



Twenty-year gift is a spirited symbol

By AMI HUMPAGE

THE future expansion of the Portland Aluminium smelter was hinted at during a special presentation on Thursday to commemorate the smelter's 20 years in the Portland community.

The gift of a five-metre-high aluminium sculpture, entitled "Spirit of the Albatross", was made to the Portland community to mark the anniversary.

Created by Ron Gomboc, and inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Rime of the Ancient Mariner, the sculpture symbolises an albatross (the guardian of all mariners) flying from a shipwreck after being shot with an arrow by an unfortunate mariner.

The sculpture was originally built for the Sculptures By the Sea exhibition, in Western Australia, using materials sponsored by Alcoa. It was ultimately purchased by the company as a gift for the Portland community.

Alcoa global chief executive officer Alain

Belda attended the presentation, where he said the sculpture was a symbol of Portland's past and future.

He said PA was recognised world wide as a bench mark for industry and Alcoa was committed to trying to expand the smelter in Portland.

Glenelg Shire mayor Frank Zeigler accepted the sculpture on behalf of the community, saying it was a great gift that would be a part of the community for many years to come.

He was also pleased to hear Mr Belda's comments, saying that he and the entire community were also looking forward to the future expansion of PA.

Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker and Member for South West Coast Denis Napthine were also present.

According to Mr Gomboc, it is hoped the sculpture will be permanently displayed outside of the Portland Maritime Discovery Centre.



PORTLAND Aluminium operations manager John Osborne, Alcoa global chief executive officer Alain Belda and sculptor Ron Gomboc present the Portland community with a five metre high aluminium sculpture, "Spirit of the Albatross" as gift, marking 20 years of PA in Portland. Picture: EBONY GARNER

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