



AIP MEMBERS PACK 16,705 KGS OF FOOD ORDERS AT FOODBANK

s a part of the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) commitment to Foodbank and fighting food waste, a team of Members once again headed down to the Foodbank facilities at Yarraville to help pick and pack on-line orders and mixed grocery boxes.

Not only did the efforts support Foodbank Victoria, the team supported over 23 charities across the state by packing their food orders. Together they packed 16,705.83 kilograms of food orders, equivalent to approximately 30,100 meals for our community. 30,100 meals is the equivalent of feeding a family of 4, 3 meals a day for 2,508 days or 6.87 years.

Among the 23 charity organisations the AIP packed for are:

- Salvation Army
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
- Uniting Care
- Hope City Mission

The AIP is looking forward to running the same program again in 2020 and also introducing a NSW version; in addition to the successful Queensland hamper packaging program that runs every Xmas.



NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE AIP LINKED IN Linked in **GROUP TODAY** The AIP would like to welcome the following new Members. NAME STATE GRADE **AIP NOW ON TWITTER** FOLLOW US ON Wilsen Kannan O'Seas Associate John Whitfield VIC Member EW **AIP@AIPACKAGING** Anne Pham VIC Associate

AIP: PEAK PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR PACKAGING EDUCATION & TRAINING IN AUSTRALASIA



At our annual LIVE breakfast forum some of Australia's top presenters will bravely journey beyond the buzzwords to reveal several emerging opportunities that enable brands to more deeply connect with their tribe in both the digital and real world realms.

Speakers and panellists will include market research experts and executives from Australian food and beverage companies.

The event is developed in partnership with our sister media brand, PKN Packaging News.

WHO WILL BE ATTENDING?

- Brand & Product Managers
- Marketing Managers
- Food Technologists
- Packaging Technologists
- Brand & Packaging Designers
- Packaging Suppliers
- Food Manufacturing Suppliers





ASK THE AIP ABOUT

DISCOUNTED RATES

LEADERS OF THE PACK FOR INSULATED PACKAGING ODEGRADABLE SUSTAINABLE RECYCLABLE COMPOSTABLE ECO-FRIENDLY WWW.WOOLCOOL.COM.AU





VIC

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY EVENTS ACROSS AUSTRALASIA

UNDERSTANDING THE 2025 NATIONAL PACKAGING TARGETS AND THE MOVE TO SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING: THE IMPACT ON THE WASTE & CLEANING INDUSTRIES **AIP TECHNICAL SEMINAR**

WHEN: 23 October

WHAT: The Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) is running a session on the 23rd of October that will help you to 'Understand the 2025 National Packaging Targets and the move to Sustainable Packaging: The impact on the waste & cleaning industries.' This session will be designed as an interactive panel discussion so that you can understand the challenges and changes faced across the entire Supply Chain. This event will be run alongside of ISSA Cleaning & Hygiene Expo and Waste Expo Australia and all of industry is invited to attend. Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, VIC



WHERE:

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



Barry Cosier Sustainability Director Australian Food and **Grocery Council**



Kurt Palmer Director Australian Industrial Ecology Network (AIEN)



Keith Chessell FAIP Board Member (on behalf of the AIP) Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO)



Michael Vandertop Managing Director Rhima Australia



Simon van Leuven AAIP Managing Director Vanden Recycling

Showcasing brands with progressive packaging solutions from Zipform Packaging







ZID





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WHAT: Are you planning to visit K2019: the World's No.1 Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber in

No.1 Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber in October?

From 16 to 23 October 2019 over 232,000 visitors from 160 countries will be heading to Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre to see over 3,000 exhibitors from 60 nations at K2019. Global megatrends are calling for new creativity triggers from industry to shape the paradigm shift for our planet with sustainable solutions. The exhibitors at K2019 will be presenting their answers to these challenges. Be part of the most important business platform for the global plastics and rubber industry.

WHERE: Dusseldorf, Germany

THE USE OF LIFECYCLE ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING DESIGN TRAINING COURSE

WHEN: 29 October WHAT: The Use of

The Use of Lifecycle Assessment Tools for Sustainable Packaging Design training course is aimed at providing an introduction and learning framework for packaging industry professionals to apply lifecycle thinking to their working contexts. This includes an understanding of the reasons why lifecycle thinking is critical, as well as how the method may be used for packaging design projects they manage.

