

Feature

A true mark of Aussie authenticity



“Buying Australian is an important way we can support each other and ensure all Australians prosper. So let’s make some noise for supporting Aussie businesses.”
JESSICA MAUBOY, AUSTRALIAN MADE WEEK EMBASSADOR

Kicking off on the 20th of May, Australian Made Week is a time to highlight the importance of local manufacturing and its many benefits.

Now in its fourth year, the campaign is hitting the high notes with Australian singer-songwriter Jess Mauboy as this year’s Australian Made Week Ambassador.

An enthusiastic supporter of Australian manufacturing and locally made products, Jess Mauboy is encouraging Australian shoppers and businesses to support their fellow Aussies by choosing Australian Made. The campaign aims to promote Australian Made products as they contribute to boosting our economy, supporting high quality manufacturing, sustainable practices, and most importantly – Australian jobs and workers.

Running from the 20th to the 26th of May, the annual event aims to celebrate all that Australians create, with the home-grown singer songwriter encouraging us to prioritise buying products bearing the iconic Australian Made green and gold kangaroo logo.

“I couldn’t be more proud to be Australian and come from this beautiful country where we have such an abundance of clever makers and growers who work so hard to produce for us and the rest of the world.”

“Buying Australian is an important way we can support each other and ensure all Australians prosper. So let’s make some noise for supporting Aussie businesses,” Mauboy said.

Australian Made Chief Executive Ben Lazzaro was thrilled to welcome Jess aboard as the face... and voice of the campaign.

“With her infectious optimism, incredible work ethic and connection to Country, Jess embodies the very spirit of Australian Made Week which has become an annual celebration of our local creators.

“She is a true trailblazer, and we are absolutely delighted that Jess will headline our campaign to raise awareness of the importance of buying products bearing the Australian Made brandmark,” Lazzaro said.

For more than 35 years, the trusted Australian Made, Australian Grown green-and-gold logo featuring the outline of a kangaroo has identified products as authentically Australian.



From automotive to arts, beauty to boating, clothing to cleaning products and many, many more, every single purchase of products bearing our unique country-of-origin certification helps create and support local

jobs and boost the economies of the cities, towns and regions where the goods are produced.

The quickest and easiest way to communicate your genuine Australian credentials is to certify your products with the green and gold kangaroo logo. Recognised by 99% and trusted by 93% of Australians, the Australian Made logo is the true mark of Aussie authenticity.

Businesses that carry the Australian Made certification are encouraged to join in the Australian Made Week celebrations and share their authentic Australian stories.

Learn more about Australian Made Week at - australianmadeweek.com.au ▲

20–26 May 2024

Australian Made Week

Australian Made makes Australia

australianmadeweek.com.au



Standing the test of time

60 years of elevating comfort to Australian homes.

It was humble beginnings back in 1963 for Edwardstown Carpets. Located, eponymously, in Edwardstown, South Australia, the company has seen a journey of growth that few others can lay claim to.

After what has now been 60 years of creating innovative, loop pile carpets, the company undertook a re-brand in 2023 to demonstrate its evolution, becoming simply, EC. A nod to the past but with a view to the future, which is an ethos that has carried them through over half a century of production and growth.



Now, EC remains the only fully Australian-owned and operated producer of high-quality, innovative loop pile carpets. Due to considerable investment and a progressive disposition, the over 100-person staff now designs, manufactures, and delivers their carpets from their new 14,000 sqm state-of-the-art facility in Lonsdale, SA. This new factory and head office bring all operations under one roof with new carpet backing line, tufting, enhanced warehousing capabilities and a modernised innovation hub.



The decision to build their new premises wasn't simply a means for production expansion, but rather a dedication to their ethos of innovation and a commitment to sustainability.

This level of advocacy means that sustainability couldn't just become a tick-box exercise for the business. EC transformed its operations, products, and internal policies to ensure this key driver was at the forefront for the organisation. This meant taking control of many of the moving pieces required to create exceptional flooring solutions.



The new space brought together things such as an in-house compounding glue facility, reducing their carbon footprint by over 40 tonnes of CO2 per year. The 75,000L rainwater tanks they have installed minimise dependency on the reticulated water supply.

The dynamic nature of being fully owned and operated under one roof also leaves room for further innovation in product and design. In 2021 the business was able to launch its first public-facing commitment to a sustainable carpet solution with the

ECONYL EC Carpet collection. This range utilises ECONYL regenerated nylon, which is made from salvaged items that can be extremely polluting and hard to break down, such as fishing nets and industrial plastic. The regeneration and purification process recycles the nylon waste right back to its original purity. It's exactly the same as fossil-based nylon but with a far more sustainable future. It is then processed into yarns and polymers, which EC use to create the ECONYL EC Carpet collection.



