

# Aussie BRICKLAYER

Bricklayer & Apprentice  
Makes good business sense

NEW SOUTH WALES

May 2010

## Breaking News – Federal Gov't Reintroduces Kickstart Bonus

The great news for the construction industry, from the Federal Budget, was the announcement of a new round of Kickstart incentives for employing apprentices.

Between 12 May 2010 and 12 November 2010 (inclusive), the Australian Government will provide a \$3,350 Apprentice Kickstart Extension. This will apply for small or medium enterprises including Group Training Organisations, who take on an apprentice aged 19 years and under, into a traditional trade.

ABBTF is also extending its \$2,000 Brickstart Bonus launched in NSW after the first round of Kickstart finished. This means employers of newly commenced apprentices may claim both the Kickstart AND Brickstart incentives.

Brickstart has no age restriction so anyone regardless of age who signs on a new apprentice will get Brickstart and if that apprentice is under 19 they will get both. Both incentives will finish on 12 November, 2010.

We urge eligible employers to take on bricklaying apprentices and get a total benefit of \$15,350 which includes the normal ABBTF \$6,000 subsidy and the Federal Government's \$4,000 grant for employing apprentices still apply.

The combined ABBTF and Government support is the best ever offered to bricklayers. The funding is also a great incentive to train an apprentice in that all important first year as the funding pays for half the cost of the apprentice.

It's a great time to take on apprentices and improve your productivity. If you have any questions regarding Kickstart and Brickstart incentives please contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96 or email [admin.abbtf@ozemail.com.au](mailto:admin.abbtf@ozemail.com.au)

## Lester Wins Gold at WorldSkills in Brisbane 2010



NSW bricklayer Lester Tibbles has won the bricklaying competition at the 2010 National WorldSkills competition held in Brisbane this month.

Lester won the Gold Medal, by a whisker, from the Tasmanian apprentice Ben Barratt with Daniel Dovern from the Illawarra taking out the Bronze Medal. Daniel is now self employed, having completed his apprenticeship with City Brick at Wollongong, he trained at Illawarra TAFE.



*Daniel Dovern pictured laying bricks with The Hon. Julia Gillard MP at a previous event*

Lester also won the speed test bricklaying component of the competition making him the Gun Trowel. He was presented with the ABBTF Gun Trowel trophy.

It is interesting to note that Lester comes from Crookwell and works for Bill Searle who was also Nigel Croke's employer when he won the Gold Medal at the last WorldSkills. As both Lester and Nigel come from Crookwell we are wondering if there is "anything in the water" in that town.

ABBTF were major sponsors of the bricklaying event and managers David Gill (NSW) and Tony Bishop (Qld.) assisted in the judging.

Troy Everett, organiser of the bricklaying competition said "This is a big event showcasing the best of apprentices in many industries and the bricklaying competition is a keenly fought contest with some amazing brickwork to be seen.

Other bricklaying representatives from NSW were Rhys Scott from Wagga Wagga and Mark Henry, from the Mid North Coast. Rhys gave credit to his boss Daniel at GTES and Glen Kilpatrick at Riverina TAFE. Mark works for Peter Holt and Craig Taylor Bricklaying and also thanked Paul Venn at Coffs Harbour for his extra training.

Geoff Noble ABBTF's general manager said, "It gives our best and brightest young apprentices a chance to compete at a national level. WorldSkills clearly demonstrates that bricklaying is a real craft and ranks high as a trade in the construction industry.

"Each year we see so many great young people, a new breed of professionals with the right attitude, coming through the ranks of the competition. I am predicting many of them will be future leaders in the construction industry - with bricklaying their passport to success. We were very impressed by the demeanor of the contestants and their attitude to their work," Geoff Noble continued.

Geoff Noble paid tribute to the TAFE trainers and employers who work closely with the contestants to help them reach competition level.

"The organiser of the bricklaying competition, Troy Everett, deserves his own medal for the enormous amount of planning and coordination of the event which has set the standard for other trades at WorldSkills.

