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AMIC apprentice butchers first at LambEx 2014

YOUNG butchers from across Australia will take to the LambEx stage to create a value-add story with a mystery box of meat cuts as they vie for the title of Australia's apprentice butcher of the year.

In another first for LambEx 2014 in Adelaide from July 9-11, all eyes will be on the exhibition stage during day two's morning tea and lunch breaks as part of the Australian Meat Industry Council's National Apprentice of the Year Competition.

The competition is open to second and third year apprentices working for an independent local butcher and studying a Certificate 3 in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher).

Six apprentice butchers will earn points as they battle for the top ranking in the competition when they are provided with a 'mystery box'. They will race against the clock as they demonstrate their butchering prowess for the crowd with the box's contents, which will include whole muscle meat, fresh and dry ingredients plus a 'mystery item'.

AMIC's Paul Sandercock says the competition runs over two hours where apprentices have 15 minutes of preparation, another 15 minutes to assess the contents of the box and make a work plan, then 1.5 hours to prepare four or more value-added products.

"There will be up to three judges assessing the competition who will ask questions and provide encouragement during the competition. Points are awarded for preparation, food safety, equipment use, product knowledge, ingredient use and most importantly, the creativity and practicality of the products made," he said.

"This competition is designed to create opportunities for the ongoing development of young people in the Australian meat industry. It's part of the reason we brought it to LambEx because the conference is a fantastic networking opportunity and for the apprentices to engage with lamb producers."

LambEx Chairman Allan Piggott said the organising committee was thrilled to have the esteemed AMIC apprentice competition at LambEx, which would provide an exciting contest for delegates to watch in the breaks.

"LambEx is all about encouraging people, no matter what their role, in the sheep and lamb industry and so we are looking forward to having representatives from the whole supply chain in our LambEx audience."

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For more information on how to be part of LambEx 2014 visit www.lambex.com.au for the sponsorship and exhibition prospectus or contact agricultural event manager Esther Price Promotions on 08 9525 9222 or esther@estherprice.com.au