

Leonora pair win national award

TWO Northern Goldfields-based employment services workers have been recognised by their organisation for providing far-reaching support across the region.

Jane Waterton and Michelle Thomas are based in Leonora, but service the broader Goldfields region.

They were jointly named Max Employment's employee of the month last April, which put them in the running for the annual award and last month they were named the national job service provider's employee of the year.

Max Employment executive general manager Jason Shield said the accolade was a huge accomplishment for the women.

"We have more than 1100 employees nationally and we're in all States and Territories," Mr Shield said.

"It's a huge honour."

He said the women were "an inspiration" to their colleagues.

"They cover 570,000km and the ladies will cover up to four days at a time on occasion to reach their clients scattered in communities right across the Goldfields," he said. "They put our motto, which is 'finding jobs, changing lives', at the very forefront of what they do on a daily basis."

Mr Shield said the Leonora office from which the women operated was also recently awarded five out of five stars within the Government's ratings system for employment services.

"It really signifies the quality of services that they provide to their clients," he said.

RANIA SPOONER



Passionate pair: Jane Waterton and Michelle Thomas are the Max Employment employees of the year for their service to the Goldfields.

Techno junkies psyched over No. 2

APPLE is expected to unveil the second generation of its wildly successful iPad media tablet next week, widening its head start against competitors just starting to sell their first tablet computers.

The Cupertino, California-based company emailed invitations to a media event in San Francisco Wednesday that show a calendar page with the corner peeling away to reveal an iPad underneath. The large "2" on the calendar page denotes the event's March 2 date, but is also a hint Apple is about to announce the follow-up to the original iPad.

The iPad, about the size of a large book, has been likened to an overgrown iPhone or iPod Touch, as it is powered by similar software and can run the same applications, or "apps".

But it has a bigger screen that makes reading emails, surfing the web and watching movies easier on the eyes. With a starting price of

\$499, it's less expensive than many computers and, at 680g, it also weighs less. Unlike small, inexpensive laptops such as netbooks, the iPad turns on instantly, so people don't have to wait through a sluggish boot-up.

And the battery also lasts about 10 hours unplugged, making it ideal for travellers and other people on the go. Apple sold more than 15 million iPads in its first nine months on sale, including 7.3 million to holiday shoppers during the October-December quarter - about a million more for the quarter than analysts were expecting.

Since the iPad's launch, other consumer electronics makers have been scrambling to develop tablets of their own. For example, Samsung



Apple hype: Chief executive Steve Jobs.

began selling the Galaxy Tab last year and Motorola Mobility's Xoom tablet goes on sale this week. Many of these new tablets run Google's Android software.

The iPad is the first tablet computer to win over mainstream consumers. A decade earlier, PC makers were selling tablets that ran Windows, the same operating systems found on most full-fledged PCs.

While some businesses bought them, they never sold well among consumers. These tablets were heavier and had shorter battery lives.

They were also more difficult to use as touch-screen devices, as Windows was meant to be used with a mouse and keyboard.

As usual, Apple has not said anything about the highly anticipated next version of the iPad, leaving rumours to swirl unchecked online.

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