



# Golden win for Lester

ON September 22, Lester Tibbles, along with a teacher and a second year apprentice from Bathurst TAFE, competed in and won the ninth Biannual Golden Trowel Award.

For the past three years Lester has attended Bathurst TAFE doing a Certificate III in Brick and Blocklaying.

Lester has worked as an apprentice bricklayer under Bill Searle for the past four years.

"The project was difficult. I wouldn't of been able to do it without all the experience I've had working with Bill for the past four years," Lester said.

Bill said he was very pleased with Lester's win.

"It's a great achievement and he deserves it," said Bill.

The Golden Trowel Award is a two-day, team event held by the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia, to encourage excellence among appren-

tices and recognise the skills of young people in the brick and blocklaying trade. All teams were given the same plan and a set amount of concrete and blocks to work with.

Competitors were given one and a half days to construct their wall. Apprentices from all across the country competed in this year's Golden Trowel Award and were all judged on a prescribed marking scale by industry experts.

The teams were judged on all the attributes of good brick and blocklaying - precision, workmanship, the ability to interpret a plan, finish and team work. "The competition was stiff and the time-frame was demanding," said Lester.

"The hardest part was working out the plans and finishing within the time frame."

Since the beginning of the biannual competition

18 years ago, Bill Searle has had three of four apprentices compete in the Golden Trowel, two win the prestigious brick-laying award, one winner of the National Bricklaying World Skills Competition and one bronze medal winner at the World Championships of the World Skills Competition.

Lester's TAFE teacher, Peter Moore, said Bill's record is outstanding.

"During the 10 years that I have been a brick-laying teacher at Bathurst TAFE, Bill Searl has consistently been the standout employer and trainer of bricklaying apprentices," said Peter.

"It's a 10 year golden run that I hope continues," he said.

**NB:** Lester will be competing in the World Skills Australian National Competition next week.

## About the National

## Competition...

World Skills Australia National Competition is Australia's largest and most prestigious trade and skills showcase.

It is held every two years and is the culmination of the World Skills regional competition. This is a three-day national event where over 500 young people drawn from all regions of Australia come together to vie for the title of Australian National Champion in their chosen trade.

The event attracts a wide range of visitors from the vocational education and training sector along with visitors from high schools, industry and the community.

The competition concludes after the third intensive day and is celebrated at a Presentation Ceremony. Each competitor is congratulated and the medal winners are recognised.



• Bill Searl, Lester Tibbles with the Golden Trowel trophy and Bathurst TAFE teacher, Peter Moore.