

# Aussie BRICKLAYER

Bricklayer & Apprentice  
Makes good business sense

NEW SOUTH WALES

April 2011

## Campaign to Promote Bricklaying and Blocklaying



ABBTf ran a promotional campaign in January with the message above. The promotion highlights the career path provided by a brick and blocklaying qualification. It is designed to lift the image of the trade and make young people, their parents and schools aware of the great opportunities that come

through a trade qualification in bricklaying.

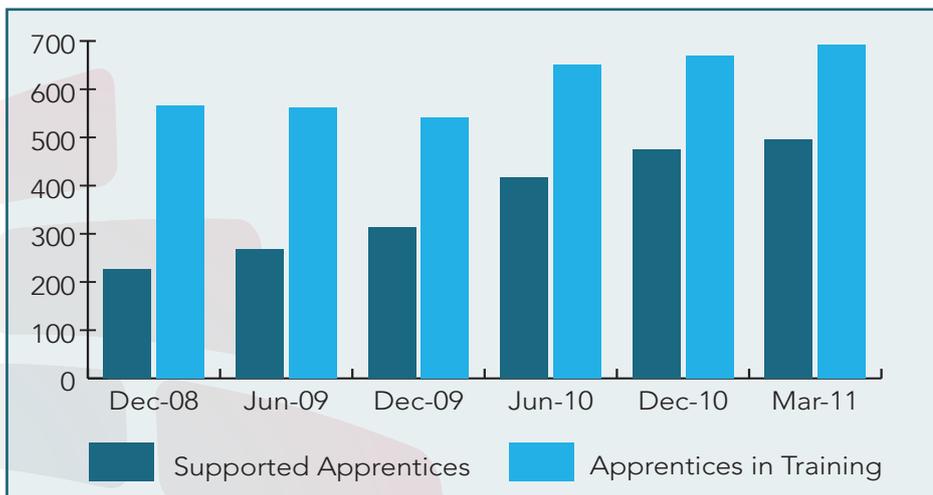
The promotion was shown throughout New South Wales in cinemas and newspapers and will appeal to young, ambitious, aspiring potential apprentices who want the freedom to choose their future.

## ABBTf Programs Boost Apprentice Numbers

Apprentice numbers in NSW have increased in response to ABBTf support programs and time spent on job sites talking to bricklayers. ABBTf are offering a \$6,000 subsidy payable over three years to bricklayers signing on a new apprentice. This support is

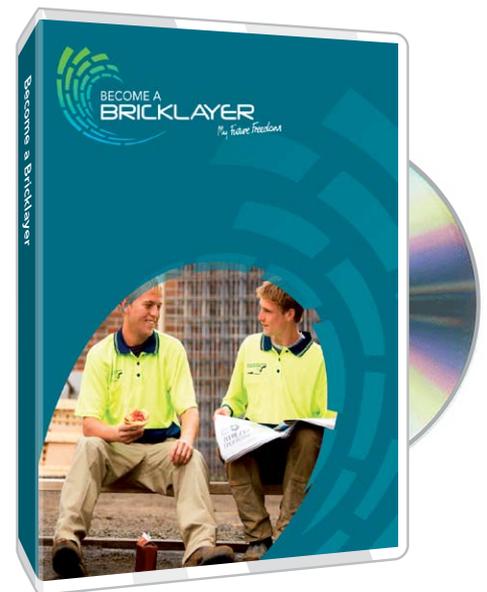
even higher at \$10,800 for hosting an apprentice through a Group Training Company.

Bricklayers are seeing the benefits of adding an apprentice to their gang in terms of productivity and improving skills.



## ABBTf DVD Now in Schools

ABBTf has produced an excellent DVD promoting the great trade of bricklaying as a worthwhile career. The DVD, which has been sent to every secondary school in Australia, promotes the benefits of being a bricklayer and the career path available in the construction industry.



The DVD is based on extensive ABBTf research which highlighted the benefits of working in the outdoors, earning while you learn, becoming your own boss and others.

