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17 December 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Training at QAL Takes out Another Award

Michael Hogg was announced the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE Trainee of the Year at a Graduation ceremony on Monday night. A Field Training Officer in the Digestion section who has been employed at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) for nine years, Michael was singled out as a high achiever whilst completing a Certificate IV in Frontline Management and a Diploma in Management.

Throughout his studies, Michael actively sought practical opportunities to apply his knowledge and gain experience within the elements of the course, bringing many benefits to QAL's systems. One of his main projects was revising the Competency to Operate system with the aim of improving its effectiveness and cost efficiency within the business. Developing new core skills and legislative training for various employee groups was also part of his studies.

Michael said the course allowed him to better understand and support development of training programs specific to the business requirements.

"By doing the Frontline Management course I was able to gain skills in managing groups, prioritising work and evaluating systems and procedures. This allowed me to better explain legislative and policy reasons for change, plus enabling me to better understand management decision making processes," Michael said.

QAL Managing Director Phil Campbell said Michael's award was testament to the value of work based training opportunities available to QAL employees.

"We understand the value of upskilling our employees and are committed to providing our workforce with the tools and education they need to further their career ambitions. The award is yet another feather in QAL's cap and clearly demonstrates our ability to provide the Gladstone region with a skilled workforce." Mr Campbell said

In 2009, QAL and their employees have been awarded Large Employer and Trainee of the Year at the Queensland Training Awards as well as Highly Commended in Leading Processes and Practices – Medium to Large Company and Metalliferous Trainee of the Year at the Mining Industry Skills Centre 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 \$300 million directly to the local economy.



Gladstone Ports Corporation's Project General Manager and Acting Corporate Relations General Manager, Mark Greenaway (right) presents the Trainee of the Year Award to Digestion Field Training Officer, Michael Hogg.

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