

**BREAKING: AUSSIE BUTCHERS AMONG WORLD'S BEST**

It was a red carpet moment for Australia's best butchers when they won Bronze at the World Butcher's Challenge in Ireland overnight.

The Australian Steelers representative team took out overall third place, competing against 11 teams from around the globe.

They also received awards for the World's Best Pork Sausage, Best Gourmet Sausage and the Best Hygiene/Health & Safety in the world.

Captain, Adam Stratton, from Sydney's Tender Gourmet Butchery, said the team had worked hard on their preparation and had gone into the competition feeling quietly confident.

"This team has worked incredibly well on every element of the competition and we're just so delighted it's paid off," Mr Stratton said.

"This competition celebrates the hard work that butchers do in-store on a daily basis and that's just so incredibly important. Our presentation today was all about the glitz and glamour of the red carpet and celebrating our skill, the produce and our craft.

"We're so glad the judges recognised our efforts and I'm so grateful our team got this recognition."

Twelve teams competed in the three hour test of preparation, skill and presentation, with Head Judge, Todd Heller from New Zealand, commenting: "The results from the top five ranked teams were extremely close and the standard overall was exceptional."

"This is a real honour for the whole team and I'd like to thank Colin (NSW), Paul (NSW), Nick (QLD), Tom (VIC) and Luke (SA) for their dedication in the lead up to the competition, plus our families and sponsors for their support," Mr Stratton said.

"I thank Ireland for hosting this competition and the judges for all of their professionalism. I'd also like to commend the organisers on growing this competition from its humble Trans-Tasman beginnings, to now attracting 12 highly-skilled and highly-competitive teams."

"Also, congratulations to the winning team Ireland on their fantastic demonstration of the trade and also the Kiwis who pipped us to the post for second place. All the Australian team members should go home proud and I know they'll be leaving with new ideas."

The World Butchers Challenge was held in Belfast, Ireland, with 12 countries competing in this year's competition and placing as follows: 1. Ireland 2. New Zealand 3. Australia.

The other competing nations were: Brazil, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy South Africa & USA.

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