

High achievers step up for deserved acclaim

BEN HYDE

THE state's array of high achievers were celebrated last night at the 2009 Advantage SA South Australian of the Year category awards presentation.

Awards were presented across eight different categories, including arts, sport, tourism, health and science, at the ceremony at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Professor Robert Norman took the health and science award categories for his ser-

vice to reproductive health and regenerative medicine.

The professor in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Adelaide said it was an honour to receive the awards.

"The award is a recognition of the health and science disciplines and the results we can get when they work together," he said.

"The greatest achievement is that we have built a group that is world class in terms of science and discovery that can also provide

outcomes for the South Australian population in health."

Stefan Ahrens, who won the business category, said he did not consider it an individual accolade.

"It's a team award signifying the achievement of our whole company and the great people we have working there that have contributed to that," he said. "One person can't make things happen; you need a team."

Advantage SA chief executive officer Nikki Seymour Smith said the awards high-

lighted the diverse range of talent across the state.

"I am thrilled to recognise the winners of the South Australian of the Year category awards," she said.

"The talent within this state is quite remarkable."

Winners were selected from both public and peer nominations.

The South Australian of the Year and Young South Australian of the Year will be presented tonight.



THE NOMINEES

ARE ...

1 ■ BUSINESS

STEFAN AHRENS

Mr Ahrens has grown fourth-generation family business Ahrens Group Pty Ltd into a nationally focused company.

2 ■ EDUCATION

CHRISTIES BEACH HIGH SCHOOL (Principal Paul Wilson)

Christies Beach High serves its philosophies: Education for All and Second Chance Learning.

3 ■ ARTS

TIMOTHY SEXTON

Mr Sexton has worked as a freelance composer, conductor, arranger, singer, writer and adjudicator.

4 ■ HEALTH AND SCIENCE

PROFESSOR ROBERT NORMAN

Professor Norman leads more than 200 researchers at the Robinson Institute, which specialises in reproductive health and regenerative medicine.

5 ■ TOURISM

PROFESSOR JANE JAMES

Professor James is involved in educational boards, panels and committees that help shape the future of tourism education in South Australia.

6 ■ ENVIRONMENT

FRIENDS OF SCEALE BAY (Bob Minnican)

The Friends of Scaale Bay has been an active defender and promoter of our marine environment.

Not pictured:

■ SPORT

- ADELAIDE UNITED FC

The success of Adelaide United in the Asian Champions League throughout 2008 made the world take notice.

■ COMMUNITY

ROSEMARY WANGANEEN

Ms Wanganeen runs the Sacred Site Within Healing Centre, which provides counselling and support for clients.