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

Darrel Lillico – 40 Years of Bricklaying and Helping Apprentices

Launceston bricklayer Darrel Lillico was 16 years of age when he started as an apprentice. "After completing my apprenticeship, I went out on my own, and have been working for myself ever since, 40 years of bricklaying!" said Darrel.

He believes the Step Out Programs have been a good learning curve for students at the schools and gives the kids the opportunity to see what it might be like as a bricklayer.



1st Year Apprentice Andrew Gleeson

"One apprentice, Andrew Gleeson, who started his apprenticeship this year, came through one of programs, where his skill and ability was recognised immediately.

"We employ six apprentices - Nathan Breward completes his apprenticeship this

month, Luke Dyson and Ashley Stones have just started third year. Mitchell Stewart, who we have just signed on, is in his second year. I discovered him at TAFE and he was out of work, so I signed him on. We also have Isaac Auton, in his second year and Andrew Gleeson in his first year.



Lillico Apprentices Christian Beaver, Luke Dyson, Ashley Stones, Mitch Stewart and Nathan Breward pictured with Darrel Lillico (far right) and Chris Lillico (seated)

"The ABBTF subsidy certainly helps with the employing of apprentices and would be a factor in the decision making process on whether I put on another apprentice or find someone already qualified. It is quite difficult to recruit quality tradesmen, to the standard I ask for, so training our own makes a lot of sense," Darrel continued.

The major projects Darrel has going on at the moment are: the redevelopment of the Launceston Airport; the new Swimming Centre in Launceston, Cosgrove Park Nursing Home, Scotch

Oakburn College and Glenara Lakes Nursing Home.

All the apprentices work on these projects and Darrel tends to swap them around a bit so they can get experience on different projects. He employs another seven or eight qualified bricklayers along with six labourers so it is important to have the apprentices with the right tradesmen and to be able to fit in with the work site.

"Bricklaying can be what the person makes of it – it can be a job, working for someone, but I would like for our apprentices to be taking the next step and learn how to read plans for pricing, supply and lay etc providing quantities and work schedules. If there is an area that the training falls down on it is this side of the bricklaying, along with the financial side, being able to make money etc, etc.

"ABBTF is making a difference as they are trying to lift the image associated with bricklaying, in both appearance and education."

New Support for Bricklayers and Apprentices

The Federal Government has announced new levels of support for apprentices and for employers signing up out of trade apprentices.

For apprentices – there is an incentive of \$3,800 with \$800 payments at the 3, 12 and 24 month points. There are also two \$700 payments at the 36 month and completion stages. This change is in place of the Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship, Wage Top Up and Tools for Your Trade. This initiative starts from 1 January 2009.

For employers – bricklayer employers who sign up an apprentice who has been out of trade may be eligible for payments under the Federal Government's new "Securing Australian Apprenticeships".

Incentives are \$1,800 payable after 12 weeks following the apprentice recommencement date and \$1,000 when the apprentice completes the apprenticeship.

For information on the above incentives contact the Australian Apprenticeships Centre on 13 38 73 or visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Step Outs Provide Students with a Taste of the Real World

In his role as Vocational Educational Learning Development Officer (VELDO) with the Department of Education, Martin Stalker works as part of the Guaranteeing Futures North West Team.

"My role in the group is the development of vocational programs to support the 'coal face' work by Pathway Planning Officers (PPO's).

"ABBTF have been a consistent supporter with the Step Out in Bricks (SOIB) programs.

"To value the learning experience, participating students earn certificates following completion of the project. These are presented by the Principal, the supporting bricklayer and also representatives of the brick companies who support the concept," said Martin.

"Without question; the concept is excellent. The opportunity for students to have an authentic look at the bricklaying trade from a hands-on perspective is one that students fully embrace.

"The expectation is that participating students work 'apprentice hours' and embrace the work ethic that is expected on a worksite. This creates a real world experience that will align as closely as possible with the expectations of a worksite," Martin continued.

Martin has had particular success with La Trobe and Penguin High Schools Step Out Programs.



Penguin student Kurt White gets to try his hand at bricklaying



Students tour Austral's brick plant at Longford

attending the school whilst the projects are being built. More crucially parent involvement is strong as parents are encouraged to come in and see what is happening on the 'job site'. The effect on peers and siblings would be significant as the students consistently state "I really enjoy this style of learning".

"The intangible benefits from SOIB cannot be underestimated, I have personally witnessed immense personal growth, aligning with hand skill development that parents have noted has been evident at home", Martin concluded.



Martin Stalker and Students in the design process

"In both programs the students decided that the designs would incorporate a BBQ facility and then have a seating arrangement to support the BBQ.

"The students go through a process

whereby they learn about the basic use of Computer Assisted Design (CAD) software to develop a series of potential designs for the area.

"The project became the focus of school conversation as the orange safety barrier webbing went up and the brick area became a 'mini construction site' within the school.

"Students are very appreciative of the learning opportunity afforded to them. Crucially, a level of respect for the skills involved in bricklaying is heightened and an understanding of what is expected when taking part in an apprenticeship is very clear.

"From the Ulverstone SOIB program Justin Stokes was apprenticed as a bricklayer by Meadcon Constructions. The Penguin program had a student who traveled from Burnie every day to take part, this student has a pre existing desire to be a bricklayer since he was in Grade 8. During the recent program at Penguin a prefect in the program stated very clearly that he would like to move into a bricklaying apprenticeship, if one was available.

According to Martin the ABBTF is making a real difference in promoting bricklaying as a career. "Within the participating schools the bricklaying career path is at the forefront for all

New Apprentice Completion Bonus

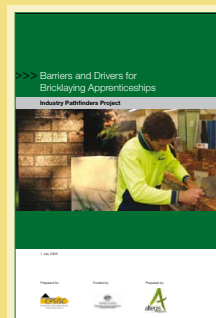
The Tasmanian Building and Construction Industry Training Board (TBCITB) has announced a new bonus program designed to alleviate the potential for apprentice cancellation during a slow down in construction activity.

The TBCITB will pay a completion bonus to employers of apprentices in bricklaying and other construction trades. The bonus is either \$2,000 where the apprentice completed during the fourth year or \$4,000 if the apprenticeship is completed in less than three years.

ABBTF welcomes this support in assisting apprentices to complete their training. The ABBTF subsidy of \$6,000 is also available to employers, along with other support from TBCITB (\$8,000) and the Federal Government (\$4,000).

Contact TBCITB on 03 6223 7804 or www.tbcitb.com.au for further details of the new bonus.

Insights into Bricklaying Apprenticeships



The National Research Project – Barriers & Drivers for Bricklaying Apprenticeships is now complete and the final report on the findings is available.

The attached flyer 'Insights into Bricklaying Apprenticeships' shows the highlights of the research.

For access to the full reports contact: **CPSISC** on 02 6253 0002 or visit www.cpsisc.com.au or **ABBTF** on 1300 66 44 96 or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au