

Aussie BRICKLAYER

Bricklayer & Apprentice
Makes good business sense

QUEENSLAND

November 2010

Carr Family's Dynasty of Bricklaying



L-R: Graham Carr, Peter Carr and Jeff Carr

The Carr family dynasty of bricklayers involving grandsons, nephews, uncles and cousins has been building in Queensland for over 87 years.

It started with Tommy Carr who was a bricklayer for 40 years followed by his son Gilly for another 40 years.

Today Jeff Carr, Gilly's first cousin (once removed) is still working his own gang at 55 years of age. He started bricklaying with his Uncle Gilly and has been laying bricks for a total of 41 years.

John Carr did his time with Grandpa Tommy Carr and was in bricklaying for 40 years and worked for Jeff as well.

Then there is Graham Carr, Gilly's cousin (also once removed) who ran Gilly's gang and is still working with Jeff Carr at 65 years of age. He has been laying bricks for over 51 years.

Finally, there is Peter Carr, Graham and Jeff's first cousin (yes once removed!) who has ten years bricklaying experience and did his time as an apprentice with Jeff Carr. Peter, who has been featured

in this newsletter before when he received a prestigious award, is a bricklaying trainer with Central Queensland TAFE at the Rockhampton campus.

When asked what the significant changes were in their time, Graham said "Unloading bricks by machine...we used to unload bricks by hand 2,000 on one truck in the morning and 2,500 bricks in the afternoon. They were stacked with straw between rows to keep them from chipping."

According to Jeff profiles and brick saws were the biggest change. "We used to have to build all the corners freehand, four courses at a time".

They both agreed the best thing about bricklaying was, "The achievement of having created something that stood for a long time."

We estimate that the Carr family has laid over 20 million bricks and all of them laid to a line, level and plumb.

Now that's a bricklaying dynasty for you!

A FOG of a Careers Expo

On 15 September at the Former Origin Greats (FOGs) Careers Expo in Brisbane, the Federal Minister Mark Arbib laid bricks at our 'try a trade' stand. Origin greats Alan Langer and Gene Miles tested their skills with bricklaying at the ABBTF stand, giving us a huge 'rap'.

"During the Expo three ABBTF staff were on hand, but with the numbers in attendance, we found it difficult to keep up with all the interest being shown," said Tony Bishop, Queensland Manager for ABBTF. It was by far the most hectic we have been at an Expo in years," added Tony.

"Apart from 'King Wally', the first ever Queensland State of Origin captain, Arthur Beetson, the greatest ever centre Gene Miles, the best hooker Steve Walters and greatest fullback, and Gary Belcher all attended," Tony added.



Gene Miles at the FOGS Expo

"For the young men and women with an interest in becoming bricklayers, we gave them all the opportunity to create their very own brick walls and other more fancy structures.

"Over 3,500 indigenous job seekers and school leavers flocked to the event and it was a great success for ABBTF and the industry," Tony concluded.

Brickstart Bonus Extended to March 2011

We are pleased to announce that the special ABBTF Brickstart Bonus of \$2,000 will be extended until 31 March 2011 due to its success in increasing bricklaying apprenticeship numbers since its introduction.

The Brickstart Bonus was planned to finish on 12 November in line with the end of the Federal Government's Kickstart Extension. The Government has not extended its incentive however, ABBTF has continued its support in recognition of the timing of school leavers looking to start an apprenticeship.

Brickstart Bonus was started to supplement Federal Government subsidies and the regular \$6,000 ABBTF Brickstart incentive. ABBTF is now funding around 89% of bricklaying apprentices in Qld. This support clearly demonstrates the ABBTF commitment to the construction industry.

The Brickstart Bonus conditions have not changed and employers should contact ABBTF to register for the incentive on 1300 66 44 96 or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

GTO's - A Great Option for Bricklayers

Bricklayers should consider the benefits of hiring an apprentice through a Group Training Organisation (GTO), if they are uncertain about future work.

