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BRICKLAYER

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VICTORIA

DECEMBER 2009

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

David Switches From Uni to Bricklaying – Now He Is a Builder!

David Valastro studied a double degree on health promotion and nursing when he was Deakin University, but after two years he decided he didn't like it. He then started a pizza business, but still felt he hadn't found his ideal career.

He decided he really wanted to be a bricklayer and became apprenticed to an old Danish bricklayer, Kris Hald, who had a good work ethic and was passionate about the craft.

David finished his trade in 2003, having attended Holmesglen and went out on his own. David started with one apprentice, Michael Bristol, who is qualified and working as a sub contractor to David. He then employed his wife Celeste to do all the bookkeeping and another three apprentices, supported by the ABBTF subsidy - one of these has just recently finished his training.



L-R Michael Bristol, apprentice David Valastro, Rory Thompson and David Valastro

"We are looking to give another apprentice a start as I have always been appreciative of the start I got with Kris and feel it is my obligation to employ apprentices to help grow the trade."

From the moment David started, he has had aspirations of one day becoming a builder. So, with six years bricklaying, David completed a Certificate IV in Building & Construction at Holmesglen and was registered as a builder in 2009.

"We have built one house and there is another on the way. We do our own brickwork, frames, concreting and landscaping. I have always loved building and to see buildings you have constructed the right way is very satisfying," said David.

"I have spoken with Jane Alexander and Geoff Noble of the ABBTF and I think they are doing a great job raising the image and perception of bricklaying. They are listening to the industry and they are helping to educate the new generation of bricklayers.

Apprentice Kickstart Bonus for Bricklayers

A new Kickstart Bonus for signing a new apprentice has just been announced by the Federal Government. The bonus is \$850 after three months and \$2,500 after nine months of the apprenticeship.

This bonus is in addition to the current \$4,000 and the ABBTF subsidy of \$6,000 over the apprenticeship term totaling \$13,350.

The Kickstart Bonus conditions are that the apprentice must commence between 1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010 and be 19 or under at commencement.

For further information contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96 or an Australian Apprenticeship Centre on 13 38 73.

Successful Step Out at Gordon TAFE

Gordon TAFE has continued the success of ABBTF Step Outs (SOP) around Australia with Jeff Hampton, bricklaying teacher at Gordon, delighted with the response from a recent course.



"We had a great bunch of well behaved kids who showed real interest in learning bricklaying skills. They built a straight wall here at the TAFE and then we gave them the exercise of working out brick patterns. They enjoyed the challenge which demonstrated the skills required to be a bricklayer. "Already some students have decided to come back for pre-apprenticeship courses next year and one is ready to start an apprenticeship," said Jeff.

VIC Apprentices Compete at Golden Trowel

Two Victorian apprentices, Ryan Ginesi and Gavin Hallam under guidance from their Holmesglen bricklaying trainer, Richard Reynolds, competed at the Golden Trowel Competition at Bathurst last month. The competition is run by the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) and ABBTF are a major sponsor.



L-R Apprentices Ryan & Gavin with their trainer Richard Reynolds

The competition includes teams of a 2nd and 3rd year apprentice from each TAFE in NSW and a team from every other state around the country.

The team did very well in completing a difficult double wall design over two days. Richard said it was a great experience for Ryan and Gavin to compete against the best apprentices in the country. The boys certainly held their own. The team from Bathurst TAFE won the event.

ACCC Endorses ABBTF Bricklayer Training Program

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has given authorisation for the Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd (ABBTF) to continue their programs to address the skill shortage in bricklaying.

The industry contribution of \$2 per thousand bricks and 10 cents per square meter on concrete blocks is fully matched by the brick and block manufacturing companies of ABBTF. Funds raised are used for a program designed to alleviate shortages of skilled bricklayers in the construction industry.

The ACCC received a number of positive expressions of support for the ABBTF program during the public consultative process from stakeholders across the building and construction industry.

Brick Industry Night at Holmesglen

Holmesglen's Bricklaying Department recently hosted an industry night at its Chadstone campus. The evening brought together apprentices, employers, architects, manufacturers, industry leaders and academics.

On display were decorative brickwork panels which had been designed by architecture students from Melbourne University and constructed by Holmesglen's apprentice bricklayers.

Speakers included Dr Derham Groves of the University of Melbourne who provided an architectural perspective on bricks and Mr Richard Blight of Lyons Architects showcased some of their creative projects.

Flexibility the Key to Vic Uni Bricklaying Success

The Vic Uni bricklaying school at the Newport Campus is experiencing a healthy increase in apprentice numbers thanks to a flexible approach to the teaching of bricklaying and a good rapport with employers.

Derek Walter and Colin King are the bricklaying teachers and Colin reckons that numbers of apprentice have doubled in the six years he has been teaching at the campus and they expect numbers to continue increasing.

"Our flexibility includes having students come in for training when they can't work on site due to bad weather or other hold ups on the job.

