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QUEENSLAND

FEBRUARY 2010

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

## ABBTF Brickstart Bonus - Employer Benefits Total \$12,000

Bricklayers and blocklayers can benefit from the new Brickstart Bonus from ABBTF for putting on a new bricklaying apprentice. The bonus is \$2,000 payable on completion of the first year and applies for new apprentices who start before 30 June 2010.

The Brickstart Bonus follows on from the expiry of the Federal Government's recent Kickstart Bonus, planned to finish at the end of February. Note that the Brickstart Bonus will be available to apprentices of all ages which will make it easier to find suitable candidates (Kickstart applies to up to 19 years only).

### "That means a total \$12,000 in your pocket!"

The new bonus is a great incentive for bricklayers and blocklayers as it is paid on top of the ABBTF subsidy of \$6,000 and the Federal Government's subsidy of \$4,000.

That means a total of \$12,000 in your pocket! The extra funding is timely, with construction activity starting to really take off.

Contact ABBTF 07 3205 5559 or 1300 66 44 96 now for details.

Note: ABBTF's Brickstart Bonus will only apply after the Government's bonus term has expired and up to 30 June 2010. See advert on back page.

## Housing Recovery Good for Bricklayers

Queensland bricklayers and blocklayers will be pleased with the news of the housing recovery this year. The HIA has forecast a strong recovery in housing construction during the next two years. Housing starts are expected to increase by 21% in 2010 and a further 19% in 2011. The increase represents an additional 11,380 housing starts over two years.

If you are a bricklayer this is a great opportunity to put on a new apprentice and add value and capacity to your team. There are many good quality young people ready and keen to start an apprenticeship in bricklaying.

ABBTF provides a \$6,000 subsidy in addition to the Federal Government's \$4,000 subsidy. So there is no better time to start an apprentice.

Call us on 1300 66 44 96 and also ask about the Brickstart Bonus of \$2,000 for apprentices taken on by 30 June 2010.

## Peter Carr – Best Trainer in Queensland



Central Queensland Institute of TAFE bricklaying teacher Peter Carr's innovation and dedication to his job earned him the title of Individual Trainer of the Year at the 2009 Construction Skills Queensland Training Excellence Awards recently.

Peter, who teaches at Rockhampton campus, received the award at a gala presentation ceremony at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre on November 27.

He started as a brickie's labourer in 1992 and completed his apprenticeship in 1997. He worked both part time and full time in the industry. In 2000 he started a law degree while working part time as a bricklayer and from 2004 to 2006 he worked for a law firm.

He started working for CQ TAFE in 2007 as a brick and blocklaying trainer, as well as developing the online course content.

He was overwhelmed by the win and proud just to have been nominated. "I feel very honoured. I think that it is great that a regional TAFE receives some recognition for their training initiatives," Peter Carr said.

Peter Carr's creation and addition of online resources components to his bricklaying courses, allowing more flexibility for employers and their employees, was one of the reasons why judges awarded him the title.

"The online training aspect was a part of the reason for the win, but I think that maintaining relationships with industry was also important, as well as trying to develop ways to deliver training in a more flexible manner," Peter Carr said.

He said his bricklaying course was still progressing well, with the online component helping deliver training to more remote apprentices and those looking to progress through more quickly. Now there's an achiever!

## Pre-Apprenticeship Students Ready for Work

ABBTF's Queensland development manager, Tony Bishop, has organised a series of pre-apprenticeship courses in Brisbane with the first two starting in February. Regional pre-apprenticeship courses will also be run in regional areas throughout the year.

For the first time in our industry, a group of school students are starting a special pre-apprenticeship course at SkillsTech in Brisbane. The students will attend the course one day a week with further time spent training during school holidays.

We need the support of employers to take on apprentices. If you are interested, contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96.

## East Coast Apprenticeships Honours Achievers

East Coast Apprenticeship "Best of the Best" Awards night, held last year at Kallangur, was attended by over 200 people ready to honour those who had achieved in their chosen trade.

According to Bob Morrison, East Coast Apprentices field officer it was a great night with a lot of excitement centred around the announcement of the awards.

"James Tansey, who has completed his apprenticeship in three years, won the General Construction Award and then The Rohan Clark Memorial Apprentice of the Year Award. It was a great effort by a special apprentice," said Bob.

