BRICKLAYER magazine

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020



It has no doubt been a very trying and challenging year for many of you, especially for our members in Melbourne. We look forward to sites beginning to open and the gradual return to some normality in the coming months.

The construction industry

generates over \$360 billion in revenue, producing around 9% of Australia's Gross Domestic Product, and has a projected annual growth rate of 2.4% over the next five years. Its activities are strongly linked to other segments of the Australian economy, in particular the manufacturing, wholesale trade and retail trade. Most businesses in the industry are either sole traders or small businesses employing less than 20 people. In early 2020 over 1.15 million people were employed in construction (4.6% of all jobs in Australia) which has now been severely impacted by COVID-19. A further 118,800 jobs were projected to be added by May 2023. This means we could possibly still witness a 10% rise in employment in construction.

Brick and blocklayers are a key and critical component of the construction industry, however unfortunately, the ongoing demand for brickies/bricklayers and blocklayers is reducing with the introduction of composite products and more poignantly, less young people taking up the trade. This is reflected in the apprentice numbers as outlined below:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Commencements	327	390	362	305	237
Completions	106	108	69	112	145
% Completions				34.25%	37.17%

In 2017 to 2018 there was a fall of 15.74% in commencements, with a further fall in 2018 to 2019 of 22.29%. These falls have continued in 2020 to a staggering 31.64% as of September 2020. COVID-19 has impacted the 2020 result by as much as 8%. Another concerning factor is that the apprentice completion rate is under 40%, which is the worst result of any Building and Construction Apprenticeship in NSW. Theoretically, if these trends continue, Apprenticeships in Block and Bricklaying will disappear within 15 years.

Remedy: An assessment of these figures indicates that there are at least 500 individuals now "partially trained" in Block and Bricklaying in NSW. There is funding available for them to complete the training if they can somehow be engaged to do so.

Further Suggestions: A review of the new Block and Bricklaying Certificate III to assess if it can be reduced to 3 Years/3 Stages. Cultivation of our employing contractors and businesses, and most importantly our existing tradesmen, to welcome, engage, educate, assist, mentor, support and empower the future valuable tradesmen, which are our lifeline to the continuing existence of our loved and cherished industry.

It is my most heartfelt hope that COVID-19 has not impacted your families or businesses to any significant degree, and that our Members are getting back to what they do best, taking care of business again. So far, the Government has confirmed that works can proceed at occupied sites where it is possible to create a physical barrier between workers. I do sincerely hope that you and your families and your businesses emerge stronger and more resilient from these most challenging of times.

Brendan Coyle President

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BOARD MEMBERS

The peak industry association for bricklayers, Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA) is run and operated entirely by volunteers. Our Board Members all have extensive industry experience and are dedicated to assisting and promoting the bricklaying and blocklaying industry in Australia.



PRESIDENT BRENDAN COYLE Oldfields

Brendan has more than 30 years experience in the Masonry Industry. He has worked as a bricklayer in Ireland, England, New Zealand and across Australia. With more than 20 years' Senior Management experience, being employed by two Australian major brick manufacturers for approximately 15 of these years. Brendan also has a Masters in Business (MBA).



VICE PRESIDENT & **EXECUTIVE OFFICER** LAURA CARR Construction Manager Walsos Bricklaying (NSW) Pty Ltd

Laura arrived in Australia from the UK in July 2005, and after travelling around the country decided to settle in Sydney. She enrolled and completed a Diploma of Business Management and Work Health and Safety (WHS).

Laura attended Australian Technical and Further Education (TAFE) as an International Student, and in 2010 completed a Certificate IV in Building and Construction. She commenced in the Construction Industry as an Estimator for Walsos Bricklaying (NSW) Pty Ltd and now oversees every aspect of the business.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER TIM MURPHY Director FUGEN Holdings Pty Ltd

Tim and his brother Dan established FUGEN (Bricklaying) in 1984, and still operate the business to this day. Tim was a founding member of the MCA, under the leadership of 'Jock' Cameron (and John White). Tim is proud to still be involved with the MCA and the Masonry Industry.







EXECUTIVE MEMBER **CON ZARAFETAS** Executive Director Conrina Masonry Pty Ltd

Con Zarafetas, founder of the Conrina Group, has been involved in the Masonry Industry for more than 30 years. His love for the industry manifests in his commitment to the promotion of the positive aspects that masonry delivers, and also through his involvement with the MCA. Con, an experienced Director, demonstrates an ability to grow organisations to be both financially and ethically sustainable, rewarding all stakeholders in the process. Con has a Graduate Diploma of Management from Macquarie University and is currently completing his Master of Business (MBA) at MGSM.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER **JOHN WHITE**

Senior Commercial **Business Development** Manager

PGH Bricks & Pavers **NSW**

John has been involved with the MCA since 1997, and served as Executive Officer from 2003 to 2013. Primarily from a sales background, John has sold everything relating to the industry, including bricks, blocks, sand, and cements through to wall ties, as well as bricklaying services. He has a basic knowledge of remedial and rectification work. Companies he has worked for include Aalborg, ABBTF, Austral, Boral, Brick & Block, Melcann, Statewide and Westox. John's motivation for his work with the Association is to contribute to the continuance of a trade which has fed and clothed him for over 30 years.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER SAM FAVETTI

Operations Manager / Supervisor Favetti Pty Ltd

Sam Favetti is a bricklayer with over 40 years of experience, he is also a business owner as the Director and Operator of the Favetti Group of Companies. The Favetti Group is involved in commercial and residential construction, and is responsible for some of Sydney's iconic brick buildings. Bricklaying is Sam's daily passion, and keeping the trade strong is his commitment to the industry. An MCA Member who wants to contribute his experience for the betterment of the trade, Sam has a Certificate IV in Building and an Associate Diploma in Construction Management.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TRACEY VAN BREUGEL

Master Builders Association of NSW

Secretariat to Masonry Contractors Australia

Tracey has been employed by the Master Builders Association of NSW (MBA NSW) for five years. Tracey is the administrator for three Industry Sectors: Masonry Contractors Australia (MCA), Metal Roofing and Cladding Association of Australia (MRCAA) and Livable Housing Australia (LHA).



Our Beginnings



Complete Lintels Building Supplies commenced operations in 2008 as Complete Lintels. The foundational vision from company director, Mino Pellizzon, was to supply lintels for small to mid-sized building projects across Sydney NSW. In its formative years, the company was based out of PGH Horsley Park and in those days, the focus was on supplying terracotta lintels, and small quantities of galvanised lintels, to tradespeople and small builders. Mino confirms, that "the philosophy in the beginning was quite simple, and this was to establish a genuine ongoing relationship with a small client base, supply product to them at a competitive price, and efficiently deliver the correct product to site".

Our Present & Future

Over the past twelve years, the business has expanded both its staff and product ranges. As Mino explains, "in addition to warehousing stock of galvanised and concrete lintels at our Annangrove yard, over time we have extended our product range beyond lintels. Therefore, we felt it was a natural progression to re-brand the business as Complete Lintels Building Supplies, as this would provide greater clarity of the products we offer."

