



NOMINATED: Hamilton TAFE teacher Gary Sewell yesterday. — *Picture by Natalie Grono*

Skilled instructors rise to the top

By **MATTHEW KELLY**
Education Reporter

TWO Hunter TAFE teachers have been nominated for the award of best trade skills teacher in Australia.

Baking head teacher Gary Sewell and electrical and data communications teacher Steve Wayes are among eight national finalists for the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence Trade

Teacher of the Year award.

Mr Sewell said there had been a significant increase in recent years in the number of students studying baking trades at the Hamilton campus.

"We've seen our numbers rise steadily over the last couple of years because we are an identified skill shortage area," he said.

"A lot of them go on to

run their own business or use their skills to travel."

Mr Wayes said he particularly enjoyed developing training methods, such as online, in his trade area.

The awards represent eight industry groups and 23 trade disciplines.

Mr Sewell and Mr Wayes will be interviewed in Sydney today by a panel of judges.