"Derek Walter also goes out on site to meet employers and we are building a good rapport with them. Derek does the signing up of apprentices on site so that the training plan is relevant to the on site work. We now have a lot of employers ringing us when they want to put on an apprentice which is great," said Colin.

Colin says the ABBTF's subsidising of bricklaying apprentices is helping the industry and they support our pre-apprenticeships as well as the Step Out Programs (SOP) we run. "Jane Alexander from the ABBTF keeps in close contact so we have good communication all round".

The bricklaying school at the Newport campus has a new shed completely dedicated to bricklayer training. The shed has given the bricklaying team the space they need for a growing bricklaying school as well as room to accept deliveries of bricks and other materials. Tim Malberg and Murray Millar handle the pre-apprenticeship courses which run full time for 16 weeks.

Shows what flexibility and commitment can do.

Nigel Croke Wins Bronze in Canada



Nigel with his medal winning project at WorldSkills in Canada

Nigel Croke, Australia's bricklaying contestant at the WorldSkills competition, held at Calgary Canada, has won a Bronze Medal competing against the best in the world.

Nigel, has been supported throughout by the ABBTF. He has expressed his gratitude to his trainer Troy Everett at TAFE who helped him hone his bricklaying skills and all those people who helped and encouraged him along the way to his memorable journey.

Christmas Message



We take this opportunity to express our thanks to all those in the industry who have assisted ABBTF to achieve its objectives. Have a Merry Christmas & a Safe New Year Jane Alexander Development Manager



Supported by the Brick & Block Manufacturers of Australia

OPERATING RESULTS FOR 2008/2009

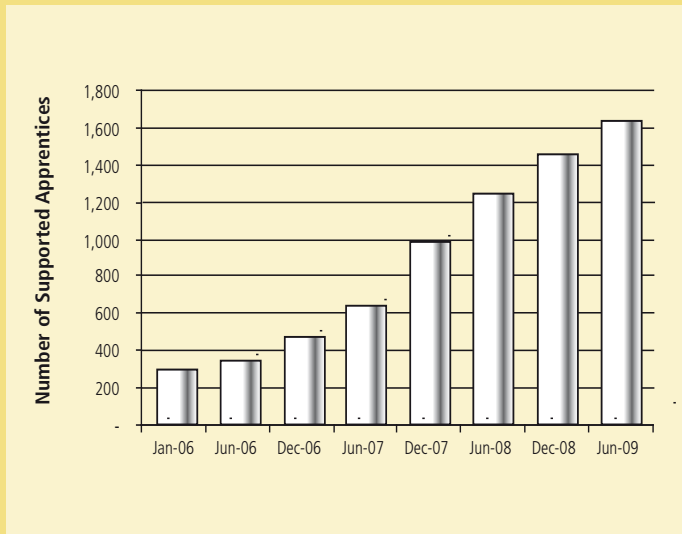
During the year to June 2009 Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) achieved the following:

- ABBTF support for employers of new apprentices is assisting the training and employment of 1,628 apprentices, 31% more than the previous year.
- Support for mature aged apprentices or their employers who are disadvantaged by income levels or higher costs in the early stages of the apprenticeship. 110 payments were made during 2008/2009.
- More than 3,000 secondary school students participated in the Step Out Programs, to gain hands on experience in bricklaying.
- Support for pre-entry training in bricklaying which saw 635 enrolments in preparation for an apprenticeship.
- The introduction of travel and accommodation support for apprentices who need to travel more than 100 kilometres to attend their nearest off site training provider.
- Attendance at 124 careers events and promotions to inform people, promote the trade and the career paths offered through bricklaying. Try-a-trades in bricklaying were a feature of many of these events.
- Participation in the industry pathways research project for the CPSISC which produced the report "Barriers and Drivers for Bricklaying Apprenticeships". The project also included a status report on the industry and a report on innovative practices in bricklaying.
- Working partnerships with 50 TAFE colleges and registered training organisations to improve the quality and expectations of new apprentices through Step Out Programs in schools and support for pre-entry training.
- Publication of 15 editions of the ABBTF newsletter sent on a state basis to more than 44,000 stakeholders. Regular media releases also kept industry informed of ABBTF operations.
- A national radio campaign with specific messages to attract potential apprentices and to encourage bricklayers to sign on an apprentice.
- Assistance to bricklayers migrating to Australia under the General Skilled Migration Visa. Payments were made after three months working as a bricklayer in the industry.