Complete Lintels Building Supplies specialises in the supply of face and common bricks (all ranges from Austral Bricks, PGH Bricks, Lincoln Brickworks and Namoi Valley Bricks), brick accessories, galvanised and concrete lintels, grey block, premix concrete, mesh and accessories, Hebel, AFS Walling, landscaping solutions (including paving and retaining wall blocks), windows and garage doors. Mino acknowledges that "the nexus achieved between our valued business relationships with our Australian made manufacturers and the passion and commitment from our close-knit team of staff, has truly been pivotal for our business growth and longevity. Our internal sales team and 'on the road' account managers are experienced to assist

our clientele every step of the way, irrespective of quote, order, technical information, or product issues. We definitely thrive on servicing an extensive repertoire of client types, and this in turn yields a variety of work for our entire team." Complete Lintels Building Supplies' clientele encompasses tradespersons, owner builders, builders, project managers, engineers, architects, and developers.

In summation, Mino expresses his gratitude to the Sydney construction sector, "over the past 12 years we feel extremely privileged to have supplied our product range across a broad scale of construction projects". These projects include, but are not limited to, small renovations, residential construction right through to multi-storey units. As 2020 almost concludes, Complete Lintels Building Supplies is looking forward to continuing its supply of products to new and interesting building projects in both 2021 and beyond.

For more information visit their website at www.completelbs.com.au or call Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm (02) 9672 4840.



Create a Statement





UPDATES



from the Australian Taxation Office

In a year like no other, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has responded to an increased number of calls and requests.

But some questions and advice are accessible online, before even making a phone call. For many individuals or small businesses who do not have access to in-house financial help, the ATO has a suite of initiatives and advice available.

Karen Foat, Assistant Commissioner at the ATO, said the organisation has implemented a wide range of different approaches to support taxpayers and the community during this financial year.

"We know many of our clients, and their agents, will have questions about how different types of income and expenses may affect their obligations this year. We're helping to make sure people know how to get it right," Ms Foat said.

Lodging Your Tax Return

Tax returns cover the financial year, which typically runs from 1 July to 30 June. However, the impacts of COVID-19, which struck in the middle of that period, may come to fruition when completing a tax return.

A tax return includes essential details such as how much money a person earned, and any expenses or claims made as a deduction. The ATO uses this information to produce an amount of tax that an individual should have paid during the period.

But for some people, who may have paid more tax than required, the ATO will refund the extra amount back as a deposit into a nominated bank account. In some cases, taxpayers who have not paid enough tax during the year may receive a tax bill. This is directly payable to the ATO.

For individuals and companies who need to complete a tax return, it must be lodged before 31 October 2020.

Problems with Lodging a **Tax Return**

Due to COVID-19, or other serious and unforeseen circumstances, the ATO understands that it may not be possible for some individuals to lodge their return on time.

Many business owners may employ a business activity statement (BAS) agent to lodge their return on their behalf. If this is the case, a different due date will

In some cases, the ATO may be able to defer a lodgement. However these enquiries should be directly discussed with the ATO.

If an individual is unable to pay their tax bill on time, the ATO may be able to provide selective help, including:

- Setting up a tailored and affordable payment plan
- · Fast tracking any tax refund owing
- · Deferring a compulsory repayment, like a Higher Education Loan Program debt
- Preventing any tax refund that may be due with other government organisations.

In extreme circumstances, the ATO can release an individual from paying some taxes if paying them would result in serious financial or social hardship.

JobKeeper and JobSeeker

The Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme provides ongoing income support to businesses that have experienced a reduction in income as a result of COVID-19. Employees are eligible for entitlements, if they have experienced a reduction in working hours.

Employers who sign up for the program will be reimbursed for payments made to employees. Businesses can enrol in the JobKeeper program at any time until it formally ends. Businesses must enrol, and identify each eligible employee, before the end of the particular month in which they intend to claim.

The policy will continue until March 2021, albeit with a reduced payment as compared to its original form. The next JobKeeper reduction will take place on 3 January 2021, where rates will fall to \$1,000 and \$650 per fortnight, depending on whether an employee is on a full-time or part-time contract.

Similarly, taxpayers who received JobSeeker entitlements will be required to pay tax on these earnings. This will be presented clearly on an individual's financial year income statement.

Stand Down Payments and Other Income

Employees who were stood down as a result of COVID-19 may have received a one-off, or regular payment.

These payments are taxable, and should appear in a taxpayer's income statement and in their tax return.



Similarly, taxpayers should ensure all income, including income protection, insurance payments, redundancy and other entitlement payments are filed in their tax return.

Claiming Deductions

Many employees around Australia were forced to begin working from home arrangements to stop the spread of COVID-19. As such, workers are entitled to make deductions on any workrelated equipment purchased or expenses.

In light of these changing habits, the ATO announced a temporary 'short-cut method', which applies to employees working from home between 1 March 2020 and 30 June 2020.

This method makes it easier for millions of Australians to claim tax deductions for working from home expenses.

The method covers all deductible expenses and can be used by multiple people working from home in the same house.

People claiming working from home expenses, and using the shortcut method, should include the amount at the 'other work-related expenses' question in their tax return, and include 'COVID-hourly rate' as the description.

"If you use the shortcut method, all you need to do is keep a record of the hours you worked from home, as evidence of your claim. But it is all inclusive, meaning you can't claim for any other working from home expenses," Ms Foat said

Taxpayers can still choose to use other existing methods to calculate their expenses for working from home, if they prefer.

Employees should note that they are

unable to claim coffee, tea, milk and other general household items, educational costs for children, and devices used for leisure rather than work purposes.

Importantly, taxpayers are unable to claim items for which they have been reimbursed by their employer, or the decline in value of items provided by their employer.

Ms Foat said the ATO is prepared to deal with employees requests and enquiries in regards to their personal entitlements.

"This tax time the ATO expects to see a substantial increase in people claiming deductions for working from home or for protective items required for work," Ms Foat said.

Support is available directly from the ATO over the phone on: 13 28 61, or online at: www.ato.gov.au

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of Galintels, Concrete Lintels, Bricks, Brick Accessories, AFS Rediwall, Hebel, Concrete Blocks, Retaining Wall Blocks, Premix Concrete, Structural Steel, Mesh & Accessories, Windows & Garage Doors. Complete Lintels Building Supplies is proudly & strongly associated with reputable manufacturers of Australian made building products. The importance of commitment to customer service at Complete Lintels Building Supplies is paramount. We are completely committed to safely delivering your product to site, both efficiently and in a timely manner through our own logistics team. This means we can confidently supply you with the right building product to build your dream.

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100,000 New **Apprenticeship Positions Announced**



The Federal Government has invested an additional \$1.2 billion to support Australian businesses by employing 100,000 new apprentices or trainees.

The new initiative – part of the national COVID-19 economic recovery plan started on 5 October 2020, and encourages businesses to take on new Australian apprentices, by providing a 50 percent wage subsidy.

