



Cessnock chef named best apprentice in NSW

Cessnock chef Garreth Robbs was named Apprentice of the Year at the 2010 NSW Training Awards.

It is the latest in a long list of achievements for the Bistro Molines chef, who travelled to Europe twice on scholarships he won during his apprenticeship, and was named Cessnock City Citizen of the Year in 2009.

Garreth, 21, was named Hunter Region Apprentice of the Year in July for his efforts in Cookery Western-Hospitality (Commercial Cookery) Certificate III at Cessnock TAFE. He then made a shortlist of the top six apprentices in NSW who were recognised at the State awards on Thursday night.

It came the night after Garreth and his teammate Daniel Cooper (from Restaurant Botanica) won three silver medals at the Nestlé Golden Chef's Hat Awards in Melbourne.

Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth has presented the NSW Training Awards at a special event in Sydney.

"To win a State Award is a tremendous achievement – these students and training organisations have graduated at the very top of their class," Ms. Firth said.

"The NSW Training Awards continue a long-standing tradition of recognising and celebrating excellence within the NSW vocational education and training system and this year we recognise 55 years of excellence.

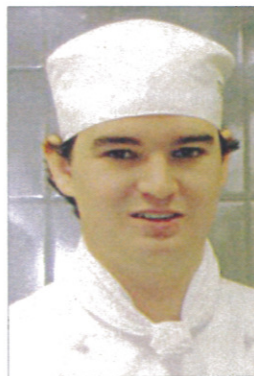
"The awards showcase the amazing talent and dedication we have in NSW, recognising the achievements of apprentices, trainees, schools, training providers and employers and it's a recognition that winners can take with them throughout their careers.

"The NSW training system is world class. We have a high quality network of public and private training organisations, including our secondary schools, which provide a huge choice for people who wish to start, improve or change their career."

More than 700 students, schools, registered training organisations and employers vied for awards in 15 categories. Finalists were chosen from 11 regions across the State with regional awards held in July.

"The awards underline the commitment and creativity of NSW employers in supporting their staff in improving their skills and without employers these awards would not be possible," Ms. Firth said.

Continued on page 2.



Garreth Robbs.

Chef named top apprentice

From page 1.

"Judging such a high quality field is a challenging task and I congratulate all of this year's finalists and winners.

"I would also like to extend my thanks to all our partners, supporters and sponsors, especially the Principal Partner, the Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre."

Garreth won a laptop computer and cash prize and will attend the Australian Training Awards at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, Homebush on November 19.