Operating Results	2008/09 Nos	2007/08 Nos	Financial Results	2008/09 \$000's	2007/08 \$000's
Apprentices Supported by ABBTF	1,628	1,239	Revenue	6,635	7,423
Mature Apprentices Supported	79	42	Total Expenditure	6,477	6,075
Apprentices in Training	2,641	2,770	Operating Surplus	158	1,348
Step Out Program Students	3,027	3,667	Training Reserve	4,424	4,266
Pre-Apprenticeship Enrolments	635	560	Apprentice Subsidies to Employers	3,533	3,198
TAFE Colleges and RTO's	50	43	Training Support	1,012	1,294
Group Training Organisations	70	71	Promotion	790	614
Careers Events Attended	124	98	Development	649	621
Newsletter Mailing List	44,000	37,000	Administration	442	323

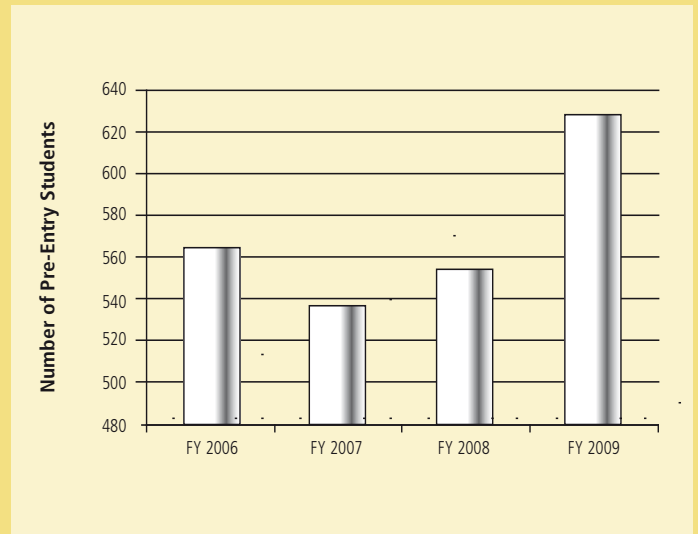
Supported Apprentices

ABBTF subsidies to bricklayers has supported a growing number of apprentices since the national scheme commenced in 2006. As the program was implemented in more states these benefits have provided more employers with opportunities to employ and train apprentices. The graph shows growth since January 2006.



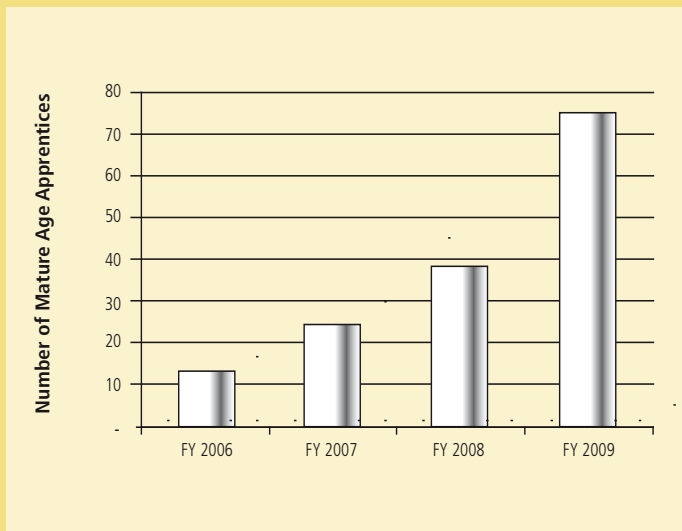
Pre-Entry Support

Pre-apprenticeship and pre-vocational training is an important stage in preparing for the skill and work demands of an apprenticeship. ABBTF has provided support for a growing number of people in these programs with many continuing on to a successful apprenticeship.



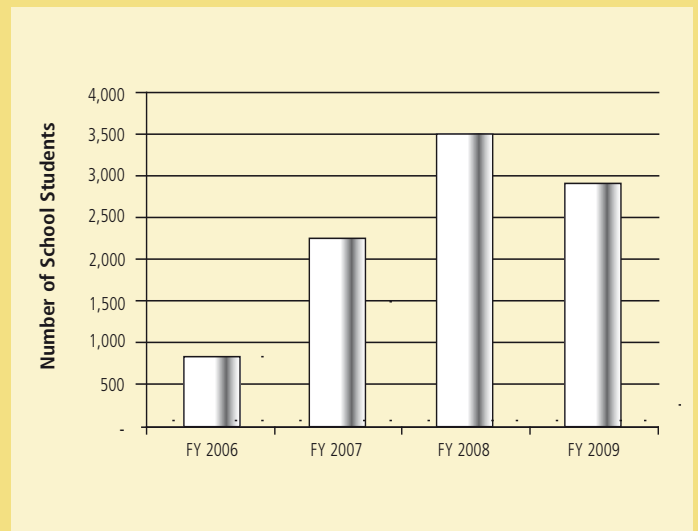
Mature Age Support

ABBTF recognise that mature age apprentices are disadvantaged in terms of employment and training opportunities due to higher rates paid by employers in some states and low first year rates paid to mature apprentices in other states. ABBTF provides mature age incentives to improve employment opportunities to this valuable group. The number of apprentices supported by this incentive has grown over recent years.



Step Out Program for Students

The ABBTF sponsored one week Step Out Program for secondary school students is a valuable experience for students and promotion of the trade to schools across the country. Numbers attending these programs have been significant over the past four years.



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

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