

**FOREWORD TO THE 1963 ANNUAL EDITION OF "THE AUSTRALASIAN MANUFACTURER."**

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Over the years, the "Australasian Manufacturer" has at various times conferred on me the honour of writing a short foreword. And now in 1963, this privilege has once again come my way. It is with pleasure that I accept the invitation and convey my warmest regards to all manufacturers and subscribers of this prestige publication.

Since I penned my first foreword for the "Australasian Manufacturer" in the early 1950's, I have watched with ever-increasing pleasure the rapid and balanced growth of Australia.

In the intervening years, the manufacturers have pursued a course of vigour and enterprise. This has helped to promote economic stability and achieve for us the high living standards which many nations of the world, with hundreds of years of tradition and culture behind them, have not yet accomplished.

Today in Australia we have 58,448 factories employing 1,120,430 men and women, and so it must be obvious to all just how vital a part the manufacturing industry plays in our economy.

In the year 1954-55, manufactures represented eight per cent. of our exports. In the last financial year, the figure had risen to thirteen per cent. This is indeed a remarkable achievement, but I have no doubt that in the years ahead, equally good progress will be made to the mutual advantage of all Australians who are proud of their heritage.

R. G. MENZIES

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28th March, 1963