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## AUSSIE BUTCHERS PREPARE FOR INTERNATIONAL BATTLE

The knives are out as our national butchery team, the Australian Steelers, prepare to take the title of the world's best butchers on home soil.

The six-man team go head to head against the best butchers from Britain, France and long-time rivals New Zealand's Pure South Sharp Blacks in the World Butchers' Challenge in Queensland on 10 September.

Each team will have three hours to turn a side of beef, pork and a whole lamb into value-added cuts in order to produce a world-class display based around a theme of their choice.

The 2016 Australian Steelers, sponsored by Australian Pork, are:

- Tom Bouchier, Peter Bouchier Butchers of Distinction, VIC
- Paul Brady, Tender Gourmet Butchery Macquarie, NSW
- Nick Dagg, The Heights Boutique Butchery, QLD
- Colin Garrett, Colin's Butchery, NSW
- Adam Stratton, Tender Gourmet Butchery Hornsby, NSW
- Michael James, Carina North Quality Meats, QLD (Captain)

No stranger to what lies ahead, Adam Stratton says the strength of this year's team lies in their innovation and individual career successes.

"This will be my fifth time competing and I believe what sets us apart from the rest of the teams is our ability to bring consumer expectations to our display. Customers are often time poor so they want meal options that are easy to cook but still visually appealing and delicious," says Stratton.

"I reckon I'm a butcher, a baker and a chef. It's a sign of the times; people expect more from their food and that's what this competition is all about, it's value-adding."

The Australian Steelers will now attend a number of intense practice sessions as this year's competition is set to be an even tougher challenge with France joining the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand for the first time.

The competition began as a Trans-Tasman event in 2011 and in 2013 was renamed the Tri-Nations Butchers' Challenge with the inclusion of the United Kingdom.

The World Butchers' Challenge will be held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on Saturday 10 September, after a five day study tour.

## ENDS

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