



WHATS AHEAD FOR THE FCIA IN 2025

EMBLETONS CELEBRATES
100 YEARS

WHY SHOULD YOU
ATTEND FLOORTEC 2025?

LOOKING AHEAD FOR 2025!

written by. Fiona Wischnewski , FCIA Group

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I'd like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year, filled with joy and success.

As we step into another exciting year, FCIA is gearing up for a big start, beginning in February with FloorTec and the Gala.

FloorTec, our first event of the year, is designed to bring together leading industry suppliers and manufacturers to showcase products and best practices. We're thrilled to host this event, which welcomes installers, apprentices, retailers with a commercial focus, and, most importantly, commercial flooring contractors.

The Gala, now in its third year, brings even more excitement. For the first time, Victorian apprentices with TFIA will be eligible for the apprentice awards, expanding our recognition to include apprentices from NSW, VIC, SA, ACT, and TAS.

Other initiatives FCIA will be working on during 2025 include:

Skills Shortage Grant – South Australia

In 2024, the South Australian Government approved funding for the FCIA Group to create 20 new flooring apprenticeships in South Australia from July 2024 to May 2025. In collaboration with Group Training Organisations, ARFA, industry suppliers, retailers, and contractors, FCIA is working to attract new candidates through one-day taster courses, recruit and train apprentices, and place them with host employers across four intakes.

All apprentices will be enrolled in the FCIA Training Academy. The project has already conducted three taster days, with more scheduled in 2025 in Adelaide.

Career Days

FCIA has already confirmed its attendance at career days in Victoria and New South Wales and will be registering for more career days in Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and ACT. These days are a great way to meet potential apprentices, build a connection with schools and showcase our amazing trade. FCIA has also created a career day pack (which will be on display at FloorTec) which can be forwarded to any company who has a local career day they would like to attend. If you would like to be part of any career days or hire the career pack, please contact me.

Industry Based Training

The FCIA Training Academy is evolving its model to provide industry-based training, working closely with manufacturers and field experts to train apprentices.

This approach will feature hands-on workshops across all regions, complemented by training sessions hosted at manufacturers' and suppliers' premises for a more practical learning experience.

Short Courses

FCIA's long-awaited online training for manufacturers/ suppliers and retailers will be released on our new platform at



the end of March. More about these programs will be forwarded closer to the time.

From June 2025, FCIA will be releasing online training for:

- Supervisors of apprentices
- Mental Health program
- Basic financial awareness training for apprentices

Females in Flooring

During 2025 there will be more Females in Flooring events held. I would like to hold them in QLD, WA, VIC, SA/TAS and NSW. I have received some great ideas from the ladies within this industry already – if you have ideas you think would help the ladies of this industry please send me an email.

Floor Covering Accreditation

Over the past few years, many of our members have asked when flooring will become a licensed trade. While

government licensing is unlikely in the near future, we have the opportunity to establish an industry self-regulated accreditation for the Australian flooring industry. This would ensure that accreditation requirements align with the specific skills, materials, and installation techniques unique to the trade, maintaining high standards without unnecessary bureaucracy.

To make this a reality, FCIA has formed a working group of six members who are currently developing a framework for the FCIA accreditation. This group is focused on defining the accreditation process and establishing a timeline for implementation, ensuring a structured and effective approach to industry regulation.

More details on this will be released at FloorTec.

Stay connected, and if you have any ideas, feel free to share them—together, we can continue improving the industry!

We look forward to an incredible year ahead!

You're Invited to the

FCIA

ANNUAL GALA AWARDS DINNER

Join us for a glamorous evening as we celebrate and honour the achievements of emerging talent and leaders in the flooring industry.

Saturday, 1 March 2025
6:30pm – 11:30pm

Plaza Ballroom, 191 Collins St, Melbourne VIC

BLACK TIE WITH A TOUCH OF GOLD

BOOK NOW

EMBELTON: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

written by: Suchitra Ahlawat, FCIA Training Academy & Craig Buckley, Buckleys Carpet Court

EMBELTON 1925 - 2025

Founded in February 1925, Embelton stands proudly among the nation's most enduring family operated businesses. Its resilience and adaptation to the challenges of the past century; the Great Depression, World War 2 and the constantly shifting economic environment sees Embelton today as a thriving participant in construction industry throughout Australia.

The Visionary Founder

The founding driver of the company's remarkable journey was George Pearson Embelton, born in 1889 between Kerang and Swan Hill in country Victoria.

Mr. Embelton's career began with his appointment to the fledgling Commonwealth Department of Defence in 1907 whilst still studying at University. He served in the Department for more than 15 years; during the First World War as Secretary of the Defence Contract and Supply Board in Melbourne, and later for a 3 year term in London as Commonwealth Supply Officer, returning to Australia in 1924. This post war period was a time of increasing industrialisation and manufacturing opportunity, and with Australia increasingly less dependent on Britain, Mr Embelton's familiarity with British industry coupled with the entrepreneurial drive of a country lad, led to the establishment of G P Embelton and Company which began its journey in 1925.



The Early Years – Innovation Amid Adversity

At the outset, Embelton operated an agency business for a number of British industrial suppliers, before beginning some independent trading and manufacturing activities in the late 1920s. These included the distribution of radio parts and early manufacture of industrial cork materials. The Depression years 1929-1931 were difficult and survival of the business was helped considerably by the sale of wireless parts to the infant radio industry.

