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Win for dead men walking

TOURISM
WRITER

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ATTRACTIONS that range from a cemetery interpretive trail to an international bicycle race and an outback pub were winners at the 2011 South Australian Tourism Awards at the Adelaide Convention Centre last night.

The Heritage Highlights Interpretive Trail at West Terrace Cemetery, one of the oldest set sites in SA, won the award for best new entrant.

Tours along the trail "discover tales of courage and heartbreak, struggle and success" and can be self-guided or with volunteers.

The State Heritage-listed cemetery has graves or memorials to media magnate and philanthropist Sir John Langdon Bonython, pharmaceuticals entrepreneur Francis Faulding, composer of *Song of Australia* Carl Linger, colonial powerbroker Sir Henry Ayers,

composer Percy Grainger and other leading lights of early Adelaide.

The Santos Tour Down Under bike race, by winning the tourism awards category for major events for the third consecutive year, was inducted into the State Tourism Hall of Fame.

Four others also were inducted, having won for three years.

They are Sebel Playford Adelaide hotel which won luxury accommodation, Seppeltsfield Vineyard Cottage topped in hosted accommodation, Yorke Peninsula Visitor Information Centre won the visitor information and services group and Getaways Reservation Service was judged best specialised tourism service.

Ward Tilbrook, chief executive of the SA Tourism Industry Council, said 65 per cent of entries were from regional SA.

"South Australia's tourism experiences are some of the best in this country and South Australians should consider holidaying at home," Mr Tilbrook said.

The Adelaide Casino was best major tourist attraction and Great Southern Rail won the category for major tour and transport operator. Jacob's Creek Visitor Centre won two categories, for tourism wineries and tourism restaurants.

The BIG4 Adelaide Shores Caravan Park was named best tourist and caravan park in the state.

Ron Kandelaars gave the most outstanding contribution by an individual, said the judges. Mr Kandelaars has been producer, writer and presenter on Channel 9 TV program *Postcards* for 13 years.

The winners will represent SA in the Australian Tourism Awards in February.



LABOUR OF LOVE: Sean and Andrew, from Italian Monumental Art, install a new structure at West Terrace Cemetery.

Picture: MATT TURNER