



## QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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For immediate release

### QAL SCHOLAR ANNOUNCED

Local CQUniversity (CQU) student Denica Hope was shocked but simultaneously thrilled after she was awarded the 2011 Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Scholarship on Tuesday.

Denica, a first year Bachelor of Accounting and Diploma of Professional Practice student, will receive \$5 000 per annum from QAL to assist financially throughout her degree.

QAL Managing Director, Phil Campbell, said the scholarship provides a much-needed financial boost to the students and their families.

"We are aware that this money can really make a difference to a student and the high calibre of applicants made the decision a very tough one," Mr Campbell said.

"The QAL scholarship allows us to invest in Gladstone's future by assisting a student to develop into a valued member of our community and someone who will contribute to the economic sustainability of our local area."

Denica was not the only beneficiary of the day, a \$1 000 Encouragement Award was presented to Bachelor of Engineering (co-op) and Diploma of Professional Practice student, Damien Hensen.

Both students had attended Toolooa State High School where Denica and Damien excelled in their chosen subjects and often found themselves competing for the same academic awards. Now, in their first year of tertiary study, not much has changed as both were selected as finalists and interviewed for the QAL scholarship.

Denica said the scholarship will provide her with financial stability, enabling her to focus on her studies and broaden her skills.

"I am still in shock, I thought Damien would get it for sure. I was really surprised when my name was read out," Ms Hope said.

Selection of the QAL scholar is based not only on academic excellence, but also community involvement and extracurricular activities.

Denica is already demonstrating great leadership and interest in the University by enrolling in the voluntary Student Association at CQUniversity's Gladstone campus.

"The student association represents the university at certain events such as orientations and helping run activities and tours for new students. They also run a mentoring program, which I will hopefully be a part of next year so I can share my knowledge and experiences with new accounting students," she said.

The QAL/CQU scholarship was established in 1975 and its long standing valuable partnership was acknowledged at the presentation ceremony. Professor Chad Hewitt, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Head of Campus Gladstone, presented QAL with an appreciation plaque to mark the occasion.

The scholarship is open to full-time, first year CQUniversity students residing in the Gladstone Regional Council area and studying in the areas of applied science (including environmental studies), business/commercial, engineering or information technology.



QAL/CQU Scholarship winner Denica Hope with encouragement award winner Damien Hensen, both congratulated by QAL Managing Director Phil Campbell (left) and Professor Chad Hewitt, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Head of Campus, Gladstone (right).



QAL's Managing Director, Phil Campbell congratulates 2011 QAL/CQU Scholarship winner Denica Hope.

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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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