to return and start a trade. I really can’t wait to get into it and start learning new skills,” Kylie said.

“This field of work is really interesting and QAL has a wealth of experience I can draw from.”

As one of only two female apprentices in this year’s intake she is also looking forward to giving the boys a run for their money.

“I’m not too worried about it but I guess I will try and show the boys what I am made of,” Kylie said.

Jordan Roper, 21, will undertake a mechanical (fitter and turner) apprenticeship after deciding university study was not for him.

“I started off studying teaching but realised it wasn’t the right fit for me. An apprenticeship was something I had always been interested in so I decided to have a go at QAL,” Jordan said.

“QAL is giving me a valuable opportunity to gain a trade and the skills and qualifications which go with it.”

Managing Director Phil Campbell said apprenticeships at QAL represented a tradition of providing young people with vital life skills, the chance to build expertise and to excel in a particular vocation.

“A QAL apprentice will learn not only valuable skills towards their trade, but they will also be immersed in a busy industrial environment where they can develop both personally and professionally.”

“QAL is proud of our long tradition of providing apprenticeships and since Denis Potts commenced as our first apprentice in October 1967, we have continued to support the strong mentorship values of what an apprenticeship should be.” Mr Campbell said.

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The 20 new apprentices who will learn their trade at QAL

L-R New QAL apprentices: Luke Wilson (Mechanical), Jordan Roper (Mechanical), Kylie Beattie (Electrical/Instrumentation) and James Buckeridge (Mechanical)

About Queensland Alumina Limited:
Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) commenced operation in March 1967 with an annual production rate of 600,000 tonnes of alumina. Today QAL is one of the world's largest alumina refineries, producing 3.95 million tonnes of the world's best smelter grade alumina per year. With an average workforce of 1050 employees, QAL is the region's largest employer and annually contributes approximately $400 million directly to the local economy.

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