



## Media release

### Men's Shed and QAL – Building partnerships

22 Feb 2019

The Gladstone Men's Shed and Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) are partnering once again. With the Men's Shed already completing two projects for QAL in 2019.

Recently the Men's Shed rebuilt a model of the QAL LURGI. The Lurgi is a piece of equipment at QAL that is used to assist with the Bayer Process of converting Bauxite into Alumina.

This specialised project required someone with the in-depth knowledge of how this original piece of equipment was designed. Fortunately, Jim McBryde a member of the Men's shed has 28 years' experience as a QAL employee prior to his retirement, so he had just the skillset and knowledge to complete this task.

The second project focused on assisting QAL with site safety. QAL uses Diphoterine (DAP) as a neutralising agent for caustic. The DAP is carried by each person at as a part of the personal safety requirements. A number of years ago the Men's Shed invented small PVC sheaths to stop the lids snapping off DAP-spray bottles. This invention proved extremely successful and since then the Men's Shed have been supplying the pouches to Gladstone's Industries QAL and Rio Tinto Yarwun. With a batch of 400 sheaths arriving to the QAL site early this month.

Dave Moore the Shed Coordinator at the Gladstone Men's Shed said, "QAL and the Men's Shed have worked together in good spirits since the shed was established. QAL helped us out in the beginning with several lockers and other items to help us store gear and safety items in which was much appreciated.

"The job they ask us to carry out gives us an income to help cover shed overheads and material costs. Working with QAL to carry out their jobs provides us with a chance to keep our members active and learn new job skills."

QAL General Manager, Mike Dunstan said, "The shed has been assisting QAL for a number of years and consistently provides us support to the highest of standards. The Men's Shed plays a vital role in our community and we value their collaboration with QAL."

The Men Shed invites males of all ages, cultures and abilities including retirees, working men, students, unemployed and under-employed. If you would like to become a member of the Gladstone Mens Shed please contact [menshed4680@hotmail.com](mailto:menshed4680@hotmail.com).

-ENDS-

**Picture 1:**



*Bernie Simpson, Jess Ksiazek (QAL), Chris Walker and Colin Bebendorf*

**Picture 2:**



*Dave Gibson and Jim McBryde with the completed LURGI model*



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED



## Contacts

[www.qal.com.au](http://www.qal.com.au)



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