



## ACT Plumber wins Scholarship to UK

Gerard Allen (left) together with 15 other candidates representing WorldSkills Australia have been rewarded with a Scholarship to the UK under the WorldSkills / Big Brother Movement Scholarship Program

All 16 recipients of the prestigious award are gold medal winners from the 2010 WorldSkills Australia National Competitions.

### Mission Performance Leadership Challenge

As part of the Scholarship, recipients will participate in a leadership challenge which has been specifically developed for the Big Brother Movement Scholarship 2011 team.

The aim of the course is to develop leadership, management and personal skills to become more effective and efficient leaders and communicators. The course will be conducted throughout prestigious military locations in the UK. The course will challenge the team with physical and emotional capabilities in a range of weather extremes and geographical locations.

Throughout the two week course participants will be coached, trained and managed by a team of professionals from Mission Performance. Some of the activities included in the program are:

- Mountain Biking
- Camping and Sailing
- Navigation and orienteering
- Climbing and Rappelling
- Royal Navel Sinking Ship Training Simulator
- High ropes course
- Trekking (North and South Wales)
- Cultural visits
- Practical Leadership Tasks
- Strength deployment Inventory - a tool to analyse what motivates people.

On completion of the course, candidates will support 29 of their Australian colleagues at the WorldSkills International Competition being held in London. Candidates will then pursue work in the UK relevant to their occupations.

BBM Limited (formerly Big Brother Movement) was established in 1925 to provide a means for and to assist with the settlement of large numbers of young British men applying to migrate to Australia at that time. Presently, BBM provides prestigious awards to assist young Australian's travel to the UK to develop their skills and to help preserve Australia's historic links with Britain.



Following a farewell function, the team leaves Sydney on 19 September 2011.



## \$36m for northside home site

Canberra developer Village Building Company has paid more than \$36 million for 35ha of residential land in Canberra's north.

The affordable housing builder intends to subdivide the land at Ngunnawal into 475 housing blocks with starting prices of \$220,000 and with house and land packages from \$365,000.

The land, off Horse Park Drive just north of Moncrieff, will be parcelled into about 300 house and land packages with about 175 blocks of land, with 130 blocks to be on the market within months.

The director-general of the economic development directorate, David Dawes, said the interest from interstate and national developers showed that the Canberra residential market was still buoyant.

"I think that the spirited bidding and the quality of the bidders shows the attractiveness of Canberra as a place to do business," Mr Dawes said.

He said he was "delighted" the land had been bought by Village with its track record of building affordable housing stock in the territory and that demand for houses and land in the affordable bracket was still strong.

"We'll be releasing 5500 in the current financial year and another 5500 in the next financial year and over the [four-year] budget cycle, we're aiming to provide 18,500 budget housing blocks," Mr Dawes said.

Village chief executive Bob Winnel said his company would offer 122 two-bedroom homes priced at around \$335,000 and a further 102 three-bedroom house and land packages between \$365,000 and \$400,000.

"The price of the land at Ngunnawal will mean that these houses will be a little more expensive than we would have liked, but they still represent outstanding value and a great opportunity for first-home buyers," he said.

"We will work with the ACT Government to compress some of the time frames for planning approvals in order that we can get the homes to market as soon as possible".

Village expects to be on site by late 2011 and to complete the first subdivisions by June 2012, with the first homes to be completed by about August next year.

The Training Fund Authority has a written agreement with the Village Building Company whereby the Training Levy on non building approval work such as civil works and landscaping are assessed on an annual basis and payment is made to the Training Fund Authority.

Source: Noel Towell, Chief Assembly Reporter, Canberra Times



Australian Government

## Supporting Apprentices to Support Australia's Future

The Australian Government will invest more than \$200 million over four years to boost apprentice completion rates and provide enhanced mentoring services to support apprentices during their training.

The \$201 million investment is part of the **Building Australia's Future Workforce** package, and will be divided into two projects:

1. \$100 million to invest in initiatives to ensure that apprentices progress through training as they demonstrate the required competencies, rather than on a time served basis. This will result in:
  - industry being able to provide training customised to the needs of individual apprentices so they can move more quickly through their training and advance to the next level of learning and pay
  - apprentices who have gained skills on the job will be able to have their skills recognised so they can gain higher qualifications quickly, provided quality requirements are met
  - model clauses being introduced into awards to enable apprentices who progress based on their skills to receive higher first and second year wages.
2. \$101 million for a national mentoring apprenticeship package to assist apprentice candidates in choosing the right trade for them, and provide targeted mentoring and assistance that will help up to 40,000 Australian Apprentices successfully progress through their training.

The Australian Government will also help support school leavers considering an apprenticeship through Apprenticeship Advisers to assist them in choosing their career path.

Source: Training Packages @ Work



## The Work Safety ACT explained

The Work Safety Commissioner offers public seminars on the ACT's work health and safety laws.

These public seminars, which provide an overview of the ACT's Work Safety Act 2008 are FREE. They are held once a quarter and cover the following topics:

- national OHS harmonisation
- an introduction to the *Work Safety Act 2008* and associated laws
- safety duties (or responsibilities) for employers, workers and others
- the meaning of the requirement to take 'all reasonably practicable steps to manage risk'
- reporting to WorkSafe ACT
- consultation or 'workplace arrangements'
- right to refuse to do unsafe work
- third party prosecutions.

The seminar is designed for those seeking an outline of the ACT's workplace and health and safety requirements with a focus on the responsibilities of key stakeholders such as employers and workers.

The following sessions are currently scheduled for these seminars:

10.00am to 11.30am, Wednesday 14 September 2011  
10.00am to 11.30am, Friday 28 October 2011

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.** Book early to secure a place. You can book online and receive a return email confirming your booking and the event details.

Email: [worksafetraining@act.gov.au](mailto:worksafetraining@act.gov.au)  
Phone: 02 6207 3000

Source: [www.worksafety.act.gov.au](http://www.worksafety.act.gov.au)

## 2012 Training Plan

The Training Fund Authority has commissioned the Construction Industry Training Council to commence its process of consultation and gathering of information for the 2012 Plan. It is expected that the CITC will organise an industry breakfast as part of this process.

The Training Fund Authority has also commissioned the ACT Utilities and Light Manufacturing Industry Training Board to undertake research for the supply of training needs information for this sector.

For further information, contact Colin McJannett, 6262 5630

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