Benefits of using a GTO include receiving the ABBTF apprentice employment subsidies of \$8,000 over three years. The benefit is passed onto the employer through a reduced charge out rate from the GTO.

ABBTF has partnerships with GTO's who take responsibility for all paperwork related to apprentice pay and conditions. For a list of Queensland GTO's who offer ABBTF subsidies contact us on 1300 66 44 96 or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

Vale - Steve Hornery

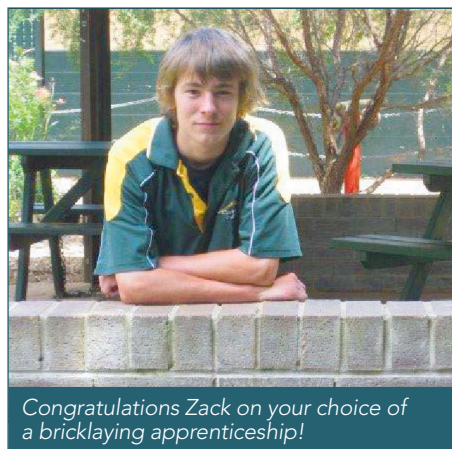
It is with sadness we report the passing of Steve Hornery, a real friend of the construction industry and more importantly the bricklaying fraternity. Though he was a very proud Novocastrian he was always willing to assist the bricklaying industry in any state and was a regular visitor to Queensland to assist in the running of Regional and National WorldSkills finals.

Step Out at Centenary Heights Hits the Mark

Queensland ABBTF Manager Tony Bishop recently received the following letter following a Step Out Program at Centenary Heights State High School Toowoomba.

"Thanks again for another great program. Steve and Val (Manley) ran the program and did a wonderful job.

Steve contacted a few bricklayers while he was in Toowoomba and recommended some boys. I am pleased to say that one of the boys, Zack Glozier, has been signed up as a School-Based Apprentice.



His employer, Damien Schurmann, is very keen to have Zack go full-time at the end of the year. We will try to get more employed. We are so proud of the students. Thanks once again for your support. Tim Ryan."

ATO Benchmarks for Bricklayers

The Australian Taxation Office has released a new range of small business benchmarks to promote a level playing field for bricklayers.

The performance benchmarks can help bricklayers to compare their business performance to bricklaying businesses of a similar size. This can assist businesses to see how they can improve their profitability.

Bricklayers can also use the benchmarks to check that they are on the right path with their tax obligations, particularly in relation to cash income, with the opportunity to adjust things if required.

More information, including access to the small business benchmarks, is available on the Tax Office website www.ato.gov.au/business_benchmarks or call 13 28 66.

New ABBTF Website Launched



A new website has been launched by ABBTF as part of a complete redesign of our marketing and communications program.

www.becomeabricklayer.com.au has been redesigned to make it more attractive and informative for those seeking a career as a bricklayer or blocklayer.

Geoff Noble, ABBTF's general manager, said that following a review of its operational and marketing strategies, the decision was made to redesign the website.

"The website makes it much easier for young people to find out about a career in brick and blocklaying. The site is easy to navigate, explains what a bricklayer does and what makes a good bricklayer. It points out all the good reasons for becoming a bricklayer, said Geoff Noble.

"We are excited about the new website which also details how to get qualified as a bricklayer, the best sources of information and the incentives available. You can read the ABBTF's State newsletters and media releases on the site as well.

"Visitors to the site can read about the many success stories where bricklayers have gone on to become builders, construction executives and leaders in the construction field.

"There is a section for employers which explains why it makes good business sense to take on an apprentice, the incentives available and other handy information," Geoff concluded.

If you are looking for information about the structure and purpose of the ABBTF and its strategies, you can go to another website www.abbtbf.com.au. This website explains who we are, the brick and block companies we represent and our strategies to address the skill shortage in bricklaying.

