



Paint Place introduces new National Manager

New National Manager for Paint Place Australia, John Mazlin, is excited to be at the helm of the iconic group of Australian independent paint specialist stores and says he is looking forward to celebrating the group's 40-year milestone this year.

After spending the past five years with Mitre 10, and boasting a long history of senior leadership positions in Wesfarmers, Anaconda, and Masters, Mr Mazlin brings a wealth of experience to Paint Place.

Mr Mazlin said the group's strategic plan, for now, incorporates industry-leading systems through the recent acquisition with Australian buying group Central Purchasing Services (CPS), along with the collective strength of some of the leading paint experts in the industry.

"This will be coupled with a genuine community focus and the good old-fashioned Aussie adage of 'doing whatever it takes' for the customer," he said.

"It is a highly contested market with some very large and strong players but we believe that there is a real appetite to have stores that can and do tailor to their local market and respond quickly to the changing needs of the customer without restraint. We are also leaning into being viewed as the underdog in the market which only serves to embolden us as we navigate this next dynamic phase of our rebirth."

"Our store network benefits from working collaboratively and is diversifying into areas outside of decorative paint such as industrial, and automotive just to name a few. We also have a 'shop within a shop' model that has been very successfully implemented into a number of independent regional hardware stores," Mr Mazlin said.

Now a parent group with 250 stores nationally, the scale of the Paint Place group allows the stores to be well-equipped to provide competitive pricing on all the great brands, with a particular focus on Australian-made.



Paint Place Australia's new National Manager, John Mazlin, brings a wealth of experience in senior leadership positions to the group.

"I could say that we have grand plans for Paint Place Australia but the truth of it is we are now just focused on delivering good old-fashioned customer service every day through a great bunch of store owners who really know how to sell paint. We have also invested heavily in the modernisation of our systems and developed a far more strategic and proactive approach to our tactical business planning. This is the winning recipe," he said.

"To finish I would just echo the words of Winston Churchill, 'we make a living out of what we get, but we make a life out of what we give'. This quote embodies the underlying DNA of our culture and the type of people in our stores that is bringing about the reinvigoration of an Aussie icon in Paint Place," Mr Mazlin said.

Bunnings' Chief Operating Officer's sudden departure

Bunnings Chief Operating Officer, Simon McDowell has departed the big box just 12 months after taking on the top role. Mr McDowell joined the hardware juggernaut in 2021 as Chief Operating Officer making him second in charge behind Managing Director, Mike Schneider. Before taking on the role, Mr McDowell worked at an executive level for a string of household name companies, including Coca-Cola, Sony and Coles.

The sudden departure of the senior Bunnings boss has sparked a major reshuffle after he abruptly quit. No explanation has been given for his exit.

Ryan Baker has taken on the role of Chief Customer Officer and Ben Camire is now leading store operations across

Australia and New Zealand, essentially sharing the Chief Operating Officer role.

"We are pleased to confirm Ryan Baker was appointed to the role of Chief Customer Officer a few months ago," Bunnings Managing Director, Mike Schneider said in a statement provided to news.com.au.

"Ryan has been with the Bunnings business for over 20 years and brings enormous experience and success as a retail leader into this role."

Mr McDowell's sudden exit is a surprising development considering he held such a high-level position at one of the country's leading retailers for such a short time. During the past eight years there have been at least three occasions when the Chief Operating Officer role has not been part of the official structure. According to the news report this is the case once again in the wake of Mr McDowell's departure.

Seasol sells business

Seasol Company Director, Lisa Boyd has announced that Seasol has signed a contract with Yate's owners, DuluxGroup to sell the business. Seasol will now become a division of Yates. The sale agreement is still subject to some final steps according to Ms Boyd, including ACCC approval, however, they anticipate the sale will be completed by the end of March.

Ms Boyd said that although Seasol has been her baby for 30 years, she concluded that a new owner could offer Seasol and its employees increased opportunities.

"Seasol has been in my family for 40 years, so this has not been an easy decision. I am just so grateful that my father had the vision to buy a flailing seaweed business – and persevere with it despite losing money for nearly 15 years – because it is now one of the most recognisable brands in the country! We are a small giant that is considered unbeatable in the marketplace, and with Yates and DuluxGroup's backing, we will be afforded increased opportunity and resources to grow even further," Ms Boyd said.