

# Success at WorldSkills

BY ERIN WILLIAMS

BALLARAT'S Karl Davies has tasted success at the WorldSkills Competition in Brazil.

The 22-year-old was awarded a Medalion of Excellence in the automobile technology category at the international competition in Sao Paulo.

A member of the Australian Skillearos team, Mr Davies placed 10th out of 43 competitors from across the world.

"It was hard. The size of it was huge. I expected it to be big but not as big as it was," Mr Davies said.

Mr Davies, an employee at Spanners and Sparks in Creswick Road, said he had to complete five modules over four days.

He said the competition gave him the opportunity to test his skills against other people.

"I like to test my skills against other people to find out where I sit. I am very competitive. It's always good to see where your skills are," Mr Davies said.

"I was competing against the best in the world. It's something that makes you realise there are people who are just as good or better."

Mr Davies, a former Federation University Australia student, said he always wanted a hands-on career.

"When I was young I always pulled things apart to see how it worked," he said.

"It was always a passion of mine. My dad was always into cars. I started doing it and fell in love with it. It's a really good trade, it's challenging and it's also rewarding."

To prepare for the WorldSkills Competition in Brazil, Mr Davies trained at Federation University and in China and New Zealand.

With the WorldSkills VB-TS Regional Competitions currently being held in Ballarat, Mr Davies encouraged students to give it their all.

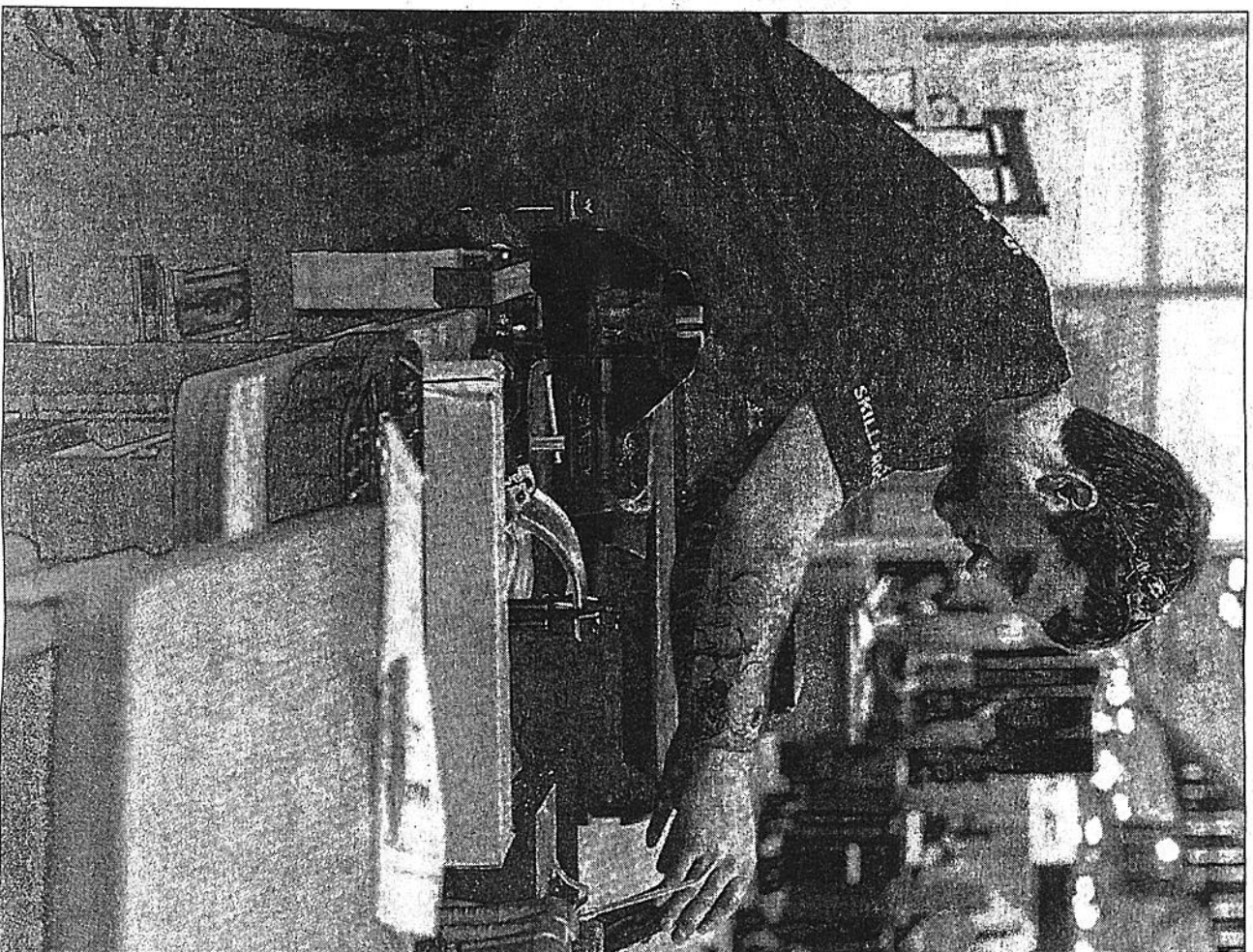
Mr Davies was one of six Victorians who showed off their training on the world stage in Brazil. The team won three silver medals.

Minister for Training and Skills Steve Herbert said being a member of the national team was a fantastic achievement.

"Very few people have the opportunity to represent their country on the world stage and to have that opportunity is a testament to Victoria's training system," Mr Herbert said.

Melbourne will host the WorldSkills Australia National Competition in 2016. The competition is expected to attract about 40,000 local and interstate visitors.

It will be held at the Melbourne Showgrounds in August with 500 competitors.



WORLD CLASS: Ballarat's Karl Davies competes in the WorldSkills Competition in Sao Paulo, Brazil.