

Snapped at the awards launch

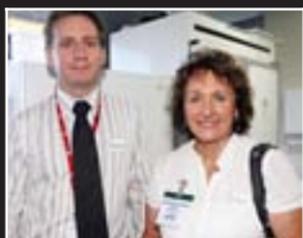
Pictures by TAMARA MACKENZIE



SERIOUS BUSINESS: SEA FM's Chooky and Brad, pictured with Andrew Leach (centre), attended the awards launch. tm31/308/4



PROUD SUPPORTERS: Glen Cooper, Tony Cullen and Alan Chamberlain do some networking. tm31/308/6



PROMO: *The Morning Bulletin's* Sheryl Gomersall with Matthew Hickson. tm31/308/7



COFFEE CLUB: John McKim and Rocky Donovan have a cuppa at the awards. tm31/308/8



HAPPY SPONSORS: Marilyn Flynn and Bronwyn Fenech see the bright side of business. tm31/308/3



BUSY MIXING: Marissa Buchanan and Warren Hale with Donna and Ian Kayes at the launch event. tm31/308/9



DEBATE: Trevor Hooper, Trudy McCaul, Phil Henry and Eslyn Dooley discuss the awards. tm31/308/10

Awards enhance business potential



By **ADRIAN TAYLOR**
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PREMIER AWARDS: Ergon's Stephen Simpson launches the Business Excellence Awards.

AWARD-winning businessman Scott McGregor yesterday urged Rockhampton bosses to do themselves a favour and follow his example.

Speaking at the launch of this year's Rockhampton Business Excellence Awards, he said his company's triumph in last year's event had done much more than add a trophy to the cabinet.

The owner of Plantability said: "Our business improved as a result of entering. It made me focus on all aspects of the business and I'm sure we picked up some new clients," he said.

"We were also able to attract a couple of excellent staff because of the recognition we received. We all felt very proud and our 42 staff were enthused and motivated by the win."

Plantability took the overall prize and was named best medium-sized company in a contest that attracted 63 entries.

The 2008 awards were launched by Ergon Energy general manager Stephen Simpson yesterday. He described the annual contest as the region's premier business awards and said they

had grown to be a prestigious contest that recognised and promoted the efforts of the region's innovative and successful business.

Nominations can be made until the end of May, and this year's winners will be announced at a dinner on June 27.

The awards are organised by Rockhampton Regional Development and are sponsored by an impressive line-up of companies including Ergon Energy, FM Studios, RockSure, The Rock, Stanwell Corporation, Central Queensland University, Capricornia Training and Kennas. Rick Palmer, acting chief executive of Rockhampton Regional Development, said companies that entered would be helped to improve their business strategies and tactical plans.

To enter, call Michelle Marsh on 4927 0292 or email awards@rrdl.com.au.

Advertisement

Energy efficiency funding for Queensland businesses

Applications are now open for the Smart Energy Savings Fund. Secured concessional loans and grants are available to assist Queensland businesses to invest in commercial energy efficiency projects.

The \$50 million fund is a key component of the Smart Energy Policy outlined in the Queensland Government's *ClimateSmart 2050* strategy.

The funding program provides financial support to Queensland businesses on a competitive basis to implement energy efficient technologies in buildings, appliances and industrial processes.

The fund encourages businesses to identify the most cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities for their operations and provides assistance to businesses that are

unable to implement these energy efficiency opportunities without financial support.

Applications for projects located in the Northern Economic Triangle or in areas of current or emerging electricity network constraint are strongly encouraged.

Applications close on Monday 12 May 2008. For the Smart Energy Savings Fund Guidelines and Application Form visit www.dme.qld.gov.au, email smartenergy@dme.qld.gov.au or call +61 7 3224 8653



Queensland Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, George St, Brisbane.

Business urged to get a lot safer

BUSINESSES in Rockhampton are being invited to a free Managing for Safety workshop at the end of April.

Simon Blackwood, acting executive director of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, said it was critical for small

and medium sized companies to have access to good advice and affordable, easy to use safety management resources.

The workshop will be held on April 30 at the DTRDI Regional Centre, 149 Bolsover Street. Call 1300 369 915 to register.