But for more than 75 years, industrial and architectural cork products continued as a central feature of the company's business and, with innovation a constant companion in its product and manufacturing development, cork contributed significantly as a precursor to the company's current leadership in flooring and acoustical engineering.

These early years exemplified the company's ability to innovate and adapt in the face of adversity.

Flooring Australia's Future

By the late 1930s, Embelton had begun to supply cork flooring in residential and commercial settings with a significant early project being the Royal Melbourne Hospital's



Parkville development. These activities reflected the company's growing influence in architecture and construction and, from this early focus on cork tiles, the product range was extended to parquetry and later to a broader range of timber including its current range of engineering and hybrid hard flooring materials.

By the 1980s, the company had become an established and trusted name in residential construction as a local manufacturer and retailer of timber and cork flooring, enabling it to play a key role in shaping the floor covering landscape for Australian housing.

Building on this success, Embelton transitioned into large-scale commercial flooring, establishing its contracting division in 2017 and, with the acquisition of Omnifloor in 2020 consolidated its position as Australia's largest commercial flooring contractor, contributing to some of the nation's most iconic modern structures.

"We're able to help bring to life the vision of the designer, the architect or the owner of a property, whether that be a single home or a hundred storey building" - James Embelton, Managing Director

Pioneering Innovation

Innovation has always been a cornerstone of Embelton's success. Building on the early application of cork in the isolation of noise and vibration, the company began development of high-performance spring and rubber isolator systems in the 1960s to meet growing demand for control of structure-borne noise in the built environment.

George R. Embelton, son of the founder, spearheaded the engineering division which led considerable development in the application of new materials and systems, consolidating the company's reputation as a leader in structural noise isolation.

Overcoming Challenges

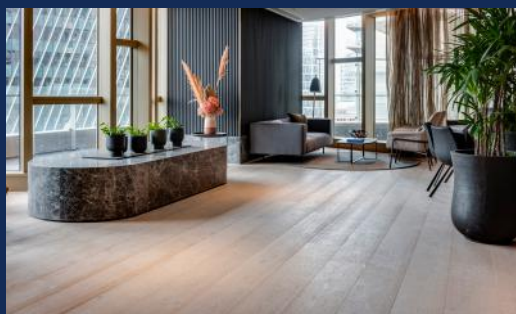
The road to 100 years has not been without its challenges. Political and economic shifts, and a continuously evolving construction environment have tested the company's resilience. But challenges notwithstanding, an unwavering commitment to its core values—trust, innovation, and excellence—has enabled Embelton to thrive. By fostering strong client relationships and embracing forward-

thinking strategies, it has continued to grow, adapting its business while staying true to its roots.

Looking Ahead: A Legacy of Excellence

As Embelton enters its second century, it remains a pioneer in flooring and engineering. With a reputation for delivering bespoke solutions for complex projects, the company continues to shape Australia's built environment. From noise and vibration isolation in sensitive spaces to large-scale flooring solutions for iconic structures, Embelton is poised to drive innovation for generations to come.

This centenary is a testament to the vision of Mr. Embelton and the dedication of the generations that followed. From its early days as an agent and distributor of imported goods, the company has evolved and remained deeply rooted in the built environment, continuing to deliver innovations that echo the vision and craftsmanship it championed 100 years ago. Embelton and its team look forward to continuing the journey, creating spaces that are as beautiful as they are functional. With the support of its clients and partners, the company is excited to embark on the next chapter of its remarkable story.



FLOORTEC IS ALMOST HERE

written by: Fiona Wischnewski , FCIA Group

Underfoot Jan-Feb 2025

FCIA's inaugural FloorTec conference will launch on 28 February 2025 at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne, marking a major milestone as the only dedicated flooring show in Australia. This event is an exciting opportunity for the industry to come together, showcasing the latest innovations and fostering valuable connections.

So, what is FloorTec all about? It provides booth holders with a platform to engage directly with industry professionals, discuss products, and address any concerns attendees may have. For visitors, FloorTec offers the chance to connect with suppliers, manufacturers, and experts who will present cutting-edge flooring solutions, tackle technical challenges, and share insights tailored to the commercial sector.

Additionally, attendees will have the chance to hear from speakers discussing key topics that will help them and their business. Speakers and topics include:

Waterproofing - Troy Hogan and Craig Hildebrand, RLA team

Acoustics – Dale Richter, Premium Floors

Manufacturer's Instructions Vs Australian Standards – Don Considine, ATTAR

Understanding Builders Contracts and what they mean to you – Aaron Martin, Procom Flooring

Slips – Matt Potent and Paul Roberts, Tarkett

The following companies have already booked booths for the day.

- RLA Polymers
- Kevmor
- Nexus Adhesives
- Mapei Australia
- Gerflor Australia
- DTA Australia
- Ardex Australia
- Plastral Pty Ltd
- RBM Plastic Extrusions
- Urban Turf
- SRS Worldwide
- Vortex
- Tarkett
- MJS FloorCoverings
- Clever Choice
- FCIA
- F Ball & Co
- Australian Flooring Supplies
- Flooring Protect
- Resiloop
- Oxtex Solutions Pty Ltd
- Accu-Cut Brockie International Inc

If you would like to register for a booth or just to attend please [click here](#) or visit fcia.org.au/fcia-events/floortec.

