



PACKED.

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Australasian Packaging Industry Monthly Newsletter



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2026 AUSTRALASIAN PACKAGING INNOVATION & DESIGN (PIDA) AWARDS

24



Tuesday 28 July 2026
Crown Aviary, Crown Complex
Melbourne Victoria, Australia
Alongside FoodPro

Gala Dinner

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PIABC APPROVED TRAINING ACADEMY



Dear AIP Members,

I thought it timely to make this communication as we already closing in on the end of the 1st quarter of 2026.

The packaging reform discussions of 2024 are being restarted with more work likely to get underway by the Design Standards Working Group (DSWG), under the auspices of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The AIP had representatives that contributed to the initial work of the DSWG, resulting in the publication of the draft Design for Kerbside Recyclability Grading Framework, which went out to industry consultation in mid 2025.

With a regulatory framework for Extended Producer Responsibility being discussed, now more than ever is it important that the Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP) takes an even larger leading regional role in providing the much-needed technical training and education for packaging professionals that are operating in an ever increasingly challenging environment.

Upon reflection recently, the AIP realised that the qualified technical packaging experts within the AIP Education Team, bring hundreds & hundreds of years of combined technical and practical experience and knowledge to all of the AIP training programs. They also have knowledge across all industries, categories and substrates; truly offering a unique benefit of receiving your training and education via the AIP.

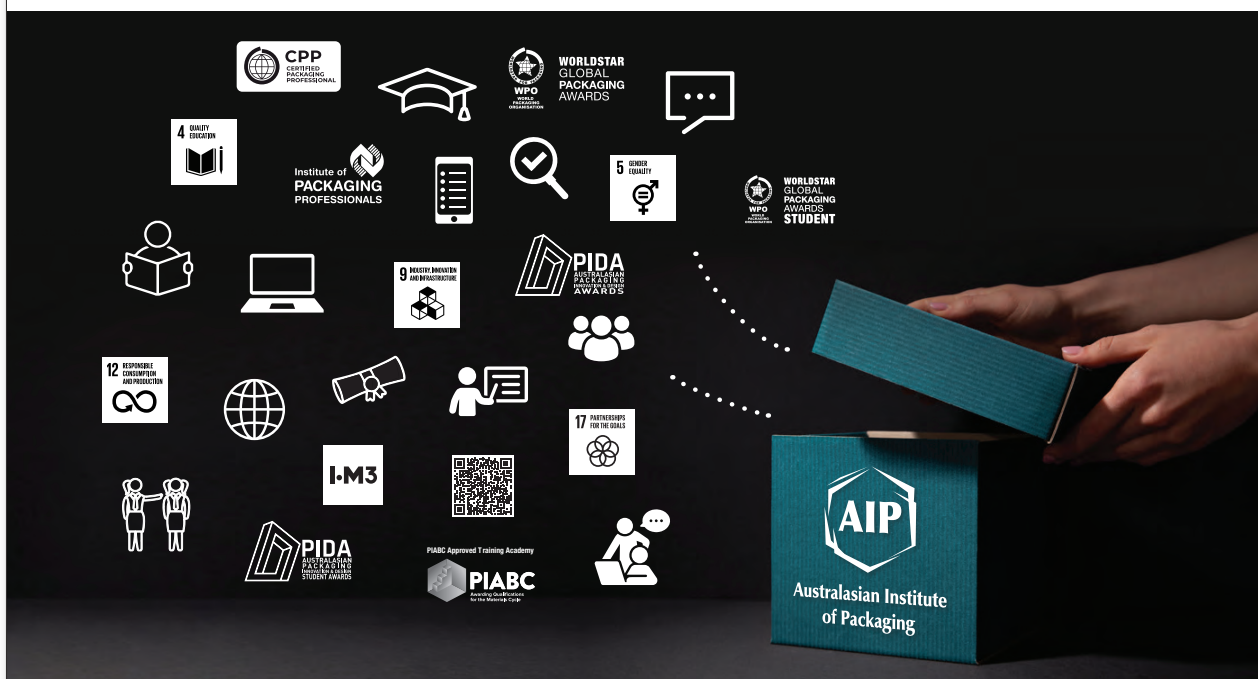
I am also very pleased to share with you all that over the last year, the AIP executive team and board have been actively working on a strategic framework that encapsulates who we really are at our core and what makes us unique, and how we can continue to deliver the high quality education and training packages to individuals and organisations across Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia, that the AIP, as a non-profit educational institute have been offering for over 63 years.

AIP STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 to 2030



Australasian
Institute
of Packaging



Who is the AIP?



Australasian
Institute
of Packaging



To be the pinnacle organisation in Australasia to create generations of packaging professionals through education, training and recognition.

VISION



To elevate packaging professionals in Australasia through accessible education, connection opportunities and industry recognition, leading to career enhancement.

MISSION



To educate, train and recognise packaging professionals across all industries.

PURPOSE



A future where the AIP is recognised as the leading source for education, training and career enrichment for all packaging professionals in Australasia.

AMBITION

The first step in our development of the strategic framework was to define what the AIP are really all about and to set out, our Vision, Mission, Purpose and Ambition.

Yes, the AIP Executive Team and Board are ambitious, but that has served us well during the recent growth and expansion across the Australasian region where we continue to grow our sphere of influence, coupled with our continued global engagement through the Save Food Initiative, our relationship with the Asian Packaging Federation, the World Packaging Organisation and UNIDO.

The AIP have also proudly strengthened the Australasian Packaging Innovation & Design (PIDA) awards, our entries into the WorldStar Awards and the WorldStar student awards. In the 2026 round Australia received 11 WorldStar Awards and in the student program we received 2x Gold and 2x Bronze to take out second in the world for the trophy tally. Expansion also means bringing New Zealand students into the 2027 edition.

The whole team is passionate about packaging, and as always ensuring that the balance between packaging waste and food waste is equally considered.

The prime purpose of packaging is to contain, protect & preserve a product, and it is important that packaging professionals consider the whole spectrum in packaging design, such as design for recyclability and recovery, design to reduce product waste, but not lose sight of accessibility & inclusivity, save food packaging, transport efficiencies and other factors.

Packaging should be designed for Circularity wherever possible, be fit for purpose and functional, and offer the lowest environmental impact.

The AIP is proud, and indeed cherishes, its role as an independent, apolitical, material agnostic organisation whose technical expertise is all about educating and training packaging professionals to deliver 'better packaging'.



To elevate packaging professionals in Australasia through accessible education, connection opportunities and industry recognition, leading to career enhancement.



With that in mind we, as a team, developed 5 pillars as part of our 2030 and beyond strategic plan so that we can prioritise resources over the coming years; whilst our priorities and actions may shift, we will always have the pillars to refer to, and these are depicted below.

The team already have several actions within each pillar, and these will also continue to evolve but our focus, as always, is on training & education, for as many people in the Australasian region as possible.

The AIP Education team is available to provide a whole suite of services to packaging professionals and organisations and I would encourage you to reach out to take best advantage of these invaluable resources. Education & training is an investment for the future; your future and your organisation's future. The AIP has the higher educational offerings available for the region; in the Master of Food & Packaging Innovation, the Diploma in Packaging Technology, the Certificate in Packaging, the Fundamentals in Packaging Technology, the Certified Packaging Professional designation, over 30 training course in the portfolio and a very strong technical consulting service offering.