"Troy will put Lester through an intense training program to ensure he is ready to step up to the International WorldSkills competition in London," Geoff concluded.

## Bricklaying wins Green Award at WorldSkills

Bricklaying has won the WorldSkills environmental award from more than 40 competing apprenticeship categories.

The judges discussed and observed the environmental improvements that had been made in the skill area compared with previous years.

Troy Everett, chief judge of bricklaying, said there was a strong focus on environmental considerations such as recycling water, reuse of off-cuts, tidy work areas and recycling bricks for community projects and other training. There was no waste water that entered any drainage system at all at the WorldSkills venue.

This is a great achievement for the group and the trade of bricklaying.



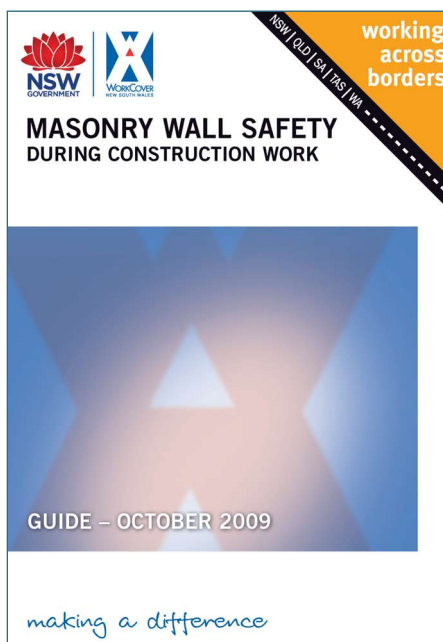
Troy Everett receiving the ARUP Outstanding Leadership in Showcasing Skills and Sustainability Award (Green Award) from Cathy Crawley

## Brace Yourself for Safety Says MCA

The Masonry Contractors Association (MCA) is proud of its acknowledgement in the NSW Workcover Masonry Wall Safety During Construction Work booklet.

The booklet released in October 09 was created by Workcover NSW after various consultations with different companies working bodies and two positive workshops with the MCA in which bricklayers were invited for their input and advice across the state.

The booklet is a 16 page glove box friendly document which gives practical guidelines to the safe bracing of masonry during constructions. The publication is a must for any bricklayer working in the field to protect his work and his workers.



Those who want to see a digital copy can go to the internet and Google pages from Australia "masonry wall safety".

The MCA currently have a few copies on hand if you would like one mailed to you, ring John White on 0418 632 225 to request one.

## Avatar Star was a Brickie!

Sam Worthington, the star of the blockbuster movie Avatar, was a bricklayer. Sam, originally from WA, spent some time working on site as a bricklayer in Queensland.

While bricklaying does provide a career path in construction and other industries, we never thought it would lead to Hollywood stardom.

## Builders – Are Your Contractors Supported?

ABBTF are supporting many employers of apprentices in NSW to train the next generation of bricklayers.

To assist builders in this succession plan we need to know your contractors who may have an apprentice and may not be aware of our \$6,000 subsidy plus the \$2,000 Brickstart bonus. For those without an apprentice, we need to promote the benefits and our support for hiring an apprentice bricklayer.

Your advice will ensure that the ABBTF training subsidy is working for you and the building and construction industry in NSW.

## Deadlines for Claiming Subsidies

ABBTF apprentice subsidies to bricklayers have proved to be a great success in generating growth in apprentice numbers. However a number of employers are at risk of missing out on their subsidies by registering and claiming their apprentices too late.

Bricklayers directly employing apprentices should be aware of the following deadlines for claiming subsidies –

1. Registration of apprentices: **6 months** from the date of indenture or signing as a recommencement.
2. Claim for annual subsidy: **3 months** after completion of each year.

## New Look for ABBTF

Our newsletter "Aussie Bricklayer" has been redesigned and renamed to focus on the bricklaying trade. Our aim is to lift the image of bricklaying, promote the benefits of training and make the industry aware that putting on an apprentice "makes good business sense". We hope you continue to enjoy the articles in our newsletters to come.

