



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23





ABOUT US

Plastics New Zealand is the Industry Association representing plastics businesses across the country. Our membership includes a wide variety of companies from plastics processors, re-processors, raw material and machinery suppliers to tool makers, designers, brandowners and retailers.

Our role covers a range of activities including working with Government and other parties to ensure discussions on plastics are evidence-based, championing plastics training and educating key stakeholders, connecting and developing the plastics community, and driving the transition to a circular plastics economy.

VISION

A connected plastics industry meeting the needs of tomorrow.

MISSION

To maximise the development, growth and success of plastics-based technology within New Zealand, in a sustainable manner.

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2022-23

Plastics NZ is governed by a board that consists of the National President and other Officers, the Presidents of the local branches, the Chairs of the Sector Groups, a Suppliers Representative, Chairs of the Environmental, IR and Training subcommittees, and up to four members who are elected by the financial members of the Association. Any Corporate Member (manufacturer, recycler, raw material supplier or service supplier) can be nominated to serve on the Executive.



National President
Abbie Watson
Wadding Solutions



National Vice-President
Bob Gutsell
Pact Group



Immediate Past President
Murray Knight
Polymers International



Corporate Supplier Representative
Brian Storie
Interplas Agencies



Auckland Branch President
William Dickinson
Avient



South Island Branch President
Chris Williams
Packtech Moulding



Waikato Branch President
Murray Jorgensen
Profile Polymers



Wellington Branch President
Richard Latta
Leda Extrusions



Environment Committee Chair
Ally Hopwood
Pharmapac



PIPA NZ Chair
Alan Shore
Ravago NZ



EPS Sector Group Chair
Mark Mischefski
Expol



Training Committee Chair
Tony Miller
Lane Plastics



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 2022-23



Elected Rep
John Bennett
Dynex



Elected Rep
Mark Field
Elastomer Products



Elected Rep
Kevin Jones
Axiom Plastics



Elected Rep
Robert Michael
TruDesign

Vacant Positions: IR Committee Chair

We also note two Branch President changes at the end of the year and welcome the following individuals to their new roles:

- Mike Draper, South Island Branch President, Talbot Technologies
- Sam Dennis, Auckland Branch President, Chemiplas

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE @ MAY 23

Ally Hopwood
Simon Wilkinson
Marc Gaugler
Ella Meisel
Rodney Bennett
Melanie Maxwell
Rachelle Morrison
Gavin Fong

Pharmapac (Chair)
Wilkinson Environmental
Scion
Fisher & Paykel Healthcare
Bonson
Avient NZ
Chemiplas NZ
PlusPac Packaging





AUCKLAND BRANCH @ MAY 23

Sam Dennis

William Dickinson

Abbie Watson

John Bennett

Mark Mischefski

Charlotte Winwood

Sammie Antona

Simon Yandell

Cam Thomson

Chris Walton

Chemiplas (President)

Avient NZ (Resigned President)

Wadding Solutions (Immediate Past President)

Dynex

Expol

NEO Polymers

Willis Towers Watson

TCL Hunt

Lane Plastics

Avient NZ (resigned mid-year)



WAIKATO BRANCH @ MAY 23

Murray Jorgensen

Melanie Maxwell

Ian Baines

Heather Allen

Scott Laurence

Robyn Rawson

Jeremy Warnes

Stu Cundy

Marta Papucikova

Aleanna van der Drift

Phil Butler

Tim Beere

Profile Polymers (President)

Avient NZ (Vice-President)

Profile Polymers

ES Plastics

Tekplas

Profile Polymers

SCION

Primaplas

DEC Plastics

DEC Plastics (resigned mid-year)

DEC Plastics (resigned mid-year)

Elite Polymers (resigned mid-year)



WELLINGTON BRANCH @ MAY 23

Richard Latta

Simon Jones

Libby Clout

Richard Whitmore

Leda Extrusions (President)

Thermoplastic Engineering

Leda Extrusions

Uniplas





SOUTH ISLAND BRANCH @ MAY 23

Mike Draper

Chris Williams

Brian Moyna

Adam Brook

Mark Field

Adam Lowe

Frank Soli

Talbot Advanced Technologies (President)

Packtech Moulding

Elastomer Products

Action Plastics

Elastomer Products

Kaipak

Expol



EPS SECTOR GROUP @ MAY 23

Mark Mischefski

Brendan Dryden

Kulwinder Bath

Paul Lightowers

Sandy Bannerman

Andy Crump

Ken Rowley

Bernard McGillen

Peter Coleman

Spring Humphreys

Expol (Chair)

Styrobeck

EPS Foam

Hope Moulded Polystyrene

Barnes Plastics

Bondor

Polymer Agencies

Ixom

Interplas Agencies

EnviroNZ



PIPA NZ @ MAY 23

Alan Shore

Frank O'Callaghan

Iain McNaught

Jay Roy

Steve Kooge

Petr Sudoma

Reiner Gruen

Scott Townsend

Vanessa Lanegra

Brian Storie

John Scott

Jeremy Silcock

Ravago NZ (Chair)

Iplex Pipelines

Waters and Farr

Iplex Pipelines

Georg Fischer

PS Engineering

Agru NZ

Aliaxis Group

Aliaxis Group

Interplas Agencies

Aliaxis Group (copied)

Iplex Pipelines (copied)





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023 has arrived hard and fast, with the impacts of severe weather events putting parts of the country into a state of emergency. Our heartfelt sincere wishes are with our colleagues, their clients and teams as they work to regain some form of normality while working through the cleanup process.



The drag-on effect from Covid-19, coupled with atrocious weather patterns, put a dampener on many events around the country over the last 12 months. The declining economy and ongoing staff-shortages are also impacting the willingness of companies to release people for branch activities. Sadly, the Waikato and Auckland branches were forced to cancel some fantastic networking events. However they, along with the South Island branch, were able to host some great technical events over the past 12 months.