The wage subsidy will be available for new or recommencing apprentices and trainers, for the period up to 30 September 2021, and is capped at \$7,000 per quarter.

Businesses are eligible to receive the

wage subsidy regardless of their geographic location, occupation, industry or business size.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the apprenticeships were an important pathway to get young people into hands-on jobs and to ensure there is a skills pipeline to meet the future needs of employers.

"During this pandemic the Federal Government has been focused on supporting and creating jobs as well as identifying the skills we need in the economic rebuild."

"Already 760,000 jobs that were either lost or reduced to zero hours as the COVID crisis hit, have come back into

our economy. We want to continue to recover what has been lost and get young people into work," the Prime Minister said.

The \$1.2 billion package, known as the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, will focus on a broad range of sectors.

"Whether it's the manufacturing, housing and construction, arts or mining sectors - this new wage subsidy gives businesses certainty to hire and provides a career path to aspiring, young tradies," the Prime Minister added.

There are no limits to the number of apprentices or trainees that employers



may choose to support during the program's tenure. But employers must lodge their final claims for payments before 31 December 2021.

Additionally, group training organisations are also eligible for the subsidy.

The measure builds on existing packages to support apprentices and trainees in the wake of COVID-19, like the \$2.8 billion Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidies that are already helping employers to retain their existing apprentices and trainees.

The Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash added that the Boosting Apprenticeship

Commencements wage subsidy builds on the existing Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy.

"The Australian Government has already invested significantly to ensure that apprentices are retained where possible and supported to re-engage if they lose their job," Minister Cash said.

Similarly, the Federal Government has invested in JobMaker and JobTrainer packages, which focus on job creation and training schemes respectively.

The JobMaker initiative includes fast-tracking building and infrastructure projects, and ensuring tradespeople are at the forefront of Australia's next generation manufacturing hub.

Similarly, the JobTrainer package supports and prepares Australia for a post-COVID environment, and longterm industry recovery.

Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships, the Hon Steve Irons MP, said the new measures will continue to provide support to apprentices and trainees.

"Through the existing Supporting Apprentices and Trainees measure, as many as 90,000 businesses employing around 180,000 apprentices throughout Australia will continue to be supported," Assistant Minister Irons said.

Payments for the scheme will be made directly to the recipient's nominated bank account.

Businesses eligible for the apprenticeship positions are encouraged to apply before the 100,000 cap is reached.

To apply for the scheme or to engage an apprentice for your business, call ABBTF 1300 66 44 96.



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Take Advantage of the **Instant Asset Write-Off Before 31 December**

The Federal Government's increased Instant Asset Write-Off threshold is set to end on 31 December 2020, so if you've been considering investing in equipment, vehicles, or any other assets, now might be the time to do so.

The increased instant asset write-off was announced by Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, in mid-March, as part of the Federal Government's \$17.6 billion economic plan to keep Australians in in jobs, and keep companies in business, in the face of the significant challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19.

How the Instant Asset Write-off Works

Previously, any Australian business with a turnover less than \$50 million could instantly write off the cost of an asset up to the value of \$30,000. The Federal Government's recent changes lifted the asset ceiling to \$150,000, and expanded the program to include businesses with an aggregated turnover of up to \$500 million. This measure is expected to require an

investment of \$700 million from the Federal Government.

Under the instant asset write-off, eligible businesses can claim an immediate deduction for the business portion of the cost of an asset in the year the asset is first used, or installed ready for use.

The instant asset write-off can be used for

- multiple assets as long as the cost of each individual asset is less than the relevant threshold
- new and second-hand assets.

Eligibility

Eligibility for the use of instant asset write-off depends on:

- the aggregated business turnover (the total ordinary income of your business and that of any associated businesses)
- the date you purchased the asset
- when the asset was first used or installed ready for use
- the cost of the asset being less than the threshold.

Exclusions and Limits

There are a small number of assets that are excluded:

- Assets that are leased out for more than 50% of the time on a depreciating asset lease
- Assets allocated to a low-value asset pool before using the simplified depreciation rules
- Horticultural plants including grapevines
- Software allocated to a software development pool (but not other software)
- · Capital works

IIn addition, the instant asset write-off. for the purchase of a car, is limited to the business portion of the car limit up to \$57,581 for the 2019-2020 financial year. For example, if a vehicle is used for 75% business, the total amount that can be claimed is 75% of \$57,581, which equals \$43,186.

For more information, visit: https://www.ato.gov.au.



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A ONE STOP SHOP:

Establishment of the NSW Personal Injury Commission

By Michael Twemlow

On 11 August 2020 Legislation passed in the New South Wales Parliament to establish the Personal Injury Commission (PIC), a one-stop shop in NSW to manage disputes for individuals injured whilst at work or on the road.

The PIC is intended to simplify the dispute resolution system for workers seeking compensation for injuries suffered in the context of their employment and for injured road users.

At present, dispute resolution services are managed by:

- the Workers Compensation Commission (the WCC); and
- the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA)

The belief is that the net result of this system is functions are duplicated, especially concerning medical assessments, leading to inefficiencies and delay. From 1 March 2021 the functions of these multiple dispute resolution bodies will be transferred to the PIC and will be merged into one independent tribunal.



The PIC will have two specialist divisions to deal with workers' compensation and motor accidents with an independent judicial head. Key features of the PIC include:

- Provision of a central and common registry to deal with matters under both the workers compensation legislation and motor accidents legislation.
- Medical assessors for both workers compensation legislation and motor accidents legislation will be appointed by the President of the PIC.
- It will carry out dispute resolution

functions in relation to motor accidents currently carried out by SIRA.

- Injured persons will be able to take their complaints, at first instance, to an independent tribunal rather than to government officials.
- It will consist of the President (who must be a judge), Deputy Presidents, principal members, senior members, and general members.

The object of the new model is to provide a streamlined mechanism to facilitate resolution of personal injury disputes in NSW.





Why a Clear Written **Contract is** So Important

By Linda Holland

The need to properly record the agreed terms of a commercial transaction by means of a formal written contract or similar document is well-established. The benefit of doing so is clear: the parties embark on the transaction knowing with certainty their respective rights and obligations, and a dispute is therefore less likely to arise. Since the cost of preparing the formal contract is likely to be a lot less than the cost of litigating a later dispute, it makes commercial common sense to take this step.

Once again, a case has come before the courts highlighting how a failure to reduce to writing the precise terms of an agreement has led to neither party receiving what they wanted (or what they thought they were entitled to).

In Repfix Industries Pty Limited v. FBD Group Pty Limited [2020] NSWDC 514, in the absence of a formal written contract, the Court looked at the evidence of the dealings between the parties in order to try to determine the precise terms of their agreement.

The difficulty in the case was that it was the payment term (a fundamental provision of the contract) that was disputed. The guestion arose whether the contract was incomplete or uncertain, and whether the Court should imply into the contract an obligation for each party to negotiate the contract price in good faith.

