

# Aussie BRICKLAYER

Bricklayer & Apprentice  
Makes good business sense

April 2011



Supported by the Brick and  
Block Manufacturers of Australia

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Bianco Values Apprentices



L-R: Angelo Salvatore, Jake Tribe, Alex Dale, James Bell and finally Trevor Butler Bianco's most senior employee and site foreman who began his career with Bianco Bricklayers as an apprentice 40 years ago

Bianco Precast know the value of employing bricklaying apprentices and currently have three on their books.

Jake Tribe and Alex Dale are working on the Ashbrook Apartments project at Ashton. Jake has just commenced with Bianco and Alex is in his fourth year. Another apprentice, James Bell is also in his fourth year.

"I liked the idea of working outdoors and being able to see the result of my efforts. One day I will be able to show my children what I have achieved. That's another reason why I chose bricklaying," said Jake.

Alex Dale initially wanted to be a carpenter but after completing a Doorways 2 Construction course, where he had the opportunity to experience many trades, he decided bricklaying had more to offer.

James Bell chose bricklaying as he enjoys working outdoors and could see the benefits of having a trade qualification.

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organisation"**

According to Angelo Salvatore, Bianco's masonry manager, employing apprentices is vital to any organisation. "As with any industry, natural attrition will see older employees moving on. There will always be a need for bricklayers and providing apprentices with appropriate skills will ensure that this trade remains in demand.

"Apprentices are our future. We value our apprentices and look to them becoming future leaders within our organisation. We now have two employees who have progressed from commencing as apprentices with our organisations to now holding site foreman positions," said Angelo.

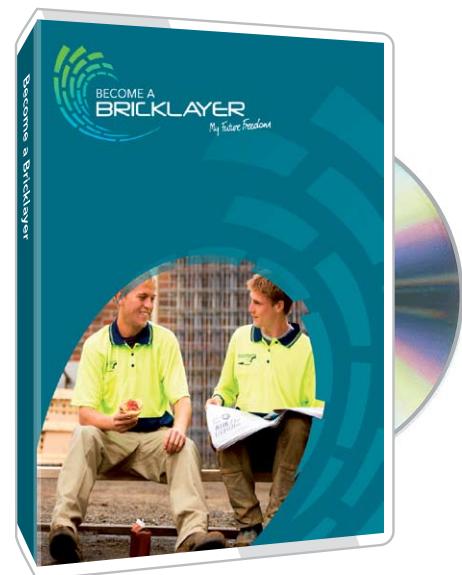
Angelo believes to succeed as a bricklayer you need to have a positive and cooperative attitude. "You need a willingness to listen and learn, an eye for detail and most importantly recognise that having a trade qualification can open many doors.

"I have been involved in this industry for over 40 years and 20 of those years have been with Bianco Bricklayers, now known as Bianco Precast. The bricklaying trade has been great for me. The experience I have gained and opportunities presented to me, particularly in my time at Bianco, has been immeasurable," said Angelo.

Bianco has a strong bricklaying culture with Nick Bianco starting out as a bricklayer. The company is now run by his son Russell, also a bricklayer.

"Nick and Russell are a great example of bricklayers who have built a fantastic business over the years. The opportunities gained from their bricklaying careers have allowed them to successfully expand their companies," he added.

## 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)

## It Started With Paolo



FCTA are giving bricklayers the opportunity to have their skills recognised and gain a qualification through their RPL assessment and training process.

Through the course, FCTA met with some outstanding bricklaying craftsmen.

Their greatest satisfaction came from Paolo Fiorita who at 70 years of age is still working alongside his son Steve. Paolo was an Italian immigrant who came to Australia in 1972 to work as a bricklayer. It was Paolo's wish that his son Steve follow in his footsteps, so he patiently worked with Steve over many years to give him the skills that led him to becoming a dedicated and skilful- bricklayer.

Steve has gone on over the years to train five apprentices, although fully skilled, he had not had the opportunity

to gain a qualification. After going through the FCTA RPL process he now has that qualification. Steve accredited all his work skills and work ethic to his father Paolo. It was his wish that Steve have his skills recognised and FCTA have delivered on this. Paolo's efforts over the years has now contributed to more than 10 people being gainfully employed.

FCTA and the team commend Paolo on the training he has given Steve over the years. Like father, like son they are both masters of their craft, and an inspiration to the bricklaying trade.

To date 15 bricklayers have completed the RPL process with FCTA and this could not have been achieved without the support from ABBTF, CITB and DFEEST.



Clay bricks are being actively and effectively promoted nationally by Think Brick Australia. The organisation represents Australia's clay brick and paver 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)

## 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.

## Apprentices Shine at HIA Awards

ABBTF sponsored the Bricklaying category of the 2010 HIA-Stratco Apprentice and Trade Contractor Awards held in April this year.

The evening was a great success and five bricklaying apprentices received their awards. ABBTF is delighted to support these important award events recognising the achievements of both the apprentices and their employers.

The winners were:

Joint 1st Year: Hayden Healey (below right) - Host Employer Steve Kincaid.

Joint 1st Year: Luke Borsboom (below left) - Host Employer Keith Hewitt.



2nd Year: Simon Hodges (below left) - Host Employer Luke Ryan.

3rd Year: Jay Gerardis (below right) - Host Employer Geoff Green.

4th Year: Jae Alisauskas (not pictured) - Host Employer Michael Paech.



Congratulations to all the winners.

