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Skills team medal haul

THE Illawarra Institute of TAFE had welcomed the Illawarra WorldSkills team from the International WorldSkills competition in Canada, where Australia doubled its medal count with two gold, two silver and five bronze medals.

Australia retained its fifth placed ranking among the 47 countries involved and Illawarra Regional Committee chairman Troy Everett said he was impressed with Illawarra's representatives.

Shane Ashton came eighth in the world in the construction metalworks category and Nigel Croke, who trained at the Illawarra Institute's Wollongong campus, won bronze in the bricklaying category.

Mr Everett said the standard in the bricklaying test was higher this year and the scores from the top four competitors would have won gold in previous years.