



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).

Monday, 12 December 2011

For immediate release

Students embark on vacation employment at QAL

While most university students are celebrating the end of their exams and classes, 17 students have committed to three months of paid employment at Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL), gaining valuable work experience relevant to their degrees.

The QAL Undergraduate Vacation Employment Program allows students to receive a taste of the real world and work alongside qualified professionals, assisting with projects and gaining industry experience. While a few of the students are local, most have come from different parts of Queensland and New South Wales to refine their skills.

The students are employed in the areas of human resources, health, safety, information technology, community relations and engineering including chemical, civil, mechanical and electrical.

QAL Managing Director, Phil Campbell said the vacation program had been going for over 30 years and provided students with an opportunity to add value to the refinery's operations as they work through their assigned projects.

"During their 12 week placement, the students will complete a project which contributes to the refinery operations in some way," Mr Campbell said.

"The project may be stand alone or subset of a larger project, though either way the outcome benefits both the student and QAL. Ultimately the project provides hands on opportunities for learning, which is something you can never get from coursework alone," he said.

"Another benefit for both parties is that some vacation students to QAL return as graduate employees once their studies have been completed."

Divan Gradwell, a Chemical Engineering student from the University of New South Wales, has swapped the inner city suburbs of Sydney for a 'sea change' in Gladstone this summer.

Divan said the experience QAL offered was worth the three-month move because the knowledge he would gain will provide him with a step in the right direction for his future career.

"I accepted the vacation program placement for the opportunity to develop my skills and a strong career path within the chemical industry, but the extra support and close-knit working environment QAL provides is a huge bonus," Mr Gradwell said.

"My first two weeks at Gladstone have been a whirlwind of training, learning, getting involved in projects and meeting new people, due to the large number of students in the program."

"The extra lifestyle benefits that QAL also provides during the employment also ensures there is never a dull moment!"

Divan will be working in Process Engineering and his major project will focus on consolidating corporate process knowledge.

University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) student Lucy Warren has one semester left in her Public Relations and Applied Marketing degree and applied for the QAL vacation program to gain practical communications experience.

Lucy will spend 12 weeks working as part of the community relations team and said it is great to gain knowledge outside of her lecture halls.

“In the community relations department, I’m going to be working on a number of projects that relate to internal and external communications. It’s only been two weeks and the insights and practical understanding I’ve already gained, I could have never achieved sitting inside a classroom,” she said.

“Working within a team and on real projects has given me that glimpse of the real world that will really help prepare me for when I graduate next semester.”

The students will be working on site until mid-February 2012.

...ends



QAL’s vacation students for 2011/2012 from left to right:

Back: Harsha Pappu, Divan Gradwell, Martin O’Driscoll, Lucy Warren, Rachel Jones, Rosanne Talbot, Aaron Millar, Chris Staun, Harry Walters, Josh Ward, Josh Leong

Front: Matt Schuster, Jesse Allen, Melissa Hankinson, Alex Ogaard-Stephens, Teagan Walsh, Abhyash Timsina

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.

For further information and images: Courtney Brown
QAL Community Relations
Ph: +61 7 4976 2448
Mob: 0457 924 516
Email: brownco@qal.com.au
www.qal.com.au