



Leadership programs aren't just a case of classroom study, as three Geelong people are about to find out. RAINIE FRASER reports

# Trio face an icy reception

THREE young Geelong residents will battle a sinking ship filled with icy water as part of a two-week leadership program in the UK this week.

Jacinta Harding, Stephen Maurer and Timothy Calic have flown to London for a Mission Performance course after tasting success at the WorldSkills National Competition, which gives young Australians the chance to showcase their skills in trade competitions.

They will face mentally and physically challenging tasks, including several overnight camping expeditions, as well as a final task involving a simulated sinking ship, according to WorldSkills Australia chief executive officer Mark Callaghan.

He said Ms Harding, Mr Maurer and Mr Calic, all gold medallists at last year's national competition, had worked hard and shown dedication in rising through the ranks of regional and national meets.

"What the 19 (participants) will be doing is going to northern Wales to do a leadership course where they'll be thrown into all sorts of situations that are going to take them out of their comfort zones, more or less," Mr Callaghan said.

"The guys who run the course are all ex-marines, so they're all hardcore people who had climbed Mount Everest and done all those sorts of things.

"We've had probably three groups go through the course and they've all come back and been blown away

by the achievements they've been able to get out of the course."

Ford employee Mr Calic, who partnered Mr Maurer in the mechatronics category at the national championships, said he had no real idea of what to expect on the course.

"They like to sort of keep it as a bit of a surprise with what you're going to do," he said.

"From what we've heard it's going to be very challenging."

Mr Callaghan said Ms Harding would also spend a week visiting florists and flower markets in the UK as work experience while Mr Calic, who spoke at a farewell function for the participants in Sydney last week, had plans to work in Germany and at RangeRover for a week.



**TOUGH STUFF:** Timothy Calic and Stephen Maurer competing at the 2006 WorldSkills National Competition