



Media release

Innovator and previous QAL Managing Director has died

30 May 2017

Robert 'Bob' Druitt was one of the few remaining leaders who could remember the sounds of Queensland Alumina Limited's refinery as it powered up for the first time in 1967.

Mr Druitt who was well known in the Gladstone community passed away age 84 on Friday 26 May and is survived by his wife Barbara and children Lisa and Ian.

Joining QAL in July of 1966 in the start-up team Mr Druitt served in several senior roles across production, technical and administration before becoming Managing Director in 1987 until his retirement in March 1995. Always a true gentleman Mr Druitt spearheaded many innovative projects at the Refinery including the transition from fuel oil to natural gas which allowed QAL to purchase Australian natural gas rather than fuel oil from offshore. He also introduced 'sweetening' Bauxite from Weipa into QAL which could be processed at a lower temperature gaining additional production.

Mr Druitt always saw a bright future for QAL saying in the 1990's that; "We must look ahead rather than behind and develop goals aiming for future best industry practice".

QAL General Manager, Mike Dunstan said: "Bob Druitt was an important figure at QAL during his 29 years of service. From his time in the early days until his retirement Bob brought innovation and passion to the Refinery. QAL's training centre is named in honour of his contributions. Our thoughts are with Bob's family at this time".

-ENDS-

Picture 1: Mr R. J. (Bob) Druitt



Picture 2: Previous Managing Director Bob Druitt (right) hands over the keys of a new ambulance vehicle to the Ambulance Board Chairman, Graham Fenton.





QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED



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