

# Life's a beach Down Under

■ by **KATIE JAMES**

**AS Britain's economic gloom deepens, the idea of moving abroad to make a fresh start seems even more appealing.**

One of the most promising and most popular destinations, Australia, is welcoming skilled immigrants with open arms.

Paul Arthur, director of immigration consultants The Emigration Group said: "Given the current economic climate, people are more inclined to think about emigrating to a country where the

economy is strong, the job opportunities are plentiful, and the quality of life is excellent."

The most sought after tradespeople include electricians, joiners, mechanics, bricklayers, fitters and plumbers.

While many head for popular Sydney and other east coast destinations, a growing number are being drawn to Western Australia and its booming mining industry, where more than two-thirds of overseas migrants have come from the UK.

"Employers in this region are desperate for skilled workers and offering very generous wages to attract them," said Darren Le'ake, managing director of consultancy firm, Immigration Unit.

Last year the Australian government

tightened the rules on eligibility, insisting that candidates provide evidence of their qualifications and skills. But those without these shouldn't be deterred.

Le'ake added: "There are other options, including employer sponsorships and opportunities to retrain."

## **Easier**

Canada is another country offering opportunities for tradespeople, with the current hot jobs including bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, mechanics, gas fitters, truck drivers and welders.

Again, the process of getting there is made easier with the help of agencies, such as Willis Brazolot & Co.

European countries are also luring Brits. The Netherlands is attracting growing numbers of construction work-

ers. Dominic Chatfield, a consultant with Moore Partnership, agrees that the UK economy is a factor. He said:

"Construction work is going on all over the Netherlands. This time last year we were struggling to recruit British workers, but now we are seeing a huge rise."

**Find out more**



- The Emigration Group: 0845 230 4391/ [www.emigrationgroup.co.uk](http://www.emigrationgroup.co.uk)
- Immigration Unit: 0845 260 6030/ [www.immigrationunit.com](http://www.immigrationunit.com)
- Willis Brazolot & Co: 001 450 458 2186/[www.willisbrazolot.com](http://www.willisbrazolot.com)
- The Moore Partnership: [www.themoorepartnership.com](http://www.themoorepartnership.com)

