

Aussie BRICKLAYER

Bricklayer & Apprentice
Makes good business sense

June 2010



Supported by the Brick and
Block Manufacturers of Australia

QUEENSLAND

Breaking News – Federal Gov't Reintroduces Kickstart Bonus

The great news for the construction industry, from the Federal Budget, was the announcement of a new round of Kickstart incentives for employing apprentices.

Between 12 May 2010 and 12 November 2010 (inclusive), the Australian Government will provide a \$3,350 Apprentice Kickstart Extension. This will apply for small or medium enterprises including Group Training Organisations, who take on an apprentice aged 19 years and under, into a traditional trade.

ABBTF is also extending its \$2,000 Brickstart Bonus launched in Qld after the first round of Kickstart finished. This means employers of newly commenced apprentices, in the period up to 12 November 2010, can claim both Kickstart AND Brickstart incentives.

Brickstart has no age restriction so anyone regardless of age who signs on a new apprentice will get Brickstart and if that apprentice is under 19 they will get both. Both incentives will finish on 12 November, 2010.

We urge eligible employers to take on bricklaying apprentices and get a total benefit of \$15,350 which includes the normal ABBTF \$6,000 subsidy and the Federal Government's \$4,000 grant for employing apprentices, which still applies.

The combined ABBTF and Government support is the best ever offered to bricklayers. The funding is also a great incentive to train an apprentice in that all important first year as the funding pays for half the cost of the apprentice.

It's a great time to take on apprentices and improve your productivity. If you have any questions regarding Kickstart and Brickstart incentives please contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96 or email abtfqld@bigpond.com

Lester Wins Gold at WorldSkills in Brisbane 2010



NSW bricklayer Lester Tibbles has won the bricklaying competition at the 2010 National WorldSkills competition held in Brisbane this month.

Lester won the competition, by a whisker, from the Tasmanian apprentice Ben Barratt with Daniel Dovern from the Illawarra taking out the Bronze Medal.

Lester also won the speed test bricklaying component of the competition making him The Gun Trowel. He was presented with the ABBTF Gun Trowel trophy.



Ready, set, go! ABBTF Gun Trowel Competitors set the pace at WorldSkills

It is interesting to note that Lester comes from Crookwell and works for Bill Searle who was also Nigel Croke's employer when he won the Gold Medal at the last WorldSkills. As both Lester and Nigel come from Crookwell we are wondering if there is "anything in the water" in that town.

WorldSkills bricklaying apprentices competing from Queensland included Martin Morgan from Brisbane, who is employed by his dad Vince; and Jake Gent from Gympie, who is employed by his dad Steve. Unfortunately, Jake was unable to finish due to an injury, but a great effort anyway by both Qld. competitors.

For the competition, ABBTF assisted with the judging and state managers Tony Bishop (Qld.), David Gill (NSW), and Dean Pearson (WA) were in the thick of things mixing mud and generally assisting with the competition.

Also volunteering to give a hand was Andrew Hoskings, a bricklaying contractor from Gympie. Andrew loves being involved in WorldSkills and has had two of his apprentices make it to the WorldSkills nationals in past years.



Andrew Hoskings (far right) with his bricklaying team

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

"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," said Troy.

Geoff Noble, ABBTF's general manager said, "It gives our best and brightest young apprentices a chance to compete at a national level. WorldSkills clearly demonstrates that bricklaying is a real craft and ranks high as a trade in the construction industry.

"Each year we see so many great young people, a new breed of professionals with the right attitude, coming through the ranks of the competition. I am predicting many of them will be future leaders in the construction industry - with bricklaying their passport to success. We were very impressed by the demeanor of the contestants and their attitude to their work," Geoff Noble continued.

Geoff Noble paid tribute to the TAFE trainers and employers who work closely with the contestants to help them reach competition level.

"We have some very dedicated men and women who give their time and energy generously, training and motivating their young charges. They play an important part in raising the level of skills clearly exhibited in Brisbane by passing on their own experiences in the trade.



Project 1 at the WorldSkills Competition 2010

"The organiser of the bricklaying competition, Troy Everett, deserves his own medal for the enormous amount of planning and coordination of the event which has set the standard for other trades at WorldSkills.

"Troy will put Lester through an intense training program to ensure he is ready to step up to the International WorldSkills competition in London," Geoff concluded.

Bricklaying wins Green Award at WorldSkills

Bricklaying has won the WorldSkills environmental award from more than 40 competing apprenticeship categories.

The judges discussed and observed the environmental improvements that had been made in the skill area compared with previous years.

Troy Everett, chief judge of bricklaying, said there was a strong focus on environmental considerations such as recycling water, reuse of off-cuts, tidy work areas and recycling bricks for community projects and other training. There was no waste water that entered any drainage system at all at the WorldSkills venue.

This is a great achievement for the group and the trade of bricklaying.



Troy Everett receiving the Green Award from Cathy Crawley, Principal and Leader ARUP Sustainability

Industry Night Sets the Scene for WorldSkills Competition

A brick industry night, organised by ABBTF and local manufacturers, was held on the Thursday before the WorldSkills competition began. The evening allowed contractors, judges, brick industry representatives and the ABBTF team to get together for a welcome to WorldSkills and an opportunity to network.

For those attending WorldSkills for the first time, the industry night was valuable preparation for the three days of competition.

Got an Apprentice Success Story?

If you have a brick or blocklaying apprentice success story we would like to hear about it. Just email the details to abbtfqld@bigpond.com

Builders – Are Your Contractors Supported?

ABBTF are supporting many employers of apprentices in Qld to train the next generation of bricklayers.

To assist builders in this succession plan we need to know your contractors who may have an apprentice and may not be aware of our \$6,000 subsidy plus the \$2,000 Brickstart bonus. For those without an apprentice, we need to promote the benefits and our support for hiring an apprentice bricklayer.

Your advice will ensure that the ABBTF training subsidy is working for you and the industry in Qld.

Deadlines for Claiming Subsidies

ABBTF apprentice subsidies to bricklayers have proved to be a great success in generating growth in apprentice numbers. However a number of employers are at risk of missing out on their subsidies by registering and claiming their apprentices too late.

Bricklayers directly employing apprentices should be aware of the following deadlines for claiming subsidies –

1. Registration of apprentices: **6 months** from the date of indenture or signing as a recommencement.
2. Claim for annual subsidy: **3 months** after completion of each year.

New Look for ABBTF

Our newsletter "Aussie Bricklayer" has been redesigned and renamed to focus on the bricklaying trade. Our aim is to lift the image of bricklaying, promote the benefits of training and make the industry aware that putting on an apprentice "makes good business sense". We hope you continue to enjoy the articles in our newsletters to come.