Expansion also means that we will be introducing a new upgraded AIP Consulting Concierge offering to the industry. In fact, we have already started a few projects under this new model. The AIP really are the one-stop for access to technically qualified and industry-based consulting services.

Reach out to the AIP and we will find you the most technically-skilled consultant for your project.

This year we will be continuing to run our series of State of Industry webinars with one change, some will only be offered for our AIP Members. The AIP Executive Team and Board are committed to ensure that our Members receive the best possible access to our technical knowledge base; something that other organisations cannot offer.

2026 is going to be a very challenging year for the packaging industry, it is the continuation of a journey towards sustainable packaging solutions, and I believe that the AIP is best equipped to give packaging professionals and the industry all the tools they need to make the journey as smooth as possible.

If you would like to fill your knowledge gaps, or those of your staff, the AIP will meet you where you are...

We are ready to train and educate the region and the help ensure that the next generation are technically qualified packaging professionals.

John Bigley MAIP
President
Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP)



FILL YOUR KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN PACKAGING



Australasian Institute
of Packaging

The AIP will meet you where you are...



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Packaging Innovation**

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The AIP would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the first New Zealand recipient of the LIFETIME Certified Packaging Professional, Coster Ngirazi MAIP, CPPL, Senior Packaging Research Technologist, Fonterra Research & Development, New Zealand. The CPP program has been accepted as the global recognition as a packaging professional and therefore the CPP designation has now become the leading mark of excellence internationally and a must-have recognition of industry proficiency and achievement for packaging professionals. Please join us in congratulating Coster for his outstanding achievement.



Coster Ngirazi MAIP, CPPL
Senior Packaging Research Technologist
Fonterra Research & Development, New Zealand

1. How long have you been in the industry? What are your areas of expertise?

Coster: I have spent well over two decades in the packaging industry in different continents, working across technical, research, and operational roles. My expertise spans packaging materials science, packaging research and innovation, sustainability focused development, packaging design, material development, validation and implementation and packaging optimisation across the value chain. A key focus of my work has been translating scientific and technical knowledge into practical, scalable packaging solutions that meet both commercial and environmental objectives.

2. What made you re certify for the Certified Packaging Professional (CPP) designation?

Coster: Becoming the first New Zealand lifetime CPP for the CPP designation was a deliberate decision for me to demonstrate my continued commitment to professional excellence. Packaging is a rapidly evolving discipline, driven by sustainability expectations, regulatory change, and technological advancement and I believe it is essential to continually validate that my knowledge and competencies remain current and relevant. The CPP designation represents a globally recognised benchmark of professionalism in packaging, and maintaining it reflects my dedication to staying at the forefront of the industry.

3. How important is re certifying for the CPP designation to you as an individual?

Coster: On a personal level, becoming the first lifetime CPP in New Zealand is both affirming and motivating. It provides an opportunity for structured reflection on professional development while reinforcing accountability to the highest standards of practice. It also demonstrates a mindset of lifelong learning, which I consider critical in a technical field where innovation and responsibility must progress together. It also provides a sense of pride, knowing that my packaging qualifications, experience, learning, and professional conduct meet an internationally recognised benchmark.

4. How important is the CPP designation for the greater recognition of people in the packaging industry?

Coster: The CPP designation plays a vital role in elevating the visibility and credibility of packaging professionals globally. Packaging is often under recognised despite its critical role in product protection, sustainability, and consumer safety. By establishing a consistent professional standard, the CPP helps position packaging as a strategic, multidisciplinary profession comparable to other recognised and established engineering and scientific fields.



5. Were there any new learnings or key takeaways from the re-certification experience?

Coster: Yes, particularly around the increasing integration of sustainability, circular economy principles, and regulatory frameworks into everyday packaging decision making. The process reinforced the importance of systems thinking, cross functional collaboration, and balancing innovation with compliance, performance, and environmental responsibility.

6. What's next for your career?

Coster: Looking ahead, I intend to continue contributing at a strategic and technical level, supporting innovation in sustainable packaging systems and mentoring emerging professionals in the field. Maintaining my CPP status aligns strongly with my goal of driving meaningful impact, both through technical expertise and by helping strengthen the professional standing of packaging practitioners across the industry.

Elevate your Packaging Career



Do you have what it takes to become a Certified Packaging Professional?

The Certified Packaging Professional (CPP)[®] is the premier designation in the industry globally, signifying excellence as a packaging professional with the most recent IoPP salary survey revealing that CPPs[®] earn up to 10% more than their non-certified co-workers. Using the CPP[®] program to assess and evaluate one's professional competency validates you as internationally proficient as a packaging professional; a cut above your peers.

Isn't it time that you joined recognised packaging experts from around the world with the industry's leading professional designation and elevate the packaging profession globally?



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for the Materials Cycle



The Certificate in Packaging is an introduction to the industry for those starting out on an exciting career in packaging.

The Certificate in Packaging is a Level 3 PIABC degree that is recognised as giving an excellent foundation in and introduction to the packaging industry. The degree provides a level of insight and understanding of the packaging industry that adds real and measurable value to careers and businesses.



The AIP are pleased to advise that our latest graduate from the Certificate in Packaging global qualification is Julia Ling AIP, Packaging Technologist, Suntory Beverage & Food New Zealand. Please join us in congratulating Julia for her outstanding achievement and we look forward to watching her career progressions.

The Certificate in Packaging is the ideal first qualification for those working in the packaging industry and an introduction to the industry for those starting out on an exciting career in packaging.



Julia Ling AIP
Packaging Technologist
Suntory Beverage & Food New Zealand

1. What is your current role? What are your areas of responsibility?

Julia: I am a Packaging Technologist at Suntory Oceania in New Zealand, working across trans-Tasman beverage projects in NPD, continuous improvement, and core brand innovation. I develop and validate packaging across multiple materials and processes, ensuring solutions are fit-for-purpose, cost-effective, and compliant. I also support process improvement initiatives within R&D and the Packaging team, while managing our packaging data and purchasing platform. Sustainability is a key focus of my role, including leading ARL implementation, APCO reporting, and organising industry knowledge sessions that inspire more circular packaging choices across the business.

2. What does graduating from the Certificate in Packaging mean to you?

Julia: Graduating from the Certificate in Packaging is a proud milestone for me. With my BFoodTech(Hons) background and work experience, I had strong hands-on experience but I really wanted the theoretical depth to match it. This qualification has strengthened the reasoning behind my day-to-day decisions and connected the science of packaging with the practical work I enjoy. It is a formal recognition of my dedication to the field—and a reminder of my passion around packaging and sustainability.

3. How will you apply this knowledge moving forward?

Julia: I have already been applying my learnings throughout the course - translating theory straight into real projects. It has sharpened my understanding of materials, sustainability frameworks, and design-for-recycling principles. Moving forward, this knowledge gives me stronger technical confidence, a broader strategic lens, and an even greater drive to deliver packaging that is both innovative and responsible.