I have been leading the Board through a Charter and Strategy refresh, strengthening our governance focus, review of upcoming projects and formalizing committees prior to our AGM on the 5th of May. It was fantastic to attend a National Executive meeting in Hamilton recently and spend time with the Waikato Branch committee. It confirmed the importance of in-person networking.

The National Executive Board along with our CEO, are working with the Branch Presidents and their teams to build momentum for more of the productive and exciting networking opportunities, as well as technical events that could benefit both existing members and new associates by being a part of this amazing and diverse Incorporated Society. I would like to encourage you as members to give us feedback on the events that branches host (by email or phone call). This information is important and is circulated throughout the Branches as well as to the National Executive to ensure we are focused on your needs and interests. The Branches are the backbone of Plastics NZ, and we will continue to support those people dedicating their time to create dynamic opportunities for our members.

Labour shortages, immigration interruptions and staff recruitment have been challenging for most businesses throughout New Zealand over the last 12 months. We hope to gain some clarity through ongoing communication with Competenz and Te Pūkenga to better understand what services and options we have for existing employees throughout the manufacturing sector and for younger people moving into the workforce. We will ensure regular updates are posted to the Plastics NZ website and our fantastic administration team will be in contact by email with any updates that are beneficial to the membership.

The freight issues we were experiencing throughout 2021 and 2022 seem to be easing and pricing is becoming easier to stomach. Our diligent CEO has made some fantastic connections through the Global Plastics Alliance and has actively been in discussions with



industry associations and government around the possible changes to reclassify all plastic raw materials (pellet, flake and powder) as dangerous goods for shipping. She has sought time with Maritime NZ and the Ministry of Transport to ensure our voice is heard and that any changes are not made without careful consideration. Rachel has been working tirelessly to attend meetings and complete submissions on our behalf, not only on this topic but with multiple government agencies including MfE, MBIE, MFAT, NZTE, Standards NZ and Customs.

Rachel has been heavily involved with a vast array of political, economic, social and technical issues that directly affect members of Plastics NZ. Her ongoing commitment to our organization is exceptional and for that I would like to use this opportunity to thank Rachel.

Equally I would like to give, on behalf of the membership a big thank you to Kelly Buchanan-Johns (Membership Services Manager) for her effort over the past year to provide up to date and relevant information, which I am certain you all have found equally enlightening. The support that both Kelly and Judy Lambert (Accounts) provide to Rachel behind the scenes cannot go unrecognized, so on behalf of the National Executive and the membership we thank you both very much for your contribution.

DDSP has been an ongoing success regardless of covid and the ongoing interruptions that affect in-person education. This is a tribute to those lecturers and affiliates who support this very important piece of education through Plastics NZ. The National Executive Board have welcomed the discussion around creating an online platform for DDSP, which we believe going forward will create more opportunity for a wider community interested in Plastics Design and Circularity.

In October 2022 we regrettably said farewell to Sandy Botterill as she moved into a new role at Foodstuffs. Her overall contribution to Plastics NZ and the circularity initiatives she instigated was outstanding. We also appreciated her professional approach to our Strategy review process.

We have been excited to welcome a new member to PNZ: Katy Constance – Katy joined our team as Circular Economy Manager in January, and has hit the ground running with various projects across the Circularity program from completing the Good Caps report for Ministry to participating in the DDSP course sessions, visiting manufacturers and re-processors as well as members, getting on-board with Operation Clean Sweep to name a few. Katy's highlights have been working with a supportive group led by Rachel to integrate her into her new role which is diverse and busy. Circular Connect has proven to be a fantastic initiative for networking and a solid building ground for projects in and around product stewardship throughout our industry in conjunction with other close association connections.



More on the Environmental side of things Ally Hopwood (Environment Committee Chair and Sustainability Manager at Pharmapac), and her dedicated Environmental Team along with Simon Wilkinson (Wilkinson Environmental) are looking to revamp the Operation Clean Sweep program to make it more robust and appealing to the whole industry including non-members. Keep an eye out for emails of interest or contact Simon for more information.

The EPS sector group, PIPA NZ and the Suppliers network along with other working groups, are in steady contact with Rachel working through the most important issues facing the industry and taking a head on leadership approach to any and all issues facing the membership. I am proud to be working along side a person such as Rachel who has the knowledge and ability to provide the advocacy necessary in these times to ensure the entire membership are up to date and have the assurance that someone is watching out for their best interests.

We have received a number of obituaries throughout this past year and I would like to acknowledge those people, their families and their contribution to the NZ Plastics Association. The strong history this association carries is attributed to those members, and to those who served on Branches and the National Executive.

We look forward to celebrating those nominated for the Competenz Training & Apprentice of the Year Awards at our upcoming Conference in Christchurch. We also look forward to celebrating a long serving member of the Association Morris Watson who will share his unique insight into the history of PNZ.

I am confident the theme of this year's conference 'Rise Up' will resonate with each member as we work through the challenges the industry faces now and in the near future. I personally look forward to seeing you at the conference, and for those that are unable to make it I look forward to seeing you at some of the exciting branch events that are held throughout 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Executive, Branch Presidents and Committees for their time and contribution over the past year, It has been a pleasure to work with these passionate and committed members to carry out our strategic objectives and support our Plastics NZ Members.

Abbie Watson, National President, Plastics NZ, May 2023



CEO'S REPORT

Tēnā kotou katoa. Warm greetings to you all!

The last year has continued to present new and ongoing challenges for business, both locally and globally. The continuing pandemic, war in Ukraine, threat of global economic recession, and recent weather-related disasters have all combined to create

an extremely difficult environment. For the plastics industry, we also continue to face decreased social license and increasing regulations.