WHERE:

Sydney, NSW

Dr Simon Lockrey

PRESENTER:



Coordinator - Design Action Program + ID Engineering Courses Senior Lecturer/ Research Fellow - School of Design School of Design College of Design and

School of Design, College of Design and Social Context

RMIT University, Australia



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POPULAR TOOLS TO HELP YOU MEET THE 2025 NATIONAL PACKAGING TARGETS: WA **PREP & ARL TRAINING COURSE HEADS TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA** + CLEANAWAY MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY VISIT PLEASE PASS ON TO WA STAFF AND COLLEAGUES WHEN: 29 October WHAT: Is your business doing enough to ensure that 100% of your packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025? Have you audited your current packaging for recyclability? Have you started using the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal (PREP) during your design process? Are you looking for a way to validate your on-pack recyclability labelling? If a consumer picked up your product, would they easily understand which bin to put it in? Are you shifting your packaging design to incorporate the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL)? If you answered no to any of these questions, then this training course is for you. Attendees will start this training course by visiting the Cleanaway Recovery Recycling Facility to obtain a realistic view of the current recycling capabilities. Participants will have the opportunity to see the post sort room, Glass processing, the Optical sorter, Magnet, the Eddy Current and camera views of the tipping area, excavator, metering bins, infeed belts, pre-sort area and the screens. WHERE: Cleanaway PROUD PARTNERS OF THE AIP 62 Hyne Road South Guildford 6055, Western Australia **PRESENTER:** Ralph Moyle FAIP, CPP **Education Coordinator CLEANA**W Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP)







WA

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY EVENTS ACROSS AUSTRALASIA

WA FOOD & BEVERAGE PACKAGING FORUM



Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WHEN: 30 October

WHAT: Presented by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in partnership with the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) and the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST), this forum will bring you up to speed with the latest in packaging design to impact sustainability, food safety and shelf life extension.

The Forum will include an expo showcasing local packaging suppliers and an opportunity to bring your own packaging and book a brief 1:1 consultation session with packaging expert. Consultation places are limited and bookings are essential. Please email foodindustryinnovation@dpird.wa.gov.au to register your interest. Allocations will be made on a first come first serve basis.

Secure your place and attend presentations on:

- Global Packaging Trends

- Packaging Design & Consumer Insights

- Sustainable Packaging, E.g. Food waste and packaging design criteria to save food; Plastic, glass and metal packaging and their impact on the environment; Understanding the full life cycle of packaging: Non-renewable resources, plant-based bioplastics, compostable and recycled alternatives; Reusable packaging and related food safety; Sustainable packaging design; Recycling in Western Australia.

- Food Safety & Shelf Life Extension, E.g. Food safety; Shelf life and design elements; Current technologies for shelf life extension; Selecting the right label to suit the package.

WHERE: The Hall, The Camfield Roger MacKay Dr Burswood WA 6000

SPEAKER: Ralph Moyle, Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP)



Ralph Moyle FAIP, CPP, is an experienced food-packaging consultant with 40 years in the food processing industry and 20 years' focused on packaging.

Ralph's packaging knowledge has resulted in successful contemporary designs and material selections, improved shelf life, lower material costs, shorter supply chains and environmentally-friendly selections that have provided greater economic value. Ralph is a past National President of the AIP, a Certified Packaging Professional.





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Recycling Expo

AUSTRALASIAN WASTE & RECYCLING EXPO (AWRE) COME AND VISIT THE AIP ON STAND F40 Waste &

WHEN: 30 to 31 October

WHAT: Australians are looking towards the waste and recycling industry to drive positive change. As the premier business event for the waste, recycling and resource recovery sector, the Australasian Waste & Recycling Expo (AWRE) is where the best come together to join forces for a world of solutions towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.

The AWRE is a two-day live experience promoting ideas and opportunities for Australia's waste and recycling community and offers new connections, solutions and strategies to build a more stable, sustainable and profitable economy. Year on year, AWRE has proven to be a standout success for exhibitors providing waste collection, processing or recycling services to the commercial, industrial or municipal sectors.