"Our heritage has allowed us to gain extensive industry knowledge over the last 60 years. This allows us to learn from the past, but be nimble in how we approach the future. To be able to say we're 100% Aussie-owned and operated. It's something we've always been passionate about, and now we get to see the benefits of that reality," says EC Director, Colin Grace.



🌐 www.eccarpets.com.au ▲



elevate comfort

Established in 1963, EC remains the only Australian-owned and operated producer of high-quality, innovative loop pile carpets.

We are committed to transformative design, great value and exceptional customer service. Our passion is carpet; giving people a flexible and creative tool to elevate their experience of a space.

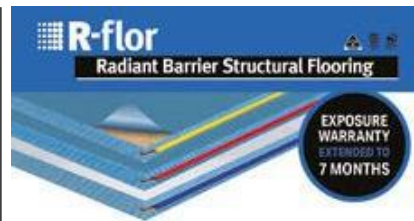
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Australian Made for Australian conditions

Designed with the specific needs of Australian builders, architects, and homeowners in mind, STRUCTAflor R-flor Radiant Barrier Flooring is a revolutionary product designed to offer a comprehensive flooring solution specifically tailored for platform construction scenarios where the floor is laid before erecting walls. STRUCTAflor R-flor is manufactured in Australia from sustainably grown Australian plantation pine. The precision-milled wood flakes are bonded together using moisture-resistant resin. The key distinguishing feature of STRUCTAflor R-flor lies in its foil laminated underside, comprising a low emittance (high reflectance) metallised foil surface. This feature plays a pivotal role in significantly reducing radiative heat transfer, making it an ideal choice for Australia's extreme climatic conditions.

The upper surface of is enriched with resin, making it highly resistant to moisture and weather exposure during construction for up to five months. This protective layer safeguards the integrity of the flooring material, even when subjected to the challenges posed by the diverse and varying weather conditions in Australia.



Termites pose a significant threat to Australian homes, causing more damage than fire, floods and storms combined. STRUCTAflor R-flor is H2 treated, providing cost-effective long-term defence against destructive termite damage, preventing costly repairs and replacements, and ensuring the sustained durability and stability of the structure.

Inappropriately insulated properties have a lower thermal efficiency creating greater energy requirements to heat and cool. The floor makes up a large part of the external envelope of any construction, and by properly insulating, you can greatly reduce the temperature variation inside the conditioned space caused by the transfer of heat through the floor. The low emittance foil surface of STRUCTAflor R-flor contributes to energy efficiency

within structures by minimising radiative heat transfer thus reducing the reliance on artificial heating and cooling systems. This feature is especially beneficial in regions with extreme temperatures, helping to create a comfortable indoor environment.

In a country prone to bushfires, safety standards are paramount. STRUCTAflor R-flor features an increased Bushfire Attack Level rating (BAL) compared to standard particleboard flooring. Whether the subfloor is enclosed or unenclosed, STRUCTAflor Premium can be utilised for the highest BAL rating of BAL – FZ or up to a BAL 29, respectively, ensuring robust protection against the threat of bushfires.

STRUCTAflor R-flor boasts an impressive 80% less moisture uptake through the bottom surface compared to other common wood subfloor products. This characteristic ensures better overall subfloor and floor covering performance, especially when constructing close to the ground. Reduced moisture uptake also translates to fewer issues with expansion, cupping, and other moisture-related problems and contributes to a substantial decrease in mould growth potential on both the top and bottom surfaces during and after construction.

STRUCTAflor R-flor is a testament to Australian ingenuity, offering a versatile, resilient, and durable flooring solution that adapts harmoniously to the diverse conditions of the country. With its innovative features, commitment to sustainability, and functionality, this proudly Australian Made product is the preferred choice for builders, architects, and homeowners seeking excellence in flooring solutions.

🌐 www.australianpanels.com.au ▲





R-flor



Radiant Barrier Structural Flooring

The ULTIMATE Sub-floor Solution

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL)

- If sub-floor is enclosed then R-flor can be used for the highest BAL rating of BAL – FZ
- If sub-floor is unenclosed then R-flor can be used up to a BAL 29

Increased R Value (Insulation)

R-flor provides a significant insulation R-value increase compared to normal STRUCTAflor YELLOWtongue flooring.

