

18 January, 2008

## **Tasmanian Cookery apprentice wins the Ultimate Apprenticeship**

Risdon Vale resident, Kira Lee Norman has won her Ultimate Apprenticeship, a trip to Japan to work alongside some of the world's best chefs.

Kira Lee entered the competition run by SkillsOne.com.au at the end of last year and was lost for words when she found out she'd won.

"When I got the call from SkillsOne to tell me I'd won the trip to Japan I was shocked, I've never even been out of Tassie before, so to be told I'm going to Japan is incredible.

"I've only been working as an apprentice cook for four months at the Gilt Bar & Restaurant in Sandy Bay, so this is an amazing start for me.

"I'm so excited about the opportunity to learn from the best chefs in Japan and I know that this is going to open my eyes to how exciting my career has the potential to be" said Kira Lee Norman.

When Kira Lee travels to Japan she will have a local guide, Tony San, who has worked in Michelin Star Restaurants in Asia and Europe. Tony San will take Kira Lee to the world's largest fish markets, teach her to make sushi with the chefs at Gonpachi restaurant, which is known for soba noodles and "kushi"-style skewered delicacies and was also famously used as the set in the Kill Bill movies.

Kira Lee will also work at the 6 Star Park Hyatt Tokyo, preparing a banquet for 1000 International dignitaries and join a master Chef to learn the secrets of Japanese cuisine.

Brian Wexham from SkillsOne said that the experience that Kira Lee will have will put her in an excellent position to launch her cookery career.

"Winning a prize to work with some of Japans' most distinguished and accomplished Chef's who are recognised around the world as being amongst the best is obviously going to be hugely advantageous for Kira Lee's career. It's simply an amazing opportunity.

“Thanks to the WPC Group for providing the trip to Japan. This has enabled SkillsOne to demonstrate just how far a skilled trade can take people.

“The Ultimate Cookery Apprenticeship is one of three Ultimate Apprenticeships that SkillsOne have given away and we plan to run similar competitions across other trade skill areas over the coming year” said Mr Wexham.

Kira Lee is off to Japan on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and will have an induction at the Westin and Grand Hyatt hotels in Melbourne to get familiar with working in large kitchens, before taking off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.

The other two Ultimate Apprenticeships that have been won are automotive, where the winner will work alongside the A1GP team in Brand's Hatch England and horticulture, where the winner will travel to the Singapore Garden Festival.

## **ENDS**

### **About SkillsOne**

SkillsOne is the multi-media platform of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

SkillsOne is made up of SkillsOne Television and the website [www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au) which feature engaging television and web programming that focuses on people who are passionate about what they do, the exciting career opportunities available across many industries, and the skills in high-demand in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The TV programming airs nationally on Foxtel's Aurora Community Channel each week in a block of programs presented as a branded channel and full broadband website featuring videos, rich content and resources. The television programs is also distributed by the Austar channel to various regional schools throughout Australia.

### **About The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence**

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (The Institute) has been established to promote and advance learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education and elevate the status of traditional trades and trades education as career choices.

The Institute is an industry led, Government funded body that promotes the learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence will achieve its vision and purpose through:

- Developing strategies to improve the profile and status of trades and encourage the recognition of the importance of trades in the general community;
- Recognising high performing Registered Training Organisations with preferred provider status;
- Fostering and recognising excellent standards and teaching in trades education and training, in areas of skills shortage represented by eight Industry Reference Groups.

## **About WPC Group**

WPC Group offers apprenticeships, traineeships and job placement to people wanting to pursue careers in skilled occupations. They are a leading provider of skilled people to the hospitality industry, engineering and automotive trades, horticulture and business administration and have over 25 years of experience.