This case shows, once again, the importance of confirming in writing

the terms of a commercial agreement. If the parties had entered into a standard form of contract for this type of work (easily and cheaply available), the miscommunication arising out of their initial conversations about the quotes would have been resolved before the work was performed, and before either party incurred or became liable for additional costs.

The mechanism in such a contract for claiming and making payments would also have allowed the parties to track the amount that each project was costing, allowing intervention or further negotiation to ensure that the project continued smoothly.

Instead, the parties have been subject to the stress and cost of litigation, which undoubtedly would also have been an unwelcome distraction from their core businesses.



On many Australian building sites clay rich sands, fire clays, air entraining agents, detergents, sugar and banned substances are added to mortar mixes to make them more workable... often without knowledge or approval of the Project Manager or Client.





Inferior practises can lead to poor quality buildings. low mortar bond strength, efflorescence and other problems in brick and block work.

Mortar mix tables in the Australian Standards prescribe the ingredients for clay brick and concrete block mortar mixes which include: Washed Sand, Cement, Lime, Clean Water and cellulose based Water Thickener. 'AS3700-2011 Table 11.1 & 'AS4773.2-2015 Table 3.2

METCELL™ cellulose based Water Thickener available at leading hardware stores or online order and fast delivery at www.metcell.com.au - Tel. 1300 136 547



Latest Lending Data Indicates Early Boost From HomeBuilder

According to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, most categories of home lending saw growth during August 2020. The new data offers an early sign of the impact of the Federal Government's HomeBuilder scheme and the extension of the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme.

The number of loans for the construction of a new dwelling increased by 22.9 per cent in August 2020 to its highest level in over a decade. Not only does this data show that there has been an increase in the number of loans for the construction of a new home, there was also an increase in the purchase of residential land as well as new and established homes.

There have been several Federal Government initiatives announced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to help kick-start the construction industry, including:

- HomeBuilder Scheme Provides eligible owner occupiers with a \$25,000 grant to build a new residence or undertake substantial renovations to a pre-existing home
- First Home Loan Deposit Scheme - Enables first time home buyers to purchase their first home with just a 5% deposit; the Government provides the bank with a guarantee of up to

15% of the property's value

• First Home Owner Grant - Offers up to \$20,000 to build or buy a new home, depending on your state or territory, location and the value of the property

In addition, the New South Wales Government introduced a temporary increase in stamp duty thresholds. Under the changes, the threshold above which stamp duty will be charged on new homes for first home buyers will increase from the existing \$650,000 to \$800,000, phasing out gradually on homes with a value up to \$1 million.





At Trade-Up we are so proud to support so many of you in the work you do

As an industry in Australia, bricklayers should be proud that you have been one of the first subcontractor trades to effectively adopt the use of software, into your businesses, that allows the path to digitising workflows, and increasing profits, by fine tune tracking and reporting of productivity.

When we measure productivity in construction, it is not always about getting more things done in the day. It is about accurately measuring the efficiency of our team completing tasks.

We can use this information to accurately estimate the price of future work, and/or to ensure that our team efficiently completes the work within the labour budgets set in the contract.

Our goal, moving forward, is to keep growing with you as an industry, recognising the evolving needs and challenges presented to our subcontractors, and providing solutions that are easy to implement. The resent changes, being implemented by the NSW building Commissioner, have bought a whole new set of rules and referees to the building game. Trade-Up staff have been reviewing and processing the new changes, to ensure that we can provide the most relevant digital toolbox to our members.

The Up-Family is all about keeping everything in the one place, and replacing your clipboard with digital versions of your daily paper trace.

That is why we have created our very own file hosting system that sits within your administration portal.

Create as many folders as you need to stay organised, and store documents you will need multiple people to access efficiently.

Now, you can also capture key information about your workers through our Work-Up portal, to ensure projects remain on track, all without slowing down the process. Foremen

can access team information, such as White Cards, competencies and tickets, all on-site. Workers can update their own information through the portal.

Our Site attendance and Timesheet feature works hand in hand to provide all the information you need to know about whos on site where and when.

When a worker scans on using biometrics, our system records their attendance time, as well as a draft timesheet based on their default work hours within that time.

The draft timesheet can be edited/ approved by the on-site foreman, or by the administration staff in the head office.

Trade-Up provides templates for toolbox talks, risk assessment, hire dockets and pre-start checklists. Alternatively, you can create custom checklist templates, directly related to the way your business is run. Plus, your on-site team can stamp authority with a simple finger touch signature option, which allows forms to be signed on-line.

An Up-Family subscription also allows companies to track assets. Keep a current stock take of machinery, tools, office assets and more. Attach forms such as receipts, warranty, manuals and maintenance documentation to keep an accurate log of each asset.

For more information, visit: https://www.up-family.com.au



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WHY CHOOSE

Engineered Masonry Support Systems?

Structural Support Specialists, Ancon, explain why modern engineered brickwork support systems increase reliability, while cutting costs and making life easier for contractors.

As building designers strive to reach new heights, and regulations drive a new focus on design and materials to improve safety and sustainability, so structural support requirements are becoming increasingly demanding.

This is particularly true for large brickwork façades. Whilst contractors have traditionally turned to hot-dip galvanised stock angle for horizontal support - performance, speed, and reliability are now driving the change to fully engineered stainless steel systems.



Complex Challenges

On larger projects, contractors are faced with increasingly complex challenges – co-ordinating support around live end post tension pockets; accommodating varying cavity sizes and corners; and determining angle sizes and fixing strengths.

For generic galvanised angles, this requires input from a consulting engineer, thereby increasing project costs. The Ancon masonry support system includes design services, free-of charge, thereby minimising stress and cost for the contractor.

Purpose-Designed Solution

Ancon shelf angles are engineered to provide the correct bearing width for the brickwork, and fit neatly within the joint depth, ensuring consistent appearance across the brickwork façade. This contrasts with galvanised shelf angles, which are sold in set standard sizes, and rarely provide the correct bearing width for bricks. Galvanised angles are consequently over-specified, creating deeper joints at corners and other angle locations.



Life-Long Performance

Ancon shelf angles are engineered in high performance stainless steel, to provide value for money and long life in even the most demanding exposure conditions.

Once installed, shelf angles are normally impossible to inspect and, should they fail, costly to repair. Yet, they are subject to attack from damp and chemicals in the wall cavity. AS 2699.3, AS 3700, AS 4773 and the National Construction Code all specify stainless steel as the most suitable material for all durability class locations.

Mild steel galvanised angles are excluded from durability R4 locations. Mild steel galvanised angles, used in durability classes R3, R2 and R1, require the correct coating level to be specified and purchased. In addition, routine cutting and drilling on site, plus general damage during handling and transport, means that mild steel galvanised angles must be brought back up to standard before use. This not only adds expense, but requires additional on-site control and supervision to ensure compliance.

Improved Site Safety and Performance

By purpose-designing its shelf angles, Ancon keeps weight to a minimum, which allows easier handling - for instance, a typical 2 metre long unit weighs a manageable 13.5kg. Components are also ready drilled and supplied in different lengths, complete with mitred corners, removing any need for cutting and drilling, and thereby improving safety on site.

