

» Rough tradesmen all wear jocks? This and other intimacies revealed when **Matthew Myers** interviews Dan Reilly, the foxy foreman of reality TV.

# THE BLOKE FROM THE BLOCK

**DNA:** You've gone from an original *The Block* contestant to an *All-Star* and now, on *Triple Threat*, you're the foreman – or rather, the forebo. Do you get many nicknames?

**Dan Reilly:** [Laughs] I think we've been through them all. The obvious one is the first one...

**Let's see, is it Fore-skin... "Forie"?** Yes! That's been thrown around a lot!

**There is no denying that you are a very good-looking bloke. How does it feel owning the hotness tag?** To be honest, I was always on the series with Dale [Vine], and I found that he was the good-looking rooster!

**What about the shirtless pics of you on sites like Tumblr and Popsugar?** I've never even heard of those sites, but I guess having that tag would make anyone feel good.

**Do you have any gay mates?** Definitely, and now being in this industry I've gotten to know a lot more gay guys. I think our generation is very different to that of my father's. The fact that people are gay just doesn't bother us. Why would it? I lived in London with a gay guy and that was a really good experience for me. He was no different from any other bloke.

**That would've been an experience though.**

**Did you find out about things like Grindr and Scruff?** Oh yes, I've heard about all that!

**If you were gay, who would do it for you?**

Jeez, I haven't thought about that too much. I'll say Daniel Craig... simply because he is Bond. James Bond!

**Does being on *The Block* ever feel like being on *Big Brother*?** I don't think so. The cameras are there, but we're still doing our everyday thing. Plus you become mates with all the crew, cameramen and producers. In *Big Brother* it's more secretive, but this is more kind of natural, and there are no hidden cameras!

**Who is your diva?** I liked Mariah Carey in her day, but she's not quite there anymore. Right now I love Taylor Swift. Her music isn't really me, but I like her!

**Besides all the heavy labour that comes with being a tradie, what else do you do to keep fit?** I used to play footy a lot, but now mainly it's the gym and running. I like to do weights and cardio, like rowing and the bike, steps and a bit of boxing. I love running, but a good boxing class will sweat it out for you.

**What's your favourite sport to watch and play?** AFL [Australian Rules Football] and I



follow Geelong. After the first series of *The Block*, I was lucky enough to play in an all-star match. It was the EJ Whitten game and it was the best experience I've ever had. It was unreal and I enjoyed that more than anything I've ever done. I got to play with my idols and hang out with them afterwards.

**Fashion-wise what's your favourite look?** I've bought a lot of chinos lately, so I'm wearing them and suede shoes with a jazzy shirt. I was very conservative a long time ago, but Dani, the missus, has broadened my horizons and has me wearing more colours.

**So what does a foreman/foreboy actually do?** We pretty much run the site and look after all the tradies and the contestants. We make sure

**"I like to do weights, cardio, rowing, the bike, steps... I love running, but a good boxing class will sweat it out for you."**

they're doing things right and building it all to code. We also make sure they're not cheating! **Compared to where you used to be, is this a bit of a power thing now?** Well, put it this way, I'm not getting told off. I now get to tell other people off. But it's been an odd experience joining the other side. Deep down I am still an ex-contestant, so I naturally want to help them all out and give them tips. But of course in my new role I am not allowed to do that.

**Is being a foreboy a bit like being an apprentice?** To a degree. It's about learning the ropes on how everything works and I've been doing a lot of study so that I'm up with the code and all. So it is sort of like doing an apprenticeship.

**Your qualifications have increased from carpenter to builder. Can you explain the difference?** As a carpenter the trade is purely timberwork with building frames and lockups, but when you're a builder you look after the whole project. That means from the concreter to the plumber; electricians to the roof tilers. You look after everyone.

**Reports say the Melbourne housing market is slowing down. From someone who is in the game, where do you think it's heading?** Hopefully it doesn't start slowing down too much, because we've been investing in a lot of

areas, but the last I heard Melbourne is going to catch Sydney prices in the next decade. Going by that, we're still a long way off so it can only really rise. I was always told to invest in the west, which is what we've done. Our property has risen fourteen percent in one year, so we certainly aren't slowing down. I think the inner city is still growing a lot.

**What is the strangest thing to happen to you on a building site?** You see a lot of characters getting around and I think the strangest we've had is a couple who had slept overnight on a site, obviously getting up to mischief. I think they must have been in "the act" and then passed out.

**In the last series you wore neon speedo "Happy Pants" for a day and raised \$7,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Victoria. Would you do it again for charity?** Absolutely!

**How about this time wearing tight Calvins?** That wouldn't bother me, as long as it's for a good cause!

**So down on the beach is it really speedos or boardies?** Definitely boardies.

**And under the overalls, is it jocks, fitted boxers or just plain free-balling?** Jocks, and that's common with tradies - you need the support!

**MORE:** *The Block Triple Threat* screens 7.30pm weeknights on Channel Nine. Follow Matthew on Twitter@MattMyers1964



Dan the handy man (with some old bloke who looks like he knows his hardware, eh readers!)