CAREER EXPO KIT

written by: Fiona Wischnewski , FCIA Group

To help attract more young people into the flooring industry, especially if FCIA is unable to attend a careers day, we are finalising the development of an Expo Kit that can be shipped nationwide to members interested in representing FCIA at these events. This kit will make it easier for members to participate and effectively showcase the flooring industry to potential apprentices.

The Expo Kits will include a range of materials, such as an FCIA banner, a tablecloth, and posters highlighting apprentices at work. In addition, there will be canvas pictures, a handout pack with FCIA information, apprenticeship brochures, course details and a

range of FAQ with answers, along with promotional items like drink bottles, pens, pencils, and chocolates.

The kit will also feature flooring samples like carpet, vinyl planks, rubber, and commercial vinyl, giving attendees a hands-on experience with the materials used in the trade. Basic tools may also be included, if available, to demonstrate the practical side of the profession.

The pack will also include some hands-on activities that the students can do to get a feel of what flooring would be like.

After the event, all items must be returned to FCIA for future use. Please contact me if you have an event in your area and would like to represent FCIA at this event.

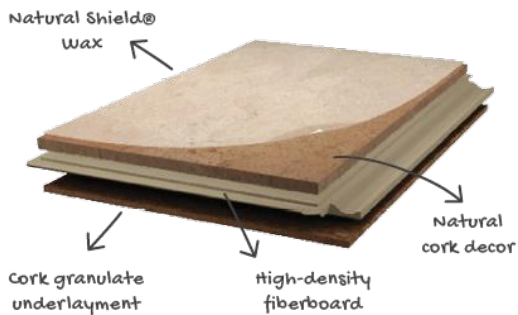
THE FLOOR SHOP AND WOODCRETE ARE EXCITED TO UNVEIL A NEW ADDITION TO OUR ENGINEERED CORK FLOORING COLLECTION – TRADITIONAL 3390.

written by. Grant McConaghy, Woodcrete

This innovative flooring solution is a no-glue alternative, secured with the Uniclic locking system, and comes in Natural as well as four other colours across the range. The tiles are pre-coated with a water-based polyurethane finish, and we recommend applying an additional coat during installation. With a built-in cork underlay, the tiles reduce sound reverberation while providing a stable surface on the substrate.

The new Traditional style complements our existing Harmony and Heritage collections, offering even more variety and appeal.

The engineered cork tiles measure 900x300x10.5mm and feature the Uniclic click system for easy installation.



Our Harmony style, chosen by ANZ Banks for their regional branches, provides a softer surface for both staff and customers, offering similar benefits to an anti-fatigue mat.



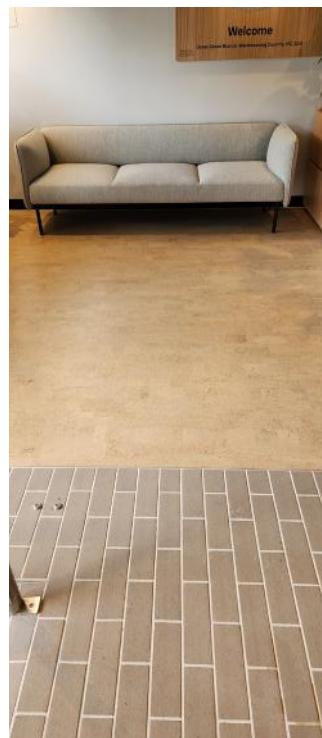
Harmony Heritage

The Harmony, Traditional, and Heritage styles are available in Natural (shown above) and additional colours as listed below.

ANZ Banks selected WoodCrete's Harmony style cork flooring for their branches, recognizing the many advantages cork provides for both customers and staff:

- **Reduced Fatigue & Discomfort:** Cork enhances comfort and productivity by alleviating physical strain and reducing impact on joints for employees who stand for extended periods.
- **Acoustic Benefits:** Sound isolation was a priority, as cork effectively reduces background and white noise within the branch
- **Environmental Impact:** Cork is a renewable, sustainable product, making it an eco-friendly flooring choice.

Cork is an environmentally conscious option, as it regenerates naturally by growing back within the bark of the cork oak tree.



WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND FLOORTEC 2025?

written by. Niranjan Peter , FCIA Group

The first FCIA FloorTec is 3 weeks away. As we prepare for the upcoming tradeshow we highlight 5 reasons you should be at this event:

1. Access to Technical Knowledge

Take part in expert-led sessions on the latest products and installation techniques; invaluable for staying ahead in the ever-changing commercial flooring market.

2. Networking Opportunities with Manufacturers and Suppliers

Enjoy dedicated time to meet and discuss products, challenges, and solutions with manufacturers and suppliers without the pressure of a sales pitch.

3. Exposure to Cutting-Edge Products

Discover the latest innovations while deepening your understanding of the technical aspects.

4. Educational Sessions from Expert Speakers

With expert speakers on specialised topics, attendees will gain insights into emerging trends, challenges in the commercial flooring sector, and practical solutions.

5. Professional Development and Industry Trends

Gain a broader understanding of industry trends, compliance standards and best practices in commercial flooring to stay current and competitive in an ever-changing market.

We also reached out to some of the leaders in the industry get their perspective on the importance of attending FloorTec. Here is what they had to say:



Craig Hildeberg, RLA Polymers, FloorTec 2025 Major Sponsors

"RLA are the major sponsor of the inaugural 2025 FloorTec event for the following reasons. Firstly, our long-standing history in the flooring industry. As

Australia's oldest flooring manufacturer, with its pioneering technologies dating as far back as the early 1960s. Secondly,

RLA supports industry with its market leading Roberts and Polymer brands. FloorTecs Importance to the industry is all encompassing for industry awareness, training and of course, to keep abreast of all the latest technologies."



