



# Builder's apprentice wins national award

by Georgina Howden-Chitty

**Colac building apprentice Mathew Nowell has gained yet another industry accolade and entry into an international competition.**

Mr Nowell, 21, came third in the World Skills National Competition's detailed joinery and shop fitting category after competing in Brisbane.

He has received an invitation to contest a World Skills International Competition in London late next year.

"The two competitors who came first and second will be slightly too old to compete in London next year," Mr Nowell said.

"So there is a spot there if I

want to take it," he said.

"You've got to be under 23 to enter and I'd scrape in by a few months."

Mr Nowell said he would have to weigh up the training commitment required and time off work with the experience of travelling to the United Kingdom to contest the international event.

"It's really involved; you have to hone your skills," he said.

The young builder, who returned home on Tuesday, said he enjoyed competing in Brisbane.

"I loved it, I had a great time," he said.

"I competed in Sydney two years ago and I found it pretty stressful, but this time I was

more prepared and I coped a lot better.

"I had a bit of an idea what to expect."

Mr Nowell, who works for Colac's Adam Hall Builders, competed against 12 other apprentices of a similar age from around Australia.

"I had to build a set of stairs and a stick of nine joins," he said.

"I had to complete the stairs in 14 hours and I had four hours for the joins."

Mr Nowell has gathered a plethora of awards during his apprenticeship, including two in the Master Builders Association awards at Geelong last month.



**SKILLED:** Colac's Mathew Nowell came third in his section at the World Skills National Competition in Brisbane. 100512NH11A