4. Do you have any advice on why other people should complete the Certificate in Packaging?

Julia: If you are serious about building a career in packaging, this course is a fantastic foundation. It gives you a clear understanding of materials, processes, sustainability, and the end-to-end role packaging plays across the supply chain. Balancing full-time work and study does require discipline—I took around eight months from enrolment to exam—but the flexibility of the on-line format and the great support from the AIP Education team make the journey achievable. The content is practical, relevant, and something you can immediately use in your role.

5. So where to from here for your career?

Julia: I am excited to continue developing as a packaging professional, with sustainability guiding every step. I want to keep building expertise, contribute to innovation, and help shape packaging solutions that are better for people, products, and the planet.

6. Will you consider applying to become a Certified Packaging Professional as your next professional development stage?

Julia: Yes in the future, it will be a great way to demonstrate on-going commitment to the profession and deepen my capability further.



The second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was held with the intent of creating the first global, legally binding agreement between more than 175 countries, yet no resolution was reached.

With negotiations on-going to formalise a Global Plastic Pollution Treaty aimed at becoming an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the AIP Australasian Institute of Packaging wanted to better understand the treaty and why it has hit a roadblock.

In 2025, INC 5.2, the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, was held with the intent of creating the first global and legally binding agreement between more than 175 countries. Unfortunately, there was no resolution as anticipated. The development of the Global Plastic Pollution Treaty was designed to address the full lifecycle of plastics. This means not only looking at disposal and waste management, but starting with plastic design, production and consumption. However, this mandate was disputed by many countries and was a sticking point for many at the INC 5.2 meetings. Global targets and initiatives need to be matched with in country action plans tailored to each nation. The AIP invited Conor Carlin, past president of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) in the US; Shaun Lewis, general manager of Waste Systems and Operations, Ministry for the Environment in New Zealand; Rocky P., manager for the Ocean and Plastic Waste Programme, World Resources Institute in Indonesia; and Shannon Doherty-Andall CPP, MAIP sustainability manager, the Australian Beverages Council, to find out what happened at INC 5.2, what the barriers and gaps were and the next steps for achieving a signed Global Plastic Pollution Treaty.



Attending INC 5.2

When delegates gathered in Geneva for the resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, the room reflected the breadth of interests shaping the Global Plastics Treaty. For Andall, representing the International Council of Beverages Associations and the Australian Beverages Council in its observer role, the focus was clear: ensure the treaty recognises the practical realities of food and beverage packaging.

“Our role is to provide technical clarity and to help make sure the treaty is workable for industry and regulators in every region,” she said.

Carlin brought polymer science into the conversation. SPE members had pushed for greater involvement at INC 5.2, concerned that negotiations lacked objective technical voices and grounding in polymer science.

“There was also a lack of grounding in polymer science specifically as it related to plastics and the different types of plastics and the effects that additives have on plastics,” he said.

From Indonesia, Pairunan represented the World Resources Institute Indonesia and its National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) network.



“WRI participation at the Global Plastic Treaty negotiation is focussing on observing the negotiation,” he said. “NPAP groups across the region would like to know what is being negotiated, what are the stumbling blocks in the negotiation process and how they can contribute to support international positions.”

For Lewis, representing New Zealand’s Ministry for the Environment alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the objective has been to advocate for an effective international framework to address transboundary plastic pollution.

Progress and outcomes

INC 5.2 did not conclude with a signed treaty. Yet participants describe incremental progress rather than failure. According to Andall, the week aimed to consolidate draft text and resolve political deadlocks carried over from Busan. “In terms of learnings from the treaty not being signed, my biggest takeaway is that the disagreement isn't about whether to act, but how,” she said.

Divisions remain over ambition levels and whether the treaty should include global production caps or focus primarily on downstream waste and chemicals management.

Lewis echoed a sense of gradual advancement. With each round, member states deepen their understanding of one another’s positions and of observer priorities.

“I think some progress has been made on consolidating texts, particularly around downstream measures,” he said.



However, some issues remain unresolved.

“We still have issues such as how to address plastic production, how to manage chemicals and products globally, how to finance implementation, and how decisions will be made under the treaty,” added Lewis.

Carlin observed the evolution of the chair’s text from Busan to Geneva, shrinking dramatically in length. While this reflected efforts to narrow differences, it ultimately did not deliver the level of compromise needed.

Discussions often revealed gaps in understanding around polymer chemistry and existing regulation, including what is already governed under frameworks such as the Stockholm Convention.

“There is always a risk of scope creep in this,” said Carlin. *“The different national and super national perspectives perhaps from the high ambition countries or from the European Union made it difficult to find a lowest common denominator.”*

Full lifecycle versus targeted waste management

A core debate running through INC 5.2 is whether the treaty should address the full lifecycle of plastics or concentrate on waste management. For the SPE, if a full lifecycle approach is adopted, education will be critical.

“We have the ability, with our sister associations across the globe to host educational round tables or build capacity with the groups that simply don't have the same level of polymer processing expertise,” said Carlin.

Infrastructure is a recurring theme. Carlin pointed to the geographic and demographic realities of Australia and New Zealand, large landmasses, relatively small populations and distance from global markets. Ambition around improved packaging design and production must be matched with infrastructure capable of delivering outcomes.

Lewis agreed that scale and distance are ongoing challenges for New Zealand. Regional cooperation between Australia and New Zealand is already under discussion.

“Even now officials from both countries are trying to talk about how to design a regional circular economy,” said Lewis.



What comes next?

Looking ahead, the immediate procedural step is to appoint a new chair following the resignation after INC 5.2. A future INC 5.3 session is anticipated, with discussion about potentially convening again in Geneva.

Carlin noted that even without a finalised treaty, there is recognition that national and regional goals, whether voluntary or binding, will play a role.

"In some countries, even in the US, many seemed to be in favour of national targets to contribute to the broader goals, instead of relying on one universal set of goals," he said.

Lewis said the groundwork laid in smaller groups and informal discussions at INC 5.2 has clarified bottom lines and may help negotiators move beyond non negotiables towards compromise.

"In INC 5.2 we saw different and innovative ways of working, like the shuttle diplomacy and Friends of the Chair, which actually I think helped progress discussions," said Lewis.

For Andall, the absence of consensus reflects political dynamics rather than collapse. Countries seeking rapid progress are likely to continue advancing through regional blocs, coalitions and technical working groups. However, she cautioned against fragmented national rules that could undermine the very consistency a global treaty aims to create. Strengthening data, monitoring systems and alignment with international standards can proceed in parallel, but the priority should remain cohesive global rules.

INC 5.2 may not have delivered a treaty text, but it sharpened the contours of the debate. For the food and beverage sector, where packaging performance, safety and recyclability are non-negotiable, the path forward will depend on whether negotiators can bridge the gap between global ambition and on the ground practicality.

UPDATES: On 7 February 2026 in Geneva, Julio Cordano of Chile was appointed as the new chair at the fifth INC session 5.3 to re-commence the treaty discussions. On the 16th of March 2026 the Chair provided a second letter that outlines a roadmap for the work of the Committee in the lead-up to the fourth part of its fifth session (INC-5.4).