Stuart Budge, Quest Carpets

"If you're in the flooring industry in Australia, this is a call out for you to attend FloorTec in February 2025. Whether you're an installer, a commercial contractor, a retailer, a manufacturer, a

distributor, a salesperson or a CEO, there's no question going to be something in it for you."



Brett Sturgess, MJS Floorcoverings

"FloorTec, It's Australia's flooring expo. For many years I have travelled overseas to the international trade expos of Europe, the US and Asia and I've always

wondered why Australia doesn't have its own flooring expo. So here it is. FloorTec by the FCIA. Where you'll hear from key industry experts on subjects and issues that pertain to our industry. You'll also have the ability to meet with over 25 manufacturers and suppliers in the trade, where you'll learn about new products, flooring technology and installation and best practice. If you're into flooring, we'll see you at FloorTec"



Jim Creswell, Mapei Australia

"What you could expect there (at FloorTec), will be manufacturers of vinyl, carpet, timber, manufacturers of adhesives and substrate preparation products. There'll also

be, suppliers of tools and accessories showcasing, things on site as well. Mapei Australia will be there, and we will have technical specialists on site that you can talk to. If you have curiosities about certain products and have technical questions or you want further training depending on what field of work you're in.... 28th of February, get a ticket and get yourself to Melbourne 2025 and I'll see you there."



Andrew Neal, Ardex Australia

"Come and see us at FloorTec to find out all about our products, training academy and how Ardex are setting up to support you and your projects in the future. With some incredibly exciting initiatives and

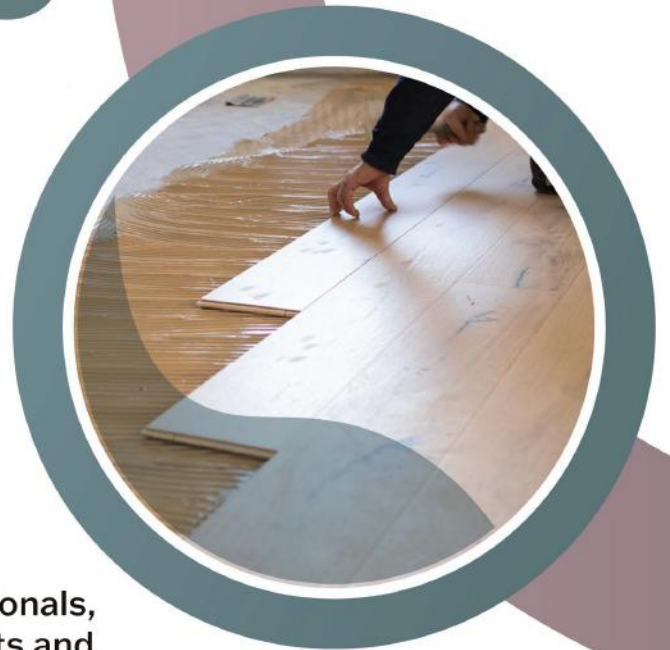
local investments. Not only will our team be there to talk about leveling and smoothing compounds, but we'll also be there to show you how we can create ground up systems from moisture barriers, waterproof membranes for your wet areas. What an exciting event FloorTec 2025 will be. We hope to see you there."



Aaron Martin, Procom Flooring

"Have you ever had problems navigating or understanding builders contracts? Negotiating liquidated damages? Retentions? Offsite payments for materials that have been ordered into builders programs? Do you know and understand the Australian Installation Standards? Do you know how to make them work for you? Protect you on site? Does your company have safe work methods? Statements that are up to date, current? Do they include references to silica dust in the safe handling? All these types of questions and more will be answered at FloorTec 2025. Look forward to seeing you all there."

FLOORTEC 2025



Join us at FCIA's Inaugural FloorTec Expo, where innovation meets craftsmanship in the world of flooring solutions.

FloorTec brings together leading industry professionals, suppliers, and manufacturers showcasing products and industry best practices in flooring solutions for the commercial and semi-commercial contracting arena.

Attendees can speak to suppliers and manufacturers about new products/ technologies and hear from industry experts addressing key industry issues including the various Australian standards that impact the Australian flooring industry.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Don Considine (ATTAR) - Australian Standards
- Aaron Martin (Procom Flooring)- Navigating Building Contracts
- RLA Panel - Water Proofing Standards
- Dale Richter (Premium Floors) - Acoustic Standards
- Tarkett - SLIP Standards

EVENT DETAILS

- 28 February 2025, 9.30am - 6.00pm
- Grand Hyatt Melbourne, 123 Collins Street Melbourne
- For more info, contact: info@fcia.org.au

FCIA GALA BALL 2025

written by: Fiona Wischnewski , FCIA Group

The FCIA Gala is back for its third year and promises to be even more exciting! This event provides a unique opportunity to network with industry leaders, including professionals, suppliers, contractors, and decision-makers across the flooring sector. It's the ideal occasion to build meaningful relationships and expand your business network. In addition, the Gala will celebrate outstanding apprentices, employers, suppliers, and projects, recognizing those who set the standard for excellence in the flooring industry.

