

# Baseline takes on 2 Koori apprentices

Sydney construction company Baseline has taken on two Koori apprentices after they completed the Job Ready Course in Construction.

'One of the most important things the Job Ready Course does is to raise the participants' level of awareness about safety issues and qualify them for an induction card, one of the prerequisites for working in construction.' – **Wayne Misdale, Human Resources Manager, Baseline.**



Baseline's James Delaney, site foreman Karl Glaesel and Wayne Misdale at the North Eveleigh Railyards.



Alana Varga, St Hilliers first female carpentry apprentice, at work on the North Eveleigh site.

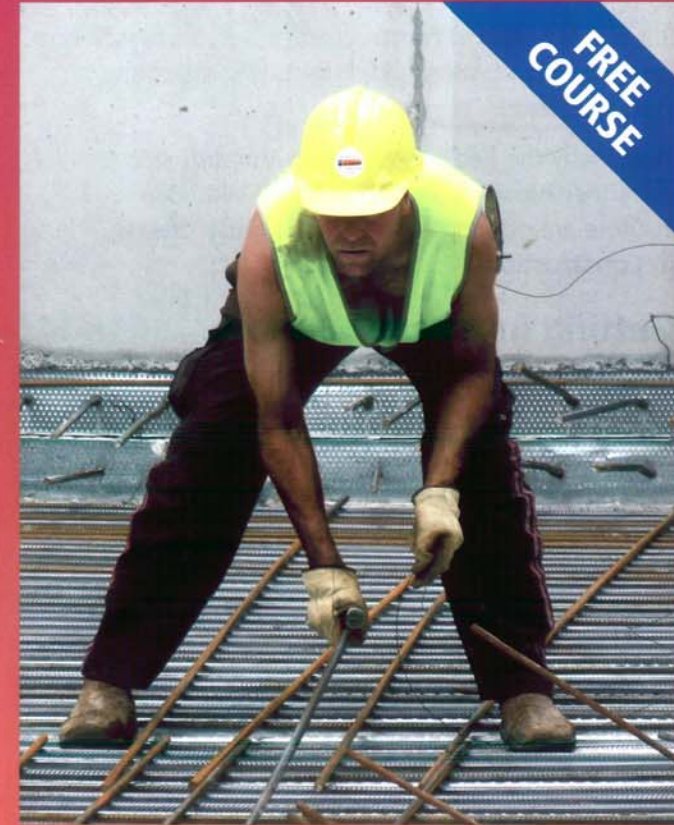


 Printed on recycled paper.

## For more information

For more information about course content and the dates of future information sessions and courses please contact Terry Kelly at the RWA on **9202 9100** or by email [terry.kelly@rwa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:terry.kelly@rwa.nsw.gov.au)

# Koori Job Ready Course in Construction



## First step to getting a construction job



# Koori Job Ready Course: First step to construction job

## Jobs available in construction

With a building boom imminent in Redfern and Waterloo there will be lots of local jobs in construction.

But to get a start in construction one of the first things you need is an understanding of safety issues and an induction card.

That's why the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA) in partnership with TAFE NSW South West Sydney Institute are offering a **Koori Job Ready Course in Construction**.

## Getting into the industry

Over the past 12 months, a number of people who completed the first Job Ready Courses have found apprenticeships in the construction industry.

They have filled some of the 100 plus construction jobs that have been created as part of the RWA's massive rejuvenation of Redfern and Waterloo.

And there are many more construction jobs to come.

600 construction jobs will be created as part of Channel 7 and Pacific Magazines' \$120 million relocation to the Australian Technology Park at North Eveleigh.

60 jobs are allocated specifically for Aboriginal people.



Aaron Marr civil construction carpenter working at the Australian Technology Park.

## Course contents

### The Koori Job Ready Course in Construction

is run over 8 weeks and operates Monday to Friday between 8am and 2.30pm.

#### Subjects include:

- Construction OH&S (Induction Card);
- Hand and Power Tool Operations;
- Restricted Height Scaffolds;
- Concreting;
- Traffic Control;
- First Aid.
- Forklift Operations;
- Basic Carpentry; and



## Rabbitohs Jamie signs up

Souths under 20s player Jamie Ingram, has signed up for the Course. Jamie is keen to start an apprenticeship at the end of the Course and is hopeful that doing the Course will demonstrate his commitment and initiative to possible employers. Football is important to Jamie but he knows he needs other skills as well.



Jamie Ingram.