Reduced Moisture Uptake

80% less moisture uptake through the bottom surface compared to other common wood sub-floor products.

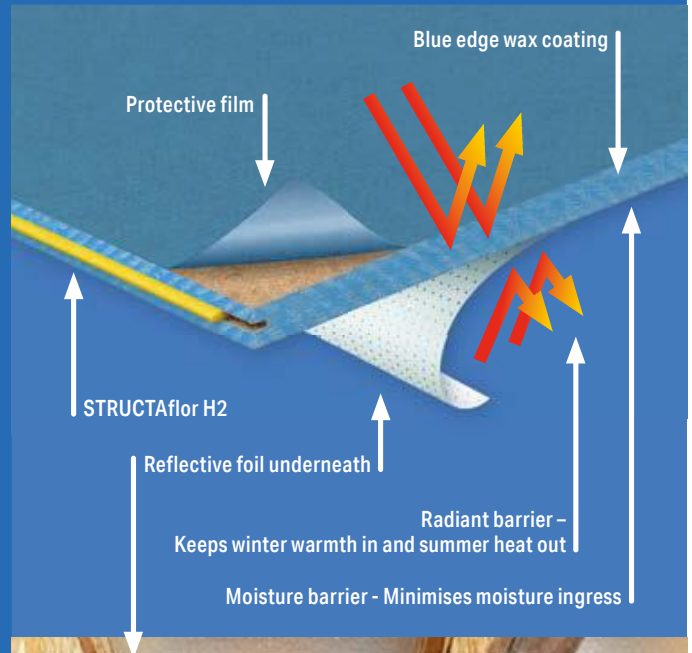
Termite Resistant H2

R-flor H2 is deemed to be a termite resistant building material under the Building Code of Australia and AS 3660.1.

Load Carrying Capability

R-flor comes in three thicknesses based upon what load factor is required:

- 19mm YELLOWtongue, 3600mm x 800mm
- 22mm REDtongue, 3600mm x 800mm



FREE SAMPLE

Order your free STRUCTAflor R-flor sample today by scanning the QR code or by visiting www.australianpanels.com.au/ranges/structaflor-r-flor/



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PANELS**

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Interface, made for more

Can a floor be more than a floor?

The team at Interface, believe in flooring that is made with purpose and without compromise. That's why they say their flooring is made for more — it means their customers don't have to choose between sophisticated patterns and durability or between ease of maintenance and low carbon impact. With Interface, there's no 'either' — only 'more.' More beautiful design. More innovation. More performance. More sustainability.

Made for more

That's because inside every colour, pattern, texture and detail is a whole lot of innovation, design thinking and pioneering sustainability. Interface flooring is made with purpose and without compromise — it does more, means more, for more.

In 1973, their founder, Ray Anderson introduced a European carpet tile concept to America, starting a commercial flooring revolution that would spread around the world. Now, Interface is a global leader in modular flooring, offering an integrated collection of carpet tile and resilient flooring.



Made for more than 50 years of local manufacturing

Interface has manufactured modular carpet tiles locally in south-west Sydney NSW since 1971.

Investing in a purpose built, state of the art manufacturing facility producing carpet tiles, their global reach combined with local knowledge helps to build customer relationships that are collaborative, committed, and productive.

For over 50 years their customers and team have been the thread that connects and commits to be better together. With the notion that - you have supported our growth; we have supported your ideas.

Encouraging customers to buy local, for Interface, means not only supporting our own people, but in turn, the wider community and economy. Their company's investment in the local community began back in the 1970s, when Heuga, which eventually became the Interface that we know today, opened its first manufacturing plant in Picton, NSW. After growing and prospering there for 40 years, they experienced a significantly damaging factory fire in 2012 and were forced to shut down local operations.

Faced with a critical decision for the future of the company, Interface chose to reinvest in Australia. Relocating to Minto in 2014, they were able to continue their local manufacturing capabilities, thanks to the confidence and support of their community. → 22



Interface®

MADE
FOR



MORE™

Can a floor be more than a floor?

Flooring made for more inspiration, more climate progress, more performance, and more ways for you to create remarkably good spaces. It's flooring—and then some.

Discover more.
interface.com/madeformore



Interface will continue to care for our planet, connect to community and build opportunities here in Australia.



Made for sustainability

Interface is committed to becoming a restorative business. From their original industry-defining goal to make zero negative impact, to realising zero wasn't enough, to designing with circularity across everything they do, they have continued to show change is possible no matter how improbable.

