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MEDIA RELEASE

**LOCAL STUDENT REFINES STUDIES WITH SCHOLARSHIP**

Local CQUniversity engineering student Jacinta Larney, was awarded the annual Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Scholarship at an official function today.

QAL Managing Director Johann van Zyl said Jacinta, a first year student studying Bachelor of Engineering (Co-op) and Diploma of Professional Practice at the University, would receive \$5000 per annum towards her studies.

"This year's scholarship attracted many applications, with three very strong applicants in particular. After much deliberation, Jacinta was announced as the recipient on this occasion with two \$700 Encouragement Awards presented to Sophie Eastaway and Callum Duncan-Kemp,"

"By supporting our local students we are fostering local talent and making an investment in our future. All of our finalists will be able to access vacation employment and work experience at QAL to compliment their studies." Mr van Zyl said.

CQUniversity Gladstone Head of Campus, Dr Pierre Viljoen said the selection of a QAL scholar is not only based on academic excellence, but also community involvement, overall personal presentation and commitment to the successful completion of studies as a full time student at CQUniversity.

"The annual scholarship program is highly sought after and an important part of QAL and CQUniversity's commitment to local education, the development of youth and the future of Gladstone," Dr Viljoen said.

"By partnering with the region's largest employer QAL to award this scholarship, we have been making a real difference to the retention of our skilled young people within the region."

The QAL scholarship program has been running since 1975 and is open to full-time first year students CQUniversity students residing in the Gladstone Regional Council studying applied science (including environmental studies), business, engineering or information technology.

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L-R QAL Chief Financial Officer Peter Odgers, QAL scholarship winner Jacinta Larney, CQUniversity Head of Gladstone Campus Dr Pierre Viljoen, and encouragement awardees Sophie Eastaway and Callum Duncan-Kemp.



2008 QAL scholarship recipient Jacinta Larney.