Despite these challenges, our sector continues to inspire me in its ability to push through and work together to find solutions. While strong headwinds persist, we also have significant opportunities ahead. Initially driven out of necessity, the plastics industry is leading the transition to a circular economy. Innovation is rapid in materials development, processing, design, business models and in resource recovery.

As the government has publicly shown with the newly released Waste Strategy, the low-emissions-circular focus is broadening to cover all resource types. Other sectors are looking to the plastics industry to provide thought leadership and guidance. The benefits of plastics to our quality of life, and necessity for achieving a Carbon-Zero future are also much clearer to the public than in the past.

In the next few pages we share some of the key activities for Plastics NZ over the past year, and discuss what's in our near future. It has been a privilege to support our members this past year, and to ensure that our industry's voice is heard clearly in government and stakeholder discussions on plastics. The National Executive (Board) has also been working hard to strengthen and clarify governance activities and has carried out a strategy refresh. This refined focus will help ensure our members needs continue to be met into the future. I look forward to sharing and delivering on this strategy alongside my team, and the wider plastics community.

Thank you to all of those who participate and lead our National Executive, local Branches, Sector Groups and Committees. Your hard work and volunteer hours are greatly appreciated and vital to ensuring Plastics NZ is successful in connecting, educating, and representing plastics and our Industry. A huge thank-you also to my team Kelly Buchanan-Johns, Judy Lambert, Simon Wilkinson, Katy Constance and Sandy Botterill (former employee). The hard work you put provides real, tangible results for our industry and organisation. I couldn't do it without you!

I would particularly like to thank Abbie Watson, our National President and Director of Wadding Solutions. Thank you for your time and support over the last year. Your fresh perspectives and enthusiasm are driving myself, the Board and Plastics NZ to a better future.

Rachel Barker, CEO, Plastics NZ, May 2023



OUR YEAR - KEY ACTIVITIES

DANGEROUS GOODS CLASSIFICATION FOR PLASTICS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is actively considering proposals to reclassify plastic raw materials as Dangerous Goods. The matter is on the agenda for the tenth session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR-10), to be held in London the week of the 24th of April. It is envisaged that a working group will be established to further develop and refine the recommendations for the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

Why: The submissions to the IMO were made by several countries as a direct response to the sinking of the MV X-Press Pearl off the shore of Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2021 which resulted in the worst spill of plastic pellets in history (estimated 50 billion pellets).

The intention behind the DG proposals is to prevent spills of plastic pellets through better controls and handling on ships. However, a DG classification does not resolve the root causes of spills; generally human error or adverse weather events. The X-Press Pearl for example, had 81 containers of dangerous goods on board, with the fire being a result of a leaking DG container.



Global Plastics Advocacy: An international group of plastics representatives, including the Plastics NZ CEO, has been working with CEFIC and DGAC to propose alternative international regulations. These would provide improved handling of plastics, including transparency and documentation, without the unnecessary, and ineffective costs and supply-chain impacts that a DG classification would create. Over the past year, the global advocacy efforts have shifted support for the alternative regulation from ~5% of representatives to approximately half.

New Zealand Advocacy: Plastics NZ has connected with Maritime NZ, the Ministry of Transport and a number of key Ministers to discuss the matter. In particular, our focus has been on helping government understand the ramifications of a DG classification on essential goods supply chains, and the wider NZ economy. We will continue engaging on this matter, particularly as international discussions proceed towards definitive action.

While the NZ position has softened slightly, our government representatives are still largely in support of the DG classification. They are holding to the rather naive assumption that dangerous goods labelling and documentation can be applied to only the shipping portion of logistics movements. Continued work is required to help Officials understand the practicalities of stock movements, alongside the broader impacts.



GLOBAL PLASTICS AGREEMENT



Negotiations have begun to formulate the terms of the UN global plastics agreement, with the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee meeting in Paris at the end of May. New Zealand will be sending two representatives to Paris, one from the Ministry for the Environment and one from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Plastics NZ is in close communications with these representatives, and the wider government team involved in the UN negotiations.

A large focus for this meeting will be discussions on the different elements to be included in the agreement. Options include, but are not limited to the following:

- Phasing out and/or reducing the supply of, demand for, and use of primary plastic polymers (production caps and increased use of recycled 'secondary plastics').
- Banning, phasing out and/or reducing the use of problematic and avoidable plastic products.
- Banning, phasing out and/or reducing the production, consumption and use of chemicals and polymers of concern.
- Reducing microplastics (elimination of intentionally added microplastics, improved wastewater treatment mechanisms, and minimising risk of pellet leakage into the environment.
- Strengthening waste management
- Fostering design for circularity
- Encouraging reduce, reuse and repair of plastic products and packaging
- Promoting the use of safe, sustainable alternatives and substitutes
- Eliminating the release and emission of plastics to water, soil and air
- Addressing existing plastic pollution
- Facilitating a just transition, including an inclusive transition of the informal waste sector
- Protecting human health from the adverse effects of plastic pollution





NZ ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS & SUBMISSIONS

Plastics NZ closely monitors government departments to identify consultations relating to plastics. This ensures we are representing our member's interests as new government regulations and policies are considered. We also work closely with Officials to ensure the needs of the industry, and the ramifications of decisions on both our sector and the wider economy, are communicated and understood.

Phaseout Regulations: Plastics NZ, and some of our members, provide feedback to MfE on the phaseout regulation drafts prior to public release. This helps Officials to ensure that the Regulations are fit-for-purpose, and helps pick up areas of potential confusion that need additional guidance or careful handling. The next set of Regulations being enacted go into force on the 1st of July 2023, covering single-use produce bags, plastic cutlery, table-ware, straws and non-compostable produce labels.

