

Alcoa World Alumina Australia is the global leader in alumina production and Australia's sixth largest resources sector exporter. Alcoa is an integrated business comprised of bauxite mining, alumina refining, aluminium smelting, rolling and canned sheet products, with operations in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales.

Partnering Stronger Communities Future Leaders Of Industry At Portland Aluminium

Alcoa strives to be the best company in the world and this starts with our people. Education and employment opportunities for youth go hand-in hand and Alcoa of Australia is committed to helping build stronger communities through supporting education initiatives both locally and across Australia.

Under the umbrella of our Partnering Stronger Communities program, Alcoa's Portland Aluminium "Future Leaders of Industry" strategy brings together all of our educational partnerships and focuses on providing additional support to the local schools and educational institutions and developing programs that add value to the broader community.

Scholarships

A scholarship program has been developed at Alcoa Portland Aluminium to provide opportunities for young people to engage in education, employment and training activities within the local community. The aim of the program is to help them identify potential pathways with regards to schooling and careers in the local and regional area. We hope this will assist them to develop their employability skills for the future.

In the scholarship scheme twelve students in Years 10 – 12 who are aged between 15 and 18 and who are studying at each of the Portland and District Secondary Schools will be awarded scholarships. These scholarships are comprised of \$500 to be held in trust by the recipients' schools and used to assist in schooling needs such as purchasing study aides i.e. text books computers etc, tuition fees or anything that the students feel will be of a benefit to them in their studies. Scholarship recipients will also be introduced to various aspects of industry through structured events each term, aimed at providing insight into how industry operates. These events include: an information day combining inductions, presentations and a tour of the operations, a mentoring day where students are matched with Portland Aluminium employees and participate in activities, meetings and other related aspects in their field of interest, presentation skills development, industry awareness networking night where participants get to meet with other industry representatives from the community to gauge an understanding of what local career paths are offered and a study day where students are addressed by local university, TAFE and job network representatives about study options and career choices.

Work Experience

Alcoa Portland Aluminium has developed a work experience program for Portland and Heywood secondary school students with the intent of fostering the capacity of local young people in the Glenelg Shire and to raise awareness about available career paths within industry and to aid in “growing our own” professional and skilled people.

The program aims to give secondary school aged students (predominantly in year 10) a week of valuable, meaningful supervised work experience in relevant areas of Portland Aluminium.

Strategic Education Partnership

Providing high quality education is an important community issue everywhere but even more so in regional areas. Portland and District schools are supported by Portland Aluminium through the Strategic Education Partnership, run in conjunction with the Portland and District Principals’ Association.

This initiative sees each of the district’s 11 primary schools and 3 secondary colleges supported over a three-year period. On top of funding, this support includes employees acting as key-note speakers for schools who take part in Australian Business Week, employees acting as mentors for scholarship recipients and the Young Achievement Australia Business Skills program, as well as employees volunteering their time and expertise to the schools in many ways, for example electrical trades people have given their time to check and tag all electrical cords and appliances in compliance with Australian standards when schools have needed to renew this procedure.

The Strategic Education Partnership provides opportunities for student development and learning and skills for the future outside the normal curriculum and funding submissions must fall under one or more of the following criteria:

- conservation and land management
- safe and healthy children and families
- sustainable communities
- global education and workplace skills

An example is the construction of a sensory garden at Bundarra Primary School where students can go to take “time out” and study among nature, in a peaceful and invigorating environment.

Sustainability in Schools

Alcoa Portland Aluminium invited nine key local environmental organisations to assist in the development of the Portland & District ‘Sustainability in Schools Network’. This program assists schools in the Portland region to become sustainable, by providing sponsorship, mentoring opportunities, learning resources and in-kind support. The program is designed around the EcoRecycle Victoria ‘Waste Wise’ program and is themed: Sustainability - Linking Environment, Community and Education.

The aim of the program is to educate primary school students around the importance of the environment and the key roles that they can play into the future.

Two schools per year are awarded a place in the sponsored twelve month program, with the intent of having all schools in the Portland District go through the program within the next five years.

Portland South and Portland North Primary schools were the successful applicants in 2005, with Portland South gaining accreditation as a waste wise school from EcoRecycle Victoria and Portland North getting close to being accredited as a Land for Wildlife property. Bundarra and Bolwarra Primary schools will be participating in 2006 and aiming for similar accreditations.

Environmental Education Resource Kit for Primary Schools

Alcoa's Portland operations were instrumental in bringing together fifteen local environmental organisations from South West Victoria, to develop a comprehensive local environmental curriculum resource kit for the region's primary school educators. Called the Environmental Education in the South West Resource Kit, the CD Rom contains around fifty environmental education units suitable for levels two to six.

Units are grouped into themes; habitat, flora, fauna, coastal capers, biodiversity, sustainability, catchments, waste wise, land learn, and conservation. Many units encompass classroom study, whilst others provide opportunities for field trips and outdoor education. To ensure the integrity of the finished product, each organisation worked with and gained assistance from various educators and educational resources to followed Victorian curriculum standards.

