

Dalby's Training Award winners

Local industries in great shape

Dalby proved itself as a main contender last Friday, when a local business and resident each walked away winners from the Australian Training Awards in Sydney.

Auto electrical business Diesel Electrics won the Prime Minister's Small Business of the Year award while Josephine Shannon was named runner-up for the Australian Apprentice of the Year.

Aimed at recognising excellence in the training sector, the evening was held at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre and brought together state and territory award winners for a multitude of categories.

Owners of Diesel Electrics Anthony and Kellie Wenning said it

was a huge honour to be recognised for something they are so passionate about.

"We are very committed to dedicating the time and resources needed to help our employees achieve their own career goals," Mrs Wenning said.

"Not only does this help them as individuals, it helps our business and it makes a contribution to our region's future."

Diesel Electrics, a commercial and heavy equipment service centre, was described as a "small business with a big commitment to training".

Mrs Wenning said the awards involved a rigorous judging process including site evaluations and a presentation and interview

session in front of a panel of experts in Canberra.

"Participating in the Training Awards has been an amazing and rewarding experience that has opened doors for us to grow as a business and to grow as individuals," Mrs Wenning said.

Josephine Shannon was another winner, walking away as runner-up Australian Apprentice of the Year on the evening.

Josephine, who was announced state finalist in September, said receiving the national award was a huge honour.

"It was quite a privilege," Josephine said.

Finalists also attended a week of professional development activities before judging took place the



Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Christopher Evans, Anthony and Kellie Wenning at the Australian Training Awards in Sydney.

day before the event.

"By the time the night came together, we (finalists) all knew each other well so we were able to celebrate each other's winnings," Josephine said.

Josephine spent 20 years out of the workforce before she resumed her career in office administra-



Josephine Shannon (right) was announced the Australian Apprentice of the Year runner-up on Friday evening at the Australian Training Awards in Sydney, by Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Training from the Northern Territory Lynne Walker (left) and 2009 Australian Apprentice of the Year winner Jacqui Vella.

tion with a traineeship.

After moving to Dalby last year, Josephine now works as a customer service officer for reception in executive services for the Western Downs Regional Council.