

Aussie BRICKLAYER



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Bricklayer & Apprentice
Makes good business sense

TASMANIA

June 2010

WorldSkills Silver Medal Winner – Ben Barratt



Ben Barratt learned to lay bricks from his dad and he can prove he is officially one of the best brickies in Australia, winning a silver medal for his performance in the WorldSkills Australia National Competition's bricklaying division in Brisbane recently.

After three days of gruelling competition Ben said the experience made all the hard work "worthwhile".

Ben, 23, of Midway Point, said becoming a bricklayer was the only thing he'd wanted to do since he was eight "because of my Dad being a bricklayer".

"The competition was a challenge but it was also a bit of fun," he said from a busy construction site south of Hobart, where he is working with his father Colin and two younger brothers, Luke and Matt, all bricklayers.

"Bricklaying has always been a challenge and I have worked hard to be my best at it, and that is all paying off.

"I started as a first year apprentice with Dad's business and we've really built it up, which has been great," said Ben.

ABBTf congratulates Ben and acknowledges the great work by his Dad Colin, and staff at Skills Institute Tasmania.

Bricklayers! Federal Government 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 who employ a young person aged 19 years and under, into a traditional trade.

We urge eligible employers to take on bricklaying apprentices and get a total benefit of \$13,350 which includes the normal ABBTf \$6,000 subsidy and the Federal Government's \$4,000 grant for employing apprentices.

The combined ABBTf and Government support is a great offer for bricklayers. The funding is also a great incentive to train an apprentice in that all important first year when most of the funding is payable.

It's a great time to take on apprentices and improve your productivity. For further information on Kickstart contact ABBTf on 1300 66 44 96 or email abbtff@holmesglen.vic.edu.au

Recognition for Skilled Bricklayers

ABBTf are aware of a number of bricklayers in Tasmania who have great skills, but remain unqualified due to not starting or completing an apprenticeship.

If you are in this group, contact ABBTf for advice on the process and how we can arrange and support the recognition and possible gap training to get qualified.

With the prospect of future occupational licensing for building trades, bricklayers should not miss out on the chance to have their skills assessed and recognised as part of the RPL and up-skilling process to gain a bricklaying qualification.

Contact ABBTf on 1300 66 44 96.

Award Winning Apprentices

A number of outstanding apprentices were awarded prizes for their achievements in bricklaying training.

The 2009 winners were:

- **Mathew Barratt**
Austral Bricks
Best 3rd Year Apprentice
- **Aaron Percy**
K&D Brick Company
Best 2nd Year Apprentice
- **Aaron Piesse**
Master Bricklayers Association
Most improved 2nd Yr Apprentice
- **Justin Stokes**
Adbri Building Products Award
Best 1st Year Apprentice
- **Andrew Gleeson**
Island Block & Paving
Best 1st Year Practical Apprentice

Credit is due to the excellent training and development provided by their employers and the training staff at Skills Institute Tasmania.

Justin and Andrew were both drawn to bricklaying by their experience in completing a Step Out Program in bricks in 2008.

Lester Wins Gold at WorldSkills



Lester creates perfect joints on his project

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

He 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.

According to Troy Everett, organiser of the bricklaying competition, "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.

Step Out in Bricks Projects – a Big Success

New Norfolk High participated in a "Step Out in Bricks" project in April. According to Lynne Hanlon, Vocational Education and Learning Development Officer Guaranteeing Futures, they were very fortunate to have Peter Holloway as the regular bricklayer.

"He quickly builds up a great rapport with the students and is keen to foster bricklaying as a great career choice.

"It was decided to conduct the program for five days, two days in the first week were devoted to laying the slab for the barbecue and then learning some bricklaying skills.

"Both Peter and the students thought the 'split' program worked well for both parties. The project received positive feedback from the school and teacher supervision was supported.

"The Principal spoke at the assembly in glowing terms of the value of this program for the students and the school in general," said Lynne.



L-R: SOP Students Wyatt Browning, Ethan Booth with Peter Holloway - Bricklayer

Prospect High School students built a retaining wall around an existing garden bed in the centre courtyard of the school which smartened up the area. The students were excellent and it was a big project. Mark Nutting, Teacher - Building and Construction, had the students well prepared, work ready and got the project off the ground.

John Lloyd from Lillico Bricklaying ran the project which was coordinated by Linda Goss, VEL Development Officer Guaranteeing Futures.

The success of this ABBTF sponsored Step Out Program resulted in two students gaining bricklaying apprenticeships. Jacob Homan is now employed with Lillico Bricklaying, Cohen Hart is employed with Scott Hingston Bricklaying.



SOP Students at Prospect constructed a retaining wall

Jacob said, "I just really enjoyed the program and decided bricklaying was for me. Late last year I got some work with Daryl Lillico, then this year, I left school and Daryl took me on as an apprentice.

"I love how I'm always busy doing things. Bricklaying is very hands on and I like working outside. The best part of the job is seeing the building grow each day and knowing that I did that!" In four years time, when my apprenticeship is up, I plan to go out and start my own business," said Jacob.

Well done boys, good luck in your future bricklaying careers!

Scottsdale High School's Tiki Button, Pathway Planning Officer/ Flexible Programs Coordinator also said, "At Scottsdale High School in Tasmania we were fortunate to run the "Step Out in Bricks" Program.

"I would like to thank (ABBTF) for supporting such a fantastic learning opportunity. The students involved had a great week and learnt many valuable skills that they can take with them into the work place or further training in 2011.

"We are very proud of their achievements including the seating the students constructed. Once again thank you so much for giving us this opportunity" said Tiki Button.



Scottsdale SOP Students constructed seating for their school

