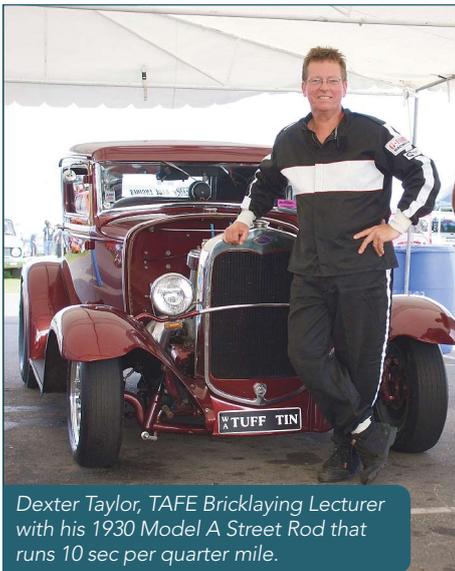


December 2010

Dexter - Hot Rodder and Bricklaying Lecturer



Dexter Taylor, TAFE Bricklaying Lecturer with his 1930 Model A Street Rod that runs 10 sec per quarter mile.

Dexter Taylor started his apprenticeship at Leederville TAFE in 1972 gaining Top Apprentice awards in every year of training.

"In my school holidays I worked for extra money with my uncles Errol and John Tilbrook and they offered me a bricklaying apprenticeship. My employer John was an exceptional bricklayer and businessman. I learned a lot from John.

"Undertaking an apprenticeship in the 1970's could be blamed for my passion for fast cars. Imagine brickies with Falcon GT's and HO Monaros and labourers with Chargers. Building sites were car parks for tough cars! As a second year apprentice I purchased a brand New Holden HQ V8 panel van (factory special order with all Monaro options). How cool was that?, asked Dexter.

"I have been bricklaying for nearly 40 years and still enjoy the trade. I was a successful sub-contractor for over 10 years prior to gaining a lecturing position at TAFE," he added.

Dexter has been a bricklaying lecturer at TAFE for 26 years. During this time he has completed a Diploma of Teaching (TAFE) and Bachelor of Education and has been awarded the Teachers Higher Certificate. He is currently working at Polytechnic West (Balga Campus) teaching young apprentices the knowledge and skills of the trade to also become successful in bricklaying.

"Bricklaying is a rewarding trade."

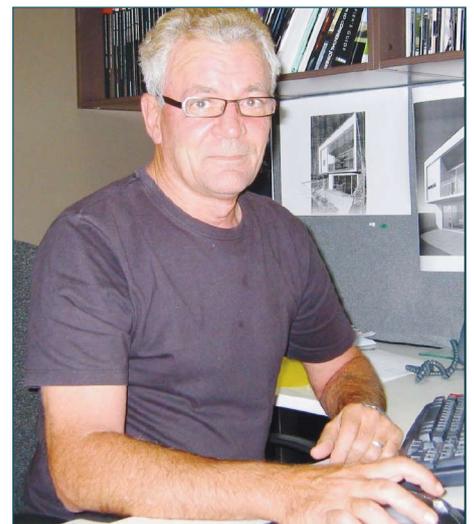
Dexter loves his cars. "My interests are all car related. I am a founding member of The Goodfella's Hotrod Club in Perth, being secretary for the past five years.

"I am also a member of the Australian Street Rodding Federation. My wife Jude and I often attend national Hot Rodding events Australia wide. We have been married for 33 years now and live in the Historic Village of Guildford," Dexter continued.

Fast forward to today and Dexter's panel van is long gone, along with the long hair and the flairs but the passion for fast cars remains. There is a Model A Coupe 1957 Chev Pickup, a 1935 Ford Tudor and a 1968 big black Camaro in the garage.



Craig Sheiles - From Bricklayer to Builder



How do you become a successful builder of stylish homes, after starting out laying bricks as a 15 year old bricklayer?

We asked Craig Sheiles director of Craig Sheiles Homes and his answer should be an inspiration to young people considering bricklaying as a career. Craig started laying bricks at 15 with Huey, Gary and Laurie Brown-Neaves.

