



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

ABN 98 009 725 044

PARSONS POINT GLADSTONE QUEENSLAND 4680 AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: 4976 2211 (Area code 07; International dialling code 61-7).

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

QAL Apprentice of the Year Announced

Fourth year mechanical apprentice, Linden Stiller has been announced as the Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Apprentice of the Year.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said the Award carried significant weight in a competitive trade environment such as Gladstone and would provide a great stepping stone for the future.

“We are very proud of all our apprentices they have received excellent training and a solid basis for their trade. The Apprentice of the Year Award seeks to acknowledge and celebrate apprentices’ exceptional contributions to their workplace,” Mr Van Zyl said.

“The selection panel are looking for apprentices that make a real difference to their work at QAL and have exceeded our expectations. The high calibre of our apprentices completing their trade this year made the final decision very difficult,”

“Linden demonstrated the necessary requirements for being QAL’s Apprentice of the Year; safety diligence, workmanship, cooperation, comprehension, initiative, good academic results and personal interests, such as sport and community involvement,” Mr Van Zyl said.

“Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for individuals to develop their life, academic and technical skills and we are committed to providing appropriate training to ensure we build a skilled workforce for the future, experienced in the complexities of a refinery the size of QAL.”

Linden recently completed his four year apprenticeship to achieve a Certificate III in Mechanical (Fitting and Turning). Commenting on his win, Linden said the award was something that he was proud to receive.

“I have really enjoyed my time at QAL and was excited to receive the award. Apprentice of the Year means a great deal to me and it is great to see all my hard work has paid off,” Linden said.

“I have already completed my training and have been fortunate to secure a permanent role on shift in Raw Materials.”

As part of his prize, Linden received \$750 spending money and a return flight to a smelting operation in New Zealand where he will tour the site and meet maintenance, operations employees and apprentices.

QAL also awarded fourth year electrical and instrumentation apprentice Michael Simpson as Shell Apprentice of the Year.

Since QAL's commissioning in 1967, over 700 apprentices have been skilled at QAL learning a variety of trades including electrical, instrumentation, fitting, boilermaking, and refrigeration.

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For further information, contact:

Melissa Case
Community Relations
Queensland Alumina Limited
Ph: +61 7 4976 2448
www.qal.com.au



2008 QAL Apprentice of the Year Linden Stiller
and Shell Apprentice of the Year Michael Simpson

