



## International glory should be a snip as London calls Alexis

LINDSAY McPHEE

Young hairdresser Alexis Scott is hoping months of honing her dexterity in snipping, colouring and styling pays off in gold at an international work skills event in London.

Ms Scott, 21, of Donnybrook, will represent Australia in the WorldSkills competition, which has more than 1000 young people from 50 nations competing in dozens of skills, including hairdressing, bricklaying, floristry, cabinetmaking and restaurant service.

WorldSkills International is a non-profit association which promotes trades through member organisations and holds a competition every two years. WorldSkills Australia spent two years finding the country's best trainees, apprentices and vocational education students to send to

London for the event in October.

Ms Scott's ticket was hard won. She previously lost at State and national levels before being picked this year, which is the last time she could qualify within the age limit.

Four days of gruelling styling challenges await her but she was confident she would do her best.

"You get used to it and get in the zone," Ms Scott said. "Competition mode sets in and you just block everything out and concentrate on what you have been training for."

The Australian team, the Skillaroos, are ranked fifth, ahead of Britain and the US.

Ms Scott, a third-generation hairdresser, dreams of creating hairstyles for the fashion runway and owning her own salon.



Cutting edge: Hairdresser Alexis Scott with some of her designs at Salon de Coiffure in Donnybrook.

Picture: Lincoln Baker