By working together, setting ambitious science-based targets and investing resources into reducing their carbon impact, they will do more than just less harm – they will do good.



Made for more than offsets

Recently, Interface announced that they are focusing on direct carbon reduction and carbon storage to meet the urgency of the climate crisis. The company is aligning their strategy to meet climate commitments, which do not allow for carbon offsets.

The planet is at an inflection point and absolute emission reductions are critical to solving the climate crisis. From 2025, Interface will repurpose former offset investments to accelerate innovation projects that will result in direct carbon reductions and carbon storage both internally and in their supply chain.

Interface is all in on solving the climate crisis.

Making incredible progress in their 30-year sustainability journey, and a commitment to achieving ambitious environmental sustainability goals without carbon offsets.

Made for design

Designed to stand up, stand out and stand for something, Interface's innovative modular flooring is more than just something you can walk on. Inspired by everything from the restorative nature of biophilic design to science, art and a rich heritage, Interface push trends for more ideas, more inspiration and more leading the way.

With an ambition to create products that are beautifully designed, innovative, and made to transform spaces beyond just the aesthetic to environments that can enrich people's lives. Interface's team of designers continuously explore trends, textures, colours, and materials to ensure every pattern and detail is thoughtfully crafted.

Made for innovation

Interface invest in the latest technology and materials science to make groundbreaking flooring – like the world's first carbon negative carpet tile – that reshapes the industry. Made with purpose and without compromise. It's flooring – and then some.

🌐 www.interface.com ▲



Revolutionising air scrubbers for the construction industry

In the quest for clean and safe workspaces, the DustMaster Air Scrubber 1000 G2 emerges as a game-changer. Developed and manufactured in Australia by Floorex, this innovative in-room air purifier redefines standards with its advanced features and unparalleled efficiency.

At the heart of its design lies a sophisticated four-stage filtration system, meticulously engineered to deliver optimal air quality. From stainless mesh gauze to H14-rated filters, each stage is carefully crafted to capture particles and impurities, ensuring that the air circulating within your space meets the highest standards of purity.

One standout feature of the DustMaster Air Scrubber 1000 G2 is its stackable design, allowing for space-saving convenience without compromising performance. Coupled with a German engineered centrifugal fan, this unit offers exceptional airflow capabilities while maintaining whisper quiet operation—a true testament to its engineering excellence.

Versatility is another hallmark of the DustMaster Air Scrubber 1000 G2. With variable fan speed control, users can adjust airflow and noise levels to suit diverse environments, whether it is a small or large work site area.



This air scrubber boasts remarkable energy efficiency, consuming just over one amp of power. Its lightweight yet durable construction, complete with built-in handles and locking castors, ensures effortless mobility and stability.

🌐 www.floorex.com.au ▲



FLOOREX PRODUCTS

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DustMaster Air Scrubber



WHAT EVERY CONSTRUCTION SITE NEEDS.....

- ✓ **Safe working space**
- ✓ **Excellent control of airborne dust**
- ✓ **3 stages of air filtration up to H14**
- ✓ **Very low noise in operation**

Filters dust from: Concrete, Stone & Timber

Over 1000 m3/hr performance
Variable speed
Low power consumption
Easy Change Filters



Your Key To Floor Preparation Success

Polivac - In it for the long haul

Polivac International was formed in 1949 and is now recognised as Australia's leading manufacturer of commercial cleaning equipment and a major exporter of advanced cleaning technology worldwide. The company produces a wide range of commercial cleaning equipment, including burnishers, scrubbers, polishers, sanders and carpet extractors from its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Kensington, Victoria.

Over half a century ago, Polivac was responsible for the development of the world's first suction polisher, the PV25. This remarkable machine, with refinements made over the years, remains one of Polivac's flagship models, with an outstanding reputation in the marketplace.

The Polivac range has electric, gas and battery-powered models suitable for a wide range of cleaning environments and applications. The company strives to achieve best practice in floor maintenance and cleaning, by designing machinery which produces high quality, highly durable floor finishes and deep cleaning.



Above: Machine assembly in the Kensington factory



Above: Some of the Polivac range

Polivac was originally involved in the production of both cleaning equipment and cleaning chemicals. However, under owner and Managing Director Tony Antonious, it was decided to end its association with chemicals and focus solely on the manufacture of high quality and user-friendly cleaning models. Machine components are outsourced to both local and international vendors, the company continues to engage with local suppliers, with over 80% of its raw material and spare parts are sourced locally. Polivac maintains a complete product inventory to ensure high levels of product availability and responsive customer service for machinery and spare parts.

