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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2017 GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD – TAFE NSW NIRIMBA

Hosted by the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) and the Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) in cooperation with TAFE NSW, the Golden Trowel competition will be held from **15th to 17th October** at TAFE NSW Nirimba in Western Sydney.

The 13th biennial Golden Trowel Award will see the best masonry apprentices from across Australia taking part in a unique team competition, where teams will build a concrete structure with intricate detailing within a limited time. The teams will be judged on their precision, craftsmanship and conformity to the design specifications.

Raymond Mouthaan, the designer of six previous Golden Trowel projects has come out of retirement to design the project for the 2017 competition.

“I have seen the Golden Trowel Award grow from a NSW-only event in 1993 to an Australia-wide call for apprentices to pit their brains and skills in a competition that is highly regarded in the industry. To pay homage to the competition’s roots and its long association with the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia, I have designed the CMAA logo into the project this year, which will certainly provide a challenge to all the teams.”

Mr Ian Stoneman, CEO of the Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation said “ABBTF is again proud to be the major sponsor of this unique competition which brings the best teams of TAFE teachers and their students together with industry members to celebrate brick and blocklaying skills and the value of a strong team commitment.

ABBTF is focused on the attraction, training and retention of current and future brick and blocklaying apprentices. Successful Golden Trowel participants and winners invariably go on to have successful careers.”

The Golden Trowel Award is unique from other competitions in the industry because it is a team challenge. Participating teams consist of a masonry class teacher and two apprentice students, usually a third-year and a second-year apprentice. Teams will be judged by a panel of industry experts and results will be announced at the Golden Trowel Award dinner on Tuesday 17th October.

The winning team will walk away with the coveted gold-plated Golden Trowel trophy while their educational institution will be able to proudly display the perpetual trophy at their campus until the next competition. The previous champions were TAFE NSW Coffs Harbour who will be back this year to defend their title.

Mr Michael Cullen, Regional General Manager, TAFE NSW, said “TAFE is investing in the future of education and the Golden Trowel Award is a great example of giving up and coming apprentices the opportunity to showcase their skills.

We’re pleased to host this year’s award and we’re looking forward to welcoming the country’s top masonry competitors to TAFE NSW - Nirimba College.

TAFE NSW Nirimba College is one of three Infrastructure Skills Centres which will enable teachers to train apprentices and trainees to meet the demands of Western Sydney’s infrastructure boom.”

The Golden Trowel Award is held in high esteem and attended by representatives of the industry, educational institutions and governments. Participants and winners of the Golden Trowel Award have gone on to join regional, national and international competitions.

The hosts are the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) and the Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF), with the support of TAFE NSW and our industry sponsors:

CMAA Member Sponsors:

Adbri Masonry

Austral Masonry

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Brikmakers

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BCP Enterprises Pty Ltd

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Industry Sponsors:

- Major:** BCP Enterprises Pty Ltd, Ox Group International,
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- Silver:** ACT Masonry, Amber Tiles, BC Sands, Conrina, Trade Up, SRW Products, Walsos Bricklaying

About the CMAA

The Concrete Masonry Association of Australia (CMAA) is the peak industry body that represents the concrete masonry manufacturers of Australia. This includes bricks, blocks, pavers and retaining walls. The CMAA is an industry body and does not sell or supply any masonry products. The CMAA supports the concrete masonry industry by providing technical information and advice to architects, engineers and educators.

The list of participating teams is provided below. For more information on the Golden Trowel Award please contact Glenn Hogan at glenn@cmaa.com.au or (02) 8448 5500.

Participating Teams

NSW

TAFE NSW Albury
TAFE NSW Bathurst
TAFE NSW Coffs Harbour
TAFE NSW Granville
TAFE NSW Miller
TAFE NSW Newcastle
TAFE NSW Nirimba
TAFE NSW Wollongong

QLD

TAFE Queensland Gold Coast