



Teacher's committed to turning out chefs

CHARIS CHANG

PREPARATION is a key element to success in the kitchen and Ryde TAFE is turning out some top chefs due to teacher Marion Fitzpatrick.

Ms Fitzpatrick has been named the Australian Trade Teacher of 2007 because of her outstanding commitment to developing young chefs and improving the quality of teaching offered in the hospitality sector.

She was one of 18 industry finalists in the country to receive a \$5000 cash prize and \$5000 to be put towards a developmental activity or program that would contribute to industry and teaching.

Last month she was named the overall Trade Teacher of the Year across all industries including automotive, electrical and building.

Institute for Trade Skills Excellence chief executive officer Brian Wexham said Ms Fitzpatrick was an inspirational teacher.

"Marion is one of those people you meet who instantly motivates and excites you and it is clear that she has done this countless times for her students, many of whom have gone on to achieve greatness in



Marion Fitzpatrick received her trophy from the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence chairman Dr John Keniry (left) and guest of honour, former Australian rules footballer Garry Lyon.

the cookery field," Mr Wexham said.

The judges were especially impressed with Ms Fitzpatrick's mentoring, including taking students all the way to the World Skills Olympics, which attracts about 700 young people every two years in vocational skills, technical and specialist crafts.

Ms Fitzpatrick said she planned to use the prize money to implement e-learning resources.

"I am continually discovering new and innovative delivery approaches and I want to investigate other innovative practices around Australia and the various models that are meeting the challenges of training in rural and remote areas," she said.