The Polivac range includes machines for stripping polish from hard floors; laying new polishes and sealers; high speed and ultra high-speed polishing of all floors; scrubbing of floors to maintain hygiene and floor life; concrete grinding and finishing, timber sanding and vacuuming and shampooing of carpets for large or small area operations.

Recently, the company has entered into the stick vac market.

Today, Polivac sells its products via a network of over 120 distributors within Australia, as well as to several international destinations, including the Pacific region Asia, Europe, USA and the Middle East.

Owner Tony Antonious firmly believes in the axiom that an organisation's number one asset is its staff. It follows, then, that Polivac employees receive the best training and support possible, to allow them to operate at their full potential. The small team of technicians at the Kensington plant are highly skilled and are integral in maintaining Polivac's reputation as a producer of quality equipment, as well as pushing the boundaries in innovation and product development.

Such research has resulted in the introduction of specialised equipment such as the 'Shark' long nose scrubber. It has also seen refinements to gas-powered machinery,

Feature Australian Made



to reduce emissions while increasing productivity rates, as well as develop significant improvements in ergonomics to increase operator comfort and safety.

Traditionally, commercial cleaning equipment has been operated via gas or mains-powered electricity, but increasingly, the market is looking towards battery-powered operation, even for the largest machines. Polivac is currently investing significant research and development effort into producing environmentally friendly machines which can operate for extended lengths of time under battery power. A continuous field-testing program is also in place to continually monitor product performance for further development.

Another philosophy entrenched in the Polivac ethos is the need to fulfil orders quickly. Through state-of-the-art inventory control and just in time manufacturing practices, Polivac aims to fulfil 95% of orders within 24 hours. Distributors and their customers are therefore confident that they will receive their orders in the shortest possible time.

Polivac acquired its ISO9001 quality accreditation back in 1997 and has maintained this certification ever since - evidence of the strength, and quality of its processes and practices. Products are extensively tested under specified QA processes during manufacture and after product completion. This ensures exceptional product quality and high reliability.

As Tony Antonious says: "We are in it for the long haul—for our customers and for our world. We strive to provide increased productivity through the intelligent design of our machines. Our customers can be found in virtually every corner of the earth, and we realize our success comes directly from helping our customers be successful."

 www.polivac.com.au 



Above: Polivac owner Tony Antonious

POLIVAC

INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD

Intelligent Cleaning Technologies



Polivac Predator MKIII Carpet Extractor



Polivac Terminator Carpet Extractor



Polivac 40CM Scrubber/ Carpet Shampooer (C27RS)



Polivac 30cm Mini Scrubber (A23)



Polivac 40cm High speed Burnisher (SL1600)



Polivac 50cm 18HP Kawasaki Engine Gas operated Burnisher (GAZ20K)



Polivac 106cm 23HP Kawasaki Engine Gas operated Burnisher (GAZDA42K)

Contact Nearest Polivac Distributor
www.polivac.com.au

The best flooring for your commercial kitchen

Anyone who has spent time in the commercial food industry would understand the crucial role of kitchen flooring. There are unique needs that reach far beyond those of typical flooring. The key reasons that make this especially demanding are:

Visual Appeal – Kitchen flooring can't be hidden or lacklustre. Often with new open designs in clubs and restaurants the kitchen is partially exposed to customers. Although this helps the ambience and reassure customers that the food production and space is clean it is critical the floor performs to a very high standard hygienically.



Heavy Traffic – Commercial kitchen floors take a beating. They need to stay strong beneath heavy foot traffic and trolley movement. At the same time shrug off spills and avoid damage from high heat or cold.

Safety Requirements – Flooring should help employees keep safe and be productive. That means a high level of slip resistance to protect from grease and trip hazards.

Sanitation Regulations – In Australia most commercial food facilities, hotels and restaurants have strict Food Safety Compliance standards. These facilities are audited on a regular basis to meet HACCP Certification. The Epoxy floor coating is ideal, it is an impervious seamless finish minimising any bacteria build up.

ROXSET HACCP Flooring is a premium supplier of food and beverage compliant floor coatings for over 30 Years across Australia. They service commercial kitchens, bars, food processing and production areas.

 www.roxset.com.au 



Stylish, Seamless & Safe

The ROXSET range of epoxy floor coatings offer an aesthetically pleasing fresh and bright look. They can be customised with varying degrees of slip-resistance for extra safety and provide long lasting durability even in a heavy traffic environment.