The Gala also shines a spotlight on apprentices, inspiring the next generation of flooring professionals while promoting best practices and innovative trends. It's a hub for learning and sharing insights that shape the future of the industry. With an unforgettable evening of elegance, entertainment, and

celebration, the FCIA Gala Ball guarantees a fantastic experience and lasting memories. We're excited to announce that, for the first time, Victorian apprentices training with TFIA will be eligible for the apprentice awards, expanding our recognition to include apprentices from NSW, VIC, SA, ACT, and TAS.

This year, FCIA will also honour the incredible project work completed by our commercial contractors across Australia. The nominations have been outstanding, making our judges' job incredibly difficult. Who will take home the prize? Stay tuned!

If you haven't got your Gala tickets yet then register at this [link here](#) or at [fcia.org.au/events](#). Registrations close on 24 February 2025. We look forward to seeing you there.

NOMINEES FOR THE APPRENTICE AWARDS

written by: Fiona Wischnewski , FCIA Group

We are excited to announce the nominees for the Apprentice of The Year Awards which will be announced at the FCIA Gala Ball on 1 March:

Apprentice Of The Year Awards for 2025

First Year - AOTY Nominees

Toby Jennings - TFIA
Tyge Jeffery - TFIA
Heath Spinks - TFIA
Anthony Brown - FCIA

Second Year - AOTY Nominees

Lincoln D'augello - TFIA
Cooper Hoffman - TFIA
Karli Rann - FCIA
Gavin Handy - TFIA

Third Year - AOTY Nominees

Lachlan Green - TFIA
Tyge Buckley - TFIA
Harley Gallagher - FCIA
Jarrah-lee Kouwenberg - FCIA
Zach Barnes - TFIA

Fourth Year - AOTY Nominees

Matthew O'Keefe - TFIA
Jack Nicolls - FCIA
Anthony Miller - TFIA
Anthony Bonner - TFIA
Jason Haensch - FCIA



2024 Ford RANGER Wildtrack **GIVEAWAY**



Our lucky winner has been announced at www.rlapolymers.com.au

At RLA we'd like to say a big thankyou to everyone who entered and who provided support for our **BIGGEST PROMOTION EVER!**

**STAY TUNED IN 2025 FOR
OUR UPCOMING PROMOTIONS &
YOU TOO COULD BE A WINNER!**



44 Shades

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TRANSFORMING BRISBANE'S SKYLINE: THE GREAT LAWN AT QUEEN'S WHARFSITE

written by: Peter Ellis, Urban Turf Solutions

Brisbane's urban landscape is evolving, and at the forefront of this transformation is the iconic Queen's Wharf development. One of its standout features, The Great Lawn, takes centre stage on the Level 7 podium—an impressive green space that blends nature with modern architecture, redefining the concept of urban leisure in the heart of the city.

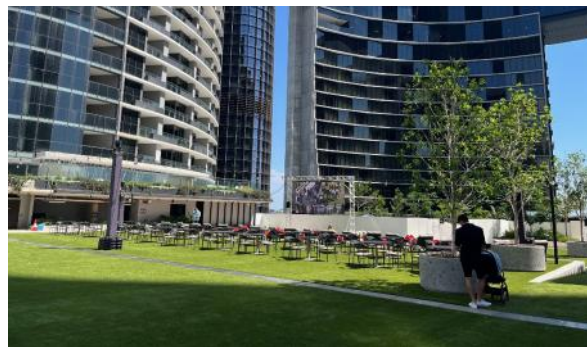
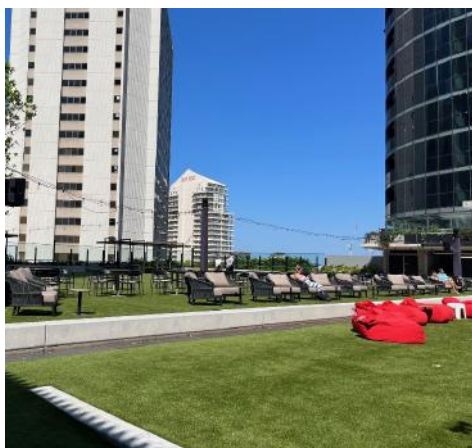
Collaborating for Perfection

Creating The Great Lawn wasn't just about laying turf; it was a partnership between industry leaders, each bringing their expertise to the table. Urban Turf Solutions, known for their dedication to quality and innovation, worked closely with renowned designers from Urbis to bring this space to life. The vision? A sprawling, lush oasis that feels like a natural extension of Brisbane's dynamic lifestyle.

At the heart of this project, the team from Master Floors played a critical role with their expertise in installation. Together, these teams created a seamless environment where natural beauty and cutting-edge urban design meet.

Urban Avonside: The Hero Product

The turf that defines The Great Lawn is no ordinary grass. The choice of Urban Avonside—a high-performance, drought-tolerant grass product—ensures a rich, green aesthetic that is both resilient and sustainable. The vibrant texture and dense coverage make it the perfect fit for the vibrant atmosphere of Queen's Wharf.



Thanks to the advanced technology behind Urban Avonside, The Great Lawn can thrive even under the harsh Brisbane sun, ensuring that residents and visitors can enjoy this elevated green space year-round. The turf's design was specifically selected to withstand high foot traffic, all while maintaining a lush appearance that will last for years to come.

An Urban Oasis

What makes The Great Lawn so special is not just its beauty but its role as an urban sanctuary. Perched atop the Level 7 podium, this verdant expanse provides sweeping views of the city and the river, offering a serene contrast to the hustle and bustle below. Whether it's for a casual afternoon picnic, an outdoor event, or simply a moment of relaxation, The Great Lawn serves as the city's newest must-visit destination.

