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MEDIA RELEASE

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SURFING SCIENTIST MAKES WAVES IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

Imploding soft drink cans, making rain and smarties colour wheels were just some of the experiments and conundrums presented to almost forty local teachers during an exciting science demonstration with the ABC's Surfing Scientist Ruben Meerman last night.

The event, organised by Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) in partnership with Gladstone Regional Council and Gladstone Area Mathematics, Science and Engineering Teachers group (GAMSET) provided the region's teachers with interesting hands on demonstrations which could be easily duplicated to enthuse science students in the classroom.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said the workshop aimed to provide teachers with the confidence and expertise to conduct fun science demonstrations to increase student interest and participation in science.

"The response from teachers was very positive they all left impressed with Ruben's passion for making science an unforgettable and contagious learning experience." He said.

Whilst in Gladstone as a guest speaker for the weekend's Ecofest celebrations, Ruben also presented demonstrations at four of the region's schools.

Gladstone Regional Council Environment and Sustainability Officer Teresa Wilkie said Ruben's visit to the region provided a great opportunity for both students and teachers.

"Ruben's energy and excitement for science is invigorating – it is impossible to leave one of his demonstrations and not be inspired." She said.

Ruben Meerman is a surfer with a degree in physics. He's also a children's science author and regular guest on ABC TV's Sleek Geeks, Catalyst and Rollercoaster (ABC Kids) and Channel 7's Sunrise program. He performs hundreds of live science shows every year in primary and high schools and public events throughout Australia. The Surfing Scientist is aired on ABC TV on Tuesdays from 5pm-6pm.

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Teachers Kristine Kennedy and Karyn Tighe have some fun with the Surfing Scientist Ruben Meerman



Kaitlyn Read learnt how to push a straw through a potato with the Surfing Scientist Ruben Meerman



Ruben Meerman demonstrates how clouds are formed with liquid nitrogen