The reduced thermal conductivity of stainless steel also cuts heat transfer across the cavity, a major benefit as thermal standards continue to rise.

Choice of Systems

Ancon offers two types of masonry support systems, both of which are suitable for a wide range of cavities and load conditions.

Ancon CFA is a continuous shelf angle ideal for smaller cavities, and if the angle is visible from underneath. This support system is available with either horizontal or vertical serrated slots for adjustment.

Ancon MDC support systems combine lightweight continuous angle with fixing brackets for greater material efficiency and ease of use. The brackets are vertically slotted for easy installation and perfect course alignment.

Both systems are supplied complete with fixings, including cast-in channels and post-fixed anchors, and provide solutions for both concrete and steel framed buildings.



Building with Bricks?

Count on our support

Design and manufacture of flexible, cost-effective systems for the support and restraint of masonry cladding.



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Tel: 1300 304 320 www.ancon.com.au





NATURESTONE BLOCKS

by Baines Masonry

Designing a retaining wall that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing can be difficult. The NatureStone™ Retaining Wall System by Baines Masonry Blocks makes it much easier. The NatureStone® Retaining Wall System is constructed with a natural stone, fixed before delivery, in either a rock or smooth finish, making it the perfect wall for the Australian landscape, while being structurally sound.

Baines Masonry's NatureStone™ retaining wall block utilises the "Henrick" patented system of adhering natural stone to structural masonry blocks, providing structural integrity and reliability for every installation.

Most natural stone, such as sandstone, bluestone, granite, limestone and travertine, can be cut and milled to size and then fixed to masonry blocks. To ensure the structural integrity of each unit, the the system involves the use of high-strength, purpose neutral-cure adhesive, and 316 mechanically fixed marine-grade stainless steel pins, top and bottom.

NatureStone™ produced by Baines Masonry is easy to lay, easy to reinforce, cost-effective, and is engineer friendly, thanks to the available design tables. The NatureStoneTM retaining wall block system has a complete block range, including full blocks, half blocks, capping, corner returns and sills. It is also available as a segmented retaining wall product.

NatureStone™ is part of the BelleStone™ range of products by Baines Masonry Blocks, and includes the following features:

- Standard design tables
- AS3700 and BCA compliant
- A light-weight option that is easy to lay and reinforce

• Sustainability benefits of Betta Block, including the use of recycled materials and less concrete

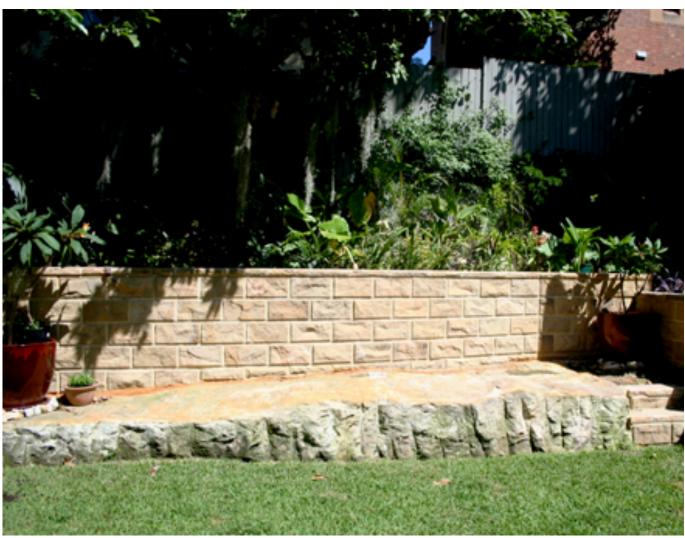
NatureStone™ blocks have recently been used for piers to complement the regeneration of an aggerate dump, for the RMS in the Blue Mountains, and for a retaining wall in Neutral Bay in Sydney. NatureStone™ is currently being used as the load-bearing lower floor in a high-end residential development in Greenwich, NSW.

Due to its versatility, NatureStone™ can be used in most landscaping and building applications, both commercial and domestic, and is also perfect for outdoor entertaining areas.

The benefits of NatureStone™ include:

- Slimmer facing
- One trade installation
- · Consistent wall engineering
- Environmental considerations
- More cost effective, as the product wastage from serpentine walls is grey block, not sandstone, and is therefore more cost effective
- Minimised damage during site movements, as it weighs less than solid sandstone per block.





To visualise the use of the NatureStone™ Retaining Wall System in your project, visit our New Masonry Designer Software:

http://www.bainesmasonry. com.au/bainesmasonry-app.

Baines Masonry also produces a range of masonry blocks, standard concrete (Bettablocks), Honed, Splitface and Lockblock.

For information contact our sales team today on (02) 4631 1383 or visit our website www.bainesmasonry.com.au.



PGH BRICKS & PAVERS

Used in Beautiful Contemporary Townhouse Development

Located in the beautiful bayside suburb of Warners Bay in New South Wales, the Warners Bay Development project, built by Newcastle Building & Construction, features three unique townhouses that exemplify contemporary design.

Built in an area with significant bushfire risk, Nickel Flash bricks, from the PGH Bricks & Pavers' Metallic range, was specified for its aesthetic design appeal, whilst also satisfying the non-combustibility requirements. Managing Director of Newcastle Building & Construction, Noel Bradley, recalled the process of specifying the materials to overcome the Fire Resistance Levels (FRL's), listing strength and durability as the reasons for continuing to build projects with brick.

"On this project, we had walls that required a fire rating, and while PGH Bricks satisfied this requirement, it also added to the aesthetics of the Masonry/Lightweight combination" said Bradley.

"We primarily build 2-3 storey residential dwellings, and try to incorporate as much masonry as the design allows due to the strength and durability of the cavity brickwork system, and the beautiful earthy feeling achieved with PGH Bricks" he continued.

Crucial to the successful completion of the beautiful townhouses was a terrific team of bricklayers. Choosing to work alongside Newcastle Brick & Block Laying, Noel

Bradley referenced the quality of the bricklaying as a key element in overcoming the inherent challenges in the build, and achieving the wonderfully contrasting façade.

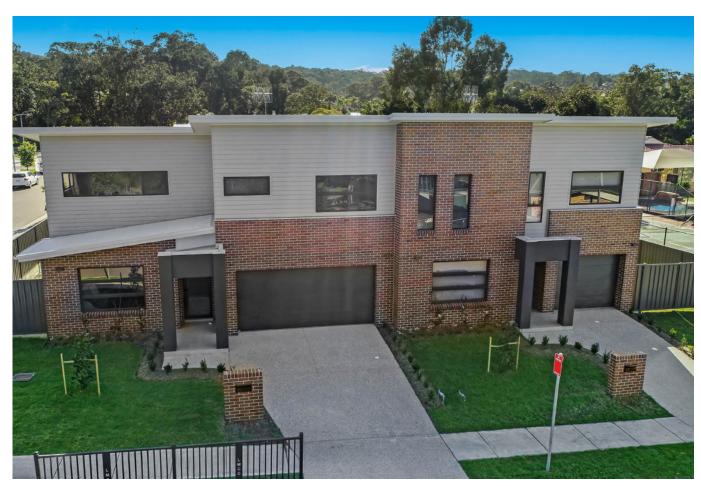
"The project had to be constructed in two stages to satisfy the development consent requirements by local council. Logistically this was not ideal, as we had a duplex nearly finished when we were starting another build within 1 metre from each other. But with experienced supervisors and quality bricklayers, in Newcastle Brick & Block Laying, we completed and handed over the project, in two stages, ahead of time, to the client's delight," said Bradley.

