

When QAL came to town

The establishment of Gladstone Meatworks in 1896 had been the first significant industrial development in the small seaside town of Gladstone and when its great chimney came tumbling down in 1964, it seemed to some that Gladstone would turn into a ghost town. These fears were quickly dispelled with news one of the world's largest alumina refineries would be built in its place.

Construction of the plant worth £52 million began in September 1964. Around 70 firms were awarded contracts for the supply of materials and erection of the plant, which was expected to produce 600,000 tons of alumina annually. Through 1965 and 1966 the skyline at Parsons Point changed dramatically as three 50 metre boiler stacks rose up and cast their shadows over the giant tanks and pressure vessels. The construction workforce reached its peak in November 1966, totalling about 2800 workers. As the skyline changed, so did the community, and the arrival of Queensland Alumina marked a new era for Gladstone.

Tell your story.....

To commemorate 40 years of the 'giant who never sleeps', QAL, with support of the Gladstone and Calliope Regional Arts Development Fund has commissioned a professional historian, Bronwyn Roper to capture the stories from this time of major change. The stories will be collated and published in a book, launched in conjunction with an exhibition at the Gallery/Museum in October. A selection of stories will also be incorporated into the exhibition.

Focussing on the personal stories of 15 very different people, the book will also capture stories of a broad cross section of the community. Although essentially a history project, the stories being sought relate to the social history of the region at the time - What was it like to live here? How did the town change? What were your personal experiences during the transition from a meatworks town to the home of an industrial giant?

How to be involved.....

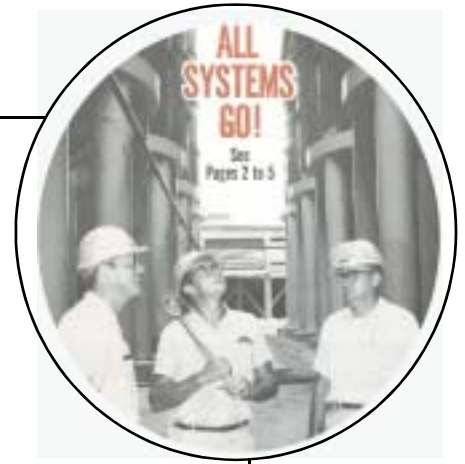
Write your story! Submissions can be handwritten or typed. In telling your story, focus on both generalised and specific personal memories. For example how much did things cost before and after QAL came to town? Where did you shop? What did you do for entertainment? Who were your friends at the time? What experiences did you have together? How did you feel when the meatworks closed? How did you feel when it was announced QAL was coming to town? What were facilities such as schools, sports, water and housing like?

Send your story by mail to: Community Relations, QAL, Parsons Point, Gladstone, QLD, 4680 or email to: media@qal.com.au or fax to: 4976 2308. If you need assistance with telling your story, or have any questions, please call Mellissa or Courtney at QAL who will be able to assist on 4976 2448.

We are also specifically looking for 15 people to be the major focus of the book. If you are someone who would like to tell their story and fit into the list below, please give Mellissa at QAL a call on 4976 2448 to arrange an interview.

- Meatworkers who then worked for QAL
- One of the first female employees
- Residents of Boles Street Caravan Park and Single Men's accommodation
- Employees who have worked for QAL since the beginning of operation
- Local business operators
- Contractors involved in construction
- People who moved to Gladstone specifically to work at QAL
- Partners or children of QAL workers during construction and early days

We look forward to hearing your story!



GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 07 4976 2448
Email: media@qal.com.au



Proudly supported by



Gladstone and Calliope
Regional Arts Development Fund



Queensland Alumina Limited

40th Anniversary Reunion

19 - 21 October 2007

Gladstone, Queensland

Date claimer and event details

October is all about celebrations! Planning is well underway to make this year one to remember so make a note on your calendar for the events listed below. Registration forms and booking details are now available, so book early as limited spaces are available for some events.

See you there!

Friday 19 October 6pm - 10pm

Welcome Cocktail Party

Gladstone Entertainment Centre, 58 Goondoon Street, Gladstone.

Guest Speaker: Mayor of Gladstone Peter Corones.

Light finger food provided, refreshments available for purchase from the venue.

Cost: \$10

Saturday 20 October 11am - 1pm

Official opening of exhibition and book launch

Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum, Cnr Goondoon and Bramston Streets, Gladstone.

Guest Speaker: QAL Managing Director, Johann van Zyl.

Light luncheon and refreshments supplied.

Tours of QAL departing from the Gallery/Museum are scheduled on the hour from

10am - 3pm.

Cost: Free

Saturday 20 October 6pm - late

Formal Dinner

Gladstone Police Citizens Youth Club, Yarroon Street, Gladstone

Guest Speakers: Past and present QAL management.

Three course meal provided, refreshments available for purchase from venue.

Cost: \$30

Special discount available for Retirees Club Members (proof required on booking)

Sunday 21 October 8.45am - 5pm

Harbour Cruise and Mystery Bus Tour

Two groups will depart at 8.30am and 9.30am and include a harbour cruise, lunch and regional highlights bus tour.

Cost: \$30 per person.



GENERAL ENQUIRIES: 07 4976 2448

Email: media@qal.com.au