WHERE: ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW

AIP TO HOST PACKAGING SESSION ON THE NEW AWRE FOOD WASTE STAGE

WHEN: 30 October

WHAT: Food Waste Stage, Australian Waste Recycling Expo (AWRE)

A new addition to AWRE 2019, the Food Waste Stage will facilitate discussion and a focus on the national issue that is food waste. From sustainable package solutions, updates on the national food waste strategy to presentations from true food waste warriors – AWRE 2019 will be shining the spotlight on food waste to drive conversation on food sustainability.

The role of packaging in minimising food waste

Whilst the primary functions of packaging are to contain and protect the content, as well as providing information about the product, the role of packaging in reducing food waste needs to be better understood by food producers, manufacturers, brand owners, retailers and consumers. The connection between packaging design and food waste needs to be discussed more openly in the industry. From field to fork there are several possibilities for food loss and waste to occur. It has been approximated that up to 30% of the edible food produced, does not reach the fork. Packaging's role in reducing food waste is the next big challenge for Packaging Technologists, Designers and Engineers. This session, hosted by the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP), will have speakers from FIAL, the Fight Food Waste CRC, AIP and Sealed Air and will discuss in an interactive session Food Waste in Australia, the National Food Waste Strategy, the Fight Food Waste CRC, the Save Food Packaging criteria and guidelines and showcase best practice save food packaging design.

WHERE: ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW

SPEAKERS:



Sam Oakden Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL)



Alan Adams MAIP Sealed Air



Nerida Kelton MAIP Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP)



Mark Barthel Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre

Limited seats are available on the day, arrive early to ensure you don't miss out!

NSW





MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND ANY EVENTS ACROSS AUSTRALASIA

AIP/AIFST XMAS PARTY

NSW

WHEN:	21 November
WHAT:	AIP NSW members and guests are invite to
	attend a joint Christmas Party and Trivia
	Night with AIFST. This event offers the
	opportunity to connect with colleagues
	and friends from across the industry in
	a social environment. AIP Members will
	receive a discount to attend.
WHERE:	Epping Hotel
	58 Beecroft Road
WHERE:	opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends from across the industry in a social environment. AIP Members will receive a discount to attend. Epping Hotel

AIP/AIFST XMAS PARTY VIC WHEN: 28 November AIP VIC members are invited to attend a joint WHAT: Christmas Party and networking event with AIFST. Celebrate the end of another busy and successful year for both association's and take the opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends from across the wider industry. AIP Members will receive a discount to attend. WHERE: Elgin Inn Hotel 75 Burwood Rd Hawthorn VIC 3122

2019 CHRISTMAS PARTY & FOODBANK HAMPER PACKING DAY

QLD

WHEN: 6 December

WHAT: The AIP have spent their Christmas Party every year for the last eight years with a twist; the Members pack Foodbank hampers for people who need some assistance from their community at Christmas time. In 2019 we aim to pack 1500 hampers for Foodbank to provide to those in need during the holiday season. The hampers will be made up of 1000 family hampers, 300 ladies packs and 100 back to school packs. Families are invited and under 18's are free. Eagle Farm Race Track WHERE:

230 Lancaster Road Ascot 4007

Epping NSW 2121

Almost 50%^{*} of consumers struggle with packaging everyday.



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PACKAGING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

THE ROLE

Simplot now have a fantastic opportunity for a Packaging Development Manager to join our dynamic and growing business. Reporting to the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth, you will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of the Simplot Packaging Development strategy while maintaining a focus on holistic sustainability.

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

- · Designing and implementing the Simplot Packaging Development Strategy
- Driving the sustainable packaging agenda for Simplot Australia
- Exploring trends and insights as well as future emerging / promising growth options in packaging and printing to meet consumer & customer needs.
- Taking a balanced risk approach to develop compliance and regulatory requirements for Packaging Development to support innovation, including sustainability claims legislation.
- Promoting, informing and engaging the broader community in areas related to packaging development.
- As part of the Innovation & Growth Leadership team, you will lead the function in developing and role modelling the I&G strategy, driving the overall capability of the function.
- With four direct reports, you will Lead a high-performing team focused on supporting a culture of innovation and growth.

WHAT WILL YOU BRING?

