



# Medallists promote career development

MEDAL-winning apprentices and trainees from across the Darling Downs came together to celebrate their success at the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

Over the past few months, World Skills competitions have been held across auto mechanics, metal fabrication, cookery, meat retailing, restaurant service and welding.

World Skills Australia (WSA) is a national, not-for-profit organisation that provides young Australians aged 23 and under the opportunity to gain new skills, compete against their peers in their chosen trade and fast track their skills and career development.

The organisation holds competition at regional, national and international levels.

A special ceremony was held at TAFE to present the regional winners with their medals.

Metal fabrication gold-medal winner Steven Patikura said the competition was tough.

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make me a better employee and a better tradesman,” Mr Patikura of AG Rigging and Steel said.

Restaurant service gold medallist Simone Russell said she entered the competition because of her passion for the hospitality industry and her drive to succeed.

“The competition was great fun and I’d definitely recommend apprentices and trainees to enter World Skills,” Ms Russell said

“One day I hope to operate an inn or restaurant.

“I love the industry so much; it’s the thing I’m going to be doing until the day I die.”

Craig Ashton from Ashton Butchery at Pittsworth won gold in the meat retailing section of World Skills.

“The meat retailing qualification is about making meat appealing to the eye, about value adding to the product and about keeping the customer happy,” Mr Ashton said.

“This competition has been good in that I can see what other butchers do. It put me under a bit of pressure and showed how I can work that little bit harder.”

Welding gold medallist Grant Hogan, employed by James Fab in Toowoomba, said World Skills was a great opportunity to show his skills.

“The win has given me confidence in the trade and will help me gain my welding certification,” Mr Hogan said.

The regional World Skills gold medallists will be eligible to compete in the national competition in Brisbane next May and, if they win there, at international competition in London later in 2010.



Regional World Skills gold medalist for auto mechanics Trent Donges (right) is presented with his medal by Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE automotive teacher Gary Webb.



Steve Patikura from AG Rigging and Steel works on an exercise piece that won him the gold medal in the regional World Skills metal fabrication competition at Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE. Pictures: SUPPLIED

**WORLD SKILLS COMPETITION MEDALLISTS**

**Auto Mechanics** — gold: Trent Donges, Wippells Autos; silver: Mark Gibbons, Armstrongs Automotive Group; bronze: Michael McCorry, Golden West Employment Solutions.

**Metal Fabrication** — gold: Steven Patikura, AG Rigging & Steel; silver: Alan Lenord, Lockyer Engineering; bronze: Aiden Ferguson, Brown Engineering & Construction.

**Cookery** — gold: Ben Geddes, Downs Group Training; silver: Jessie Lucas, Downs Group Training; bronze: Caleb McKinnon, Downs Group Training.

**Meat Retailing** — gold: Craig Ashton, Ashton's Butchery Pittsworth; silver: Luke Taylor, Downs Group Training; bronze: Lincoln Walker, Allora Butchery.

**Restaurant Service** — gold: Simone Russell; silver: Tamara-Ann Strawbridge

**Welding** — gold: Grant Hogan, James Fab; silver: Brendon Pacholke, Brown Engineering & Construction; bronze: Morgan Van Mastrigt, Swift Engineering Kingaroy.