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MEDIA RELEASE

Commitment Pays off for Central Queensland Trainee of the Year

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Acting Pump Crew Supervisor Michael Pope was announced as the Central Queensland Regional Trainee of the Year at the Regional Finals of the Queensland Training Awards in Mackay on Saturday night.

An employee at QAL for three years, Michael recently undertook a Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing under the guidance of QAL's Business Improvement Team. Despite the challenge of studying and working fulltime, Michael excelled in the course which encourages the implementation of improvement projects within work areas.

Michael said he was elated to receive the Award and receive recognition for the work he had carried out.

"Receiving this award means a lot to me as it demonstrates the commitment and changes you have made have been valued, not only within the workplace but also in the wider sphere,"

"I am very grateful for the support provided to me throughout the process, particularly from the team who assisted with the implementation of the projects and also the people who mentored me along the way. Without them, none of this would have been possible." Michael said.

QAL's training programs were also recognised on the night, with the Award of Central Queensland Large Employer of the Year.

This is the third year that QAL has been recognised as the recipient of the Award, which rewards the outstanding achievements of organisations within the vocational education and training sector who strive for excellence, best practice and innovation.

Managing Director Phil Campbell said both Awards were testament to QAL's commitment to providing exceptional training and skills development.

"We recognise that as one of the region's largest employers we have a unique opportunity to provide the community with the skills base to take Gladstone forward into the future. It is this level of training that will set a solid foundation for region's future growth." Mr Campbell said.

Both Michael and QAL will be competing for the state Award in their respective categories at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday 11 September 2009. Each state Award winner will then contest at the Australian Training Awards held in Canberra on Thursday 19 November 2009.

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Caption: QAL Human Resources Officer Kirsten Shepherd and Acting Pump Crew Supervisor Michael Pope accept the Awards

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.

For further information and copies of images contact:

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