To be successful in the I&G Division Leadership Team, you must have a growth mindset, have the ability to challenge conventional thinking and influence broadly across the business. With previous FMCG Managerial experience, you are a proven leader and hold deep knowledge and experience within Packaging Development. You will be a strategic thinker and have a savvy approach to executing strategic plans and influencing key decisions dedicated to your divisional channels. Working within a fast-paced environment, you are able to prioritise effectively across multiple projects and be agile to move with adjusting targets. To be successful in this role, you must be able to work well within a team environment and build strong working relationships both within the company and more broadly, to build credibility and trust. Tertiary qualifications in relevant fields will be viewed favourably.

ABOUT US

Simplot Australia is trusted as one of the leading providers of quality, sustainable food for the ever-changing needs of consumers and customers in Australia and New Zealand and chosen Asia Pacific growth markets. Simplot is family owned by the JR. Simplot Company and has grown to become a multinational agriculture and food business with annual sales of more than \$US6 billion.

Our purpose is to "contribute to feeding our world", by "bringing earth's resources to life" and we pride ourselves on our Passion for People, our Spirit of Innovation and our Respect for Resources. We have built long term partnerships with Australian farmers and our unique and diverse product portfolio includes vegetable, meals and seafood manufacturing operations that supply chilled, frozen and shelf stable products to Australia's major supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, quick service restaurant customers. Our portfolio includes some of Australia's most trusted and well-known brands including Birds Eye, Edgell, Leggos, John West, Chiko, I&J, Chicken Tonight, Five Brothers and Five Tastes.

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PLEASE APPLY TODAY



CAN YOU HELP THE AIP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



s you may be aware the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) have spent their Christmas Party every year for the last eight years with a twist. The Members pack Foodbank hampers for people who need some assistance from their community at Christmas time.

In 2018 over 200 people packed 1400 hampers for Foodbank to provide to those in need during the holiday season. The hampers included 1000 family hampers and 300 ladies packs. The total valuing over \$120,000 worth of items that were either donated, or the funds raised for, by the Association and the wider industry. Over the last eight years, the team has packed 8000 hampers to the value of close to \$900,000 for people in need and they look forward to packing even more hampers in 2019.

All of industry is invited to donate items to the hampers, funds or attend and also participate on Friday the 6th of December at Eagle Farm Racetrack.

With this, it is that time of year again where the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP) are starting to develop the plans for the items that will be in the family hamper and the women's hampers for our annual Foodbank Hamper program. This year we have plans to also add a children's back-to-school hamper which will include stationary items.

SO HOW CAN YOUR BUSINESS HELP US?

Your company can decide whether they would like to donate items to one, or both of the hampers with the quantities being 1000x for the Family Hamper and 300x for the Ladies Hamper packs. Any product donations - even if less than these quantities mentioned - are greatly appreciated as we use financial donations to help make up the difference.

OR

You could encourage your staff and colleagues to help you collect one of the nominated items on our wish list during the next 5 months, purchase the items, or donate funds towards the items. As above any product donations - even if less than these quantities mentioned - are greatly appreciated by your staff.

OR

Donate some of your items so that we can make up a raffle prize to raise funds on the hamper packing day.

OR

You can simply provide volunteers on the actual packing day. We also have the ability to accept the physical goods from now as we have a warehouse in Queensland that kindly provides us with space for our hamper items. We do hope that you join us in 2019 for this wonderful program and to help us meet the \$1 million mark in donations.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further please email info@aipack.com.au



CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR WISH LIST



MASTER OF FOOD & PACKAGING INNOVATION 2020 INTAKE NOW OPEN



he AIP are pleased to advise that the Semester 1 intake is now open for 2020 Master of Food & Packaging Innovation with applications closing 30 November 2019.

The Master of Food and Packaging Innovation is an inter-disciplinary degree that explores food processing, entrepreneurship and innovation in product and packaging design at an advanced level. The Master course is a joint initiative between the University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP).

- Enhance your business acumen and creativity to lead the way in food design.
- Learn the food science fundamentals of food processing, safety and quality.
- Analyse innovative food product and packaging design, from concept to delivery.
- Gain complementary business skills in project management, creative and critical thinking, value

creation, entrepreneurship and leadership.