According to the Chair, "I envisage that the informal in-person HODs meeting on 30 June to 3 July will offer an opportunity to complete a review of all the components in the negotiations, after which an informal reference document could be developed, under my authority, with the assistance of the Secretariat, and after consultations with the Committee and the Bureau. The purpose of this working document will be simply to reflect our level of progress, with options or brackets clearly expressed when there are divergent views, and without venturing yet on possible solutions, new ideas or bridging proposals. In other words, it should be a 'no surprises' document, easy to navigate and conceived to facilitate discussions among delegations, as a tool to allow more productive conversations."

[Full letter available here](#)



Nerida Kelton FAIP

Vice President Sustainability & Save Food - WPO
Executive Director – AIP

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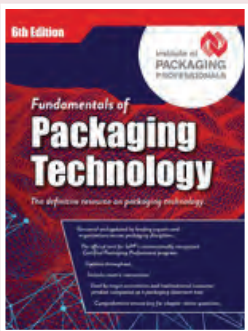
The AIP have introduced a Full Course + Tutor package that is designed to offer you 3 hours with a local packaging technical expert that can support you throughout the course.

+ Become a Certified Packaging Professional upon completion

The Tutor will also work with you to undertake your Certified Packaging Professional designation as soon as you graduate while the information is fresh. This means that you will have a foundational knowledge of packaging technology and a globally recognised Certified Packaging Professional designation when you graduate.

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Owned By



The Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP) examined the role of data management in meeting the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) during the third webinar in its State of Industry series.

Pia Buchmayr, packaging data specialist, outlined how companies can manage and track packaging data to meet EU and future Australian regulations. She explained that businesses need to know what their packaging is made of, where it comes from, and how recyclable it is. “Every part of packaging from labels, caps, to bottles, affects recyclability,” she said, adding that using recycled or local materials can provide both economic and environmental benefits.



Pia Buchmayr
Team lead Research
Packaging Cockpit

Buchmayr said the regulation sets high expectations for transparency and traceability of packaging data across the value chain. Companies will need structured systems to collect and manage information required for compliance, including the declaration of conformity needed to place packaging on the EU market.

“Structured packaging data management is becoming increasingly important. Companies need to provide detailed information for each type of packaging,” Buchmayr said.

The declaration of conformity is required for market access and must demonstrate compliance with Articles 5 to 12 of the PPWR. Companies will need to collect detailed information on packaging components and materials, much of it related to recyclability. Examples include packaging dimensions and types, printing coverage, flexibility or rigidity, adhesives and separation conditions, as well as material layers, colours, density and mass.



EU Packaging Regulation



Buchmayr advised companies to start by reviewing their packaging portfolios and assessing the availability of relevant data. “Try to make a product proof screening of your packaging portfolio, categorise products according to PPWR and record your data availability,” she said.

Packaging data is often spread across multiple systems, including enterprise resource planning and product lifecycle management systems, as well as shared folders containing spreadsheets, documents and PDFs. In some cases, specifications are exchanged through emails or phone calls, creating the potential for inconsistencies.

The webinar talked about the number of stakeholders involved in packaging data management across the supply chain, including material suppliers, packaging manufacturers, brand owners and retailers. Buchmayr used the example of a yoghurt cup to show how data must be collected for each component and material layer before the packaging is assembled and supplied to a consumer goods producer.

“The data situation becomes even more complex when transport packaging, such as a carton and pallet, is added. It’s important to think from A to Z in data provision,” Buchmayr said.

The presentation also noted the absence of a single harmonised packaging data standard in the EU. Although several standards exist, companies are encouraged to begin standardising internal data structures to improve data exchange across the supply chain.



The Packaging Cockpit tool, developed by Circular Analytics and MCP Algorithm Factory, was presented as one option for managing packaging specifications and analysing recyclability, lifecycle impacts and packaging-related costs. Buchmayr described it as a “modular tool that helps companies ensure compliance and provides regulatory support for packaging.”

Discussion following the presentation also addressed broader regulatory trends, including the role of packaging data in extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems being developed in Australia. One speaker said companies will need to understand the composition and origin of their packaging to meet future regulatory obligations.

“You’re not going to be able to be responsible for your packaging if you don’t know what your packaging is, you don’t know where it’s coming from,” the speaker said.

The session also referred to recycled content requirements under the PPWR. Article 7 sets minimum recycled content targets for plastic packaging, with a 30 per cent minimum proposed by 2030. Participants noted that similar requirements may emerge in Australia and New Zealand as EPR frameworks develop.

components can have on recyclability, with labels, caps and closures potentially reducing recycling performance depending on the materials used.

Buchmayr concluded with practical steps for compliance, “Digitise your data management, use a PPWR-near data standard, and organise workshops to optimise your packaging data.”

The session forms part of the AIP’s webinar series examining the implications of the PPWR for packaging businesses operating in global markets.

Reports on the previous two webinars in this series are available: the first webinar focused on the regulation’s objectives, waste reduction targets, recyclability, reusability and labelling; the second webinar examined compliance requirements for companies importing packaging into the EU.

[Read the report on the first webinar here](#)



[Read the report on the second webinar here](#)



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APRIL 2026

Webinar - Session 7: PROs and viable recyclers reliably providing recyclate to customers

WHEN: Tuesday 21st April 2026 | 2:30 – 3:30 pm AEST

WHERE: On-line via Zoom

WHAT: Australia and New Zealand's proximity to Asia has resulted in the majority plastic packaging and/or resin being imported as local recyclers struggle to compete with low-cost imports. Successive governments have offered grants for recycling infrastructure; however, this has not translated into reliable, at scale, onshore recycling, market demand, or long-term operating confidence.

This webinar explores how nations with mandatory EPR keep recyclers viable, protect supply chain stability, and give brands confidence to use verified recycled material. You will hear from Czechia's PRO, EkoKom, which has funded the national packaging system since founding in 1997, coordinating 22,000 producer customers, 6,600 councils, and 147 sorting facilities. EkoKom operates as a 'market conductor', backed by auditing and reporting to the national regulator. Attendees will also hear the processor view from Mateo Packing, contracted within the system and selling pelletised product since 2006 into Czechia and Germany, including the role of traceability and accountability as import competition grows.

Speakers include:

Zbyněk Kozel (CEO, EkoKom, Czechia) and Tadeas Hnatek (Mateo Packing, processor of C&I and post-consumer soft plastics).

The program is sponsored by SPSA on behalf of its leading member brands and proudly supported by **APCO, Australasian Institute of Packaging, One Planet Consulting and The New Zealand Packaging Forum.**



[Click here to Register](#)



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MAY 2026

interpack 2026

WHEN: 7 - 13 May 2026

WHERE: Messe Düsseldorf exhibition centre Düsseldorf, Germany.

WHAT: Only held every three years, interpack gathers together the world's processing & packaging sector in Düsseldorf for one week. Its focus: packaging solutions and packaging materials; packaging machines and the related process technology for the food, beverages, confectionery, baked goods, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, non-food and industrial goods sectors. As an internationally leading trade fair, it draws experts from across the world to exchange ideas about the latest technologies and solutions and provides impetuses for the sector's future topics. The next interpack will take place in Düsseldorf from 7 to 13 May 2026. Around 2,800 exhibitors from around the world are expected.



