



Deputy PM tries a trade



Wollongong's gold medal-winning tradesman Daniel Dovern and Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard go to work during WorldSkills Australia's Try a Trade at Parliament House.

By NATHAN SIMPSON

Wollongong's Daniel Dovern had a sparkle in his eye when he cheekily showed Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard how to build something from the ground up, with success, in Canberra last month.

Mr Dovern was a standout at the WorldSkills Australia Try a Trade at Parliament House and impressed with his medal-winning skills, while passing on techniques on the lawns of Federation Mall.

Mr Dovern won a gold medal at the regional WorldSkills competition this year - and will be fighting it out for gold at the 2010 national competition in May.

But it was his touch with a trowel and coolness at construction which impressed Ms Gillard.

Mr Dovern was part of an eight-person Skillaroos team which took its skills to the MPs.

"The Skillaroos polished their tools and impressed parliamentarians with their finely tuned skills," WorldSkills

Australia CEO Mark Callaghan said.

"The MPs enthusiastically took on the challenge of Try a Trade and did exceptionally well with the various tools on hand."

The Australian Government is investing \$3.8 billion over four years to support Australian apprenticeships and will invest an additional \$100 million in its Apprentice Kickstart package, to support young Australians entering traditional trades this summer.