"They were very good teachers so, at 18 years of age, I started sub-contracting with a 2 x 1 team working for various builders in the Perth metropolitan area.

"I always wanted to be a builder and when I was 20 I enrolled at Leederville TAFE to gain my builders registration. I soon realised how important a sound school education was if I wanted to go further in my career.

"During my 20's I continued sub-contract bricklaying for a new company called Webb & Brown-Neaves formed by Gary who had taught me the trade. This company continued to expand building fine new homes, and at around 30 years of age I joined them as a building supervisor.



The Elan by Craig Sheiles Homes.

"This enabled me to fine tune my practical skills in home building and when I was 35, I was appointed construction manager of the company continuing for several years. "Working with these very professional and passionate people was an excellent business experience. This allowed my wife Val and myself to start Craig Sheiles Homes in 1994," said Craig.

"The bricklaying background I was given delivers a sound understanding of structures and set out skills that NO other trade provides."

They started off in a small way with just renovations to the odd house, to make ends meet, then progressed to building their first display home in 1998. Craig has seamlessly made the transition from bricklayer to successful builder of fine homes.

"Several more have been built since, with three of the last four all winning the Best Display Home in the HIA ANZ WA Housing Awards. Some went on to become national finalists.

"The success we now enjoy as a company has its origins from the trades and we continually recognise that our trades people build, with our support, very high quality homes.

"The bricklaying background I was given delivers a sound understanding of structures and set-out skills that NO other trade provides, enhancing my ability as a builder," Craig added.

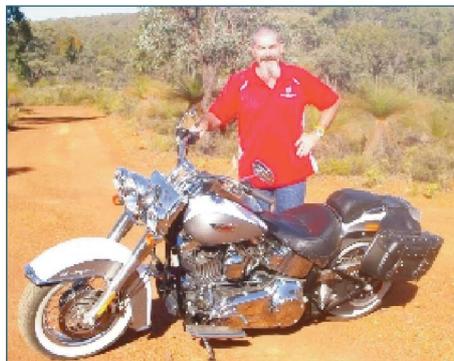
He assists his local TAFE College at committee level with their training

programs, recognising the importance of apprentices accumulating the right skills and having experienced people around them for a successful career.

Craig Sheiles summed up wisely, "As a bricklayer the only limitation on what you can achieve is your own imagination".

You can find Craig's company at www.cshomes.com.au

Brad Wickham - Roaring Though Life



Brad Wickham is a cool sort of guy who likes to ride his bike, a 2009 Harley Davidson Softail Deluxe, around the countryside. He enjoys following rugby and lives on an eight hectare property at rural Lower Chittering, a picturesque wine valley, one hour from Perth, with his wife Debbie and three kids, Megan, Scott and Dean.

He is also a bricklaying lecturer at West Coast TAFE who started as a labourer and then trowel-hand on building sites in the 1990s.

"I first got into bricklaying through my dad's best mate. He was a physical kind of guy, who I looked up to, and he became my friend and mentor. I loved working in the outdoors.

"Maintain a good work ethic and you could achieve any goal or dream you aspire to"

"Bricklaying lecturer, Eddie Campbell, was also a big influence. He taught me a lot and certainly helped me through," Brad said.

Brad completed a four year apprenticeship at Balga TAFE (now Polytechnic West), with RPL and lots of hard work he was released early. He was awarded Best Third Year Apprentice as well as being nominated for Apprentice of the Year.

Brad got his trade certificate and became a sub-contractor doing multi-storey housing. "I then set my sights on becoming a construction supervisor as part of my career progression. I am proud of the fact that I topped my class. I branched out and became a TAFE lecturer, something I have always wanted to do. I have been doing this for two years and I really enjoy it.

"It just shows how bricklaying can lead you on a great career path in the construction industry because you have the right skills.

"All you have got to add to that is the right attitude. Bricklaying has taught me to be self disciplined and well organised.

Bricklaying has provided Brad with many rewards, but Brad says that his Harley Davidson motorbike is the best.

"Maintain a good work ethic and you could achieve any goal or dream you aspire to," he added.

