



## QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

A. B. N. 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

### **State Vocational Student of the Year Brings Trophy Home**

They say that things come in threes, but that is clearly not the case for Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Electrical/ Instrumentation Contract Coordinator David Smith who was announced as the State Vocational Student of the Year at the Queensland Training Awards in Brisbane on Friday night.

The Award is the fourth for the previous vocational student, who commenced his Diploma of Management and Certificate IV in Frontline Management through Central Queensland Institute of TAFE in June 2008.

David said the thought of being recognised for his achievements was not even considered throughout his time studying.

"All I was thinking about was doing my best and completing the course within the timeframe. I have completed numerous short courses over the years, but never a Diploma and I have to admit it was daunting at first - not really being sure what standard of work was required to meet the assessment criteria. I guess this meant that I set the bar quite high early on and essentially I continued to meet this standard for the rest of my study,"

"A fellow QAL vocational student, Michael Hogg provided inspiration to knuckle down when he completed the course well ahead of time and also received the 2009 CQ TAFE Trainee Award. When Education Queensland encouraged me to apply for the Queensland Training Awards, I thought what have I got to lose?" he said.

David said he was shocked when announced the winner of the Award, as his wife had perused the brochure at the event and told him he had no chance of winning against such strong competition. She then congratulated him on getting this far and they agreed to have a good night anyway.

"I never thought that completing a Diploma could possibly have resulted in the unexpected path that the Awards have taken me on. It's been quite a ride and to have the support from QAL throughout this journey has been great. I am really looking forward to Sydney and the experience that it will bring."

Managing Director Phil Campbell said QAL was proud of David's achievements and wished him success in the National Awards.

"David's journey has been inspiring and is a perfect example of the unexpected outcomes that education and training can bring. The fact that QAL and its employees are consistently recognised at this level clearly demonstrates that our commitment to providing the best training opportunities for our people is bringing value to our business and also recognition for the Gladstone region," Mr Campbell said.

David has also received the Central Queensland Regional Vocational Student of the Year at the Queensland Training Awards, Central Queensland TAFE Trainee Award and the Manufacturing Trainee of the Year at the Manufacturing Skills Queensland Industry Training Awards. He will be representing Gladstone and competing for the National Vocational Student

of the Year at the Australian Training Awards held at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre on 19 November.

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**QAL Electrical/ Instrumentation Contract Coordinator David Smith brings home another trophy for training excellence from the Queensland Training Awards.**

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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 one of the region's largest employers and annually contributes approximately \$200 million directly to the local economy.

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**For further information and copies of images contact:**

**Mellissa Case,**  
**Community Relations and Media Specialist**  
**Queensland Alumina Limited**  
**Ph: +61 7 4976 2448**  
**Email: [casem@qal.com.au](mailto:casem@qal.com.au)**  
**[www.qal.com.au](http://www.qal.com.au)**