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Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations
Leader of the Government in the Senate

MEDIA RELEASE

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Team Australia Skillaroos to represent us in London in 2011

The 2011 Team Australia Skillaroos was announced at today's Australian Training Awards at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans.

The Skillaroos are 30 of Australia's elite, young skilled workforce champions who will train for the next 10 months preparing to go up against competitors from around the world at the 41st WorldSkills International Competition in London in October 2011.

The Skillaroos will be representing 27 different skill categories including restaurant service, fashion technology, car painting and landscape gardening.

"It is a tremendous honour for Team Australia Skillaroos to represent their country and compete with their peers in their chosen trade, and I congratulate them all," Senator Evans said.

"The WorldSkills International Competition is an excellent opportunity to showcase Australia's trade and skill talent."

The 41st WorldSkills International Competition will be a showcase of the global skills standards displayed by competitors from over 50 countries representing 45 skill areas. The competition is expected to draw crowds of more than 150,000 people.

Australia has competed at every International competition since 1988 and is currently ranked fifth in the world.

The Skillaroos are medallists from the 2010 WorldSkills Australia National Competition, held in Brisbane in May 2010. The national competition was an impressive showcase of the talent of young skilled apprentices and trainees currently available in the Australian workforce.

The Australian Government is investing \$1.3 million a year to 2010-2011 in WorldSkills Australia to support this forum of exceptional talent and skills by young Australians. In the 2010-11 Budget, the Australian Government has invested more than \$660 million in training, apprenticeships and adult literacy and numeracy to ensure Australia has the skills it needs to support a growing economy.

The team list is attached, and further information on the WorldSkills Australia organisation and competitions is available at: <http://www.worldskills.org.au/>

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The 2011 Team Australia Skillaroos

Skillaroo Name	Skill Category	Home Town
Mathew Hall	Manufacturing Team Challenge	Ballarat, VIC
Ben Hooper	Manufacturing Team Challenge	South East South Australia, SA
Micheal Theobold	Manufacturing Team Challenge	Macquarie, NSW
Andrew Seeley	IT Software Solutions for Business	Sydney West, NSW
Guy Brooks	Welding	Illawarra, NSW
Jake Hall	Wall & Floor Tiling	Western Australia, WA
Craig Agnew	Autobody Repair	Hunter, NSW
Phillip Little	Plumbing and Heating	New England, NSW
Blake Cannell	Web Design	Sydney West, NSW
Benjamin Houghton	Electrical Installations	Macquarie, NSW
David McPherson	Industrial Control	Ballarat/Wimmera, VIC
Lester Tibbles	Bricklaying	Macquarie, NSW
Gustavo Ascitutto	Painting & Decorating	Sydney West, NSW
Ben Cooper	Cabinetmaking	Sydney West, NSW
Mathew Nowell	Joinery	Geelong, VIC
Natalee Hibbins	Jewellery	Western Australia, WA
Tamika Mackrell	Floristry	Melbourne, VIC
Alexis Scott	Ladies'/Men's Hairdressing	Western Australia, WA
Alex Odgers	Beauty Therapy	Hunter, NSW
Rhaman Donovan	Fashion Technology	Brisbane, QLD
Romain Marteau	Automobile Technology	Ballarat/Wimmera, VIC
Joseph Astorga	Cooking	Sydney, NSW
Kate Crocker	Restaurant Service	Sydney, NSW
Nathan Crumpton	Car Painting	Sydney, NSW
Richard May	Landscape Gardening	Sydney, NSW
Thomas Ramsey	Landscape Gardening	Canberra, ACT
Liam Janetzki	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	Toowoomba, QLD
Nicolas Sharp	Graphic Design Technology	Melbourne, VIC
Michael Ashton	Construction Metal Work	Illawarra, NSW
Russell Routledge	Sheet Metal Technology	Brisbane, QLD