Waste Strategy & Legislation: While it feels like a long time since the 2021 consultations, the government has recently launched the new Waste Strategy for New Zealand. This has a very strong circular economy focus. What is pleasing to see is the focus is on all resource types, rather than just plastics as we have traditionally seen. The strategy is a high level document which doesn't detail the 'how', so we're hearing a lot of questions regarding next steps. Discussions with MfE indicate that the next steps will include stakeholder engagement and development of action plans which will drive the implementation.

Much of the new Waste Legislation content has been determined, but Cabinet are awaiting further advice on some topics. Drafting of the new Bill is underway, with expectation that it will be introduced to Parliament in late 2023 or early 2024. The aim is to enact the new legislation in 2025. Somewhat cynically but based on prior experience with government during an election period, our CEO feels it is more likely that a Bill would be introduced mid to late 2024 rather than this year. A change in government could also result in priority shifts impacting timing of the new legislation.

Transforming Recycling: This consultation focused on a variety of areas including a Container Return Scheme (beverage), standardisation of kerbside recycling collections, food-scrap collection, and data collection. As expected, we have ended up with PET (#1), HDPE (#2) and PP (#5) plastics being recycled and the rest excluded. One good thing regarding the announcement is that not only are these the plastics to be included, but all Councils must collect them for recycling. This will make national messaging and education much easier, thereby improving collection rates.

There is still an open question regarding whether or not lids and caps will be included. Additional stakeholder engagement is being carried out, with a possibility that this will be up to individual councils (as is current). While not ideal, this would allow the change with minimal disruption to existing systems.



Activity on the Container Return Scheme has been deferred as part of Prime Minister Chris Hipkins cost-of-living priority shuffle. This is likely to be picked up again in 2024. It is our opinion that considerable work is still required to ensure that a scheme design is fit-for-purpose, despite previous co-design work.

Product Stewardship: No additional priority products have been declared over the last year. We have instead seen the co-design of various schemes initiated and/or completed.

- **Tyres:** Co-design of the scheme has been completed and consultation on proposed regulations carried out. The scheme has been accredited and is expected to be fully operational by late 2023. See www.tyrewise.co.nz for more information.
- **Farm Plastics and Agrichemicals and their containers:** Agrecovery led the co-design work to create a Green-farms Product Stewardship Scheme (GPSS) that combines both priority product streams under a single banner. For plastics, the initial scheme will include agrichemical containers, bale wrap, silage sheet, small bags (10-25kg) and large sacks (bulk). The scheme has been presented to MfE, and consultation on regulations is expected in late 2023.
- **E-Waste & Electronics:** TechCollect are leading the co-design process for this priority product. It is anticipated that scheme design will be complete in 2023, with consultation on regulations in 2024. Additional information available at <https://techcollect.nz/e-waste-product-stewardship-new-zealand>
- **Plastic Packaging:** The Packaging Forum, in combination with the NZ Food & Grocery Council, is leading the co-design for plastics packaging stewardship. Completion of the co-design process is expected mid to late 2024. The Plastics NZ CEO is part of the Steering Group, and various Plastics NZ members are involved in the Technical Advisory Groups. Please get in touch with Rachel if you would like additional information.

Environment Select Committee - Plastic Export Ban Petition

Early in 2023, Plastics NZ provided a submission to Parliament's Environment Select Committee in response to the petition by Lydia Chai to ban plastic waste exports to developing countries. The Committee was particularly interested in current and future onshore reprocessing of plastic waste, and waste export data. We also included comment on the developing international regulations, and the economic and social impacts of a ban, particularly for the developing nations.

Not only are our colleagues in Malaysia, Indonesia, and elsewhere, working closely with their governments to stamp out illegal operations, and to improve the environmental management of reprocessing in their nations, but they are a key part of the resource recovery system. Banning imports of plastic waste to these countries threatens not only the individual businesses, but the informal waste picker networks who rely on them for income (vulnerable communities), and the developing nations ability to transition to a circular economy.



MANUFACTURING & BUSINESS POLICY

While directly submitting on a number of specific items, Plastics NZ also continues to work closely with other associations on areas of broader manufacturing and business interest. The EMA and Manufacturing Alliance* are two key partners.

Fair Pay Agreements: This legislation went into effect late in 2022. It was with some trepidation, that we waited to learn E tū's plans for the plastics industry. Thankfully, we have ducked a plastics FPA for now as the Union is focusing on two other FPAs with Cleaners and Security. It is important however to keep up-to-date on information regarding these FPAs, as any company employing cleaners, or security, or contracting these tasks out, will be impacted by the agreements. The MBIE Dashboard with information on status of all FPAs can be found here:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/fair-pay-agreements/fpa-dashboard>

NZ Income Insurance Scheme: We were pleased to see development of the NZIIS put on hold indefinitely by Prime Minister Chris Hipkins earlier this year. The proposed scheme would have required an estimated 1.39% of workers income from both the worker and their employer. The scheme also introduced an employer-funded mandatory redundancy period. As this was in addition to any existing redundancy provisions, the scheme effectively punished good employers who have conditions above and beyond the minimum.

Future of Skilled Migrant Category (Immigration): The proposed changes to the skilled migrant category, consulted in November 2022, were quite frankly discriminatory to trades-qualified workers. The proposed points system places a high value on university qualifications and professional trades registrations, and no value on the high level of technical expertise required for many vocational roles. We have asked for specific consultation with the manufacturing sector to be carried out to ensure that this issue is resolved, and that a pathway to residency is available for the highly skilled technicians required to utilise advanced manufacturing technologies, and to upskill and train our New Zealand workers. The results of the consultation are still pending.