"Newcastle Brick & Block Laying were great to deal with. They were motivated throughout the process, and the dwellings have since been sold, and are occupied by happy purchasers who have provided us with extremely positive feedback. The quality of the bricklaying is second to none" he continued.

The Metallic range, by PGH Bricks & Pavers, is a collection of clay extruded, wirecut bricks, finished with a metallic sheen to achieve a more opulent effect. Used in this contemporary residential design as a dominant façade surface, the range







can be used to achieve a diverse spectrum of design looks and feels. When explaining the decision to specify the Nickel Flash bricks, Noel Bradley referred to the PGH Bricks & Pavers wide product range, knowledgeable representatives, and flawless customer experiences.

"We find that PGH Bricks & Pavers has the widest and most up to date range, and the most knowledgeable reps, which makes our job easy. We have used PGH on all of our projects in the past, and find them absolutely flawless, all the way from the selection process, to site delivery, and quality of the brick itself" said Bradley.

For more information, visit pghbricks.com.au or call 13 15 79.



Australian Brick & **Blocklaying Training** Foundation Ltd (ABBTF)

We are an Australian not-for-profit organisation, our starting point is to educate youth about the benefits and career path opportunities the bricklaying trade/construction industry offers.





Our attraction activities and efforts are focused on maintaining and developing a throughput of quality and eligible candidates, and supporting young Australians to build a career in the building and construction industry, starting with an apprenticeship in bricklaying.

We offer a number of support services and resources for both apprentices and employers, as well as educating students, teachers, career advisors and parents about the different career path options and opportunities in bricklaying. We have a great team, covering every State, and working closely with the Industry in achieving our goal.

Apprentice-Employer Matching

We help pair apprentices with employers who are looking to take on an apprentice. We also help candidates find an RTO or TAFE to complete their qualification.

Apprentice Support

We offer existing apprentices a range of different support and advice services to assist them throughout the duration of their apprenticeship.

Employer Support

We provide information and resources to employers of apprentices so that they understand their legal obligations and rights as an employer.

Contact us for more details about our services https://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au/contact-us/





ABBTF has invested levy funding by giving financial, teaching, mentoring support and employment to young apprentices Australia-wide.



Our **SUPPORT** Services



ABBTF IS CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

By educating schools and parents about career pathways in Bricklaying. Our support initiatives include Try-a-Trade, Career Events, Sponsorship, Employer Engagement, Online Advertising, Blogs, Newsletter and Social Media.



ABBTF HAVE BETTER SUCCESS AT RECRUITMENT AND MATCHING

Our Work Ready Programs enable us to match good apprentices to the right employers. Apprentices coming through the ABBTF programs have a higher success rate in completing their apprenticeship.



ABBTF IS CONTINUALLY GROWING THE LABOUR BASE INDUSTRY

Over the last 5 years the number of apprentices per year completing their training has increased by 38%.



ABBTF IS ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE INDUSTRY DURING MARKET CHANGES

ABBTF ensures a sustainable future for the industry having successfully decreased the average age of bricklayers. This has resulted in marked increase of younger bricklayers in the workforce, 15-29 age group now making up 31% of the total workforce.

We provide services to support bricklayer employers find the best candidates. ABBTF offers Brickstart Subsidy (\$3,000) to eligible employers, in addition to any Federal and State Government Support.









NOVEMBER

Asbestos Awareness Week

Asbestos Awareness Week will take place from Monday 25 November, where Australians are encouraged to learn and understand the dangers of harmful asbestos fibres.

The annual event prompts all Australians not to be complacent about asbestos, given that Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos-related diseases in the world.

This year's theme is 'asbestos lurks in more places than you'd think'. The theme seeks to provide awareness about the risks and locations of asbestos around a property.

Despite being banned since 2003, large amounts of asbestos are still present in many Australian homes, workplaces and the overall environment. This is due, in part, to the fact that Australia was one of the highest worldwide users of asbestos. The material was once used in over 3,000 different Australian products. It's little wonder that approximately 4,000 Australians die from asbestosrelated diseases every year.

Asbestos Awareness Week is seeking to reduce this figure by campaigning in three areas:

- 1. **Know** the health and environmental risks of asbestos exposure
- 2. **Be aware** of where asbestos may be found before work commences
- 3. Call a professional to check, remove and dispose of asbestos in a safe manner.

The Dangers of Asbestos

Traditionally, the strong fibres found in

asbestos were used for heat resistance and insulation. But the tiny asbestosrelated fibres - which are not visible with the naked eye - can be blown by the wind and enter a person's body.

Inhalation of these tiny asbestos fibres can cause a range of deadly diseases, including mesothelioma, which is a rare and aggressive cancer with no cure. Since 2011, an average of 701 people, each year, have been diagnosed with mesothelioma. In the past five years, 80 per cent of all diagnoses have been males.

Asbestos can be defined according to the fibres' properties. Friable asbestos comes in a powdered form or may be crushed into a powdered form, when dry. Alternatively, non-friable products are solid and bonded with a compound like cement.

Exposure to both types of asbestos is dangerous, but friable asbestos is typically more of a concern.

As asbestos is commonly found in buildings, all tradespeople are at risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres.

Australia's work health and safety regulations have resulted in strong protections for workers against the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. But vigilance is still the key to to managing the presence of asbestos, and its associated dangers.

Bricklayers should strictly follow all work health and safety laws, and complete an asbestos management plan for properties that are identified as high risk.

Managing the Dangers

Once contracted to complete a job, it is essential that all workers on a site understand the risks involved.

Before A Project Commences

Business owners and project managers should conduct awareness training, and share knowledge of asbestos dangers, to ensure that all site workers operate in a safe and responsible manner.

An asbestos register is the first item to a safer and healthier workplace. This document lists all identified, or assumed areas of asbestos in a specific workplace.

Asbestos can be found in many less assumed areas and parts of a home or property, such as laminated benchtops, oven door seals, range hoods, fences, carports, swimming pools, greenhouses or water tanks.

An asbestos register must record all crucial information, including:

- Where any asbestos has been identified or is assumed to be present at the workplace
- The date when the asbestos was first identified
- The location, condition and type of asbestos
- · Specific details regarding where asbestos may be present at the workplace
- · Areas that have been identified but are inaccessible.

Additionally, photographs, or even the simplest of drawings, can be useful for demonstrating the location of asbestos within the workplace.