Great Time to Sign-up an Apprentice

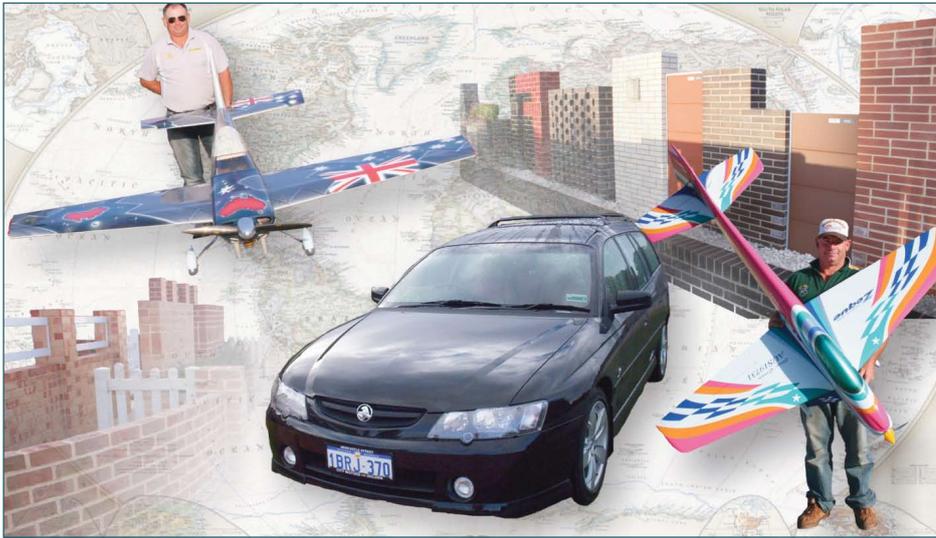
In early 2011 we will see many young school leavers looking for a career in the building industry.

Contractors should be aware that many good quality young people will be keen to start an apprenticeship in bricklaying.

The current incentives to employer are up to \$19,000 and there is no better time to add an apprentice to your gang. It makes good business sense.

For further information, contact ABBTF on 1300 66 44 96 or visit www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

Steve's Flying High on Bricklaying



Steve Coram started bricklaying straight out of school and hasn't looked back for the past 35 years.

His dedication to his career has provided him the luxury of obtaining and pursuing the sport that he loves, being Model Aircraft Flying.

Steve has been involved in the construction of most of the Austral Bricks display centres for nearly 20 years. His unique eye and excellence at his craft has produced some

memorable displays and exclusive brickwork techniques.

With his pursuit of the sport of flying model aircraft, he has achieved remarkable respect and accolades over the last three decades.

He is an eight times National Champion, has competed nearly a dozen times in the CAOCC, being the collection of all the best pilots in the Southern Hemisphere, and finishes mostly on the podium, winning this prestigious event once.

He has also competed for Australia, where the top three pilots are selected to compete for the World Title. The World Championships are held every two years. His best result from nine world championships, is 26th in the world. These events have taken him and his aircraft to many different countries.

In addition to his love of aircraft, he has a fine appreciation of motor vehicles. His beloved Holden SS Wagon is as much a treasure to him as his planes.

All these "Toys" have been achieved solely from his career as a bricklayer, its flexibility of time, and his love of the outdoors.

Bricklaying is to him such a treasured job, as he appreciates the longevity of his work and to see that his time will be surpassed by the buildings he will leave behind.

"The beauty of my work is in essence a time stamp, of every working day of my life.

"Each job, no matter how small, starts as nothing and as the job is completed you have accountability, construction and the loved and treasured possession of the family home," said Steve.

Brad Jones - Traveler, Surfer, Fisherman

When he was 15 years old, on his first day after he left school, Brad Jones planned to have the day off. But his older brother dragged him out of bed and said he was coming to work for him.

"I was fortunate to have my brother to teach me the tricks of the trade, in the bluntly honest and forgiving way that only family can," said Brad.

After a two year break from bricklaying he went back to the trade and within five years had his own bricklaying team. Brad is now a registered builder and enjoying the fruits of his hard work.

Brad completed several business courses after work at TAFE to manage his business.