The combination of thoughtful design, superior turf, and meticulous craftsmanship makes Queen's Wharf a truly standout addition to Brisbane's skyline. As the city continues to grow and evolve, spaces like The Great Lawn remind us of the importance of incorporating nature into the urban fabric.

REVOLUTIONISING CLEANROOMS: THE CLEAN CORNER SYSTEM BY GERFLOR

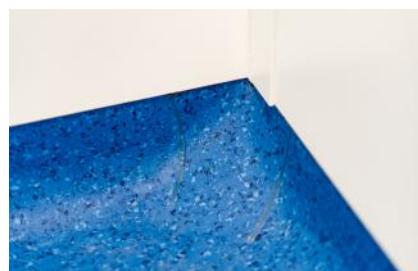
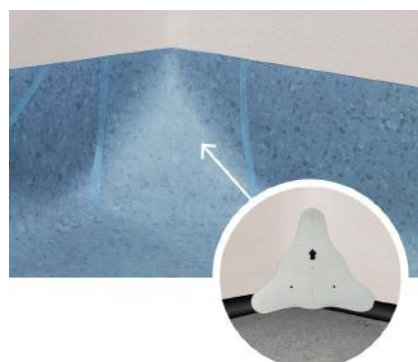
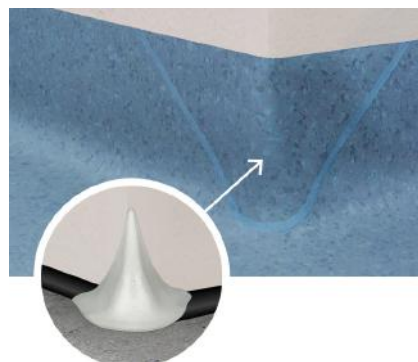
In the world of cleanrooms and technical facilities, maintaining stringent hygiene standards is paramount. The Corner System by Gerflor, is designed to tackle common challenges that arise in corners—a typically overlooked area in cleanliness management.

This innovative solution combines durability with ease of maintenance, making it a game-changer for sectors where hygiene is non-negotiable, such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals. One of the standout features of the Clean Corner System is its ultra-resistant and versatile profiles. These profiles not only promise longevity but are engineered for stability, ensuring that the corners remain intact without tearing or sagging. Over time, poorly constructed corners can compromise watertightness, but Gerflor's system safeguards against this, maintaining the integrity of cleanroom environments.

Cleaning and decontamination tasks can often be daunting, especially when corners are involved. With its patented rounded design, the Clean Corner System eliminates those pesky blind spots that cleaning equipment often struggles to reach. This thoughtful design means that maintaining impeccable cleanliness becomes a breeze, significantly reducing the risk of contamination. Tailored for compliance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards, the system excels in meeting the rigorous demands of E2 and E3 zones. Whether you have Gerflor floors, varying skirting heights or diverse angle requirements, this adaptable solution can seamlessly fit your needs.

The system boasts easy coving and straightforward welding, allowing for rapid installation and maintenance. But the Clean Corner System doesn't just focus on functionality; it also prioritises user experience. The ultra resistant bi-material corner profiles and heat-welded flooring-wall and ceiling systems work in harmony, ensuring that no particles can get trapped, creating a safer and cleaner environment. The inclusion of pre-moulded vinyl corners enhances wall protection, facilitating deep cleaning protocols that are essential in high-stakes settings.

In essence, Gerflor's Clean Corner System is a thoughtfully designed solution that elevates cleanliness standards in technical facilities to new heights. With its innovative features and user-friendly designs, it proves that even the most challenging corners can be mastered, leading to a cleaner and safer environment for everyone. Embracing this system is a step forward in ensuring that hygiene remains at the forefront of cleanroom operations.



CLEAN CORNER SYSTEM

gerflor.com



MJS FLOORCOVERINGS ANNOUNCES DISTRIBUTION PARTNERSHIP WITH VORTEX DIAMOND TOOLING

written by: Sophie McGill, MJS Floorcoverings

MJS Floorcoverings is excited to introduce Vortex diamond tooling to its extensive lineup of flooring products and solutions. As a Vortex national distributor, MJS Floorcoverings is now providing installers access to Vortex's industry-leading floor preparation equipment. Known for precision, durability, and performance, the Vortex brand is a trusted choice for those in flooring. This partnership reflects MJS's dedication to equipping professionals with the best products available, to enhance efficiency and achieve superior results.

Why Choose Vortex?

The Vortex brand has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality diamond tooling tailored to the demands of modern flooring professionals. Contractors require the latest innovations to stay ahead, and Vortex consistently delivers revolutionary solutions.

With a comprehensive product range and expert understanding of industry needs, each tool in the Vortex lineup is engineered to streamline workflows and maximise productivity making them a valuable investment for professionals. Whether for grinding, polishing, or finishing, Vortex tools simplify every stage of the installation process, ensuring faster completion times and flawless execution. Additionally, their seamless integration with H-class compliant dust extraction systems contributes to a cleaner and safer work environment, reinforcing the importance of both efficiency and workplace safety.

