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Awards honour family affairs

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LEADING family businesses have been honoured in this year's round of Victorian Family Business Awards.

Among winners are Thomastown-based cheese company Pantalica, Woorinen-based stone fruit packer Cutri Fruit, Melbourne's David Shave Human Resources and Murphy Transport Solutions, based in the western suburbs.

The awards were presented by Small Business Minister Joe Helper.

Hosted by the Family Business Association's Victorian branch, the awards give entrants a chance to see how they perform against accepted Family Business Best Practice principles.

The winners will now go on to compete at the state finals for the national title.

Pantalica took out the first-generation innovation and entrepreneurship award.

Operated by the Pitruzzello family, it was established in the 1970s and employs more than 60 staff. Five members of the family work in the firm.

The business is continually evolving and adding new products.

The second-generation business award went to Cutri Fruit, in the Mallee.

It has more than 50 years' experience growing and packing stone fruit in the Mallee region and on the Murray River.

The third-generation award went to David Shave Human Resources, which was founded in 1959 by Jim Shave and his wife Sue.

His son, David, joined the business in 1970 and took over as managing director two years later. His son, Duncan, also joined and is now a director.

David Shave Human Resources now provides outsourced human resource management to many companies.

The fourth-generation award went to Murphy Transport Solutions.

The business was founded in 1858 by Edward Murphy.