Advanced Manufacturing Industry Transformation Plan: The final ITP was released in mid-March, with some promising initiatives to improve the perception and visibility of manufacturing, access to capital and investment, skills-levels, and overall productivity for manufacturing. As this is a tri-partite effort, the next key steps are for the implementation groups to be formed. This includes an industry group (establishment board being formed at present), Māori and Pacifica groups. The Plastics NZ CEO sits on the Steering Group for the ITP so keep an eye on our communications for further developments.

** Manufacturing Alliance is made up of MakeNZ (formerly Manufacturing NZ), Print NZ, Wood Processors & Manufacturers Association, Maintenance Engineering Society NZ and Plastics NZ.*



PLASTICS NZ STRATEGY

The National Executive (Board) has reviewed the strategy for Plastics New Zealand to refine the focus and ensure our members needs are met.

VISION

A connected plastics industry meeting the needs of tomorrow.

MISSION

To maximise the development, growth and success of plastics-based technology within New Zealand, in a sustainable manner.





Voice of the Industry

Be at the center of stakeholder conversation on plastics

- Increase stakeholder understanding of the value of plastics and our Industry.
- Drive the transition to a circular plastics economy.
- Support our members in Industrial Relations matters.

Promote

Promote the benefits of plastics and the industry

- Share positive plastics initiatives with members and other stakeholders.
- Be a responsive media contact.
- Promote the plastics industry as an attractive place to work.

Connect

Strengthen the plastics community

- Ensure members have relevant and timely information.
- Organise regular social and technical events for members and associates.
- Celebrate industry excellence and innovation.

Educate

Lift industry skills and capability driving future success

- Provide members with best practice guidance.
- Enhance industry training, learning and development through DDSP and other relevant courses.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME

KAITIAKITANGA; RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Katy Constance, Circular Economy Manager, Plastics NZ

Kaitiakitanga: Guardianship and protection



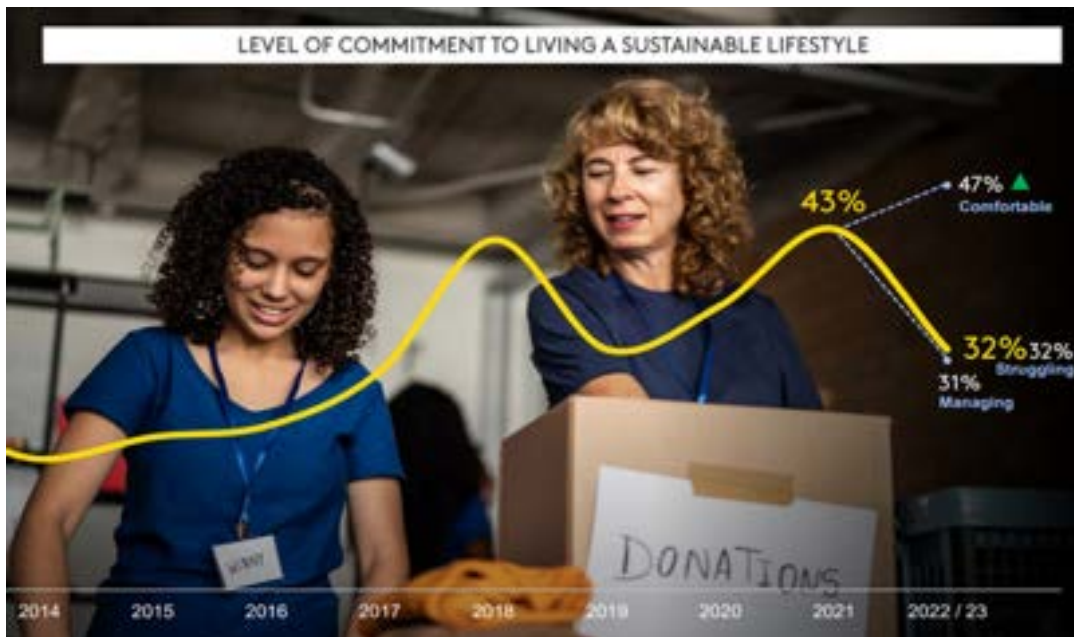
Travelling to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2011, I was struck by the untouched beauty of the place. Having grown up around farms in the Northern English countryside, I understood our reliance on nature. As I travelled the South Island, through the seemingly endless stretches of well-looked-after forest, mountain, river and sea, I felt in awe of the country that had such an abundance of unspoiled natural resource. I knew that this was the place I would one day call home.

At the start of 2019, I moved to Auckland. Lucky as I felt to live in a thriving city with the Waitakeres and eastern beaches on my doorstep, I couldn't help but notice the tell-tale signs of human activity impacting the environment. With a population on the rise, it struck me that we must all act now to preserve what we have.

Joining Plastics New Zealand, I feel privileged to be in a role in which I can play my part as a kaitiaki (guardian) of our whenua (land). Through the Circular Economy for Plastics programme, we are using education, project co-funding, and working groups to support industry and businesses in using plastics sustainably, mimimising waste, and retaining material value. We are in the third year of the funding and are seeking an extension to maximise on the work already started.

Consumer Attitudes to Plastics:

The Kantar Better Futures 2023 report showed that, whilst concern about the impacts of climate change stayed the same, there was a -9% shift in Kiwis' commitment to living a sustainable lifestyle.



Source: Kantar's 2023 Better Futures Report, page 17



When looking at this data through the lens of the cost-of-living crisis, we can see that those who were considered to be financially ‘managing’ or ‘struggling’ showed a drop in commitment, whilst those who were deemed ‘comfortable’ showed an 4% increase in commitment.