## Course then apprenticeship

'The Koori Job Ready Course is the starting point for a career in the construction trades after successful completion of an apprenticeship. The current course is full but we will be running a number of courses annually so there are still plenty of opportunities for interested people to pre-register for future courses.'

– Terry Kelly, Builder and RWA Project Manager



Terry Kelly.

## 'Changed my life forever'



James got an apprenticeship after doing the Course.

James Delaney is one of 2 apprentices employed recently at Baseline. James is working on the refurbishment of the former Canteen and Carpenters Workshop Building at the North Eveleigh Railyards.

Prior to enrolling in the Job Ready course, James was unemployed for a couple of years.

'The course and this apprenticeship have changed my life forever and for the better.' – James Delaney.

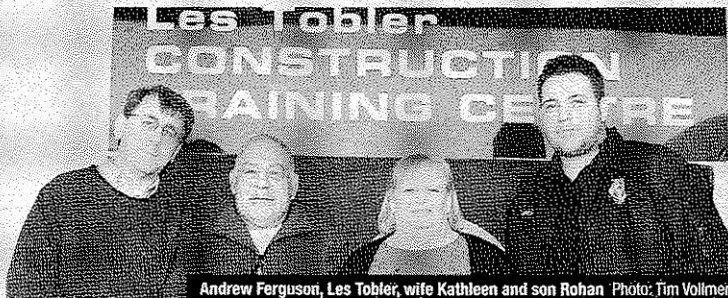
## INFORMATION SESSIONS HELD

An information session will be held before each course commences.

These sessions allow participants to fully understand the requirements of the Koori Job Ready Course and the opportunities for work in the construction industry.

To sign up for the information sessions complete the card and mail – post free – to the RWA.

# Building industry mentor proud of Indigenous achievements



Andrew Ferguson, Les Tobler, wife Kathleen and son Rohan Photo: Tim Vollmer

## Andrew Collis

Les Tobler implemented the Koori Job Ready Course to help young, unemployed Indigenous men gain basic skills and qualifications, and jobs in the building industry.

The idea took hold back in the 1990s when Tobler was working with the unions on Sydney's Olympics sites. He saw opportunities to challenge misconceptions and prejudices in respect of young Indigenous workers, and went on to explore possibilities for training and apprenticeships with Col Warne at Lidcombe TAFE. "Col was enthusiastic right away," says Les. "I received wonderful support from Lidcombe – the head teachers and all the staff."

Tobler developed a partnership with TAFE NSW to help fund and deliver the course. "They took some convincing," Les recalls. "But I knew it could work. I'd be there as a mentor I told them, and I'd bring in specialists – carpenters, concreters, steel fixers, fork-lift instructors.

"The very first class, we had 20 young men, and 18 of them were

later employed. 16 have stayed employed. The results have been amazing. Baseline Constructions, Multiplex, Bovis Lend Lease as well as small contractors – lots of people getting involved."

Tobler was also instrumental in setting up a drug and alcohol program for the building industry in the 1980s to provide education and rehabilitation services to workers. "I remember sitting down with Pat Carr, the workers' compensation union officer, and thinking that we had to do something," says Les. "We found someone to co-ordinate the program, Trevor Sharp, who does a great job. We have a rehab facility in Rozelle, and we've made an educational video, too." The program is now national and has not only helped thousands of building workers with drug and alcohol problems, but also created a cultural shift in the industry which has saved countless lives.

More recently Tobler helped to achieve an agreement with the NSW Government and the Redfern-Waterloo Authority to continue the basic skills and qualifications training and

TAFE NSW Chullora and the Redfern-Waterloo Authority are offering a Koori Job Ready Course in Construction with a real chance to be placed in construction jobs in the Redfern-Waterloo Area.

This course is for 8 weeks full time 8am-2.30pm. Subjects include: General OH&S (Induction Card), Carpentry, Basic Formwork, Gyprock Plastering, Use Of Safety Harness, Plumbing, Concreting, Bricklaying, and Senior First Aid.

Course starts 15th Oct 2007 - completion 7th Dec 2007

Must be registered with job network agency

Information Session  
Tuesday 25th September 2007  
10am - 255 Wilson St Darlington  
Yaama Training Centre

For enquiries about the information session contact:

Terry Kelly - 9202 9100 / 0423 414 643  
Rohan Tobler - 9749 0400 / 0414 137 816

to ensure a minimum number of Indigenous workers are employed on all the projects undertaken in the area. Les feels proud of what's been achieved. "It's been a hell of a lot of work," he says, "but I've enjoyed every minute of it."