



📷 Carpenter Ryan Grieger, pictured with kelpie Willis, is the top young tradie in Australia. Picture: Tom Huntley

SA News

## Swan Reach carpenter Ryan Grieger wins Best In Nation award for highest overall scorer in WorldSkills competition in Melbourne

Tim Williams, Education Reporter, The Advertiser

CARPENTER Ryan Grieger's work has already taken him across the state.

And now he's officially the top young tradie in all of Australia.

The TAFE SA-trained chippie from Swan Reach won the gold medal for carpentry in the WorldSkills Australia National Competition for vocational students held in Melbourne.

He was then awarded the Best In Nation prize for the highest scoring competitor across all 50 categories, ranging from construction and auto mechanics to cookery and hairdressing.

Carpentry competitors had to build a large section of a gazebo from scratch and were judged on correct dimensions and angles, clean joints, overall appearance and safety.

"It ended up being two and a half days, seven hours on (each of) the first two days and four on the last," he said.

"Going into it, I was a bit unsure whether I would get it done on time, but I did it with about an hour to spare. It all came together.

"Time management skills are a big one. Less than half got it finished."

On the back on his victory Mr Grieger will almost certainly represent Australia next year at the global WorldSkills competition in Abu Dhabi.

The 21-year-old did his TAFE training at Tonsley and is two months from finishing his apprenticeship with Mt Pleasant-based builders BJ and VL Duldig. He has built homes and shacks all over the state, from Encounter Bay on the Fleurieu to Venus Bay on the West Coast.

As a teenager he fancied becoming an electrician before the Doorways 2 Construction program at Swan Reach Area School fired his passion for carpentry.

"I'll hopefully one day start my own business down here in the Riverland or Murray Mallee," he said.

In Melbourne, TAFE SA-trained Joseph Pratt from Millicent won gold in welding. TAFE SA students also brought home two silver and five bronze medals.