



## 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

#### **Students gain invaluable trade experience**

A number of local high school students were fortunate in having a go at their desired trade during QAL's annual work experience intake.

Over five weeks, the program saw 48 eager students don their protective clothing and experience 7am starts for their week-long mentoring by QAL tradespeople and apprentices. Students from a number of local high schools had applied to their respective schools for the sought-after work experience positions. The year 10, 11 and 12 students had various skills and knowledge backgrounds which were refined in the areas of boilermaking, fitting and turning and electrical/instrumentation.

Students learning the ropes in the electrical and instrumentation trade were able to experience several areas of the plant as they were moved to a different plant section daily while they learnt from experienced tradespeople.

Those in the boilermaking and fitting and turning trades were situated in the apprentice training workshop under the guidance of QAL's apprentice trainers, several of whom were past QAL apprentices themselves. The students used industry standard machinery like the guillotine, iron worker, band saw and drill press, as well as a range of hand tools, to learn both new skills and polish up on old ones to create a nutcracker they could take home. Towards the end of the week these students assisted QAL apprentices in welding tasks or repairing rotating spares, so they were able to experience the type of work that would be undertaken by a first year apprentice.

Refinery Support Mechanical Coordinator, Brad Richardson said QAL's work experience initiative is a beneficial situation for all involved.

"It really creates a win-win situation. We are able to evaluate the skills and workmanship of students who may later apply for apprenticeships with us, the students can choose if the trade and QAL are the right fit for them, plus the first year apprentices gain experience in mentoring the students," Mr Richardson said.

Toolooa State High Year 11 student, Jodie Davison said she is determined to start her career.

"I applied for the work experience program because I want to be a fitter and will definitely be applying for an apprenticeship next year," she said.

Ben Lumsden, also in year 11 at Toolooa State High, made the most of the experience to see what was best suited to him.

"This is a good opportunity for me to try out boilermaking to see what it's like before I commit to it as a trade," he said.

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*L-R QAL Apprentice Trainer Graham Moller with Toolooa State High Students Jacob West, Austin Walsh and Matt Douglas*



*Students from Gladstone State High enjoy learning the ropes at QAL*



*Toolooa State High students, Jodie Davison, Haydn Thompson and Ben Lumsden enjoyed making their nut cracker as part of the QAL work experience program*

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**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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**For further information contact:**

**Courtney Brown**  
**Community Relations and Media Specialist**  
**Queensland Alumina Limited**  
**Ph: +61 7 4976 2448**  
**Mob: 0438 749 830**  
**[www.qal.com.au](http://www.qal.com.au)**