The original version of the CD was sent out to approximately 50 primary schools in the southwest in 2003. The CD has since been updated and a website has been created, with additional partners joining the consortium. Version two was launched in June 2005 and is available in hard copy and on the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's EnviroNet website www.environet.glenelg-hopkins.vic.gov.au

Natural Resource Management Courses for Secondary Schools

Education is one of the keys to achieving sustainability. With this in mind, Portland Aluminium in partnership with the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, South West TAFE, Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning Network, and the Portland and Hamilton Secondary School clusters, have provided an opportunity to enhance the range of study opportunities for secondary students with the introduction of a VET subject in Conservation and Land Management.

Alcoa of Australia's Landcare initiative provided financial support to subsidise student course fees and enhance the practical component of the course. The Level II Conservation and Land Management course commences in 2006 and will provide students with a solid foundation in the basic principles of Natural Resource Management and the career opportunities associated with these skills and training. It will also engage community business partners such as Greening Australia, Portland Field Naturalists, Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria as work place providers and mentors.

K.I.D.S. Foundation:

WorkSafe K.I.D.S. School Safety Clubs

The Alcoa Foundation has provided a grant to K.I.D.S (Kids in Dangerous Situations) Foundation to support a nationally recognised school safety program which aims to reduce the number of preventable injuries to children. The K.I.D.S. Foundation is a unique registered charitable organisation which was established in 1993 to provide programs and services for injury prevention and recovery for children.

A series of Alcoa Field Days are being held throughout communities in each Alcoa region to actively engage schools in an educational, informative and activity-based day focused on safety. Participating schools have the opportunity to develop school safety clubs under the guidance of K.I.D.S. Foundation educational officers, Alcoa and other community service providers including SES, Police, Surf Life Saving Clubs and local CFA groups. In addition to this Alcoa's Victorian Operations, including Alcoa Portland Aluminium, Point Henry Smelter and Anglesea Power Station have provided additional funding to sponsor the K.I.D.S. Foundation Alcoa Safety Caravan, an interactive travelling classroom which will visit each location as well as schools throughout Victoria and further enhance the program.

Four Portland Schools have registered Safety Clubs, the clubs are ran by the students, who are sponsored by contact visits from K.I.D.S. Foundation education officers as well as support from the teaching staff, parents and Portland Aluminium. Students work to implement new behaviours and initiatives around safety in their schools, while building and developing their skills as leaders.

Over the next three years it is envisaged that all Portland cluster primary schools will be registered WorkSafe KIDS Safety Clubs.

Young Achievement Australia

Alcoa Portland Aluminium is a partner in the Young Achievement Australia Business Skills Program. In addition to providing financial support to run the program in the Portland area Alcoa Portland Aluminium employees act as mentors, guiding the secondary school student participants through the process of creating, running and then dissolving a business throughout a twenty four week period

In 2005 the YAA group, made up of six secondary school students, "Zebyalah", are producing "jox" - quality girls and ladies underwear emblazoned with individual slogans. The students have been involved in all aspects of the business, from selling shares, documenting financial transactions and running meetings, through to quality control, production and marketing. A highlight of the program is the Melbourne Trade Fare where participants have the opportunity to showcase their product in a professional environment. At this years Trade Fare, out of a possible thirty nine groups entered, Zebyalah took home an award for their marketing campaign.

Education Events and Tours

Alcoa Portland Aluminium is an annual partner and provides sponsorship and support for several local festivals and education days. Some of these events include:

- Fun 4 Kids
- Kidzstuff Festival
- Portland Bay Festival
- National Water Week
- Australian Business Week

In addition Alcoa Portland Aluminium hosts two major environmental education events each year:

- United Nations' World Environment Day, which enables us to bring together local primary school students and community partners to share and experience environmental learning. Up to 350 students attend and participate in many exciting environmental activities and are also supplied with a healthy lunch in waste wise packaging.
- Planet Ark's National School Tree Day is facilitated by Portland Aluminium in partnership with local branches of Wannon Water, Greening Australia, Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria. Groups of students from each of the districts primary schools come together to plant trees and shrubs on a selected site. As well as tree planting, students are also engaged in environmental educational activities on the day.

Alcoa Portland Aluminium has an Education Centre at its Salmon House Facility and also boasts an environmental trail where students can enjoy a range of environmental educational activities. Alcoa Portland Aluminium has a team of environmental consultants and a tour guide who can facilitate activities and host tours of our operations. For more information on school education tours please contact Lyndelle Hampshire, Education Officer on 03) 5521 5509 or lyndelle.hampshire@alcoa.com.au.

Other examples of our recent support for schools in the Portland and District include:

- Portland Primary School Young Leaders Conference
- Rotary and TAFE Industry Awareness Expo
- Portland and Heywood Pre-school Sun Smart Program
- Heywood Kindergarten Shade Protection System
- Portland Secondary College Community Dreaming Program
- Portland South Primary School Friend Shop
- Heywood Secondary College Sports Oval Refurbishment
- Portland Secondary College Weed Identification Brochure
- Innovation and Excellence Cluster Youth Leaders Conference
- Portland Secondary College Healthy Breakfast Program
- Bayview College Science Room – Fume Extraction Equipment

All requests over \$500 are reviewed by Alcoa Portland Aluminium's Community Support Team (PACS). The group, who act as ambassadors for the business, is made up of a broad cross section of employees including management, departmental employees and smelter operators who regularly meet to discuss sponsorships, partnerships, and employee volunteering initiatives.

For more information on how and when to apply for support, and the guidelines and criteria for successful support go to: http://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/info_page/PA_Community_Partnerships.asp.

For more information please contact:

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