



Excellence marked

Winners of the Rockhampton area business excellence awards are (left) Bronwyn Fenech from FM Studios (winner of the New Business of the Year Award for Rockhampton); (centre) Dennis Sheehan from Archer Park Station and Steam Tram Museum (winner of Small Business of the Year Award — Rockhampton) and (right) Peter Watts from MRAEL presenting Eric Anderson from City Printing Works the Medium Business of the Year Award.

Rockhampton Regional Development is hosting Ergon Energy and Rockhampton Regional Development Business Excellence Awards gala presentation dinner on October 17. For more information email katrina.carlos@rrdl.com.au or phone 4927 0292.



Aust market ignores Wall Street rally

SYDNEY — The Australian stock market gave up its early gains to close for the third consecutive session in the red.

Gains by most of the major banks and AMP were offset by falls among market heavyweights such as News Corp and BHP Billiton.

The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index finished 1.4 points lower at 3192.5 while the all ordinaries index lost 1.9 points to 3195.2.

“It was a bit of a flat day again,” Ausbil Dexia equities director Paul Xiradis said.

“But what we did see, after a period of weakness, was the materials sector gain a bit of ground with the likes of Woodside Petroleum and Rio Tinto a bit better.

“There was also a bit of interest in the banks after being fairly weak and despite concerns about rising interest rates.”

The falls on the local bourse came despite a recovery on Wall Street overnight where stocks rose for the first time in two sessions.

The Dow Jones industrial average lifted 39.30 points to 9459.76 while the broader Standard & Poor’s 500 Index added 5.50 points to 1016.42 and the Nasdaq gained 22.28 points to 1846.09.

Locally, Woodside rose 19 cents to \$13.13 and Rio Tinto climbed 35 cents to \$33.60 while BHP Billiton reversed its earlier push higher to lose five cents to \$10.79.

Among the banks, Westpac jumped 17 cents to \$16.32 after quitting the race to buy National Bank of New Zealand.

Award presented



State Minister for Employment and Training Matt Foley presents the APN Newspapers Large Training Provider of the Year award to CQ TAFE director Bill Fry at the Queensland Training Awards on Thursday night. Picture supplied.

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