In addition, it was found that whilst the cost of living was the most important factor in purchase decision making, sustainability issues including quantity of packaging, plastics in the environment, and microplastics also impact on Kiwis’ choices.

Despite the clear desire from the nation to make environmentally friendly choices, we continue to see misunderstanding amongst the general public around the recyclability, biodegradability, and carbon footprint of products and packaging. This leads to consumers seeking non-plastic alternatives, despite potential unintended environmental consequences.

This highlights the need for cost-effective sustainable choices, and educational resources around plastics and sustainability.

Government Attitudes to Plastics:

Waste Strategy and Kerbside Collections

At the end of March, the Government released their three decades long road map for a low-emissions, low-waste society. The roadmap centers around a shift towards a circular economy and utilises the waste hierarchy to identify preferable outcomes for materials post use. The thinking aligns well with Plastics New Zealand’s mission to advance towards a circular economy for plastics





Alongside the waste strategy, standardisation of kerbside recycling was also announced. By 2024, all district and city councils will accept all and only:

- glass bottles and jars
- paper and cardboard (including pizza boxes)
- plastic bottles and containers marked with recycling symbols 1, 2, and 5
- aluminium and steel tins and cans.

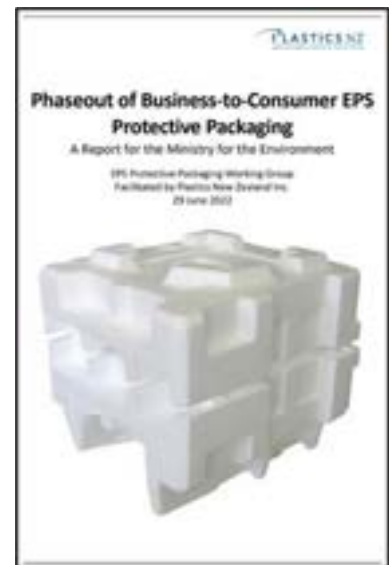
This will support the public in sorting their recycling correctly, leading to more effective resource recovery.

Expanded Polystyrene

Last year, PNZ facilitated a working group with industry stakeholders aimed at identifying where EPS packaging could be phased out. Discussion around EPS as a problematic material has arisen historically due to its bulky, lightweight nature, and high air to plastic ratio. This makes it challenging to collect and transport for reprocessing.

The working group's recommendations were sent to government, who have since announced that there will be no mandatory phase out, with voluntary phase out where possible and mandatory product stewardship for EPS packaging (with plastic packaging generically being listed as a priority product for product stewardship).

As part of our Circular Economy for Plastics programme, PNZ are running industry-led working groups aimed at co-designing the regulated national product stewardship of EPS.



Good Caps

Last year, PNZ facilitated a working group aimed at testing the viability of a separate Lids and Caps collection system. The group set up a pilot program in the Hawkes Bay, in which schools competed against each other to see who could gather the most lids and caps.



Schools, students, and whanau engaged well with the program; a whopping 2,800 kg of materials was collected. This was sold to reprocessors for \$880, which was donated to Kidney Kids. A report on the pilot was completed and will soon be sent to MfE and launched publicly. Keep an eye out for communications on this if you are interested.



CircularConnect Design Advisory

Circular Connect continues to support businesses seeking to design out plastic waste with co-funding and connections to experts. We have a total of 22 active or completed projects, with focuses ranging from packaging choices to product design, and from reprocessing solutions to take back schemes. To date these projects have identified the potential for more than 17,000 tonnes of plastic waste removal.

If you are seeking to run a project aimed at minimising plastic waste, we have co-funding of up to \$20K available until the end of this year. Reach out soon to secure your funding!



RePlastics Design Guide & Workshops

RePlastics is our circular plastics education programme, including a free Design Guide and workshops to help companies and individuals to unlock the potential for circular plastics within their organisations. Both guide and workshops are focused on the New Zealand concept, to help ensure that solutions are fit-for-purpose in our resource recovery system. The tools and methods utilised, are also useful if you're selling into other markets.

We're changing things up in the workshops this year. The current staff-shortages and economic environment, make it challenging for businesses to release people for a full day of training. To help facilitate access, we're going to add a new online option made up of 4 shorter sessions. Keep an eye out for information on this! The workshops will continue to receive subsidy from the Waste Minimisation Fund throughout 2023.