"Bricklaying is a skill that can be used all over the world"

"I travelled overseas a few times, including a working holiday in Canada laying bricks. Bricklaying is a skill that can be used all over the world", he said.

Brad has two, four wheel drives and two boats including a 21ft. "Odyssey" for fishing.

"I reckon I have had just about every toy. I have always enjoyed laying bricks and the challenges that come with it and always thought of my job as getting paid to stay fit at the same time as getting the toys I like. Now the insights I have gained in the building industry have enabled me to get my builders licence.

"I live and work in beautiful Esperance with my partner Kristie. We will be moving to an eight hectare property soon where Kristie can ride her horses and I can enjoy my boats, fishing and surfing. It's a good life," he concluded.

"I still love laying bricks. I wouldn't swap it for anything," Brad added.



Ian's 1957 Chevy is His Pride and Joy



When it comes to boys' toys Ian Fitzgerald, ABTF WA field officer, reckons his 1957 Chevy with 350 V8 and Turbo 350 Quick Shifter Auto Transmission is just the best. He boasts it was actually a company car for the old COR oil company before he bought it.

"As a child I was always interested in cars, including sitting on the side of the road for hours, writing down license plate numbers. But I learned what types of vehicles and models were out there, and what I liked, and when I could, I wanted a nice car.

Ian, who joined the ABTF earlier this year, has always enjoyed cars and luckily his wife Peta has the same passion having been brought up with Chevrolets. In their shed at the back of the house there is also a 1942 Indian motorcycle and a Straight Eight cylinder Buick.

Ian left school after Year 9, starting a five year apprenticeship at the age of 14 with his father, a 4th generation bricklayer, completing at the age of 19.

"I was a self employed bricklayer, in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors until I was 35.

"I undertook a Small Business Management course at night school, as well as a Public Speaking Course with

ROSTRUM. These attributes opened up areas in the building sector I would never have dreamed to tackle.

"Don't be afraid to dream, but have patience!"

"This enabled me to become a bricklaying lecturer eight years ago and a few years later I became manager of a private RTO," said Ian.

Through the industry contacts he has made and recently joining ABTF, he has had the opportunity to pass on his knowledge and experience to, schools, pre-apprentices, apprentices, employers and many other industry stakeholders.

"However this was only possible by having a trade behind me.

"Getting married, buying a house, raising four children, left no money for "boys toys. But after renewing myself through further education, I had a better earning capacity to finally get the cars and bikes I wanted," he concluded.

Ian's message to young apprentices: "Don't be afraid to dream, but have patience!"

New ABTF Website Launched



A new website has been launched by ABTF as part of a complete redesign of our marketing and communications program.

www.becomeabricklayer.com.au has been redesigned to make it more attractive and informative for those seeking a career as a bricklayer or blocklayer.

Geoff Noble, ABTF's general manager, said that following a review of its operational and marketing strategies, the decision was made to redesign the website.

"The website makes it much easier for young people to find out about a career in brick and blocklaying. The site is simple to navigate, explains what a bricklayer does and what makes a good bricklayer. It points out all the good reasons for becoming a bricklayer, said Geoff Noble.

"The new website details how to get qualified as a bricklayer, the best sources of information and the incentives available. ABTF's state newsletters and media releases are on the site as well.

"Visitors to the site can read about the many success stories where bricklayers have gone on to become builders, construction executives and leaders in the construction field.

"There is a section for employers which explains why it makes good business sense to take on an apprentice, the incentives available and other handy information," Geoff concluded.

If you are looking for information about the structure and purpose of the ABTF and its strategies, you can go to another website www.abtbf.com.au. This website explains who we are, the brick and block companies we represent and our strategies to address the skill shortage in bricklaying.

Merry Christmas from all at ABTF

2010 has been a successful year for ABTF. We are greatly indebted to all those people in the industry who helped with Step Out Programs, Try-a-Trade demonstrations and newsletter contributions.

We also thank the trainers and the employers who have helped us to achieve our objective of getting more bricklaying apprentices into the industry and indeed raise the image of this skilled trade.

We would like to wish all our colleagues, supporters and friends a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous & safe New Year.

