

Media Release - 18 May 2006

QAL Apprentice of the Year Announced

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) has announced fourth year mechanical apprentice, Brent Stiller as the 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 stand the winner in good stead for his future.

"We are very proud of all our apprentices. They have received excellent training and a solid basis for their trade, a recipe for a bright and prosperous future," Mr Van Zyl said.

"According to the panel of selectors, we've had yet another year of strong competition and the final decision was difficult.

"Brent 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," he said.

"QAL is committed to providing appropriate apprentice training to ensure we build a skilled workforce for the future who are experienced in the complexities of a refinery the size of QAL.

" Brent Stiller will complete his Certificate III in Mechanical (Fitting and Turning) at the end of this year (four year apprenticeship) and said the award was something that he was proud to receive.

"This a great award to have under your belt for future prospects," Brent said. "I've learnt a lot during my apprenticeship with QAL and I've also had a good time. The training they've provided me with is invaluable."

As part of his prize, Brent received a return flight of his choice to a smelting operation in either New Zealand or Tasmania where he will tour the site and meet maintenance and operations employees and apprentices at that site. In addition to this experience Brent also received a \$750 cheque.

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

Since QAL's commissioning in 1967, nearly 670 apprentices have been skilled at QAL learning a variety of trades including electrical, instrumentation, fitting, boilermaking, and refrigeration.