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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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

## Noarlunga TAFE Find Career Options for Students

Dennis Nuttall, head bricklaying teacher TAFE SA at Noarlunga, reports on a successful Step Out Program (SOP) held at TAFE SA with the support of the ABBTF.

Last December we ran a Step Out Program here at Noarlunga, with seven students from four different schools based in the southern suburbs. They started off with building a small return corner and progressed with building a wall 2400mm in length and 10 courses high.

At the end of the course the students received a certificate of participation. The important point is they gained an insight into a real career option, as well as hands on experience within the bricklaying trade.

I think the timing of the course, at the start of the school holidays, kept the numbers down, but we still had a good outcome and we are delighted with the results!

We received a call from a school co-ordinator to say one of the students, who previously had problems attending school, had gained work experience resulting in him getting an apprenticeship in bricklaying.

Our numbers are high and looking good for the next semester. We are so grateful for the great assistance and sponsorship we receive from Geoff Noble and the ABBTF team.



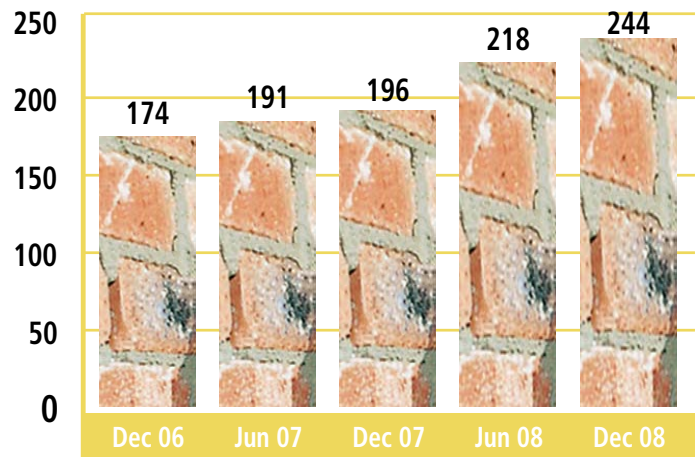
Dennis Nuttall (centre) with Noarlunga Step Out students

This support is having an impact here in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. Our numbers will continue to grow and so will our program.

## SA Apprentices in Training

Bricklaying apprentice numbers in South Australia continue to grow due to the excellent response to pre-vocational courses run by TAFE SA at Gilles Plains and Noarlunga and FCTA at Holden Hill.

Subsidy support for employers through ABBTF and CITB has also contributed to the increase. Apprentice numbers in training have increased by more than 40% in two years.



## Manufacturers Committed to the ABBTF Scheme

Clay brick and concrete masonry manufacturers are major contributors to ABBTF apprentice training schemes. Each company listed below provides a matching contribution to the levy on sales of \$2 per thousand for clay bricks and 10 cents per square metre for concrete masonry.

The purchase of products from these companies provides an important contribution to the scheme and industry is encouraged to choose clay bricks and concrete masonry products from these companies to ensure ongoing success of the scheme.

South Australian companies supporting the scheme are:

- Austral Bricks
- Adbri Masonry
- CSR Bricks & Pavers
- Boral Bricks
- Boral Masonry

## Step Out Program – Big Success for FCTA

When Flexible Construction Training Assessment (FCTA) conducted a Step Out Program (SOP) for the first time, late last year, great results were achieved. Of the ten participants on the five day course, four went on to take part in a three month pre-apprenticeship course.

Director of FCTA, Lorraine Baff, said the organisation was delighted with the results of the SOP which saw students from a variety of schools undertake bricklaying skills such as laying a straight line, building corners and working on profiles. "Of those four, one has already secured an apprenticeship in bricklaying, which is outstanding!



"His name is Wayne Gordon and he is employed by Peter Ruskin. The employer will be supported by the ABBTF's apprenticeship subsidy. Wayne immediately showed an aptitude for bricklaying and he deserves his apprenticeship.

"I love the ABBTF's SOP concept. It enables us to reach young school students

and show them a trade which is often more relevant to them than their school work. Even if they are disinterested at first, they quickly get involved in doing something practical with their hands and you see their faces light up.

"A SOP is a very good investment because you are attracting young people at a stage when they are weighing up various career opportunities and many would not have even thought about bricklaying as a career," said Lorraine.

"The pre-apprenticeship course is sponsored by the ABBTF and the CITB providing valuable support for bricklaying as a trade. This is very important for the provision of bricklaying skills for the future of the construction industry and both organisations should be congratulated.

Already FCTA are booked out for their SOP courses to be held in August and November this year indicating the popularity of these events.

"We are delighted we have the construction industry working together to recruit more bricklaying apprentices and build their skills quickly. The support of the ABBTF is very much appreciated".

## Jim Built His Reputation with "Bloody Beautiful Jobs"

Dimitrios, or "Jim the Brickie" as he is known around Adelaide, is a real character who has built a big reputation as a builder of big beautiful homes as the photos in this article clearly show.

Unlike other bricklayers we have interviewed, Jim does not come from a bricklaying family but he has always loved working outdoors and that's exactly what he gets from bricklaying.

"I really enjoy bricklaying and building beautiful new homes. It's my passion and my way of leaving my mark on the world.

As I drive around I see the homes I have built and it makes me feel very proud, particularly as they look so good," said Jim.



One of Jim's recent jobs – check that detail!

Jim moved to Australia from Greece when he was 16 and started bricklaying with Phillip Argeneo in Adelaide at the age of 19. Jim is now 60 but as fit as a Mallee bull. According to Jim and Lorraine Baff from FCTA, he could easily pass for 50!

"I have just had two apprentices, Alex Paspalini and Spiro Tsalavoutas, complete their training and I also have John, Spiro and Alex who won bricklayer of the year. I have recently found out about the ABBTF's subsidy scheme for employers, and I am thinking of putting on another apprentice soon.

Jim was asked, what are the most important attributes of a good bricklayer? "I think you definitely have to have pride in your work. The job needs to be professionally finished so when you see it later, as you move around the suburbs you can say to yourself, I did that brickwork, with real pride.



L-R: Alex Paspalini, Jim (Dimitrios) Tsalavoutas, John Tsalavoutas and Spiro Tsalavoutas

"Bricklaying is a good career for young people to take on if they have the right attitude and care about their work and the quality of their craft."

## Horbury Hunt Award

The Horbury Hunt Award recognises excellence and innovation in brick craftsmanship and acknowledges the role architects, designers, landscape designers, builders, masonry contractors and brick manufacturers play in achieving that excellence and innovation in built projects.

If you have been involved in a project that demonstrates excellent brick craftsmanship that has been completed over the past two years, visit [www.horburyhunt.com.au](http://www.horburyhunt.com.au) to nominate the project. Awards are announced at About Face (the industry awards night), held in Sydney in September.