All coatings are non-toxic (VOC free) with antimicrobial properties making them perfect for any retail or commercial environment where safety and style are paramount.

Durable with superior long lasting protection for any environment.



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Australia's largest flooring & accessory distributor

It's in the name: AFS is proud to be 100% Australian owned and operated.

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AFS Customer Service

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Focus on QEP

QEP is a world class, worldwide provider of innovative, quality and value-driven flooring and industrial solutions for the professional tradie as well as the DIY market.

As a leading worldwide manufacturer and distributor, QEP delivers a comprehensive line of building products, engineered wood flooring, flooring installation tools, adhesives and flooring related products.

QEP is now a completely Australian owned and operated business. *Flooring Magazine* recently sat down with Bruce Maclaren, Managing Director to discuss all things business.

1. In March this year QEP announced the formation of QEP Australasia. Talk us through this announcement and the change of ownership.

Although a public company in the US, QEP has been controlled by the Gould family for over 40 years and the Founder Lewis

Gold is now 84. As recognition for my long involvement with the Australasian operations and realising it was time for him to step away, he approached me about 12 months ago to see if I would be interested in acquiring the local business here as part of a re-set of the global operations.

Obviously, I jumped at the opportunity, and it has been a completely friendly and amicable process since that time until we settled on the 29th of February. It was very important to ensure continuity for employees, suppliers and customers and as far as possible we have managed a seamless transition.

The QEP name, brands and trademarks will continue on, and we will remain closely connected with the global QEP organisation through cooperation on product development, marketing etc.

2. QEP Australasia is a family owned and operated business. What does this mean for business moving forward?



From a personal perspective, ending the corporate reporting and managing requirements of a public company, allows me to focus much more on the day-to-day operations of our business in Australia and New Zealand.

This will enable us to make more immediate decisions and implement strategies more efficiently than previous, which will see us deliver initiatives to market quickly in support of our customer needs.

My son Fraser has re-joined QEP after time working elsewhere in the industry and he has some very progressive ideas for growing our business into the future.

3. AFS is a well-known part of the QEP structure in Australia. Will this continue?

Absolutely!

Australian Flooring Supplies (AFS) is a highly regarded and long-established network supplying accessories and flooring to the trade. We have 22 trade centres up the Eastern Seaboard, and I have had the pleasure of visiting with all the team in the weeks since the acquisition and I am reminded how committed they are to continue our clear strategy to provide great service and products to the flooring industry.





The QEP name, brands and trademarks will continue on, and we will remain closely connected with the global QEP organisation through cooperation on product development, marketing etc.

4. Discuss some of QEP's milestone moments.

After 24 years in Australia and New Zealand there have been many, including the acquisition of six of our independent distributor customers to form the countrywide Australian Flooring Supplies business.

Perhaps the most memorable milestone was on 13th September 2013 when we suffered a catastrophic fire which completely destroyed our Dandenong headquarters.

In looking back, I am still incredibly grateful to the QEP team who helped us to rebuild in an amazing timeframe, but I am always reminded of what a great industry this is after I received so much support through a very challenging time from customer, suppliers and competitors alike.

5. When it comes to flooring QEP continues to develop and introduce trailblazing ideas and products including high performing and competitively priced ranges for both domestic and commercial projects across laminate, LVT, carpet, carpet tiles and sheet vinyl. Discuss the latest QEP product offering.

All our current products remain as a part of the transition to the new ownership. They include high quality water resistant laminate from Germany, leading edge sheet vinyl from Europe's major manufacturer as well as our Xpress ranges of LVT and Carpet Tiles where



we hold excellent stocks in multiple locations to provide an immediate supply solution for our customers.

We also have several new product categories which QEP and AFS will be launching in the second half of this year which will see us further establish ourselves as a key provider to the flooring trade.watch this space!

6. Looking ahead, what plans have you got for the future of QEP Australasia?

We already have a great experienced team in place, many of whom have worked with me and my wife Sue (who is a 16 year veteran at QEP) for a long time.

The change in ownership to the Maclaren family will provide certainty on our direction and despite the current challenging market conditions, we intend to drive the continued growth of the QEP and AFS business units.

We have a number of new initiatives lined up for this year and the involvement of Fraser Maclaren alongside these, confirms the commitment we have to the future and the next generation of passionate flooring people.

🌐 www.qep-aust.com.au ▲