Standing Out from the Competition

Vortex stands out through its dedication to innovation, affordability without compromise, and exceptional customer support. With a strong focus on research and development, Vortex continuously delivers precision-engineered products that enhance performance and durability. The brand's commitment to affordability ensures professionals receive premium tools at an accessible price point, while a robust support network across Australia guarantees seamless assistance from point of purchase through to servicing of your machines.

Available Now at MJS Floorcoverings

As its national distributor, MJS Floorcoverings is proud to bring Vortex's industry-leading floor preparation equipment to flooring professionals nationwide. MJS' extensive distribution network of 22 locations ensures contractors have easy access to the latest innovations in grinding and polishing solutions. Whether for small renovations or large-scale commercial projects, Vortex tools offer superior capability and reliability.

Discover the power of Vortex diamond tooling today. Visit MJS Floorcoverings to explore the full range and experience the next level of performance in flooring preparation equipment.

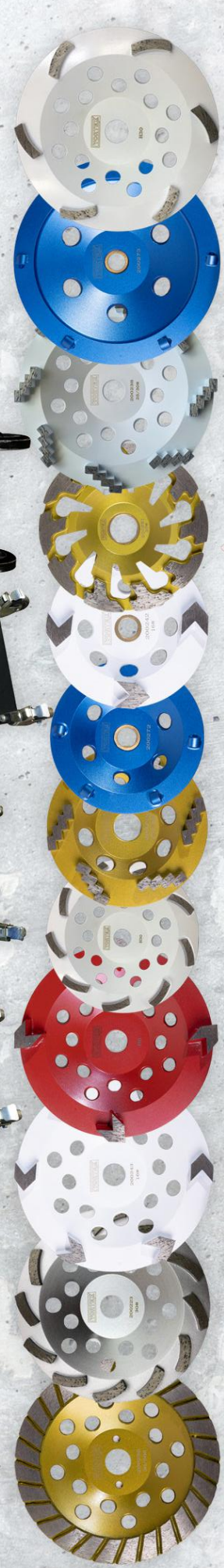
MJS Floorcoverings has been an industry leader in flooring for almost 60 years. As an Australian family-owned and operated business, it has maintained a strong commitment to quality service and customer satisfaction and never stopped believing the founder's motto of "for stock and service, call Sturgess".

From its beginnings as a single location in Brisbane, MJS Floorcoverings has expanded to a national network of 22 Flooring Trade Warehouses. Despite this growth, the company remains dedicated to delivering exceptional service with a personal touch.

Offering a diverse range of fashion flooring options for both residential and commercial applications, MJS Floorcoverings also supplies the tools and accessories tradespeople need. Stocking leading brands, the company serves as a true "one-stop shop" for all installation solutions.

Our deep-rooted relationships with leading suppliers in Australia and internationally, ensures MJS Floorcoverings stays ahead of industry trends and innovations. Today, the third generation of the Sturgess family continues to uphold the company's down-to-earth values while driving the business in exciting new directions.

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MEET THE TEAM: SUCHITRA AHLAWAT

Suchitra has been working in the training and assessment space since 2007. She started as the Training Coordinator at Goodyear and Dunlop Tyres (GDT) which operated its own Enterprise RTO. Prior to this, she was in a sales role. Her manager recommended that she apply for the Training Coordinator position. At the time, she had no prior knowledge of RTOs or the VET sector, making the role a steep learning curve. However, within just a few weeks, she was genuinely enjoying the work—especially engaging with students, employers, and various funding bodies.

After GDT shut down its RTO, she secured a job with Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) in 2014 as the RTO Administration Officer. Working at Ai Group broadened her understanding of RTO operations within a membership organisation. It also allowed her to refine her administrative and compliance skills, managing close to 25 qualifications on scope and supporting both funded and fee-for-service training.

During her time at Ai Group, she had the pleasure of working with Fiona Wischnewski, who was her manager for four years and played a significant role in her professional development. When Fiona joined FCIA in 2020 and FCIA decided to establish its own RTO for flooring in 2021, she applied for the role of RTO Manager and was fortunate to be selected. Since then, she has been working at FCIA Training Academy Ltd. with a team of 4 trainers who train in ACT, NSW, SA and TAS.

“I have been very fortunate to have supportive managers who mentored me along the way and looked after my training and development needs.” said Suchitra.

Suchitra's key responsibilities within the business are:

- Develop process which allows clear and concise information on amount of funding due each month
- Monitor resource allocation and trainer-related costs to support budget management
- Maintain an in-depth knowledge of the online learning portal
- Ensure FCIA Training Academy meets all specific funding requirements as set out in each funding contract
- Monitor all state funding departments for variations to existing contracts and implement necessary adjustments



- Ensure accurate and timely reporting of data for all funded students to relevant state funding bodies
- Plan and conduct all required internal audits to ensure compliance with RTO standards
- Ensure adherence to all RTO FCIATA policies and procedures
- Ensure risk management and continuous improvement systems are in place and report any issues to CEO

We asked Suchitra a few key questions to get a better understanding of who she is as a person.

What are your greatest achievements to date?

My greatest achievements to date are:

- Successfully completed BSB51918 Diploma of Leadership and Management strengthening my leadership and management skills.
- Upgraded to TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment qualification, a milestone that reflects my commitment to professional development and maintaining high training standards
- Developed strong, productive relationships with both employers and students in my current role. Conducting the enrolment sessions and the initial training sessions has been instrumental in fostering these connections, contributing to positive learning outcomes and stakeholder engagement.

What's your favourite thing about your role at FCIA?

