

# TASMANIA NEWSLETTER

## ABBTF

AUSTRALIAN BRICK & BLOCKLAYING  
TRAINING FOUNDATION LIMITED

## June 2008

### Apprentice Numbers Grow

TAFE Tasmania have seen their apprentice enrolment numbers in bricklaying grow at their Hobart Campus.

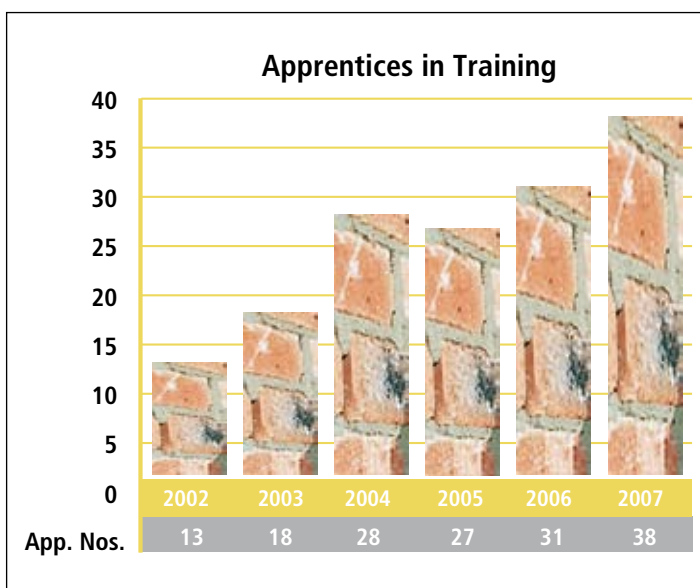
Bill Vince, Team Leader - Building & Construction, Hobart TAFE said "first year numbers are the best for many years and we expect that with good tuition and mentoring from their employers the apprentices should complete their training and add their skills to the workforce in Tasmania".

17 new apprentices started their training during 2007 and a record total 38 were in training at the end of the year.

This growth is a good sign for the industry and shows that bricklayers are responding positively to the ABBTF efforts to promote trade training and sign on new apprentices.

The employment support provided to bricklayers by ABBTF has made apprentices more affordable and encourages them to ensure the apprentice completes each year level.

ABBTF subsidy is \$6,000 over three years and when added to the TBCITB support of \$8,000 and Federal Government funding of \$4,000 provides a total incentive of \$18,000 to take on an apprentice.



### Students Build a Future

Secondary school students throughout Tasmania have had a hands on experience in bricklaying courtesy of ABBTF.

This "Step Out Program" is an ABBTF funded initiative and receives assistance in the form of personnel from the Housing Industry Association (HIA) and Skills Tasmania.

Approximately 170 students from 22 schools at Year 10 level have spent a week learning about the trade and constructing a permanent project at their school. Projects include a BBQ, garden walls, outdoor seating, garden hot house and a storage compound.

The response to the program has been overwhelming with students gaining skills, direction, self esteem and the satisfaction of building a brick structure.

All schools involved in the program have commented on the enthusiasm and maturity of their students in building the project. A number of students who may have struggled with academic subjects found their niche and grew in confidence with a trowel in their hand.

The program aims to give students a hands on experience to enable them to make an informed decision about starting in the trade. Some students were very keen and have already started an apprenticeship in bricklaying.



Step Out Program for grade 9 and 10 students at Exeter High School constructing a shade house on the school farm.



The first Step Out Program in Tasmania was run at Claremont High School.

## Manufacturers Committed to Apprenticeship Scheme

Clay brick and concrete masonry manufacturers are major contributors to ABBTF apprentice training schemes. Each company listed below provides a matching contribution to their customers \$2 levy on product sales.

Builders throughout Tasmania are now starting to see the benefits coming from their contribution to the scheme in terms of higher apprentice training numbers.

This investment is significant in funding ABBTF strategies, such as promotional Step Out Programs in schools throughout Tasmania and subsidies to bricklaying employers taking on new apprentices. Manufacturers are committed to further growth in apprentice bricklayer numbers across Tasmania.

The purchase of product from these companies provides support for this important growth and industry is encouraged to choose bricks and blocks from these suppliers to ensure the ongoing success of the scheme.

### Tasmanian contributors:

- Austral Bricks
- K & D Bricks & Pavers
- Hanson Masonry
- Island Block & Paving
- Tasco Bricks, Blocks & Pavers

## Pre-Apprenticeship Training

For the first time in many years TAFE Tasmania is running a pre-apprenticeship course in bricklaying. The course starts on 28 July 2008 in Hobart. ABBTF are supporting the new course and are keen to give people up front training to make them work ready in the spring.

There has been a good response to the course with people from across the state applying to enrol.

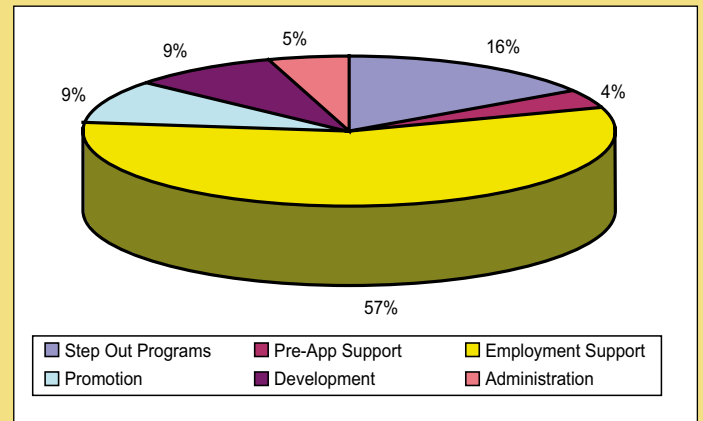
Bricklaying contractors have said they will be involved in the on site work component of the course and will be keen to pick up a new apprentice at the end of the training.

## Where the Money Goes

The ABBTF apprenticeship schemes are jointly funded by brick and block companies and their customers by a levy of \$2 per thousand clay bricks and 10 cents per square metre in the wall for concrete masonry.

All funds raised in Tasmania are spent in Tasmania to address the skill shortage in bricklaying. The biggest investment is the apprentice subsidy incentive where a bricklayer taking on a new apprentice can recover \$6,000 from ABBTF to assist training time and make the apprentice more affordable. This support represents 57% of total spending.

A break up of where the money goes is shown in the pie chart below.



## Bricklayers Have Their Say

A recent survey of bricklaying contractors has seen a positive response to training and put up some good ideas to improve apprentice numbers.

The survey was conducted by the TBCITB in conjunction with ABBTF.

Bricklayers said they would like to see:

- A pre employment training program for students to get them job ready before they start as apprentices
- The training should include both on and off the job components
- On going financial support for employers of apprentices from ABBTF and TBCITB
- An improvement in the take up of bricklaying apprentices
- Financial support for apprentices
- More encouragement in schools
- Promote bricklaying as a good lifestyle
- Teach potential bricklayers pride in their trade
- Potential bricklayers should have a passion to learn
- Employ people who are strong enough to do the work
- Tell potential bricklayers what can be achieved financially
- The need to be aware of the job satisfaction that goes with being involved in various projects
- Apprentices should be employed on all Government sites
- Bricklaying contractors need to be paid adequately to cover apprentice employment and training costs.