- Investigate key industry research topics and their practical application in commercial settings.
- Undertake an industry internship with a leading food manufacture.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

You will learn the skills necessary to develop valuable and innovative food products that address key issues such as transportability, durability, tamper proofing and perishability issues, as well as key environmental, economic, social and ethical factors.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A comprehensive understanding of inter-disciplinary food processing, product, innovation, entrepreneurship and packaging at an advanced level.
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills necessary to play a key role within food companies and associated organisations.
- Advanced knowledge and skills in the interdisciplinary field of food, food packaging and design innovation.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of environment, economic, social and ethical factors related to food production and packaging in Australia and globally.
- Enhance theoretical and critical thinking skills to analyse and problem solve complex issues relating to food production and packaging.

DEGREE STRUCTURE

The Master of Food and Packaging Innovation is flexibly delivered via a combination of evening and intensive block-release classes as well as traditional semester based subjects.

Classes are taught across the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, the Faculty of Business and Economics, the Melbourne School of Engineering, and the Melbourne Graduate School of Science as well as guest lectures by industry experts provide by the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP).

To find out more about enrolments email info@aipack.com.au



AIP OUT & ABOUT

AIP MEETS JAPAN PACKAGING INSTITUTE





IP Fellow Alistair Sayers who moved to Japan earlier this year to become the General Manager - Global Packaging Support, Suntory Monozukuri, recently visited our sister-association Japan Packaging Institute (JPI) in Tokyo. Alistair had the opportunity to meet with Mr Shigeo Koshino, General Managing Director and Hiroko Akieda and learn about the Japanese packaging industry and discuss current challenges and trends within the global industry. The Japan Packaging Institute (JPI) are the owners of TokyoPack and are also a Member of the World Packaging Organisation (WPO).



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AIP OUT & ABOUT AIP POPULAR TRAINING COURSE RE-RUN IN TWO STATES



or the second time in the last three months the popular training course 'Tools to meet the 2025 National Packaging Targets: ARL & PREP' headed back to both Victoria and New South Wales with 60 people in attendance from a broad range of companies across the packaging industry. Companies included Reece Group, Perfection Packaging, Abbe Corrugated, Carman's, Result Packaging Group, OF Packaging, MiniJumbuk, Roma Food Products, Bulla Dairy Foods, Patties Foods, Piber Plastics, Impak Films, Fonterra Australia, Woolworths, SPC, Mars Wrigley, RB, WD40, Linen House, Jet Technologies, Unilever, Goodman Fielder, Signet, Aldi and more.

This training course helps attendees to better understand what tools are available, how to use them, why they are needed and how they link to the 2025 National Packaging Targets. Attendees learn about the APCO Recycling Label Program and consumer recycling behaviours and had the opportunity to deep-dive in to the purpose of PREP, gain an understanding of the governance and data collection process behind PREP, review samples and material templates and work through sample assessment templates. Attendees also undertook a hands-on interactive session using PREP to complete an evaluation, review a report and understand the reasons behind the assessment. **Should you wish to attend this course in 2020 please email info@aipack.com.au to be added to the waiting list.**



AIP WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



The AIP would like to welcome our latest Member Wilsen Kannan AAIP, Packaging Engineer SEA, Vinda Group, SEA



Wilsen Kannan AAIP Packaging Engineer SEA Vinda Group SEA Malaysia

Q1: Why did you join the AIP?

The reason I joined the AIP is mainly because of my interest in innovation, design and technology that involves the Consumer Product Goods industry. The AIP is a recognised professional body that is well-known for its involvement in the Packaging Industry globally. I was recommended to join the AIP by an ex-colleague as the Institute provides you with the necessary skills and education in order for you to take your packaging knowledge through to the next level through its courses and exposure. I believe those who are a part of the AIP are able to gain experience working in different countries within Australasia. I also wish to gain experience, as well as understanding about how different packaging mechanisms work in different countries. I believe that through the AIP, I will be able to attain necessary requirements to complete both the CPIT examination, as well as attaining the full Certified Packaging Professional (CPP) titles in future.

Q2: How long have you been in the industry and what are your areas of expertise?

I have been working in the Packaging Industry for about 3 years and to be honest, it is really a challenging and innovative industry. The industry is changing so quickly that packaging demand and product demand is at the same level. Working in a Packaging development role has taught me how the consumer behaves when they are in the shopping aisle. From how a decision is made to purchase a product just based on packaging design captures my interest on how the whole Packaging industry functions. My area of expertise is developing and performing tests on plastic based packaging, as well as paper packaging, for the personal care and hygiene industry.

Q3: What is your current role and what are your responsibilities?