The DVD can also be viewed on our website [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

## Receive ABBTf's Newsletter via Email

If you would like to receive your ABBTf newsletter electronically for greater convenience and faster transmission, call 1300 66 44 96, email us or contact via our website [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

## Illawarra Graduation Ceremony Awards

A highly successful TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute, Building and Construction Graduation Ceremony was recently held at Wollongong.

According to George Dragovic, Department Head – Bricklaying, it was a great evening with bricklaying students receiving a total of 11 Awards.

"The evening was an opportunity to recognise the skills achieved by the apprentices which is an inspiration to everyone in the trade. Their trainers and employers should also be commended for their dedication to the training of these young people who are the future of the industry," said George.

The major awards were presented at the Graduation Ceremony:

### Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying

Institute Award for Outstanding Achievement Christopher Adams

### Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying – Pre-Apprenticeship

Institute Award for Outstanding Achievement Shaun Heath

### Jock Brown Memorial Award

Cert III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying – Stage 1 Samuel Spong

Cert III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying – Stage 2 Zackery Beaven

Cert III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying – Stage 3 Cory Milne

"We would like to give special thanks to all sponsors for their continued support. In particular we thank ABBTF for their ongoing of our bricklaying training activities and their work on behalf bricklaying apprentices and employers through their subsidy programs," George Dragovic concluded.



L-R: Terry Denniss – Bricklaying Teacher, Christopher Adams – Award Winner, David Gill – ABBTF NSW Manager, Shaun Heath – Award Winner, Nathan Stock – Award Winner, Aaron Roach – Award Winner, Michael Matthesius – Bricklaying Teacher.

## Handy Bricklaying Tips

The following is designed to help contractors:

You have arrived at your lay-only job site and you see that the builder or owner builder, who has supplied the bricks and brick ties, has purchased exposure grade bricks and stainless steel ties.

Chances are you are in a marine or severe environment, so you need to get your mortar at the right strength. M4 classifications are 100 metres from a non surf coast or 1 kilometre from a surf coast. M3 classifications are 9 kilometres from a surf or non surf coast.

These two different classifications can be the difference between a 4 to 1 mix

or a 5 to 1 mix. You should check your street directory or your GPS first. Mix designs for each particular classification will usually be written on the each individual bag of cement. If you are nowhere near the ocean or any marine environment you may be in a new sub division that was once an industrial area or even an old farm. Fertilisers and chemicals may have nitrates and sulphates which eat at bricks and mortars.

Ask the owner or builder for the mortar specs before you mix your first batch and eliminate a costly call back. Also suggest an exposure grade mortar or brick to any work you are doing around a salt water pool.

By John White – Masonry Contractors Association.

## Apprentices to Receive \$5,500 Tax Free Bonus to Stay in Trade

ABBTF has welcomed the Federal Government's Trade Apprentice Income Bonus which encourages apprentices to stay in their trade. The bonus, which incorporates the Tools for your Trade payment, where apprentices will receive tax-free payments as they reach milestones in their apprenticeship starting with a payment of \$800 after three months with a total of \$5,500 payable up to completion.

ABBTF's general manager, Geoff Noble, says a number of apprentices leave their trade before completion, exacerbating the skills shortage in the construction industry.

"We have had considerable success increasing the numbers of bricklaying apprentices coming into the trade through our generous subsidy for employers. Now the Federal Government's Bonus will directly encourage apprentices, through the milestone payments, to complete their training and gain their qualification", said Geoff Noble.



Clay bricks are being actively and effectively promoted nationally by Think Brick

Australia. The organisation represents Australia's clay brick manufacturers.

Their aim is to inspire contemporary brick architecture and building design in all areas of the built environment: commercial, residential and landscape.

Think Brick Australia undertakes extensive research, provides technical resources and training to ensure clay brick is recognised as a pre-eminent building material by leading architects, developers, builders and property owners.

In Australia the brick industry is worth \$2.8 billion to the economy and creates employment for 30,000 people nationwide in the manufacturing and installation of its product.

To find out more you can visit [www.thinkbrick.com.au](http://www.thinkbrick.com.au)

