

**Speech By Paula Benson  
General Manager Corporate Affairs  
Portland 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Dinner  
11 October 2006**

Thank you John for your introduction.

In the absence of Wayne Osborn, our Managing Director, this evening I am representing Alcoa of Australia.

Wayne is particularly disappointed he is unable to join the celebrations this week.

As it happens with an organisation that has sites in over 40 different countries, Wayne is travelling overseas.

But as one of the many Alcoans who has worked at Portland, Wayne sends his congratulations to John Osborne and his team in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Portland Aluminium.

Wayne also sends his warmest wishes to our Joint Venture Partners for Portland Aluminium, CITIC Australia and Marubeni Aluminium Australia.

But the most important group that Wayne asked me to acknowledge this evening was our employees at Portland Aluminium.

I mentioned that Wayne had worked here.

He cut his teeth in our Victorian Operations, primarily at Point Henry but he was the Administration Manager at Portland Aluminium for 18 months from 1987 to 1989.

And as a true Victorian, Wayne isn't shy of a bit of competition.

When production started at Portland Aluminium in 1986, Wayne was the Potroom Superintendent at Point Henry and he sent the following message to David Judd, Bob Moore and all the Potroom staff.

It read...

*Congratulations on pushing the button.*

*All the best for the start up.*

*We are looking forward to a little competition on current efficiency, just let us know when you want to start the clock.*

*Regards Wayne Osborn and the Point Henry Potroom staff.*

So it was game on between Point Henry and Portland, and I have to say Portland took up the challenge in remarkable fashion.

I want to thank every one of you for the tremendous commitment you have made to Alcoa of Australia.

As you know, there are 97 employees who have been here since the beginning. Many of you are here celebrating with us this evening.

There's a reason why 97 of the employees who walked through the gates at Portland Aluminium 20 years ago are still doing it today.

There is a reason why over 60% of our current workforce here have walked through those gates for the last 10 years.

There are a few testimonials in the celebratory booklet from employees who have been here for 20 years and some of the new comers.

I'd like to read a few of them as I believe these employees are spot on in understanding why 97 employees have been with Portland Aluminium for 20 years.

The first is from Jenny Tapscott who celebrating with us this evening.

*There are many reasons why I've stayed for 20 years – it's the culture, it's the Smelter in the Park and the emphasis on personal development. It's the growth, change and flexibility I've been able to enjoy over the years, but mostly it's the people.*

The second is from Ashley Burton.

*I have been here for almost three years now and think the best part about my role is the opportunity to make a difference. The business is moving in the right direction – people are positive and the feel of the place is positive. I believe I am helping with that. I hope I can contribute to strengthening the company.*

Portland Aluminium is a remarkable company.

And whether you're the Managing Director of Alcoa of Australia who started out as an engineer at Point Henry in 1979, or a site buyer who's been at Portland Aluminium from day one, or someone who's been here for three years, there is a shared pride in having worked here.

This pride is not only a reflection of the values of Alcoa, but it is also a testament to the City Of Portland.

Portland Aluminium is very much part of this town.

And this wouldn't have happened without the support of the Glenelg Shire and the Portland and wider community.

Alcoa of Australia recognises and values the relationship we have with the Portland and surrounding community.

Alcoa of Australia is proud of the support we have from the local community.

This pride has been the motivation behind the business and community success we have enjoyed over the last 20 years.

We are committed to the on going development and sustainability of this region and look forward to being here for the long term.

We can only do that with the best people – we thank you for the contribution you have made thus far and are proud to work with you towards a shared future.

Thank you.