National REPORT



Operating results for 2009/2010

During the year to June 2010 Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTf) achieved the following:

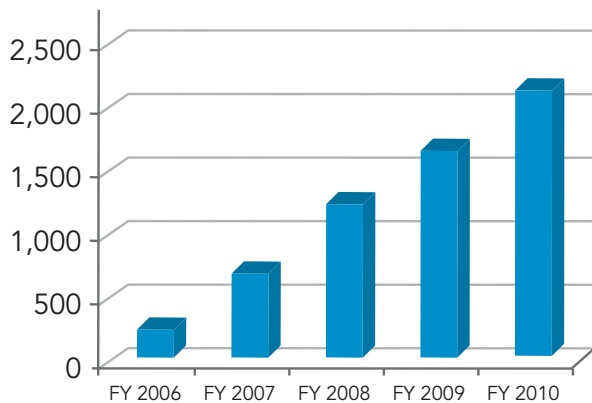
- Increased the number of supported apprentices by subsidies to their employers based on satisfactory training outcomes. The number has increased to 2,144 which is 34% higher than 2009.
- Introduction of new Brickstart bonus to employers in year one in some states as a short term promotion to boost apprentice commencements.
- Support for mature aged apprentices or their employers to overcome their financial disadvantage.
- More than 2,400 secondary students participated in ABBTf Step Out Programs to gain hands-on experience in bricklaying.
- Support for pre-entry training in bricklaying which saw 950 enrolments in preparation for an apprenticeship.
- Deployment of three field representatives across QLD, NSW and WA and two promotional Try a Trade vans to improve our coverage and influence with potential employers, school students and careers expos.
- Extension of the regional travel allowance to apprentices to more states to overcome the disadvantage of distance from training centres.
- Introduced financial support for existing workers to have their bricklaying skills assessed and recognised, to enable completion of gap training to achieve a qualification in bricklaying.
- Support and involvement in events at regional and national levels to promote high achievers and excellence in bricklaying including WorldSkills, Golden Trowel and Brick Masterclass.
- Initiate collaborative meetings of TAFE training personnel for validation of the new training package, resource sharing and receiving ABBTf and industry information.
- Creation of new marketing image and logo to focus on the separate targets of the potential apprentice and to the bricklayer as the employer.
- A new website to attract young people into bricklaying.
- Publication of 18 editions of newsletters which have been revamped to target bricklayers and industry stakeholders.
- Attendance at 134 career events and promotions to encourage young people into the trade.

Operating Results	2009/10 No.s	2008/09 No.s	Financial Results	2009/10 \$000's	2008/09 \$000's
Apprentices Supported by ABBTf	2,144	1,628	Revenue	7,074	6,635
Mature Apprentices Supported	61	79	Total Expenditure	9,251	6,477
Apprentices in Training	2,776	2,641	Operating Surplus	(2,177)	158
Step Out Program Students	2,424	3,027	Training Reserve	2,247	4,424
App Regional Travel Support	30	0	App Subsidies to Employers	6,420	3,533
Pre-Apprenticeship Enrolments	950	635	Training Support	270	316
TAFE Colleges and RTO's	52	50	Step Out Program	730	747
Group Training Organisations	67	70	Promotion	742	790
Careers Events Attended	134	124	Development	650	649
Newsletter Mailing List	50,000	44,000	Administration	439	442

The full Statutory Annual Report will be available on the website or hardcopy on request.