Sunshine Coast bricklaying contractor, Flowcrete, was awarded Host Employer of the Year, a thoroughly deserved award for a company who takes on apprentices, even when the industry is at a low level. Last year they had seven bricklaying apprentices, so it is a great effort by the company and they thoroughly deserved the accolades they received on the night.

Bob Morrison, who helped ABBTF with this story, won Field Officer of the Year and it was a popular choice.

East Coast Apprenticeships is a community based not for profit organisation and have offices at Strathpine, Burpengary and Maroochydore.

East Coast Apprenticeships can be contacted on 07 3881 3166 or visit [www.ectraining.com.au](http://www.ectraining.com.au)



Bob Morrison, East Coast Apprenticeships with Wayne Baumer, Operations Manager, Flowcrete and the apprentices

## Let's Get Serious About Work Experience!

One of the best ways to source future bricklaying apprentices is to take advantage of work experience opportunities. By giving a young person workplace experience with your team on site, you get the chance to see what their attitude to a career in the trade might be.

ABBTF is demonstrating bricklaying through Careers Expos and by highly successful Step Out Programs in schools. Work experience is another way to show what it is like to work in the outdoors and show the skills a young person will need to acquire to become a qualified bricklayer.

The good thing is that work experience is low cost and workers compensation is covered by the relevant government department.

So what about taking advantage of work experience to find the right person you could take on as an apprentice?

For more information contact Tony Bishop, ABBTF on 07 3205 5559.

## WorldSkills for Brisbane 2010

The 2010 National World Skills competition will be held in Brisbane at the Convention and Exhibition Centre from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 May.

Over 500 competitors from 30 regions around Australia will vie for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and a national title in up to 50 different trade and skill categories.

If eligible, medalists may advance to the 41st International WorldSkills competition in London in 2011. In 2009 Nigel Croke won Bronze in the bricklaying competition at the International WorldSkills competition in Canada.

Over 80,000 visitors are expected to attend the free public event in Brisbane.

According to Troy Everett, organiser of the bricklaying competition, this year's competition has attracted the largest number of bricklaying nominations in recent memory.

There will be one bricklaying judge from each state and ABBTF Queensland development manager, Tony Bishop, will be one of the judges representing Queensland. Last year's bricklaying



Bricklaying Competitors at WorldSkills held in Sydney in 2008

winner, Nigel Croke, will also be a judge and will be conducting a Try-a-Trade bricklaying demo.

"This is a big event showcasing the best of apprentices in many industries and the bricklaying competition is a keenly fought contest with some amazing brickwork to be seen."

**“ Last year's bricklaying winner, Nigel Croke, will also be a judge and will be conducting a Try-a-Trade bricklaying demonstration. ”**

This is where you will see the cream of Australia's bricklayers demonstrate their great technical skills. It's an event that nobody in the construction industry should miss," said Tony Bishop.

## Avatar Star was a Brickie!

Sam Worthington, the star of the blockbuster movie Avatar, was a bricklayer. Sam, originally from WA spent some time working on site as a bricklayer in Queensland. While bricklaying does provide a career path in construction and other industries, we never thought it would lead to Hollywood stardom.

## Training Excellence Awards 2009

The winners of the Construction Skills Queensland (CSQ) Training Excellence Awards 2009 were announced during a sold-out Gala Dinner at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre late last year.

The Awards recognised the outstanding achievements of construction students, trainers, workers and employers in the building and construction industry.

The CSQ Training Excellence Awards are the only awards to encompass a full range of people involved in the building and construction industry, from students to training providers and employers.

Encompassing all members and levels of the building and construction industry, the Excellence Awards recognise the outstanding learning and development achievements of organisations and individuals over the past year.

Nominees for the awards will have all demonstrated leadership in industry training and attained significant achievements in the field of 2009.

ABBTF was delighted to be the sponsor of the Public Registered Training Organisation of the Year award which was won by Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE.

## More Awards – More Successes

Jack Woods won the 2009 Australian Industry Trade College Gold Coast/ABBTF Bricklaying Award. Jack is an apprentice at Nerang Bricklaying.