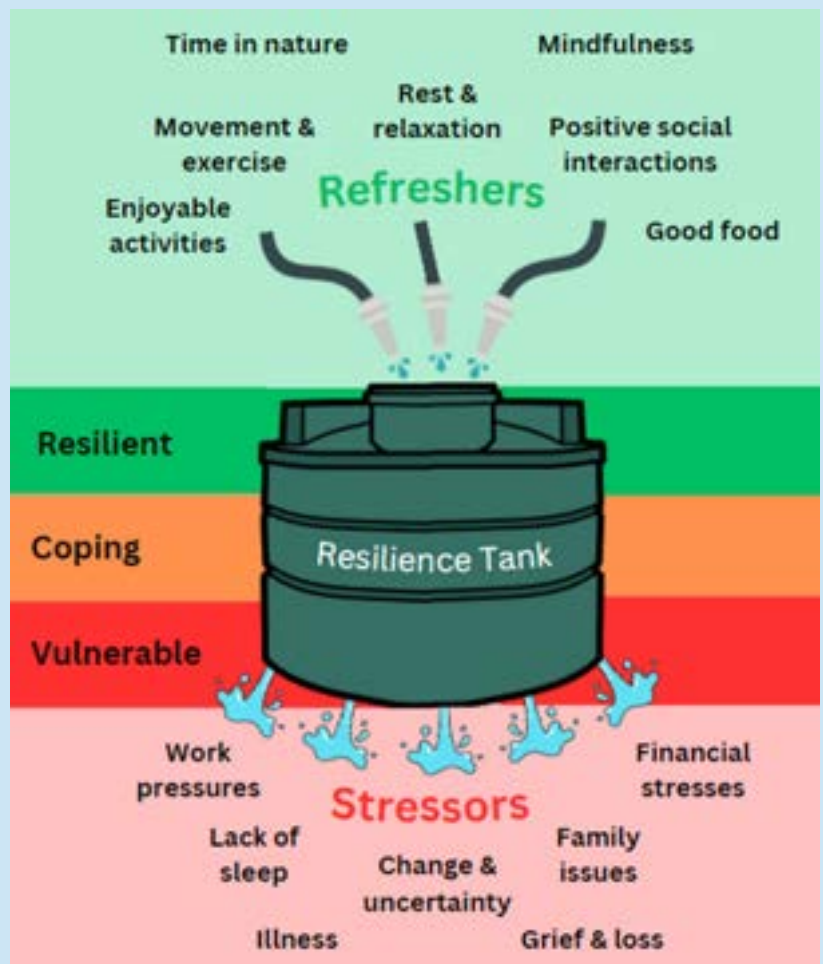


LEADERS NEED CARE TOO.....

In order to 'rise up' and face current and future challenges, individuals and businesses alike must have enough in the tank to go the distance. I often think of this as a 'resilience tank'. Each of us has things that give us energy, and others which drain it. When the tank is full, you're going to feel positive and energetic. Productivity is high, and your ability to deal with setbacks or recover quickly from an illness is good. However, consistently doing things which drain your energy, while also ignoring self-care and not intentionally including activities which build up your energy, means that your resilience tank will soon run dry. Hello burnout!

The last few years have been draining for all of us, with one stressor after another acting to drain the tank. Recent reports indicate high levels of burnout and a high percentage of workers looking to change jobs. A focus on workplace wellbeing is critical if you want to retain employees, and to ensure high engagement and productivity.

This will be an additional stressor for many business owners, managers, and team-leaders, who are already facing pressure from multiple directions. I encourage you to engage with external specialists to assist with this journey. And above all remember, you need to look after yourself first. A leader with a depleted tank, who is likely in a negative headspace and feeling overwhelmed or frustrated, can't help others.





Plastics New Zealand thanks and acknowledges our Corporate Supplier Sponsors. These companies are more than just sponsors. They have chosen to support New Zealand's innovative plastics industry and are partners in the industry's continued expansion and success on a global level.

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Redox NZ



NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

H.C. URLWIN AND H.L LEWIS *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 4th November 1964. J.B (Brian) Williamson, National President.

J.D.M. FOREMAN *

At the Bi-Annual meeting held at Wairakei on 5th May 1969. J.H (Harry) Hobin, National President.

R. FAULCONBRIDGE *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 10th November 1971. A.O (Hap) Hawkins, National President.

J.N. HOBIN *

At the Bi-Annual meeting held at Waitangi on the 1st May 1972. W.R (Wal) Raine, National President.

H.G. CALVERT *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on the 1st November 1972. W.R (Wal) Raine, National President.

J.J. QUINN

At the Bi-Annual meeting held in Wairakei on the 28th April 1975. B. (Barry) Blackshaw, National President.

W.R. RAINE (FPRI) *

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on the 1st November 1978. R.A (Rob) Poffley, National President.

M.S. CALVERT *

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 24th April 1989. R.I (Rob) Mouncey, National President.

J.W.F. FOREMAN

At the Annual meeting held in Rotorua on 28th April 1990. S.E (Steve) Wilson, National President.

A.O. HAWKINS *

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on 22nd April 1994. J. (John) Tucker, National President.

R.J. CAVE

At the Annual meeting held in Wellington on 22nd April 1994. J. (John) Tucker, National President.

SIR ROBERTSON STEWART *

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on 16th May 1996. C. (Cam) Moore, National President.

J.H. (HARRY) HOBIN

At the Annual meeting held in Auckland on 16th May 1996. C. (Cam) Moore, National President.

K.J. (JOHN) TUCKER

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 14th May 1998. L (Laurie) Cranfield, National President.

I.D. (IAN) RISTROM

At the Annual meeting held in Queenstown on 14th May 1998. L (Laurie) Cranfield, National President

C.J. (COLIN) MCGOWAN

At the Biennial Awards dinner held in Auckland on 11th October 2000. G. (Geoff) Bickerton National President.

C.C. (CAM) MOORE

At the formal dinner held at the 2001 Conference at the Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, on 17th May 2001. G. (Geoff) Bickerton National President.

J.F. (JOHN) RICHARDSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2001 Conference at the Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, on 17th May 2001. G. (Geoff) Bickerton National President.

M.E. (MORRIS) WATSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2002 conference at the Wairakei Resort, Taupo, on 23rd May 2002. G. (Geoff) Bickerton National President.



NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

W.F. (WARREN) WILSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2003 conference, Wellington on 8th May 2003. G. (Graeme) Allan National President.

G. (GEOFF) BICKERTON

At the formal dinner held at the 2004 conference, Queenstown on 8th May 2004. G.(Graeme) Allan National President

R. (ROGER) BOWLER

At the formal dinner held at the 2004 conference, Queenstown on 8th May 2004. G. Graeme) Allan National President

G. (GRAEME) ALLAN

At the formal dinner held at the 2005 conference, Rotorua on 21st May 2005. S. (Steve) Wilson National President

L. (LAURIE) CRANFIELD *

At the formal dinner held at the 2005 conference, Rotorua on 21st May 2005. S (Steve) Wilson National President

T. (TOM) THOMSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2006 conference, Queenstown on 13th May 2006. S (Steve) Wilson National President

S. (STEVE) WILSON

At the formal dinner held at the 2007 Conference, Nelson on 12th May 2007. D (David) Brittain National President

S. (STEVE) HABERSHON

At the formal dinner held at the 2008 conference, Paihia on 17th May 2008. D (David) Brittain National President

D. (DAVID) BRITTAIN

At the formal dinner held at the 2009 conference & Auckland Branch 50th Jubilee Dinner, Auckland on 19th June 2009. T (Terry) Mischefski National President

D. (DENNISE) CHAPMAN

At the formal dinner at the 2010 Conference, Christchurch on 17 June 2010. T. (Terry) Mischefski National President.

