



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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MEDIA RELEASE

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GLADSTONE HISTORY REFINED WITH EXHIBITION

It was forty years ago that Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) commenced operation and the former meatworks town of Gladstone became known as an 'alumina town'.

Start-up day was an exciting time, not only for the plant people but also the whole town, when the "all systems go" command was given and bauxite was charged into the plant at 11.30am on March 11, 1967.

To commemorate this occasion, QAL has a number of special events planned throughout the year including a historical exhibition at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum in October.

QAL Community Relations and Media Specialist Mellissa Case said the exhibition would display items and images from the early days to present, showcasing QAL's progress to becoming the world's largest alumina refinery.

"QAL coming to town marked a significant change for Gladstone and the beginning of a new era for the townspeople. What makes QAL's history so fascinating is that many people you talk to have had some association with QAL at some point in their lives," Mellissa said.

"The exhibition will trace the refinery's progress with a variety of items from the archives that will be shown collectively for the first time to pay tribute to the people who have contributed to QAL's successes," Mellissa said.

"In conjunction with the display we have planned a significant oral history project to capture the social history of when QAL came to town. A number of people will have their stories recorded for posterity and we are also inviting the community to write their memoirs. A selection of the stories will be published in a souvenir publication launched at the exhibition."

Members of the community who would like to loan items that may be of historical interest or contribute their stories, should contact the Gallery/Museum on 4976 6766 or QAL Community Relations on 4976 2448.

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