My current role is as a Packaging Engineer for SEA region supporting not only local markets, but countries around the South East Asia Region, as well certain Latin America Region. My current responsibilities focus on packaging development activities which involves driving down material usage as well as assisting on new packaging development activities related to machinery upgrade; not forgetting the ever-important reducing plastic packaging waste by using less plastic in our packaging of new products.



ANY TIME, ANY DEVICE

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AESON MATERIAL WELCOMED AS LATEST AIP PARTNER

AESON MATERIAL

he AIP would like to welcome our latest Corporate Partner Aeson Material. Aeson Materials was established in Australia in 2019 to sell and distribute environmentally friendly packaging products. They sell products produced by Shanlian, third party manufacturers who use Shanlian granulated product and other environmentally friendly packaging products.

Aeson Material sells and distributes Shanlian's granulated products, Shanlian's corrugated board, corrugated boxes and tapes, Mould injected products for the food services industry: plates, cutlery, straws, cups, containers, trays, coffee cups, lids etc, Films and Labels.

Shanlian produces a granulated product, MU, that can be extruded or injection moulded into products that are currently produced with plastic materials. The granulated product, MU, is produced from 65% calcium carbonate (clay), 30% polypropylene, 5% additives, maintains the performance of a traditional polypropylene product, water resistant, chemical attachment resistant and rub resistant. The granulated products provides the following benefits: Excellent printability, Excellent opacity, Melting Point 210 230 C, Good glueability. Food Safety Benefits include: MU products are approved for direct food contact and meets FDA food safety standard FDA 21 CFR177.1520, have passed heavy metal and BPA migration testing and EU 10/2011 Annex III and IV.

Shanlian doesn't use water in the manufacturing process and MU products will biodegrade in landfill in two years (Currently being tested at a US laboratory). MU products will photodegrade in direct sunlight in two years, and can be recycled back into their operation.

Aeson Background

Aeson Material are a sister company of Shanlian New Materials which was formed in 2008. Shanlian New Materials was initially established as an R&D company to develop a biodegradable material that could replace plastic using Calcium Carbonate (CaCo 3). In 2014, Shanlian New Materials commenced manufacturing granulated bio degradable material in Zhejiang, China and in 2019, started up a larger scale manufacturing operation with downstream converting at its new facility on a 7 hectare site. They also produce Tapes, Corrugated Board, Film and Labels from its biodegradable material.

For more information on how Aeson Material can help you please contact William Weng Wu AAIP, General Manager, PH: 03 9545 5993 or william@aesonmaterial.com.au



DOES PLASTIC GET A BAD RAP?





irector of sustainability is an unusual title, one that is not common within a multi-national company. But not only is that Alan Adams' role for plastic packaging specialist Sealed Air, he is also part of the leadership group for the company's APAC region.

At a recent conference at FoodTech Queensland, the education director of the Australian Institute of Packaging (AIP), Pierre Pienaar, made the point that, "plastics are not going anywhere'. And he is right. The thin, mainly oilbased product has a multitude of uses in many industries including food.

"Plastic is, and will remain, in my view, really important within the industry," said Adams. "In fact, it is probably more important than ever when it comes to reducing food waste, and enabling our lifestyle. What we have to do though, is drive it to a circular economy so we can utilise those resources."

With China and other Southeast Asian countries declining to take Australia's recyclables, sustainability is more important than ever. However, it is something that Sealed Air saw coming over six years ago. The then recently appointed (but now retired) CEO of Sealed Air, Jerome Peribere, knew sustainability was going to be an issue, and one that needed addressing sooner rather than later.

"Jerome came out with this idea that we should think about ourselves as a sustainability company," said Adams. "That was controversial and confronting when you think we are predominantly a plastics manufacturer, so it didn't necessarily resonate with the average person back then.

"However, his reasoning was sound because if you look holistically at our impact on the world, we have a positive impact on the environment. If you think what Jerome was thinking back then, it led to us redefining our vision and mission. Our vision became to create a better way of life and today this continues with our CEO Ted Doheny and our purpose statement that, 'We are in business to solve critical packaging challenges and leave our world better than we found it'. And it is through enabling efficient supply chains for food and goods without damage, that we remove a lot of the wastage that can be created in many industries including food."

