

Become a

BRICKLAYER

.com.au

QUEENSLAND

FEBRUARY 2009

Newsletter of **ABBTF**
AUSTRALIAN BRICK & BLOCKLAYING
TRAINING FOUNDATION LIMITED

Overcoming Tough Times

Over the last few months the ABBTF has received calls from employers, whose workload is slowing down, concerned they will have to let their apprentices go as they see no other option.

In most cases this is not what employers want to do but feel they have no other option, when in fact there are ways to overcome the problem.

Here are a few options available to employers:

- The apprentice can be temporarily assigned to another employer for a maximum period of six months. At the end of the assignment, the apprentice must return to the original employer.
- You may be able to arrange for the apprentice to attend off the job training with the supervising registered training organisation on a full time basis during the slow period.
- The apprentice may be able to take annual leave during the slow period.
- The employer can apply for a temporary stand down of the apprenticeship or traineeship until your ability to train the apprentice improves.

Temporary stand down is essentially unpaid leave, and can also include employing for less than the full working week. The apprentice may also be able to do unrelated work during the stand down period. The maximum period of a stand down is 30 days.

For more information, see the information sheet on temporary stand down on the Apprenticeships Info website at: www.apprenticeshipsinfo.qld.gov.au or contact the Apprenticeships Info Service on 1800 210 210.

Scott Cam Speaks to Bricklayers

A radio campaign ran in January-February 2009 to attract good quality young people to bricklaying as well as tell contractors about the ABBTF subsidies available for signing on a new apprentice.



The familiar voice of Scott Cam, of television's Domestic Blitz program fame, has told bricklayers about the \$10,000 (\$6,000 from ABBTF and \$4,000 from the Federal Government) on offer for starting a new apprentice.

Scott said "you would be crazy not to put on an apprentice with such good support available."

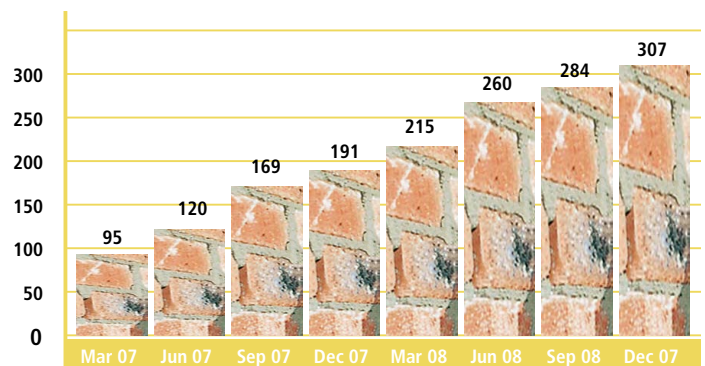
The campaign continues the ABBTF's strong promotional push to lift the image of bricklaying/blocklaying and encourage the recruitment of apprentices and was run in metropolitan and country areas throughout Queensland and North Queensland.

To listen to the commercials or for further information on apprenticeships or subsidies to bricklayers contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96, or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

More Bricklayers Supported by ABBTF

There is a growing number of brick and blocklayers receiving subsidy support from ABBTF for employing and training apprentices.

The graph below shows how numbers have grown since the scheme as introduced and is now over 300.



For more information on claiming apprentice subsidies visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au or call 1300 66 44 96.

New National Board Member

At the last AGM, Lawrie Dore of DJ Builders stood aside as an ABBTF national board member and was replaced by Alan Waldron the training manager for Hutchinson's builders.

Lawrie was the inaugural Queensland builder member of the board and took time out from running a very busy building company to attend board meetings, so we thank Lawrie for his contributions.

Alan is a fitting replacement as he not only manages the apprenticeship program for Hutchinson's he has many years experience in construction training with his last position being general manager of Construction Training Queensland.

Meet Peter Teveluwe Bricklaying Trainer

Bricklaying trainer Peter Teveluwe tells his story in his own words.

My name is Peter and I am currently facilitating the STEP OUT program as a bricklayer trainer. I am new to this program, but have done five high schools to date and have enjoyed showing the kids a little taste of what working with bricks is all about.



Peter with students at a Step Out Program held recently at Toowoomba

I have been bricklaying since 1975 when I started my apprenticeship at age 15, and have clocked up 33 years of work experience on the jobsite. I did my training on the Gold Coast, completing my four years in 1979. In 1978 I was awarded Apprentice of the Year for Bricklaying.

I became a bricklayer because I have four brothers, all bricklayers, so when I was at school I worked weekends for them and I enjoyed the outdoors environment.

In my time I have had seven apprentices and have helped five other boys get apprenticeships with my brothers.

“ If you put in the hard yards and produce quality brickwork for people, word of mouth is great advertising and the work will just flow in, along with the money. ”

The reason I stay in the trade is the thanks you get from people when you have completed their project and they are happy with the quality of your job, plus one of the best parts of being a bricklayer is the ability to earn some very good MONEY!!!!

If you put in the hard yards and produce quality brickwork for people, word of mouth is great advertising and the work will just flow in, along with the money.

Also being a tradie you are very mobile with your employment and I have traveled every state of Australia and worked my way around with jobs easy as pie to get. I have also travelled overseas with bricklaying, working in Holland, the UK in 1986/87 and would you believe Japan in 1998!

Last year I had the opportunity to do a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment. As I'm not getting any younger and looking for a challenge to improve my qualifications I jumped at the chance. I'm 48 years old now and I enjoy working with the young fella's who are thinking about doing a trade.

New ABBTF Regional Travel Support

The new Apprentice Regional Travel Support (ARTS) will be made available to all apprentice bricklayers currently in training who have to travel more than 100 kilometres to attend a TAFE or Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to undertake their trade training.

This support from ABBTF will allow an apprentice to claim \$50 per day for each day they attend their TAFE or RTO where they are required to stay overnight. Claims are paid each six months and are signed off by the relevant TAFE/RTO verifying their attendance.

The new travel support targets apprentices disadvantaged by the distance from their nearest TAFE, particularly in areas of North, Central and Western Queensland.

An Industry First Scholarship

The ABBTF is proud to announce scholarships of \$1000 for students who undertake school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs) Certificate III in Bricklaying/Block Laying while attending an Australian Technical College at Townsville, Gold Coast or Brisbane North. The scholarship will go towards a reduction in student's fees for the year.

A SAT allows high school students to work for an employer, train towards a recognised qualification and complete their secondary school studies.

SATs provide students with a chance to work towards an overall position score and can count towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. It also provides hands-on experience in a workplace and the opportunity to undertake paid work.

If you are an employer in one of these regions and you are interested to know more about the ATC you can give the ABBTF a call on 07 3205 1783 or 1300 66 44 96.

The Winners and Grinners



L-R Terry O'Hanlon-Rose of ATC, Barry Richardson and Tony Bishop of ABBTF



L-R Ash Turner with Jon Godby from Adbri

Both the Australian Technical College - North Brisbane and Gold Coast held their awards night late last year. The ABBTF sponsored the bricklaying category for both colleges.

The winners were Barry Richardson from ATC Brisbane North and Ash Turner from the Gold Coast. We congratulate the winners and all students doing their school based apprenticeship at all ATC's in Queensland.

If you are an employer in either of these regions or Townsville why not contact ABBTF and see the benefits of a school based apprentice.