Asbestos must be labelled, where possible, and the record must be kept accurate and updated at all times.

An asbestos register is not required if the place of work was constructed after 31 December 2003, or if no asbestos has been identified or assumed.

During A Project

Once an asbestos register has been filed, workplace leaders can then arrange an asbestos management plan.

An asbestos management plan identifies a course of clear and practical action for all worksite personnel. The management plan must include a series of crucial steps, including:

- · Key decisions, and their reasons, about the management of asbestos within the workplace
- · Procedures for incidents and emergencies that involve asbestos,

- including a list of responsibilities and who is responsible for them
- A clear indication of how asbestos risks will be controlled, and the appropriate control measures
- A timetable for managing risks, including dates for an ongoing review and activities that may affect the review

An asbestos management plan must be reviewed at least every five years, if requested by a site inspector, in the event where asbestos is removed, or when the plan requires an update.

In addition, the plan may also include the relevant personnel protective equipment (PPE) to be worn on-site, or the materials and activities that may not be carried out, like using a highpressure water spray or brooms.

Removing Asbestos Safely

Asbestos must be removed by a licenced person to ensure any

exposure risks are eliminated. An exemption may occur if the removal is less than 10m² of non-friable asbestos.

Work health and safety regulations have established two licences to determine the type of asbestos removal:

- Class A licence: permits the removal of all types of asbestos, including both friable and nonfriable forms
- Class B licence: can only remove non-friable asbestos.

Businesses must also provide and pay for ongoing health monitoring for all workers that have been exposed to ashestos

Asbestos Awareness Week encourages all Australians to learn more about the dangers of asbestos, with formalised training available for all construction workers.

NatureStone ™

Natural Stone Faced Masonry

- - easy to lay
- easy to reinforce
- - cost effective

Construction & Engineering Advantages:

- One trade application arrives on site ready to install
- Engineers can use standard design tables
- AS3700 and BCA compliant
- Ecologically Sustainable Development benefits of Betta Block including the use of recycled materials and less cement





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SCAFFOLDING SAFETY

Scaffolding accidents are among the most common in the construction industry. According to the most recent statistics from Safe Work Australia, 21 workers were killed as a result of scaffolding accidents between 2003 and 2015.

Many of these falls occur due to improper use of scaffolding practices. By their very nature, scaffolds and scaffolding work are hazardous. You must possess the right skills and capabilities to safely work with scaffolds, and you must be aware of all safety rules, regulations and requirements.

Safety Requirements

There are occupational health and safety requirements for any workplace, and working with scaffolding is no different. Designers, scaffolding contractors and workers carrying out activities that require a scaffold all have specific responsibilities.

The first step to ensure that scaffolding is safe to work on, and around, is to manage the risks by enforcing the following procedures:

- 1. Identify Any Hazards: pinpoint where something could go wrong and potentially cause harm.
- 2. Assess the Risk: consider the nature of the harm that could be caused and how serious this might be.
- 3. Control the Risks: ensure that you

are implementing the most effective control measures possible to deal with any predicted harm that could be caused as a result of hazards.

4. Review the Control Measures Regularly: regular reviews of control measures ensure that they're working as planned.

Identify Any Hazards

It is vital to identify potential hazards around scaffolding. Before anyone starts working around the scaffolding, identify any intersections between vehicles and potential pedestrians with scaffolds. Also, ensure that you have checked the functional requirements of the scaffolding. These functional requirements include checking the conditions of the ground and the maximum live and dead loads, as well as access requirements.

Controlling Risks

If risks cannot be eliminated, consider minimisation options. One of the best courses of action is substitution. For example, instead of manually lifting scaffolding try to use mechanical aids like hoists, trolleys or cranes where possible. Alternatively, you may be able to use engineering controls or overhead protective structures to prevent hazardous objects or structures from falling on or hitting workers and pedestrians below the work area.



The best way to control risks is to prevent them from occurring. The primary objective when designing a scaffold plan is to ensure that a scaffold doesn't collapse prior, during or after it has been put in place. The collapse of a scaffold can have dire cosequences, in the worst of circumstances, it can cause death. This fact should be the primary concern of any scaffolding designer.

Any scaffolding work that encompasses the risk of a person, or object, falling over 4 metres, must be undertaken by a person with a high-risk work licence.



To learn more about scaffolding and creating a safe work environment, simply visit the SafeWork website: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au



WORKING AT HEIGHTS

Safety is No Accident

Falls from heights are a major cause of fatalities and serious injuries at work in New South Wales. In fact, between 2014 and 2017, more than 12,000 workers were injured after falling from a height; of these workers, 25 died and more than 240 were permanently disabled

Most people who are seriously injured or killed at work, fall from a height of 4m or less. Ladders, incomplete scaffolds, falling off a truck, a roof edge or falling from a truck or roof edge, or falling through fragile roof sheeting, are the major causes of injuries.

Practical Tips for Working at Heights

Work on the ground or on a solid construction. Eliminate the problem if it is reasonably practical to do so. If you don't have to work at heights, don't. Working on the ground is always the safest option. During the design phase of a project, look for alternatives to minimise the required amount of working at heights.

Use a fall-prevention device. If you have to work at a height, be sure to manage the risk of a fall. The use of a fall prevention device can save lives. Examples include temporary work platforms, guardrails and scaffolding.

Use a work-positioning or fall-arrest system. When it's not possible to use a fall-prevention device, a workpositioning system or a fall-arrest system are your next best options. A work-positioning system enables a person to perform tasks whilst supported in a harness, in tension, in a way that prevents the person from falling (such as industrial rope access). If a work-positioning or fall arrest system is in use, emergency and rescue procedures must be in place.

Talk to your workers. Before anyone begins any work at heights, they should be informed of the risks, and know how to use any fall-prevention devices or work-positioning and fall arrest systems.

Legal Obligations

There are specific laws regarding working safely at heights: See clauses 78 – 80 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

There are also general work health and safety laws that apply in any situation, including when working at heights.

Other Resources

Keep in mind that SafeWork NSW inspectors regularly blitz construction sites to check compliance and talk with employers and workers about how to work safely at heights. So, use these handy resources to make sure your construction site is working at heights safely:

- Working at Heights Checklist
- Falls from Heights Construction Poster
- Pocket Guide to Construction Safety





For further information, visit the SafeWork NSW website:

safework.nsw.gov.au

PRODUCT NEWS

Powerful, dynamic and advanced, the phenomenal OX range of products raises the benchmark for tool performance, to unprecedented new levels. With quality bricklayer and concreting tools, as well as power tools, safety gear, electric and petrol machinery, and much more, the OX range of products is perfect for many trades.

Using American, German and other European technology, OX products are known for their innovation and toughness and are built up to a standard, and not down to a price.

OX has all the bricklaying tools you could ever need, from trowels, edgers and combination blade finishing sets, right through to concrete rakes and

sprayers. All of their products are designed and manufactured to meet the toughest of on-site conditions.

