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WESTERN AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 2009

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

Brick Companies Support Bricklayer Training

Producing high quality bricks is the aim of Western Australian brick manufacturers. But they also recognise the urgent need for trades people, with the training and skills, to lay the bricks so that the benefits of the product are fully realised in construction projects.

That's why leading brick companies Midland Brick (Boral), Austral Bricks, and Geraldton Brick are strongly supporting the work of the Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF).

According to Dean Pearson, ABBTF's Western Australian development manager, the ABBTF represents clay brick manufacturers and was created to address the critical shortage of skilled bricklayers.

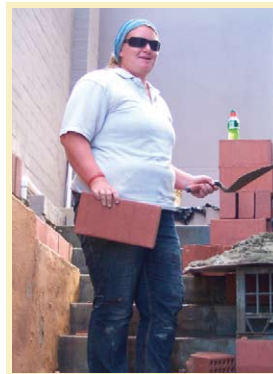
"The strategies to address the skill shortage are jointly funded by the brick companies and their customers with a contribution of \$2 per 1,000 bricks from each.

"It is important for the market and the building and construction industry to recognise the major contribution of these three companies. The companies have shown leadership in their participation in this valuable program.

"It is reassuring to know that brick purchases from these companies results in joint funding for the program to create training and employment for young people as well as add skills to the industry to improve productivity in construction," said Dean Pearson.

Support for Women in Bricklaying

More women are taking up bricklaying successfully and we are ready to support them.



Jemma Blakemore completed her bricklaying apprenticeship five years ago and is now working with bricklayer Matt Shaw of Matt Shaw Bricklaying. She completed a pre entry course at Silver Trowel Training and did her apprenticeship at Swan TAFE Thornlie.

Jemma has purchased several investment properties and owns her own house. Currently she is doing her Building Diploma at Swan TAFE.

Jemma has also been a WorldSkills judge. "I don't feel different being a female and I really enjoy my time in the trade. I would eventually like to be a niche builder."

Meanwhile Tiffany Chrystie has recently completed her bricklaying pre-app course at Swan TAFE Thornlie. Tiffany is now a first year apprentice with the Home Buyers Centre, although she has acquired the skills of a second year level.

Her mother Irene says the family tried to talk Tiffany out of bricklaying. "But she was determined that is what she was going to do. Tiffany loves it and would like to become a builder. Her dad is a real handyman and her brother is going into bricklaying next year," said Irene.

When she is not laying bricks Tiffany plays AFL with the Southern River (Gosnells) womens' team and has always been involved in sports. ABBTF has given Tiffany a \$250 tool voucher to help her achieve her goals.

Bricklayer Training at Joondalup

The West Coast Institute of Training in Joondalup is offering Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying as an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship from February 2010. Training will initially be conducted at the Brighton Shed in Clarkson and later at 'Trades North' – a new trades training centre due to open in 2011.

Trades North has been developed in response to the pressing need for skilled trades people in Perth's northern suburbs.

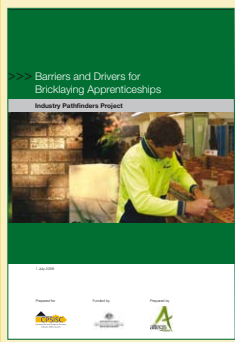
Contact Patrick O'Brien for further information on 08 9233 1272 or email Patrick.Obrien@westcoasttafe.wa.edu.au



L-R Geoff Noble – ABBTF, Geoff Crothers – Geraldton Brick, Alan McGrath – Austral Bricks, Greg Smith – Midland Brick and Dean Pearson – ABBTF

For more information about the ABBTF's activities phone 1300 66 44 96 or visit the website www.becomebricklayer.com.au

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

ACCC Endorses ABBTF Apprentice 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 approved levy 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.

WA Apprentices Compete at Golden Trowel

Two WA apprentices Ben Stevens (2nd Year) and Ashleigh Porter (3rd Year) under guidance from their Swan TAFE bricklaying trainer Eddie Campbell competed at the Golden Trowel Competition at Bathurst last month. The competition is run by the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) and ABBTF is a major sponsor.

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 WA team did very well in finishing second in the event. This is a tremendous effort given the limited use of masonry in WA. The project was a difficult double wall design completed over two days. Eddie Campbell said it was a great experience for Ben and Ashleigh to compete against the best apprentices in the country. The local team from Bathurst TAFE won the event.



L-R Swan TAFE apprentices Ben Stevens and Ashleigh Porter with team coach Eddie Campbell

2009 HIA Annual Apprentice Awards

The HIA Annual Apprenticeship Awards were held in July with 400 people attending including apprentices, host trainers, builders and manufacturers sponsoring awards including the ABBTF as a sponsor of the bricklaying awards.

ABBTF congratulates the bricklaying award winners:

- 1st Year Apprentice – Luke Dixon
Host Trainer – Gareth Elliott
- 2nd Year Apprentice – Corey York
Host Trainer – Simon Johnson
- 3rd Year Apprentice – Brad Meyer
Host Trainer – Colin Hazelden



Dean Pearson – ABBTF presents Luke and Corey with their awards

Help for Out-of-Trade Apprentices

The WA Department of Treasury and Finance – Building Management and Works Industry Training Unit, Skill Hire Pty Ltd and ABBTF are working together to assist out of work bricklaying apprentices to get back into the industry. Skill Hire is the largest employer of Bricklaying Apprentices in Western Australia.

Skill Hire and the Department have a Memorandum of Understanding to seek out of work apprentices and place them on Government Construction sites. The apprentices must be suspended and listed on the Out-of-Trade register with ApprentiCentre. There are numerous apprentices at various stages of their training.

Government subsidies are available to Host Contractors and Skill Hire as a Group Training Company places them accordingly. ABBTF supports the apprentices through the normal subsidies as well as helping with the coordination of the scheme.

According to Bob Hodnett, Skill Hire’s Group Training Manager, this new initiative has been a tremendous success with six apprentices now back on the job including one indigenous apprentice, Mark Nannup.

“Dean Pearson, ABBTF’s development manager, has been very helpful with his support of this program and Skill Hire appreciates the ABBTF’s involvement.

“The Industry Training Unit is dedicated to getting out of work apprentices back into the trade to avoid skill shortages in the future as part of the Building Education Revolution program. Host Employers appreciate the subsidies and welcome the lower cost of apprenticeship training.” said Bob.

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