

# Newsletter

Issue No 47 | November 2011



ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
**TRAINING FUND  
AUTHORITY**



## A world of skills...

Australia has ranked seventh in the world's most skilled countries after winning 10 medals in eight categories at the WorldSkills competition in London.

Ben Houghton, 21, of Dubbo, was honoured as the world's best young electrician, winning gold and Australia's highest overall point score in the electrical installations category. Ben also won gold at the Macquarie Regional Competition 2009 and the National Competition Brisbane 2010.

The apprentice electrician, who works for AKE Electrical, said his win was "bloody unreal". "I was hoping to do my best but I never thought I was going to win". He said the gold medal made him proud to have done a trade rather than go to university.

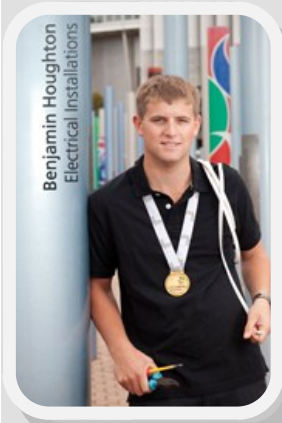
Australia's four silver medals went to Guy Brooks (NSW) welding, Kye Szeniak (NSW) vehicle painting, Liam Janetzki (QLD) refrigeration and air conditioning and Kate Crocker (NSW) restaurant service.

Hairdresser Alexis Scott (WA) won bronze, along with Lester Tibbles (NSW) bricklaying and the manufacturing challenge team of Matthew Hall (VIC), Ben Hooper (SA) and Michael Theobald (NSW).

Skills and trade powerhouse Korea won first place overall, followed by Brazil in second place, then Japan, Switzerland and Singapore. More than 200,000 people from 50 countries attended the four-day competition held at the ExCel centre in East London.

"From what I have seen at WorldSkills London we have every reason to be optimistic about the future," British Prime Minister David Cameron said in a message at the award ceremony held at London's O2 Arena.

WorldSkills London 2011, the largest ever international skills competition and careers event attracted young people from 51 countries/regions competing to be the best of the best in their chosen skill.



More than 200,000 people from the UK visited and were inspired by the dedication of the teams taking part in the competition.

Source: Worldskills Australia website.



At the recent **HIA-CSR  
ACT/Southern NSW  
Housing Awards**, Rod

Sheather Consultants Pty Ltd, won the Home of the Year and Renovation Project over \$450,000 awards.

### Other awards winners were:

- Outdoor living Project Architects Ring & Associates joint entry with Chase Group (ACT) and Archertec Interiors
- Professional Small Builder or Renovator Today's Homes & Lifestyle
- New Kitchen Project over \$20,000 Simplicity Kitchens
- New Bathroom Project Sugar Designs joint entry with Better Building Services
- GreenSmart Energy Efficiency Home Vision Building Group
- Affordable Home Village Building Company
- HIA Outstanding Apprentice Ruairi Taylor
- HIA Host Trainer Jarrath Hillyer
- ACT & Southern NSW Home of the Year Rod Sheather Consultants of the Year

For a complete list of award winners, contact Natalie Mackenzie, 6280 9119, email [n.mackenzie@hia.com.au](mailto:n.mackenzie@hia.com.au)



**Photo:** Left - right, Gary Guy, CEO (Training Fund Authority), presenting the Outdoor Living Project Award to Kier Gregg (Archertec Interiors), Terry Ring (Architects Ring & Associates) and Sonja McAuliffe (Archertec Interiors).

The Training Fund Authority also provided \$500 to the HIA Outstanding Apprentice of the Year, Ruairi Taylor.

## Kids Assist program - tenth anniversary graduation

For the past ten years, MBA Group Training has been conducting the 'Kids Assist' program which is aimed at introducing year 10 students to the discipline of a work environment and to consider a career in the building and construction industry.

Over a period of one year, MBA Group Training and PBS Homes co-ordinated with builders and contractors to place the students to undertake 'hands on' training in various trades. This 'hand on' training provides students with exposure to a wide range of construction trades.

This year, 28 students graduated and received their certificates for successfully completing the program. The graduation breakfast was held at the Goodwin Village in Monash on 4 November.

Dr Chris Bourke MLA, Member for Ginninderra, presented the students with their Certificates and Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann cut the tenth anniversary cake and encouraged graduates to use this opportunity as a career pathway.

The Training Fund Authority congratulates MBA Group Training, PBS Homes and supporting builders and contractors for the continued success of the 'Kids Assist' program.



For further information about the 'Kids Assist' program, contact MBA Group Training 6280 9119.



PBSHOMES

## Improve your skills and professional development with the following courses.

- Wet Area Waterproofing
- Confined Space Training
- Traffic Control Management
- Introduction to OH&S
- Senior First Aid (level 2)
- OH&S Risk Management Training
- OH&S Representatives Training
- Fall Prevention
- Waterwise Course
- Testing and tagging of electrical equipment
- Open Cable Registration
- Optical Fibre Cabling
- Business Administration and Management
- Computerised Accounting

The above courses are examples of courses for which the Training Fund Authority may reimburse a percentage of the training cost (conditions apply).

For further information please call: **Ray Stowers**  
Industry Liaison Officer  
on 6262 5630 or  
email: [rstowers@trainingfund.com.au](mailto:rstowers@trainingfund.com.au)

[trainingfund.com.au](http://trainingfund.com.au)



## Reaching for the summit in your business

The Training Fund Authority will host its 6th annual industry breakfast on 24 November at the Federal Golf Club.

Gary Guy, Chief Executive Officer, Training Fund Authority will provide a presentation of the services and programs the Training Fund Authority provides, including the current financial incentives available to eligible employers under the 2011 Skill Shortage Program.

The guest speaker for the event is Andrew Lock who is not just an Everest climber, he is the most accomplished mountaineer in Australian history. Andrew is the only Australian ever to accomplish the world's toughest mountaineering challenge - to climb all of the world's highest mountains. Andrew has been a leader and member of over 50 Himalayan, Antarctic and remote area expeditions.

Andrew has lived more adventure, hardship, near death and exhilarating life experiences than most people ever imagine, let alone read about. He is the ultimate example of long-term commitment to personal goals, beliefs and passions.

As a business owner, Andrew understands the issues that matter - personnel development and motivation, risk assessment, team work, realistic goal setting, communication, leadership, change management, dealing with conflict and more.

Andrew imbues his accomplishments with a strong message of teamwork, motivation and achievement.

### Details of the breakfast are as follows:

**Date:** 24 November 2011

**Venue:** Federal Golf Club

**Time:** 7:15 - 9:00

If you are interested in attending the breakfast, contact Ray Stowers at the Training Fund Authority 6262 5630 or email [rstowers@trainingfund.com.au](mailto:rstowers@trainingfund.com.au)



**Photo:**  
Andrew Lock, high altitude mountaineer

ACT Building & Construction Industry Training Fund Authority  
Suite 6, National Associations Centre  
71 Constitution Avenue  
CAMPBELL ACT 2612  
[www.trainingfund.com.au](http://www.trainingfund.com.au)



**AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICESHIPS**  
Your Life. Your Career. Your Future.

If your organisation has anything it wishes to publish in this newsletter, contact Ray Stowers on 6262 5630, e-mail [rstowers@trainingfund.com.au](mailto:rstowers@trainingfund.com.au) or fax 6257 5058