T. (TONY) MILLER

At the formal dinner at the 2010 Conference, Christchurch on 17 June 2010. T. (Terry) Mischefski National President

T. (TERRY) MISCHESKI

At the formal dinner at the 2011 Conference, Rotorua on 5th May 2011. R. (Ray) Pryor National President.

K. (KEN) SOWMAN

At the formal dinner at the 2012 Conference, Queenstown on 11th May 2012. R. (Ray) Pryor National President.

N. (NIGEL) DONNE

At the formal dinner at the 2013 Conference, Wellington on 9th May 2013. E. (Eddie) Devine (Jr) National President.

R. (RAY) PRYOR

At the formal dinner at the 2014 Conference, Queenstown on 9th May 2014. E. (Eddie) Devine (Jr) National President.

E. (EDDIE) DEVINE (JR)

At the formal dinner at the 2016 Conference, Wellington on 20th May 2016. N. (Nigel) Donne National President.

J. (JOHN) BENNETT

At the formal dinner at the 2019 Conference, Queenstown on 17th May 2019. M (Mark) Field National President.

M. (MARK) FIELD

At the formal dinner at the 2021 Conference, Wellington on 27th May 2021. M (Murray) Knight National President.

*Deceased Members



NATIONAL PAST PRESIDENTS

1944 Inaugural Meeting H C Urlwin

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1945 | H.L.Lewis | Plastics Moulders (NZ) | 1976 | L.M.Belz | Plastic Products |
| 1946 | H.G.Calvert | Modern Plastics (NZ) | 1977 | R.A.Poffley | Clearlite Plastics (NZ) |
| 1947-48 | Unknown (minutes missing) | | 1978 | M.S.Calvert | Calvert Plastics |
| 1949 | J.K.Scobie | NEECO (until 30/9/49) | 1979-80 | J.D.Mason | Winstone Plastics |
| 1949 | F.G.Davidson | Universal Mfg Corp HC Urlwin | 1981 | I.D.Ristrom | Mainguard Packaging |
| 1950 | J.D.Foreman | Plastic Products | 1982 | J.C.Gibb | Trigon Industries |
| 1951 | E.J.Mandel | General Plastics NZ | 1983 | J.C.Lindsay | Consolodated Plastic Industries |
| 1952-53 | R.Faulconbridge | Falcon Plastics | 1984-85 | G.W.Rothwell | WR Grace (NZ) |
| 1954-55 | T.E.Bower | ACI Plastic | 1986 | V.A.Hartvelt | Donaghys Industries |
| 1956 | C.E.Dowling | ICI NZ | 1986-87 | C.J.McGowan | Nylex NZ |
| 1957 | K.Fletcher | ACI Plastic | 1987-88 | R.I.Mouncey | Printpac Flexible Packaging |
| 1958 | J.N.Hobin | Clearlite Plastics (NZ) | 1989-90 | S.E.Wilson | Reese Plastics |
| 1959 | J.Quinn | General Plastics NZ | 1990-92 | J.Richardson | The Marley Co NZ |
| 1960 | J.D.Foreman | Plastic Products | 1993-94 | J.Tucker | CHH Plastic Products |
| 1961 | P.E.Hall | Kar Kraft Accessories | 1995-96 | C.Moore | Chequer Packaging |
| 1962 | A.G.Northover | Modern Plastics (NZ) | 1997-98 | L.Cranfield | Hunt Agencies |
| 1963 | J.B.Williamson | ACI Plastic | 1999-2000 | T.Thomson | Elastomer Products |
| 1964 | M.D.Cox | ICI NZ | 2001-02 | G.Bickerton | Marley New Zealand |
| 1965 | J.D.Bull | Associated British Cables | 2003-04 | G.Allan | Iplex Pipelines |
| 1966 | H.T.Nolan | Consolidated Plastic Industries | 2005-06 | S.E.Wilson | Talbot Plastics |
| 1967 | D.D.Reese | Reese Brothers Plastics | 2007-08 | D.Brittain | CAPAC International |
| 1968 | H.Hobin | Clearlite Plastics (NZ) | 2009-10 | T.Mischefski | Expol |
| 1969 | T.J.Short | Plastic Products | 2011-12 | R.Pryor | Millennium Plastics |
| 1970 | A.O.Hawkins | Mainguard Packaging | 2013-14 | E.Devine (Jr) | Simaplas |
| 1971 | W.R.Raine | Collin & Co | 2015-16 | N.Donne | PD Associations |
| 1972 | B.C.Wallace | AHI Plastic Extrusion | 2017-20 | M.Field | Elastomer Products |
| 1973-74 | B.Blackshaw | Optoplast | 2021-22 | M.Knight | Polymers International |
| 1975 | F.A.Farrow | Nylex Products NZ | | | |



ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

PLASTICS NZ TEAM

Rachel Barker CEO

Katy Constance Circular Economy Manager

Kelly Buchanan-Johns Membership Services Manager (Part time)

Judy Lambert Accounts Administrator (Part time)

Simon Wilkinson Environmental Projects Manager (Part time)

Bruce Dunlop Trade Consultant (Part time)

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PLASTICS NZ

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