

22 May 2009

MEDIA ALERT

AUSTRALIA TAKES ON NEW ZEALAND IN A BATTLE OF THE TRADES

WHAT The traditional competitive tension between the Aussies and the Kiwis will reach boiling point this week in Newcastle when the WorldSkills Australia team go head-to-head against their rivals from across the Tasman.

From the 20 – 23 of May, Newcastle will play host to a practice competition for both WorldSkills teams that will emulate the conditions our young tradesmen and women will face when they attend the 'Trade Olympics' in Canada, exactly 100 days from Friday.

WHO The WorldSkills Australia team, known as the 'Skillaroos', are the top young trainees and apprentices from across the nation selected from the A, B, Cs of trade skills – Autobody Repair, Bricklaying and Cabinetmaking, to name just a few.

The group of 27 elite tradespeople qualified from a pool of over 5000 young trainees and apprentices to represent Australia in their chosen trade category at the International WorldSkills Competition to be held in Calgary, Canada in September, 2009.

Thousands of spectators are expected to attend the event to see the Skillaroos take on the New Zealand WorldSkills team.

WHY The Newcastle event will mark '100 Days' until the International Competition in Canada later this year. The competition against the New Zealand team will be the last time the public has the opportunity to see the competitors before they head to Canada.

Spectators at the exhibition will also be encouraged to try their hand at a number of the disciplines that are being performed by the Skillaroos as part of the 'Try'a Trade' initiative run by WorldSkills Australia.

PHOTO During the competition the Skillaroos will be busily piecing together some visually spectacular projects. The florists will be getting down and dirty in an explosion of colourful buds and blooms; the chefs will be heating things up in the kitchen with flambés and other culinary delights; and the sparks will be flying in the workshop when the construction metal works boys get down to business.

A double billing battle of the countries/battle of the sexes looms between Skillaroo, Justin Laidlaw and a female competitor from New Zealand in the 'Car Painting' category. Will the woman's touch be too much?

WHEN Day One: Wednesday 20 May, 2009
10:00AM – Official Opening
10:00AM to 5:00PM – First day of competition commences; Try'a Trade exhibition opens

Day Two: Thursday 21 May, 2009
10:00AM to 5:00PM– Competition continues; Try'a Trade exhibition

Day Three: Friday 22 May, 2009
10:00AM to 5:00PM– Competition continues; Try'a Trade exhibition

Day Four: Saturday 23 May, 2009
10:00AM to 5:00PM– Final day of competition; Try'a Trade exhibition closes

WHERE Newcastle Exhibition Centre
Newcastle Showground, Broadmeadow
NSW, 2292

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