

It's a top drawer effort

by LISA MUXWORTHY

ADRIAN Lywood is planning to carve a name for himself as the world's top cabinet maker when he meets international competition in Switzerland.

The Normanhurst resident will represent Australia in the cabinet making category of the WorldSkills International Competition in St Gallen, Switzerland in June.

The 21-year-old will travel with the 23-person Australian team, which will compete in various occupational categories including bricklaying, garment production, commercial cookery, heavy vehicle mechanics, electrical installation and IT support.

Mr Lywood secured his place in the international team by winning the regional and national titles last year.

In the regional competition he had eight hours to build a jewellery box, while he had three eight-hour days to make a tool box in the national competition.

And although Mr Lywood is unsure what the four-day international competition involves, he said "it won't be easy".

"[The regional and national competitions] were really hard; there's a lot of pressure to finish on time," he said.

"But I'm not really nervous. I'm still busy getting everything organised.

"This is my first time overseas, so it's very exciting."

As Mr Lywood works for furniture restorer and maker Zeller's, it is hardly surprising he will represent Australia at the international competition.

Mr Lywood is the third cabinet maker from the Asquith business to seek success in the WorldSkills competition.

Business owner Scott Zeller was named sixth in the world at the 1993 WorldSkills international competition, with his first apprentice taking eighth place in 1997.

Mr Lywood has worked at Zeller's for five years and said he "eventually" wanted to run his own business.

"I'd like to work with real exotic timbers and make high market, expensive stuff," he said.

"Turning a tree into a piece of furniture is pretty satisfying."



Representing Australia in the WorldSkills Competition ... cabinet-maker Adrian Lywood in action. Photo: ELENOR TEDENBORG