In 2026, interpack will return at full throttle with some 2,800 exhibitors plus professional visitors are expected from all around the world. Düsseldorf's trade fair premises will again be fully occupied.

The planning provides for a focus on interpack's eight main visitor target groups: exhibitors offering solutions for the food, beverages, confectionery, baked goods, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, non-food and industrial goods sectors can be found in their own respective areas, which makes orientation easier. And the expansive section at the heart of interpack – packaging materials and packaging goods – along with machines for labelling and marking, production of packaging material and integrated packaging printing, are brought together in their own halls as well. On top of this, there is the accompanying suppliers' trade fair 'components', with two halls of its own for the first time.



Key activities for AIP Members & Industry Colleagues

1. **Friday 8 May - 2026 WorldStar Awards**
2. **Saturday 9 May - ANZ networking catch up**
3. **Monday 11 May - Women in Packaging Forum**
4. **Tuesday 12 May - Save Food Forum**

If you are planning to visit interpack let the AIP know so we can share the details of all of the events.



MAY 2026

2026 WorldStar Global Packaging Awards Ceremony

WHEN: 8 May 2026

WHERE: Messe Düsseldorf exhibition center

WHAT: The WorldStar Award Ceremony for 2026 will be held on 8 May 2026 in Dusseldorf, Germany during interpack. At the same occasion, WPO will announce the winners for the special categories – President's Award, Sustainability, Marketing, and Packaging that Saves Food.

WORLDSTAR
2026
AWARDS FOR PACKAGING



Australian & New Zealand delegation Catch Up

WHEN: 9 May 2026 | 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

WHERE: Messe Düsseldorf exhibition center

WHAT: More details to come

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
SO PLEASE RSVP

Women in Packaging Forum @ interpack 2026

WHEN: Monday 11 May 2026 | 10.00 am

WHERE: 2nd floor, rooms 26, 27, 28 Congress Centre,
Messe Düsseldorf exhibition center

WHAT: **Women in Packaging**

Inspiration. Exchange. Global Networking.

Following its successful premiere at interpack 2023, Women in Packaging, the international networking event by women for women, will enter its second round at interpack 2026 – as an international platform for exchange, inspiration and networking.

The event is aimed at women of all career levels and age groups: from young professionals and experienced specialists to executives and entrepreneurs. Anyone who wants to actively shape the future of the packaging industry is welcome – regardless of their role, background or origin.

Program & Highlights

- Keynote speech – inspiring insights from a leading figure in the industry
- Panel discussion – exciting conversations with top speakers from the industry about careers, diversity, obstacles and perspectives
- Topic Hubs – providing space for open and in-depth discussions on leadership, skills, work-life balance, personal branding and community building
- Networking & exchange – connecting with like-minded people over drinks & snacks

The programme will be hosted by Emily Whigham, journalist and presenter.

women
in packaging
BY INTERPACK ALLIANCE



The Women in Packaging panel discussion will be moderated by Nerida Kelton FAIP, Executive Director, Australian Institute of Packaging, Vice President Sustainability & Save Food, World Packaging Organisation.





MAY 2026

SAVE FOOD Expert Talks, Awards & Networking @ interpack 2026

WHEN: **Tuesday 12 May 2026 | 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

WHERE: Hall 1, Room 14, Messe Düsseldorf exhibition center Düsseldorf, Germany.

WHAT: Expert talks, panel discussions, round table, brunch & networking.



Highlight: Save Food Award ceremony, announcement of winners for the Save Food Project competition, Save Food Panel discussions & more.



AIP Executive Director, **Nerida Kelton FAIP**, to represent the WPO on the Save Food Panel discussion and moderate a Trends & Innovations panel discussion.



AIP Virtual Site Tour: Henkel

WHEN: **27 May 2026**

WHERE: On-line via Zoom, 10.00 am AEST

WHAT: Join AIP and Henkel for a Virtual Site Tour showcasing **innovative packaging solutions, automation, and sustainability initiatives** across Australia, New Zealand, and the wider APAC region.



This webinar will take attendees on a guided 'tour' of Henkel's **packaging capabilities and facilities**, combining real-world project examples and expert insights. A key highlight will be Henkel's collaboration with **Opal** on the **Automated Hotmelt Packaging System**, followed by an APAC-wide perspective on sustainable packaging.

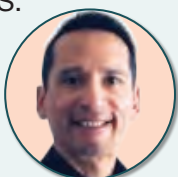
The session will conclude with a **live Q&A**, giving attendees the opportunity to engage directly with Henkel and Opal experts.

What Attendees Will Learn

Attendees will gain insights into:

- Henkel's role in the packaging industry across ANZ and APAC.
- Sustainable packaging initiatives and how Henkel supports customers' sustainability goals.
- An overview of Henkel's packaging portfolio, including solutions such as Technomelt®, Liofol®, Aquence® and EPIX® adhesives.
- A real-world case study of the Automated Hotmelt Packaging System, developed in collaboration with Opal.
- Key operational benefits, efficiencies, and learnings from the Opal-Henkel partnership.
- APAC packaging capabilities, footprint, and Henkel's Pathway to Packaging Sustainability.
- An introduction to Recyclability Lab, Henkel's innovation initiative focused on recyclability and circular packaging solutions.

SPEAKERS:



Jose Reano
Business Development Manager
Henkel Australia



Shaun Thomas
Head of Campbell and Partnerships
Opal



Yanjie Zheng
Manager Sustainability Packaging
Henkel APAC



Malu Bassi
Business Development Manager
Henkel Australia



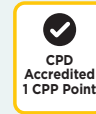
JUNE 2026

AIP State of Industry Webinar: interpack 2026 discoveries

WHEN: 3 June 2026

WHERE: On-line via Zoom

WHAT: interpack is Simply Unique. Held every three years interpack is the largest packaging and processing tradeshow in the world and brings more than 2700 exhibitors from 61 countries together for 7 days. In 2023 over 143,000 visitors from 155 countries headed to Dusseldorf, Germany to find the latest trends, technologies, materials and machines. The AIP will be well-represented at interpack and the June State of Industry webinar you will hear from Members that visited the show and also participated in key events during the week. The panel discussion will showcase what they discovered, new trends, any exciting new materials or designs, systems and technologies and more. The webinar will explore the uniqueness of interpack and see how many of the 18 Halls each panelist visited.



PANELISTS:



Fonny Chang Dip.Pkg.Tech. MAIP
Packaging Specialist
Woolworths



Harald Hendriks AAIP
Owner
Pac Food



Nerida Kelton FAIP
Vice President Sustainability & Save Food
WPO



Shannon Doherty-Andall MAIP, CPP
Board Member
Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP)



Jean-Francois Roiron
Founder/Inventor
koor



Lindy Hughson MAIP
President
IPPO

Advertise Job Vacancies through the AIP

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- Job Advertisements on AIP LinkedIn.
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- Access to technical packaging professionals.



Australasian Institute of Packaging



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- Investigation of plastic materials & supply consistency





JUNE 2026

ProPak Asia 2026

AIP to Partner - Global Packaging Forum, Training Courses, Workshops, PIDA showcase & Stand

PROPAK ASIA

WHEN: 10 - 13 June 2026

WHERE: IMPACT Muang Thong Thani (Challenger Halls 1-3), Bangkok, Thailand.