Whilst my current role at FCIA allows me to build on my existing skills, my favourite thing is the passion and commitment that I witness first-hand when interacting with employers, trainers and industry representatives. There are people in this industry who have worked their whole life in flooring and in spite of this being a physically demanding job, they could not think of anything better to do. Most people don't realise that flooring requires an amount of finesse and skill and that the installers are really craftsmen. I wasn't aware of this myself until I started working at FCIA.

All of the trainers at FCIA Training Academy Ltd. come from the flooring industry. Some have hung up their boots and are now teaching their skills and knowledge to the next generation of installers, some are still installing. The passion and dedication they bring to the role make it incredibly satisfying to work alongside them, helping shape the future of the industry.

What are you focused on in the business now?

My focus for 2025 is to work on the new training and assessment process for

the RTO. FCIA Training Academy Ltd. has come up with an innovative approach of involving the industry with training, so my aim is to make sure this new approach is streamlined and delivers satisfactory results for all stakeholders. I would also like to see more apprentices joining this wonderful and rewarding trade.

What are you most looking forward to in 2025?

I am looking forward to working with my team and contribute to the upliftment of the great flooring industry.

What's your dream vacation destination?

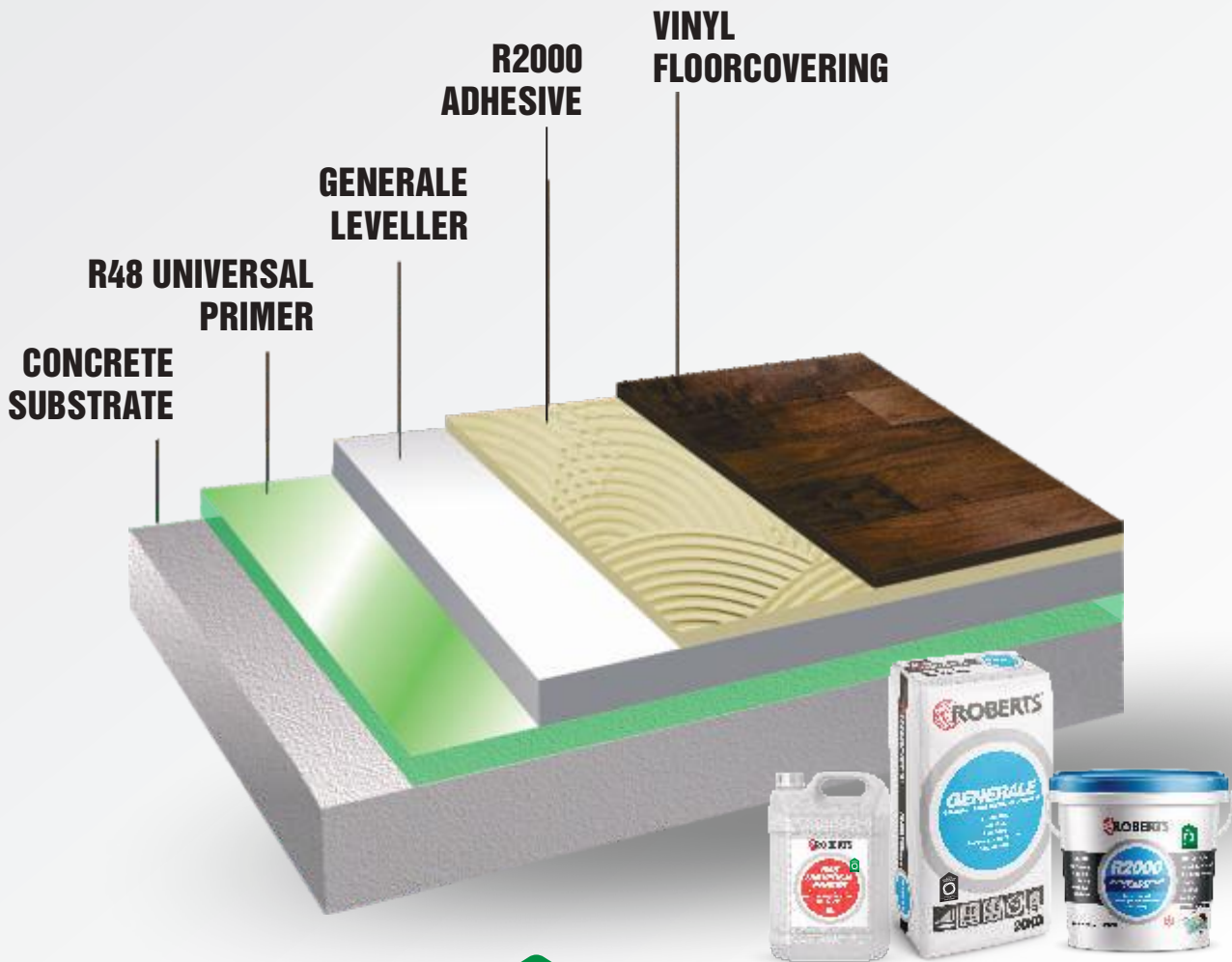
My dream vacation is Europe. I am fascinated by the culture and the history of European countries and would like to experience it firsthand one day!

Suchitra is a fundamental part of the FCIA Group and plays a major role in supporting the needs of the team and the business. Her can do attitude allows her to face all challenges ahead of her and she is a pleasure to work with.





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2025
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Workshop
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MAR 2025

FCIA
GOLF DAY
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12 SEP 2025

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