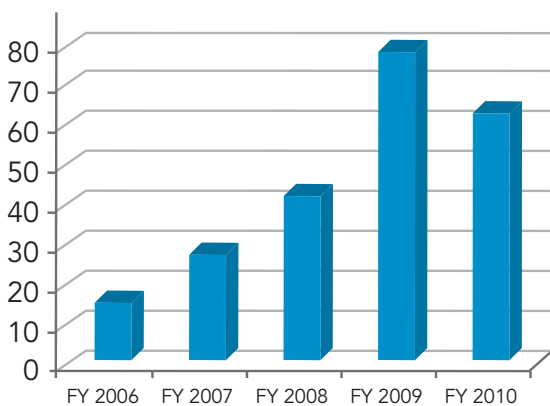
National Operating Results for 2009-2010

Supported Apprentices



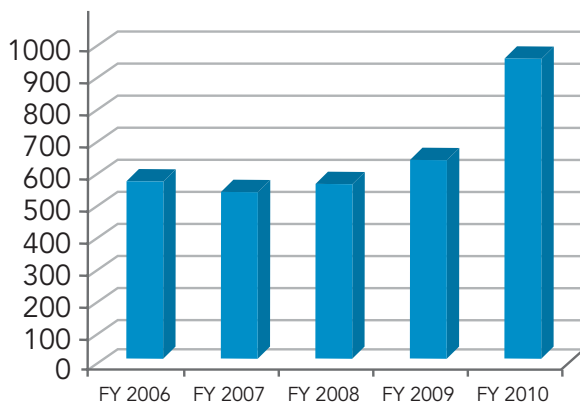
The strong growth in the number of subsidised apprentices has continued in the year to June 2010. ABBTF support has helped employers train and retain their apprentices.

Mature Age Support



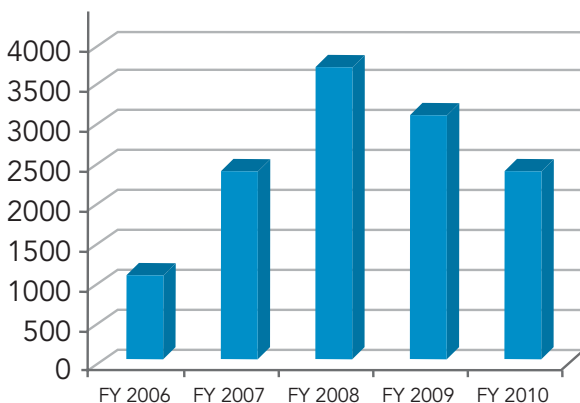
ABBTF supports apprentices over the age of 21 (23 in Victoria) with payments to overcome the financial disadvantage of apprentices in this older age group.

Pre-Entry Support



ABBTF support has helped encourage young people to complete bricklayer training in pre-apprenticeship or pre-vocational courses to make them work ready to start an apprenticeship.

Step Out Programs



The ABBTF Step Out Program has been a strong influence on career choices in construction. The one week hands-on taster has varied across regions to a shorter try-a-trade at careers events. More than 11,500 students have completed the schools bricklaying program over the past four years.

Apprentices Benefit From ABBTF Support

Kane Seidel and Brett Saroglia are two apprentices benefitting from ABBTF support. Both work for Tony Carmichael out of Proserpine under Hutchinson's Builders apprenticeship scheme.

Both Kane and Brett had completed Step Out Programs and pre-app training funded by ABBTF before starting their apprenticeships.

Their employer will receive ABBTF incentive support throughout their apprenticeships.

Kane and Brett are also receiving ABBTF's Apprentice Regional Travel Support (ARTS) to assist them to attend their TAFE College.

ABBTF Regional Travel Support is available to all apprentice bricklayers who have to travel more than 100 kms to attend a TAFE/RTO to undertake their trade training.

Contact ABBTF for information on ARTS and how to register on 1300 66 44 96 or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au



L-R: Brett Saroglia and Kane Seidel

Retirement for Larry Pinkerton & Eric Armstrong

Larry Pinkerton and Eric Armstrong have retired as teachers from Skills Tech. They taught bricklaying in Townsville and Brisbane. We wish Larry and Eric all the best in their retirement years. After more than 50 years service in trade training both Larry and Eric have left their mark on the industry.

However, both are not lost to the industry and will be assisting the ABBTF in various roles from time to time.

