



It's all in the family

Beaumont Tiles has been inducted into the Family Business Hall of Fame.

It joined Beerenberg Farm and AW Vater & Co as this year's inductees at a formal dinner on Wednesday.

The Family Business Hall of Fame celebrates South Australian family businesses that are recognised in their fields of endeavour as state icons and historically reflect positively on South Australian society. Inductions have been made each year since 2002. Previous inductees have included prominent local family businesses such as Maggie Beer Products, Trims, Charlesworth Nuts, Coopers Brewery, Nippy's, Detmold Packaging, CMV Group, Hamilton Labs, Haigh's Chocolates, Drake Foodmarkets, Yalumba, Robern Menz and Alfred James Funeral Homes.

While representing three different industries – food manufacturing, transport and agricultural supplies and building products – Hall of Fame convenor Rodney Martin said this

year's inductees all share a common trait.

"Throughout their history, each of these businesses has drawn on the strength of family ties to see them through the tough times," Mr Martin said.

"They've become thriving 21st-century enterprises through invention, innovation, passion and determination. It's wonderful for the culture of business in South Australia to be able to celebrate the achievements of three local, family-owned companies in this way – and acknowledge their history and the role family has played in their growth and success."

Beaumont's started in 1960 and has expanded into the largest and most successful tile distributor in Australia operating in five states and territories, supported by 400 franchised stores.

A second-generation family business, it was established to help builders with Raymond Beaumont selling tiles from his Glengowrie home garage in 1960. The business proved a huge success,

and quickly expanded its operations in spite of recessions, interest rate rises and competition. In 1990 Beaumont Tiles acquired Australia's largest tile supplier, Crosby Tiles.

Raymond and Verna's son Bob is now the managing director, and he and his three brothers are board members.

Beerenberg Farm was inherited by Grant and Carol Paech in 1970. They turned it into a thriving business by planting a strawberry crop, which led to a variety of jams and sauces. While they are still involved, they have passed the reins onto their children.

AW Vater & Co is a diversified agricultural-based operation. Allen and Doris Vater set out in 1957 with a Fargo truck, buying and selling chaff, peas and oats, transporting them from Saddleworth to the Riverland. The return trip was made with loads of firewood and mallee stumps. The company now supplies all major brands and services to the wider rural community in Australia.



Family Business SA's Kent Aughey with Hall of Fame inductees Sally Paech, Peter Beaumont, Jill Oehme and event sponsor Michael Mjaskalo of Westpac.