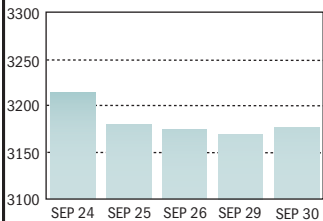


TAKING STOCK

ABN-AMRO Morgans
 Stock Broking Financial Planning
 Corporate Finance ACN 010669726

All Ordinaries: 3176.2 +5.9



AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR

US67.49	▲	0.05
¥ 74.93	▼	0.38
UK40.56	▼	0.10
Eu58.46	▼	0.35

SYDNEY GOLD

\$US383.45	▲	\$4.10
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BIG MOVER

NEWCREST		
\$10.96	▲	43c

BHP-BILLITON		
\$10.56	▲	2c

BHP STEEL		
\$5.01	▲	10c

THE MAJORS

AMP	.....	\$6.66
ANZ	.....	\$17.95
Brambles	.....	\$4.69
Commonwealth	.....	\$27.70
Coles Myer	.....	\$7.60
Fosters	.....	\$4.47
Fairfax	.....	\$3.21
National Bank	.....	\$30.80
NewsCorp	.....	\$12.02
(IAG) NRMA	.....	\$4.15
PBL	.....	\$11.06
Prime	.....	\$2.40
Seven Network	.....	\$5.73
St George	.....	\$20.49
Sydney Gas	.....	\$0.77
Singapore Telecom	.....	\$1.41
TAB	.....	\$3.32
Telstra	.....	\$4.74
Westpac	.....	\$16.20
Woolworths	.....	\$11.72

Web site proposal aims to provide better access



Grand designs: Lejla Vrazalic and Peter Hyland from the Decision System Laboratory begin the process of designing a community portal.

Picture: SYLVIA LIBER

In Business

with Greg Ellis



THE Decision Systems Laboratory at the University of Wollongong is pioneering a project to model and develop a true community web portal.

School of IT and Computer Science senior lecturer Peter Hyland said the project would link into a national program called One City, One Site.

The concept, initiated by the Office of Information Technology, is for every city and suburb in Australia to have its own domain name such as Wollongong.au.

Mr Hyland said usually regional domain names were part of some other grouping which meant they were not truly a community portal.

He said the aim was for every city, suburb and town in Australia to have its own web site that would belong to that community.

Mr Hyland said he and Department of Information Systems lecturer Lejla Vrazalic had been developing a small- to medium-sized business portal when they discovered the One City, One Site notion.

While interested, they had questions about how would it work and be managed, who physically owned the hardware, who paid for running costs, who decided what was allowed to go on the server, what constituted a community and who was allowed to use the site.

Mr Hyland said there were many accountability issues to be considered but a priority was to ensure a model was inclusive of all community members.

"Everyone who legitimately can belong to the portal should have the right to be on it if they want to," Mr Hyland said.

The Decision Systems Laboratory has tried to answer some of the questions by looking at other geographical community portals around the world and examining what functions they offered.

Ms Vrazalic said one of the big issues was long-term sustainability.

"Most of them are funded by government grants which run over three to five years," she said.

"We want to develop a model that allows us to be self-sustaining beyond that."

The Wollongong test case is one of two planned.

The Office of Information Technology has been funded to conduct another in Bathurst.

"We are hoping to implement a Wollongong community portal as a test case early next year," Ms Vrazalic said.

She said the overall objective was to develop a portal that truly represented community needs and brought together various stakeholders including local businesses, residents, government organisations and non-profit organisations.

"It will provide an on-line space for them to interact, exchange goods, services and ideas."

Ms Vrazalic said the process of formulating a framework for community consultation had begun and

university students were involved.

Workshops would be conducted soon to gain a better understanding of community needs.

She hoped true community portals would help people outside metropolitan centres realise the full benefits of being on-line.

It also combated the problem in some regional or rural centres where there was no Internet Service Provider.

The Decision Systems Laboratory has also lodged a grant application with the Australian Research Council to carry out conceptual modelling on regional community portals and develop reusable tools, such as databases, that could be loaded onto a web server to help get a regional portal up and running.

Ms Vrazalic said such a portal would ensure everyone in the community had a voice and an opportunity to stay in contact with each other.

□ BHP Billiton

Upbeat outlook

BHP Billiton's new chief executive, Chip Goodyear, received a remuneration package of more than \$5.17 million in 2002-03 as the world's largest diversified miner predicted an improved outlook.

Writing in the group's 2003 annual report, BHP Billiton chairman Don Argus said the world economy appeared to have turned a corner despite continued excess of capacity and subdued demand.

Mr Argus said pricing, too, remained competitive.

Mr Goodyear, who replaced Brian Gilbertson as chief executive on January 6, stepping up from a position of executive director and chief financial officer, took home a base salary of \$1.69 million for the 12 months to June 30.

He received a cash bonus of \$1.33 million, deferred shares valued at \$1.24 million and retirement benefits.

This compared to the \$7.49 million in remuneration former CEO Paul Anderson received for the 12 months to June 30, 2002.

BHP Billiton posted a full-year net profit to June 30, of \$3.01 billion, up from \$2.93 billion in 2001-02.

Market consensus had estimated profits at \$2.84 billion.

BHP Billiton shares closed up 2¢ at \$10.56.

Workplace wages campaign

By GREG ELLIS

RETAILERS, restaurants, video hire and takeaway food stores will be among 100 Wollongong businesses visited by Office of Industrial Relations inspectors this month.

Industrial Relations Minister John Della Bosca said the visits were part of a campaign to take advice and assistance directly to work-

places. The inspectors would advise on workplace health and safety and provide information kits on awards and industrial laws.

The minister felt most employers were ready to do the right thing when they knew what was required.

He said this month's objective was to ensure employers understood their rights and obligations under NSW industrial laws.

"We want to help employers and employees to work together to head off disputes before they arise, rather than simply responding to complaints," he said.

Mr Della Bosca warned the inspectors would follow up the visits with random inspections. Employers who underpaid faced fines of up to \$10,000. Courts could also order the repayment of wages with interest.

Court gives green light to sale of Stanbroke Pastoral

AUSTRALIAN Agricultural Co Ltd is considering whether to press on with a damages claim after the Federal Court ruled the sale of Stanbroke Pastoral Co could go ahead.

Justice Ronald Sackville failed to grant an injunction against the transfer of Stanbroke from AMP Life to

Nebo Holdings and Investments. AMP Life sold Australia's largest landholder and cattle producer to Nebo, a consortium of rural families, for \$491 million.

AACo had been seeking an injunction to stop the sale and have the tender reopened after its higher bid was rejected by AMP.