WHAT: Looking Ahead: ProPak Asia 2026 - A New Chapter Begins

In 2026, ProPak Asia will move to IMPACT Muang Thong Thani (Challenger Halls 1-3), Thailand reflecting our shared ambition to expand, evolve, and serve the growing needs of our stakeholders. The new venue will offer improved access, enhanced space, and world-class facilities to elevate the show experience and welcome even more innovations and participants.

AIP Event information and registration details coming soon...

In 2026 the AIP will also be organising an "Australasian delegation" with the possibility of complimentary accommodation, complimentary airport pick-up and drop-off services and complimentary BTS Skytrain tickets with unlimited daily usage during the show. Contact us now to register your interest.



Ask the AIP about how you can join the 2026 Australasian Delegation

8th edition Annual Global Packaging Forum

WHEN: 10 June 2026

WHERE: Alongside ProPak Asia, IMPACT Muang Thong Thani (Challenger Halls 1-3), Bangkok, Thailand.

WHAT: Organised by Informa Markets & the Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP), the 8th edition of the Global Packaging Forum is the pinnacle event for ProPak Asia and brings together global and regional experts to discuss the future of packaging, design, materials, regulations, sustainability and more.



2x AIP Mini Training Courses @ Propak Asia

WHEN: 11 June 2026

WHERE: Alongside ProPak Asia, IMPACT Muang Thong Thani (Challenger Halls 1-3), Bangkok, Thailand.

WHAT: The AIP will be running two training courses alongside of ProPak Asia. Topics to be 1. Unboxing Accessible Packaging 2. The future of sustainable soft plastics & flexibles.



2x AIP workshops on plastics - rigid and flexible and paper and renewable @ Propak Asia

WHEN: 12 June 2026

WHERE: Alongside ProPak Asia, IMPACT Muang Thong Thani (Challenger Halls 1-3), Bangkok, Thailand.

WHAT: The AIP will running 2x workshops covering State of Industry for Plastic Alternatives – Fibre, Paper, Corrugate, Labels & Renewable Materials & Building a Circular Economy for Rigid & Flexible Plastic Materials & Packaging.



NEW VENUE

IMPACT
MUANG THONG THANI,
THAILAND

10-13 JUNE 2026



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.PROPAKASIA.COM



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PLEASE EMAIL US AT
INFO@AIPACK.COM.AU



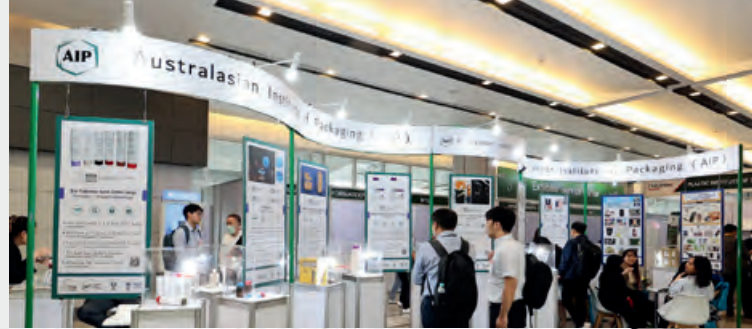
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2 Exclusive Training Courses:
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2 Interactive Workshops: Collaborate
and innovate.

PIDA Showcase Display:
Witness cutting-edge packaging
solutions.



UNLOCK YOUR ASIAN MARKET POTENTIAL AT PROPAK ASIA 2026

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PACKAGING (AIP) IS THRILLED TO
INVITE AUSTRALIAN AND
NEW ZEALAND PROCESSING AND
PACKAGING BUSINESSES TO
JOIN OUR DEDICATED GROUP
DELEGATION AT PROPAK ASIA
2026 DURING 10 – 13 JUNE
IN BANGKOK!**

JOIN THE AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING (AIP) GROUP DELEGATION AND GAIN

- Access to leading suppliers across Food & Beverage, Pharmaceutical, Cosmetics, and related industries.
- Exclusive networking with key industry decision-makers.
- Benefit from complimentary airport pick-up and drop-off services, as well as a shuttle bus service between the hotel and the venue during your stay.
- Delegates may be eligible for complimentary accommodation for a seamless experience. Enquire today!

PROPAK ASIA

The Premier Global Exhibition for Processing & Packaging in Asia



Australasian
Institute
of Packaging

COME AND JOIN **THE AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING (AIP)** EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS AT **PROPAK ASIA** ANYONE ATTENDING PROPAK ASIA WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ATTEND, FOR FREE, THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES COORDINATED BY THE INSTITUTE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INFORMA MARKETS.

FREE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS DURING PROPAK ASIA

10th June

The 8th edition of the annual Global Packaging Forum, the pinnacle conference for ProPak Asia each year.

11th June

2x mini training courses to enhance your skills and knowledge and attain Certified Professional Development points towards the global Certified Packaging Professional (CPP) designation.

12th June

2x workshops that will be discussing the trends and future of paper and fibre and the future roadmap for rigid and soft plastics.

Visit the 2025 Australasian Packaging Innovation & Design (PIDA) award showcase area and see physical samples of all of the winning designs.

NEW VENUE

**IMPACT
MUANG THONG THANI,
10-13 JUNE 2026 THAILAND**

Strategic Partner



Sustainability / Our Efforts Recognised:



Event Sustainability Standard:



Endorsed by:



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JUNE 2026

2026 AIP Annual General Meeting

WHEN: 30 June 2026

WHERE: On-line via Zoom.

CALLING ALL AIP MEMBERS



JULY 2026

foodpro 2026

WHEN: 26 - 29 July 2026

WHERE: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

WHAT: Australia's Leading Trade Event for Food Processing, Packaging and Innovation

The manufacturing sector is vitally important for our economic future, with food and beverage processing being Australia's largest manufacturing industry.

For over 50 years, foodpro has gathered the industry to celebrate the contribution of Australian food producers, distributors and manufacturers. foodpro connects professionals across the food and beverage value chain seeking cutting-edge solutions in processing, packaging, beverage equipment, digital technologies, logistics, and sustainability to drive efficiency, compliance, and growth.

Foodpro returns in 2026 to the MCEC as Australia's leading event for the food processing and manufacturing industry.

The AIP will be once-again partnering with foodpro with an exhibition stand, some packaging sessions and training courses. Stay tuned for more information.

AIP to Partner - Packaging Sessions, Training Courses & Stand



AIP Packaging Seminars x4

WHEN: 27 July 2026

WHERE: Alongside foodpro Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



AIP Mini Training Courses x2

WHEN: 28 July 2026

WHERE: Alongside foodpro Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



foodpro 2026 Walking Tour

WHEN: 29 July 2026

WHERE: Alongside foodpro Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



You are Invited to

2026 AUSTRALASIAN PACKAGING INNOVATION & DESIGN (PIDA) AWARDS

Gala Dinner

Tuesday 28 July 2026

Crown Aviary, Crown Complex Melbourne Victoria, Australia

Alongside FoodPro

Book your place today





26-29 July 2026
MCEC Melbourne

Australia's Leading Trade Event for Food Processing, Packaging and Innovation.

foodpro is the must-attend event for food and beverage manufacturing in the region. Across four dynamic days, experience cutting-edge processing technology, world-class packaging, breakthrough ingredients and sustainable solutions.