Their concrete edgers feature high quality carbon steel blades for longer life. Their bolt cutters are manufactured with alloy steel blades for precise and sustained cutting, and the jaws on their nippers are individually hardened and drop forged from hardened tool steel.

Not satisfied with just durability and strength, OX also designs their products with tradies in mind. For instance, their concrete screeds come complete with a reversible clamped ergonomic grip handle for easy, comfortable use. Similarly, their stainless steel groover has a reversible oxgrip handle for extra comfort.

Join the OX TUFF Club

Why not join the OX TUFF Club?

Free to register, you'll receive advance information on any new product releases. Plus, with dedicated 'tradie days', you'll get to try the new tools first

As a TUFF Club Tradie, you also get the best deal on all OX Tools' products. With exclusive member discounts and offers, you're certain to get a bang for your buck! You can also score great deals on OX Tools' latest products through regular promotional programs.

Register as an OX TUFF Club member today:

www.oxtools.com.au/tuffclub





Build better with Concrete Bricks.

Adbri's new Concrete Brick is a hard wearing, easy to lay brick that is suitable for use in all residential, multi-residential and landscaping projects. This practical concrete brick features unrivalled dimensional accuracy, well defined, consistently square edges, and a smooth face finish. This brick will feel familiar with a traditional shape and a comparative weight, yet there are subtle differences that you will appreciate during construction and on completion of your project.

Features: Ultra-smooth brick face finish. Consistant square edges for easy installation. Great look in finished walls. Brick is coloured all the way through for better wear and tear performance.

For more information, visit: https://www.adbrimasonry.com.au/.



Coloured Face Bricks





Austral Masonry's Mortex Mortar Solution

Mortex is a factory manufactured, quality assured premixed M4 rated mortar solution which can save labour time, increase efficiency, remove the need for on-site blending, and is compliant with AS3700. Mortex takes the guess work out of mortar blending, and reduces the potential for under strength, non-compliant mortar use which can ultimately reduce potential liabilities and save money and time on rectifications.

Mortex is a preblended mixture of cement, specially graded sand, lime and admixtures which creates a high quality mortar blend when combined with water.

For more information, visit: https://australmasonry.com.au.







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Brickmart has designed and manufactured many products such as the Stainless Steel Wheelbarrow, Lite 'A' Scaffold, Mother Jacks, Trestles, new and improved Mud Scoops and many other specialised items to help ensure your building experience is as safe and as efficient as it can be.



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Austral Brick's Nubrik Traditional

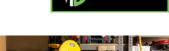
100 years is enough time to establish a tradition, and time enough to prove a point. For a century or more Nubrik's brick presses have been moulding solid, authentic pressed bricks in this premium selection. With their crisp, sharp edges Nubrik Traditional bricks exude quality and will endure for generations to come. Their elegance and honesty, rich colour blends and pressed face textures make them extremely popular with the discerning architect, builder and homeowner. These pressed bricks are used in prestigious homes and buildings throughout the country, and will instantly create a look that never grows old. For more information, visit: https://australbricks.com.au





MD Brick

MD Brick is a specialist supplier of bricks, pavers, blocks and all masonry products to commercial and residential customers in Sydney, Central Coast and Newcastle. Looking for a specific coloured brick? Please review all our bricks and colour matching charts. Our vast range of products includes well-known brands such as Austral and PGH. In addition MD Brick supplies the boutique and specialised brands from Namoi Valley Bricks, Island Block, Lincoln Bricks and Creative Bricks - exclusive to MD Brick. The beautiful finishes and superior quality of these bricks will provide you with the widest choice from any supplier in the Sydney, Central Coast and Newcastle region.





Renovating? Take advantage of our free brick matching service!

Boral Envirocrete®

The long term environmental benefits of building with concrete are well documented. The high thermal mass of concrete can be used to minimise heating and cooling in structures and the strength and durability of concrete provides a flexible, low maintenance construction material. Boral Envirocrete® incorporates recycled and waste raw materials enabling us to minimise the environmental impact of concrete during the manufacturing and construction phase. This makes concrete an even more attractive building material for the long term. It can be used for house and industrial slabs, high rise buildings, civil works and more. For more information, visit: https://www.boral.com.au





PGH Bricks and Clay Altitude Range

As one of PGH'S most successful and popular ranges, Altitude clay bricks are a semiglazed, wirecut finished brick product that provides texture and colour consistency. Created with a selection of on-trend colours, each brick colour has been named after an impressive pinnacle symbolic of the grandiose nature of awe-inspiring mountains and fitting of the premium nature of this quality product. The Altitude range is available in a rustic earthy Everest colour, Matterhorn cream, the soft grey of Olympus, and a darker brick aptly named Apollo. For more information, visit: https://www.pghbricks.com.au







Cement Australia's Rapid Set Concrete

Rapid Set Concrete is specially formulated to harden rapidly, so you can complete a job faster and have more time for other projects. It is highly suitable for fixing fence and non-load bearing pergola posts, clothes hoists and many other non-structural uses. The product offers a range of benefits: there is no mixing required, just add clean water, and supports can be removed in as little as one hour. It is great for small jobs when rapid hardening is an advantage. Designed for use in the fixing of fence and pergola posts, and is ideal for permanently securing clothes lines and letter boxes and numerous other uses. For more information, visit: https://www.cementaustralia.com.au



Roncut 3.5cf Honda Cement Mixer

Built tough to last and to the highest standard in Australia, the Roncut Cement mixer is something you can rely on to work for you daily without fail. The 3.5cf mixing bowl is shaped to make the perfect mix in the least amount of time, while the Honda GX120 3.5HP petrol motor comes with 2:1 Gear reduction fitted with solid steel belt pulley. All fasteners are high tensile and use cone lock nuts, preventing anything from going loose and withstand daily cleaning even with diesel. Its Australian made belts last longer and withstand grease and chemicals without failing, while the adjustable stand makes set up quick and easy. Plus, it all comes with a 2 year commercial warranty. For more information, visit: https://roncut.com.au









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The MCA Premium Program exists to help change the masonry industry, for the better. By following our motto, "Masonry Pride, Australia Wide", The MCA committee, and all its partners, are striving to achieve the same common goal - to bring masonry back to the forefront of the Australian construction industry.

By becoming a partner, you open up a whole world of opportunity for both yourself as an individual and vour residential or commercial level company.

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD BECOME A MEMBER

- ✓ You'll get access to a large online database packed full of WHS information, SDS', and other information relevant to your time as either an employee of the Masonry trade or the operator of a Masonry company.
- ✓ You'll get access to a jobs board to put your own talent up for hire (for individuals) and scout for the best talent available (for contractors).
- ✓ You'll be advertised on our brand new "Partners" page if you're a contractor, which we've created to become the 'Yellow Pages' of the Masonry industry.
- ✓ You'll be able to attend our regular meetings and network with top people within the industry.
- ✓ Lastly, you'll be a part of a bold movement we want to bring Masonry back to the forefront of the construction industry, and we want to help you achieve your business goals.

PLATINUM PARTNERSHIP SILVER PARTNERSHIP GOLD PARTNERSHIP 800

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