



WORLD'S BEST: Jessie-Lee Gladwell won the beauty therapy gold medal at Canada's Trade Olympics. **Picture:** Marc McCormack

Beauty contest where the stylist gets the gong

A STEADY hand, steely nerves and two years of intense training delivered Jessie-Lee Gladwell Olympic gold – in the Trade Olympics, that is.

The Cairns beauty therapist and 25 other Australians were vying for the title “world’s best tradie” at the four-day World-Skills International in Calgary,

Canada. Ms Gladwell, 22, pitched her skills against competitors from 17 other countries, performing hot stone massages, facials, nail art, manicures, pedicures and make-up application.

“The pressure was intense,” she said. “There were 150,000 spectators and around the

beauty therapy fence, it was six people deep.”

Other categories in the competition included hair-dressing, food and beverage, manufacturing, construction and landscape gardening.

Ms Gladwell gave up full-time work to prepare.

She is now looking for a job,

and hopes the accolade of “world’s best beauty therapist” will nab a plum role in a bigger city or overseas.

Sydney’s James Sun won a gold medal in the restaurant service category, and Australia also won three silver and five bronze medals.

Natalie Gregg