The Australasian Institute of Packaging (AIP) will be in attendance and hosting training workshops, forums and presenting the PIDA Awards on the evening of Tuesday 28th July, making foodpro a true hub for packaging excellence.



Register for free today

foodproexpo.com

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Messe Düsseldorf (Shanghai) Co.,Ltd.

Ivania Portillo-Elzer | Senior Project Manager

☎ Tel: +49 211 4560 7781

✉ Email: Portilloi@messe-duesseldorf.de



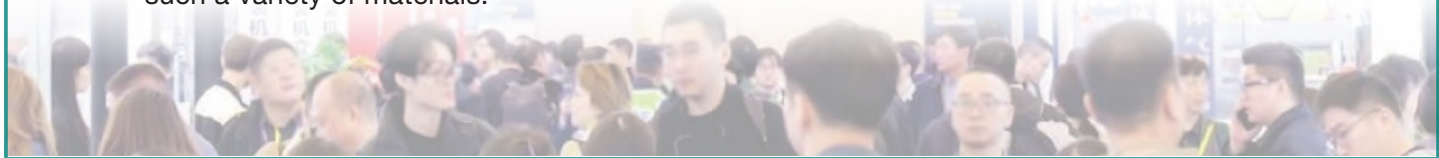
NOVEMBER 2026

interpack China

WHEN: 16 - 18 November 2026

WHERE: Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC), China

WHAT: interpack China is the essential event for the food, beverage, confectionery, bakery, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, non-food and industrial goods sectors. No other trade fair in China represents the entire supply chain. And at no other trade fair in China does the packaging industry provide all industry sectors with tailored solutions and innovative designs based on such a variety of materials.



MARCH 2027

APPEX 2027

WHEN: 16-19 March 2027

WHERE: MCEC, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

WHAT: APPEX was formed in 2024 on the 35-year foundation of the former AUSPACK event, taking what was previously a packaging-focussed event and combining it with the processing industry in what was a 50% larger event.

APPEX is now every 3 years uniting the best in processing and packaging machinery as well as materials, packaging and ancillary equipment.

The APPEX event offers an education program as well as unique networking areas designed to allow visitors and exhibitors to connect, network and to enjoy their day at the event.



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appex.27

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16-19 MARCH 2027
MCEC, Melbourne

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CAPS &
CLOSURES



BETTER CLOSURES

IS ONLY HALF THE STORY

A closure is not a part. It is the point of contact, the moment of truth. We build high-performance closures with award-winning innovation that lifts usability, supports sustainability, and performs under pressure, then back them with support that does not disappear.



**AUSTRALIAN
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& OPERATED**

When you call, you get people.
When you need progress, you get momentum.
It's what we do together that sets us apart.



The AIP would like to welcome Caps & Closures as our latest Corporate Partner. Caps & Closures is a proudly Australian, family-owned business that has been crafting innovative plastic caps and closures since 1995.

They create high-performance solutions for a wide range of industries including food and beverage, health, personal care, and household products. Dedicated to functionality, safety and manufacturability, Caps & Closures help brands safeguard product quality, enhance user experience, and achieve reliable results at scale. Their approach is hands-on and collaborative. They listen closely, communicate openly, and work side by side with partners to deliver closure solutions that excel in real-world conditions, making each project seamless and straightforward.

AIP Members can count on Caps & Closures for support at every stage, from closure specification and packaging optimisation to custom development, testing and reliable supply. They work closely with your team to enhance usability, protect product integrity, lightweight components, increase recycled content, and support recyclability and circular economy targets. If you are looking for a supplier who brings fresh ideas, delivers on commitments, and values long-term partnerships, their team is here to help.

Enquiries: Caps & Closures Team
+61 3 9793 1500
sales@capsandclosures.com.au



Caps & Closures are proud to announce they are a new Corporate Partner of the AIP.

“Partnering with the Australasian Institute of Packaging excites us, as the AIP is a driving force for industry progress through education, standards and collaboration. As an Australian manufacturer committed to performance, sustainability and usability, we view this partnership as a practical way to help shape better packaging, share real-world insights from design through to manufacture, and support AIP Members with responsive, collaborative closure solutions. We look forward to working with the AIP community and helping brands bring packaging improvements to market with confidence.”

Ivan Hong, Art Director, Caps & Closures



What's New in Food Technology Manufacturing magazine and the Food Processing website provide busy food manufacturing, packaging and design professionals with an easy-to-use, readily available source of information that is crucial to gaining valuable industry insight.



Free SUBSCRIPTION [HERE](#)



New at National Resources



EcoPaperHighPlus by Constantia Flexibles: Designed for Performance & Sustainability

Constantia Flexibles is strengthening its sustainable packaging portfolio with EcoPaperHighPlus, a next generation paper based butter wrap solution engineered to meet the demanding requirements of dairy applications while supporting the industry's transition away from traditional laminates. Butter wrapping requires a unique combination of barrier performance, mechanical strength and processability.

With that, EcoPaperHighPlus offers:

- Excellent grease resistance to prevent staining and maintain pack integrity.
- Strong mechanical durability for folding, wrapping and cold chain handling.
- High quality printability for premium branding and shelf appeal.
- Reliable performance on existing packing lines, ensuring smooth conversion and sealing.

Designed for safer, cleaner packaging, EcoPaperHighPlus is formulated without NIAS PFAS, aligning with growing regulatory and market expectations for safer, cleaner packaging materials. The solution is also pending CEPI approval, further reinforcing its compliance with European recyclability and fibre recovery standards.

By replacing conventional multi material structures with a fibre based alternative, the material supports recyclability and helps brands reduce their environmental footprint without compromising performance. Contact National Resources for more details.



**BIAXOP ECO 60 EPP: ONE FILM, THREE
HIGH PERFORMANCE BENEFITS**



There is a new level of versatility in the flexible packaging market with BIAXOP ECO 60 EPP, a mono PP solution engineered to perform across multiple applications without compromising barrier, clarity or opening behaviour.

Its ability to function as a high barrier lidding film, a top web thermoforming film, and a VFFS/HFFS flow wrap solution positions it as one of the most adaptable materials in the BOPP category.

BIAXOP ECO 60 EPP delivers as an excellent clear high barrier lidding film, offering:

- Strong oxygen and moisture barrier for extended shelf life.
- High transparency for premium product visibility.
- Reliable sealing performance across a wide range of substrates.
- Mono PP construction supporting recyclability.

This makes it ideal for fresh foods, dairy, snacks and other applications where clarity and protection are essential.

**WALKI EXPANDS
FIRE-SAFE
MEMBRANE RANGE**



Walki has strengthened its position in the high-performance building materials market with an expanded portfolio of A2-classified fire-retardant membranes.

As construction standards evolve, builders face increasing pressure to deliver structures that are both energy-efficient and safe. Insulation must stabilise indoor temperatures, yet buildings also need to release moisture to avoid condensation and mould. At the same time, fire-resistant materials are essential to ensure safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Walki has expanded its A2-classified membranes to provide vapor barrier protection on the cold side of walls, complementing their existing warm-side products.

