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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

QAL Apprentice of the Year Announced

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) has announced fourth year mechanical apprentice, Angus Wilson 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.”

“Angus 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.”

Angus 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.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my apprenticeship at QAL and am really happy with the quality of training I have received,” Mr Wilson said.

“I will be signed off early in the next month or two and have already secured a permanent position in the Raw Materials section.”

“It’s great to know that the opportunities to further my career at QAL don’t end at finishing my apprenticeship,” he said.

As part of his prize, Angus 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 Angus also received a \$750 cheque.

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

Since QAL's commissioning in 1967, nearly 700 apprentices have been skilled at QAL learning a variety of trades including electrical, instrumentation, fitting, boilermaking, and refrigeration.

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