



## Media release

### **The QAL Castaways get ready for the Great Harbour festival Raft Regatta**

**10 April 2019**

QAL's first year apprentices have been busy perfecting their raft and are ready to get out and compete in the annual Harbour Festival raft race!

The 'QAL Castaways' team consists of 9 first year apprentices Chantel Elbers, Connor Moore, Jessy Edwards, Mitchell Hannan, Ryan Lambert, Adele Bierman, Travis Richmond, Taylah Murray, Duncan Howland and Taylor Jefferies. Fourth year apprentice Taylor Jefferies also assisted the team with the more advanced aspects of the project.

The team have been working for over the month to design, plan, build, test and paint the raft and through those tasks they have learned new skills and techniques that will guide and assist them throughout their apprenticeship and careers.

First year Electrical and Instrumentation apprentice Taylah Murray said; "All of us were so excited to take on this task. Throughout the building stages it was critical to work as a team and use each other's strengths. There was lots of trial and error throughout the design stage and it really highlighted the importance of a solid plan before diving into a project."

First year Mechanical apprentice Duncan Howard said; "We designed the raft to look like the QAL conveyor and bauxite stock pile. It was such great task to be given as a first year apprentice because it made us feel like part of the team and you get to know all the other apprentices and their personalities. We are all very proud to be representing QAL out in our community.

"Throughout the building of the raft we learned many new skills that we can now take with us into the field. Some of these included using a guillotine to cut sheet metal, using angle grinders, band saws and portable drills."

The apprentices recently took the raft for a trial at Awoonga Dam. Although they were relieved it didn't sink they highlighted a few concerns around the paddling. Apprentice and Raft team member Travis Richmond said; "One of the best moments was when we knew it could float! We are all feeling pretty optimistic and excited to be in the race it should be a great day!"

Best of luck to all the teams participating in the raft race and be sure to come cheer on the 'QAL Castaways'!

**-ENDS-**



The 'QAL Castaways' Team; Connor Moore, Adele Bierman, Chantal Elbers, Taylah Murray, Travis Richmond, Mitchell Hannan, Jessy Edwards, Ryan Lambert, Duncan Howland. Absent; Taylor Jefferies.