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Thanks to boardwalk, they're six of the best

By JO CLYDESDALE

WITH hands-on experience, these six men are ready to roll out into the workforce.

Yesterday they received their certificate II in construction after working on the near-completed Burnie boardwalk project.

The training was through the Skills Institute to help re-train workers and open up new employment opportunities.

Skills Institute unit leader Sean Crane said the training gave the men the

opportunity to enter any section of the construction industry.

The workers have used several types of skills during the boardwalk project, including concreting, carpentry, reading plans and sequencing work.

With the construction industry in need of workers, Mr Crane said they were highly employable.

Stephen Pickford, who is the project foreman, also

received a certificate yesterday.

"It's always good to have another feather for your cap," he said.

Mr Pickford said the project had given himself and the other workers a chance to learn skills on the job.

"It's been a bit of a challenge with the young blokes, because they started off with no skills at all," he said.

"Now they know what they have to do."

The workers began in November last year, with the demolition of the old boardwalk.

Since the project started, two workers have left to go to full-time employment.

Braddon MHR Sid Sidebottom yesterday awarded the workers with their certificates, with Burnie Mayor Alwyn Boyd also attending.

The project received \$1.5 million in funding from the Federal Government's job fund.



SKILLS RECOGNISED: Burnie boardwalk project workers who received their certificate II in construction yesterday are (from left) Ethan Haywood-Denby, Wesley Batchelor, Gary Ramsdale, Ashleigh Chugg, Stephen Pickford and Adam Denehey. Picture: Grant Wells.