These company ideas backed up the sustainability minded Adams' thoughts on what the future would hold. Adams was already a member of the Bioplastics Association for Australasia and served as president for four years. The association introduced standards for compostable and home compostable packaging for Australia during that time. Adams not only talks the talk, he walks the walk.

"I have a personal zero food waste policy at home," he said. "It makes for some interesting food, and it has gotten easier to make it zero since I started composting. But we had herb salads from time to time, and it's questionable how nice they are. Plus we grow a lot more food of our own now."

Adams believes that there is a disconnect between people's perceptions of plastic and how it can also be a sustainable product. But that is because there are a couple of issues that need addressing. The main one being that the Australian recycling industry is still immature.

"The problem is we don't have great infrastructure and sustainable recycling industry developed yet," he said. "If you talk about what plastics are recovered and recycled in Australia – and turned into something useful, and not landfilled or shipped overseas – you are talking about 4.6 per cent of rigids and 1.2 per cent of flexibles. It is tiny."

How can such a perception of plastics be changed? Adams believes it will take a change in mind-set. Too often, there is a myopic view, which is not telling the real story.

"Any supply chain, or any product has three big buckets," he said. "First is inbound resources. What are the products made from? How are they made? How efficient is that? Then you have operational efficiency. Does it do the job? How well does it do the job? Does it deliver performance? Then you have end of life. What happens to it after it has been used? Equating sustainability just to the end of life is really missing most of the picture."

This is why he thinks Australia needs a mature recycling/ circular system in place. What has also changed is how much people now rely on plastics in everyday life, especially when it comes to the food industry. Adams grew up on a farm in the middle of the North Island of New Zealand.

The lie of the land was a lot different back when it came to food waste. He remembers having a shepherd's pie on most Monday nights because it was a left-over from the Sunday roast from the day before. People rarely eat like that these days, he said. It's all about lifestyle, too.

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DOES PLASTIC GET A BAD RAP?

"We had very low food waste back then," he said. "Can we wind back the clock 30 or 40 years ago and live that way? No we can't. People will not stand for it. We want to have the eating experience we want but also be able to recover those resources at end of life. Otherwise, you are asking us to unwind the lifestyle we really want, and that generally ends with quite a big consumer backlash."

How does a company like Sealed Air develop sustainability around a product that is continually under the microscope? For a start, it develops packaging solutions that can help products last longer on the shelf, such as its Cryovac brand food packaging range. If product can last longer on the shelf, then there is less chance of it being thrown out before it is eaten.

Adams also realises that the way people consume food is changing.

"We have to be creative in our solutions and the recovery of the materials we generate – and plastics is a big part of it - to enable us to efficiently have the food where we want it, when we want it and the size and quantity we want," he said.

But do people want to eat food that is staying on the shelf longer. Hasn't the public been told again and again, that fresh is best? Sure, said Adams, but not all foods. Back in the day, a butcher would cut the customer a piece of meat, wrap it in paper and it would be taken home to be eaten. However, new packaging technologies not only mean the aforementioned longer shelf life, but it can "fool" the meat into thinking it is still relatively fresh.

"The meat is dead when you have carved it and served it up and exposed it to the atmosphere," said Adams. "It was as good as it was going to get at that moment. From then on, it is going to degrade.

If, however, you vacuum pack it, the meat still thinks it is the bigger part of the piece of meat it used to be. Because oxygen is not getting to it, atmosphere is not getting to it so, it continues to age and continues enzymatic action.

"There are case studies that will show you that the eating experience of vacuum-packaged meat with a longer shelf life is better than MAP packaged meat. Certain cheeses like to be aged, too. In the past it has been wax coatings and wax papers and things that helped keep longer shelf life.

So there are efficiencies in a lot of this as well as potentially eating experiences. It isn't like that with all foods. I'm not sure vacuum-packing apples will make for a good experience a few weeks down the track."

Adams knows that there is a long way to go, especially in the recycling stakes. Even though there are challenges, he knows Sealed Air is on the right track when it comes to sustainability - it is what drives him every day. "I think what is really important is that Sealed Air clearly understands – and many people don't see this – that sustainability is everything.

It's an umbrella over everything we do," he said. "If you look at our core values and drivers – which are about food safety and shelf-life along with operational efficiency, package optimisation and brand experience – all of those things are sustainability endeavours in their own right. But I am very aligned with it, which means I love my job and I'm very happy working towards those goals."

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