



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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13 May 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

QAL Apprentice of the Year Announced

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) announced its Apprentice of the Year at an official ceremony last week.

Fourth year Electrical and Instrumentation Apprentice, Bradley Volgyesi was announced as the 2011 QAL Apprentice of the Year. In addition, fourth year Fitting and Turning apprentice Tyrone Fiser was awarded the Central State Fuels Apprentice Award at the ceremony.

QAL Chief Financial Officer, Peter Odgers said the Awards are a way of rewarding exceptional QAL apprentices and acknowledging the value they give to the business.

"The skills learnt as a part of these trades are extremely valuable to QAL and the broader resource industry. QAL's apprenticeship scheme not only provides young people in the region with solid employment and excellent training, it also ensures a future of skilled workers, which is important for growth. I have no doubt that we will need these skills as the world's economies continue to recover," Mr Odgers said.

Bradley was one of 17 fourth-year apprentices assessed by a panel and exceeded expectations in his diligence to safety, strong workmanship, cooperation, comprehension and initiative during his training.

"Bradley is passionate about keeping his work colleagues injury free and demonstrates this through his involvement in QSafe, QAL's behavioural safety program, and I believe he is a great role model for other apprentices," Mr Odgers said.

Coming to the end of his apprenticeship next year, Bradley said he was honoured to have been selected as QAL's Apprentice of the Year.

"I'm grateful to QAL for giving me the opportunity of an apprenticeship," Mr Volgyesi said.

"QAL has numerous excellent tradesmen and I'm thankful of all the support and patience they've had for me during my time, especially for answering the thousands of questions I ask and for the skills and knowledge they've given me. There are a lot of great apprentices in my year and I'm proud to be one of them."

Bradley was rewarded with a trip for two to New Zealand and a visit to QAL owner's operations, New Zealand Aluminium Smelter, where he will go on a tour of the site and meet a selection of operations personnel. In addition to this experience, Bradley also receives \$750 prize money.

The ceremony also officially welcomed QAL's 17 first-year apprentices following the completion of their three-month probation period. Member for Gladstone Liz Cunningham and Mayor Gail Sellers were in attendance to congratulate the apprentices and present each with the keys to their new toolboxes.

Since QAL's commissioning in 1967, close to 760 apprentices have been skilled at QAL learning a variety of trades including electrical, instrumentation, fitting, boilermaking, and refrigeration. QAL is one of the state's largest apprentice employers and is currently training 73 apprentices on site.

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L-R Dave Thomas, Central State Fuels General Manager, Tyrone Fiser, Central State Fuels Apprentice of the Year, Bradley Volgyesi, QAL Apprentice of the Year and Phil Campbell, QAL Managing Director



QAL's 2011 first-year apprentices are welcomed by the five QAL apprentice trainers.

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 \$200 million directly to the local economy.

For further information and images, contact:

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