Justin with Terry O'Hanlon-Rose, CEO and Principal

The Award for the Australian Trade College North Brisbane, Year 12 Trade Apprentice of the Year for 2009 was won by Justin Pasteur.

Justin is employed by Fugen Masonry Contractors Qld. Pty Ltd.

ABBTF congratulates these award winners who are excelling in their chosen trade and typical of the future of the industry.

## Australian Industry Trade College Students Receive ABBTF Scholarships

At the Australian Industry Trade College's 2009 Industry Celebration Evening, five bricklaying students received ABBTF scholarships of \$1,000.

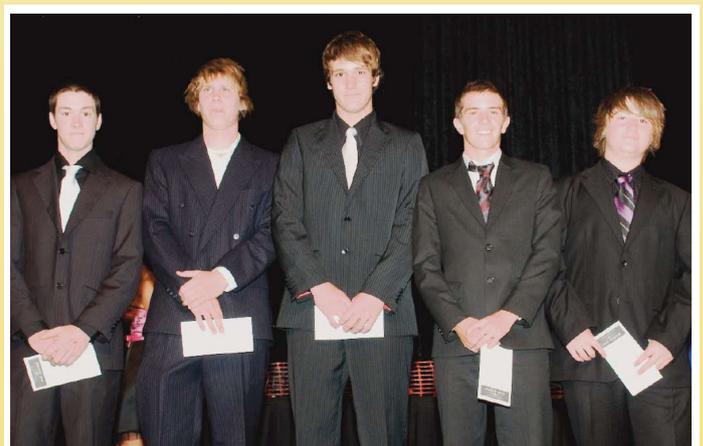
Four of these students graduated in Year 12 and have transferred school based apprenticeships to full time, while the fifth will graduate in 2010.

While at school, the students work four weeks out on site, followed by four weeks at school studying English, Maths, Business and Information Technology for their Queensland Certificate of Education.

The Australian Industry Trade College is the Gold Coast's newest school and has been in operation for two years. This is the second year of ABBTF scholarships



L-R: Robyn Dyer and Dorothy Huggon, Barrier Institute of TAFE accept the award from Jon Godby, Adbri Masonry



L-R: ABBTF Scholarship Recipients – Ash Turner, Trent Green, Ben Anderlik, Jack Wood and Matthew Collins



Photograph and story courtesy of  
The Gympie Times

## Gympie Bricklayer – Taurean Thompson Shows a Gift for his Craft

When Gympie's Taurean Thompson left school, the last thing he thought he'd end up doing was bricklaying for a living.

You could say life took him on a couple of detours before he eventually commenced an apprenticeship with his dad Owen and discovered he had a real aptitude for the trade.

This month, the 27 year old will down tools and head to Sydney as one of the 12 bricklayers invited to an industry first training program giving the Nation's brightest and best bricklayers an opportunity to further develop their craft.

Taurean says having the chance to work beside his dad, an old-fashioned brick craftsman and builder, as well as working with another well known Gympie bricklayer, Andrew Hosking, gave him an edge in the selection process. "I was lucky to be able to do some out-of-the-box things with them," he said.

Enjoying intricate and detailed brick work, Taurean prides himself on being a meticulous and accurate bricklayer who likes challenging himself and experimenting with creative projects.

"I'm incredibly excited that I was chosen to do this program. I hope to do Gympie proud and bring back what I've learnt to help shape the next generation of Aussie Bricklayers," he said.

Further information on the Think Brick Masterclass can be obtained at [www.brickmasterclass.com.au](http://www.brickmasterclass.com.au)

# \$12,000 Apprentice Incentive New Brickstart Bonus for Bricklayers



Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) has announced a **\$2,000 Brickstart Bonus** paid at the completion of Year 1. This follows the expiry of the Federal Government Kickstart incentive. **Brickstart Bonus** is available to employees of new bricklaying apprentices of all ages signed up by 30 June 2010.

### There's never been a better time!

- |                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| • ABBTF Brickstart Bonus | \$ 2,000 |
| • ABBTF Subsidy          | \$ 6,000 |
| • Federal Government     | \$ 4,000 |

**Employer Incentive \$12,000\***

Call ABBTF on **1300 66 44 96** or **07 3205 5559**

Email: [abbtfqld@bigpond.com](mailto:abbtfqld@bigpond.com)

Visit: [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

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