This addition aligns with an industry trend towards materials that enhance protection while maintaining energy efficiency. The complete warm-side and cold-side membrane system simplifies the specification process for architects, builders and developers while future proofing.

Contact National Resources to find out more about Walki products.



Close the Loop's Flexible Packaging Division Posts Consecutive Year-on-Year Organic Growth as Sustainability Regulation Reshapes the Industry

With new leadership, sustained client investment, and a solutions-first approach, the business is well-positioned as mandatory packaging regulations approach.

Close the Loop's Flexible Packaging division has delivered another year of strong organic revenue growth, extending a multi-year streak driven entirely by deepening client relationships and increased demand for sustainable, end-to-end packaging solutions not acquisitions or market consolidation. First half 2026 results confirmed the trend: premium, eco-focused flexible packaging formats particularly those designed for recyclability under APCO guidelines are now a commercial imperative for food, pet care, and FMCG brands, not merely a sustainability aspiration. Close the Loop has been quietly building the capability to meet that demand for years, and the numbers reflect it.

Leadership Aligned to the Growth Opportunity

The division's momentum is backed by senior leadership with deep institutional knowledge. Kesh Nair, who has spent more than 17 years within the Close the Loop Group and worked his way up through IT & Operations to the executive tier, now serves as CEO for Close the Loop Australia and South Africa.

“We’ve never chased growth for the sake of it. What we’ve focused on consistently is solving real problems for our clients. When you get that right, growth follows. Brands are under more pressure than ever to deliver packaging that performs commercially and sustainably, and we’ve built the capability to help them do both. That’s a powerful place to be.”

Kesh Nair, CEO - Close the Loop Australia & South Africa.

Alongside Nair, Brendan Yee brings perspective to the role of Executive Director and Head of Flexible Packaging. Yee co-founded O F Packaging, the flexible packaging business that forms the core of Close the Loop's packaging division and now serves as an active member on the board.

“When we built O F Packaging, the challenge was proving that you didn’t have to sacrifice performance for sustainability. That battle has been won. What we’re focused on now is scale, helping more brands make the transition to packaging that’s designed right from the start. Our clients’ growth is the proof point. When they win, we know we’re doing it right.”

Brendan Yee, Executive Director & Head of Flexible Packaging - Close the Loop

Investment in Quality, Service, and Innovation

The organic growth story is underpinned by deliberate, multi-year investment across three areas that matter most to clients: quality, service, and innovation.

Quality

Manufacturing and material standards that gives brand owners confidence at scale, with product consistency that holds across long runs and complex formats.

Service

Responsive, solutions-oriented collaborative teams who understand that packaging decisions directly affect speed-to-market, shelf performance, and cost. The division's year-on-year client retention speaks to this.

Innovation

Formats built around emerging recyclability standards, including Mono-polyolefin flexible packaging that meets and exceeds APCO's updated 80% Mono-polyolefin threshold requirement, the benchmark that will underpin eco-modulated packaging fees expected in FY2026–27.



From Packaging Supplier to Solutions Partner

The strategic shift that defines Close the Loop's packaging approach is a deliberate move away from the transactional supplier model. The business leads every client conversation with the problem to be solved - product protection, recyclability grade, cost efficiency, shelf differentiation, regulatory compliance and works backwards to the packaging format and materials that best deliver against that brief.

That end-to-end approach spans design consultation, material selection, production, and circular economic outcomes. For brands navigating APCO's new Design for Kerbside Recyclability Grading Framework which will assign A-G grades to packaging materials, having a partner who can design for the best possible grade from the outset is a measurable commercial advantage. Across industries from food and beverage to pet care and FMCG, brands are rethinking what a packaging relationship should look like.

The companies that are winning shelf space and regulatory compliance simultaneously are those who found partners earlier. Close the Loop's client base reflects both.

New Era: Growth Momentum Continues

The division's pipeline entering the second half of 2026 reflects the same organic growth trajectory that has defined recent years. New client acquisitions, expanded programs with existing partners, and accelerating demand for recyclable flexible formats across categories actively reformulating to meet APCO thresholds are all contributing to a positive new era at Close the Loop packaging.

For Close the Loop, the growth is not the destination, it is the outcome of doing the right things consistently: investing in quality with the right people and systems showing up for clients, designing packaging that performs commercially and circularly, and building the kind of partnerships that compound over time.



**Most Packaging Suppliers
Stop Here.**

We Don't.



**Sustainability is
embedded in every
solution we deliver,
from materials to end-
of-life recovery**



TonerPlas®

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AIP Training Courses

30 COURSES IN PORTFOLIO



**Australasian
Institute
of Packaging**

Looking to fill knowledge gaps in your technical packaging training?



The AIP runs a broad range of technical training courses across Australia, New Zealand and Asia; in-house, customised, on-line or alongside of tradeshows. The Training courses can also be customised to suit your needs and staff. All of the training courses are written and presented by qualified experts within their respective fields and are people who are currently working in the packaging industry. All of the courses are internationally recognised and attendees attain Certified Packaging Professional (CPP) points for each course towards their Designation.



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In today's global environment, efficiency and cost control have never been more important.

Rising maintenance expenses, increasing service costs and ongoing pressure across supply chains mean businesses are looking more closely at how their equipment, materials and systems perform across the production line.

Unplanned downtime, inefficient equipment performance and excessive material use can quickly drive up operational costs. As a result, many operations are focusing more heavily on reliability, preventative maintenance and smarter system integration.

Coding, labelling, material selection and traceability are not isolated decisions. Each one influences operational efficiency, maintenance requirements, downtime risks and overall cost performance.

This reality shaped the thinking behind our **new website platform**.

Rather than presenting packaging technology as individual machines, the platform reflects the way modern operations actually function - as connected systems where coding, labelling, materials, software and technical support work together to improve efficiency, reduce maintenance requirements and lower long term operational costs.

The new structure highlights areas that matter most to operations today, including:

- Reducing maintenance requirements and ongoing service costs
- Improving equipment reliability, efficiency and uptime
- Optimising material use and reducing operational waste
- Supporting traceability and operational visibility across the line
- Providing responsive technical support to minimise downtime

By bringing these elements together in one place, the platform provides a clearer view of how integrated solutions can help businesses operate more efficiently, reduce operational pressure and manage costs more effectively.

And it's not just about the words - the platform has been built to make it easier to explore these connections and see how they work in practice.



Explore the new website



AIP provides 30 hours of training to Cambodia

The AIP Australasian Institute of Packaging are very pleased to advise that they have just completed Stage 2 of the Cambodia training program which was 10x on-line training courses for the Cambodian Packaging Centre staff, students and lecturers of the Royal University of Agriculture Cambodia over the last three months.

Stage 1 was seeing Ralph Moyle CPP FAIP going in-country to run an extensive week of training in person.

The on-line training program was developed to add even more technical knowledge for the Cambodian Packaging Centre staff following the in-country training before the program was completed. The objective was to enable the Cambodian Packaging Centre staff to gain a better understanding of packaging technology, material requirements and new innovations and legislation.

The AIP on-line training sessions covered a wide range of packaging and packaging materials. The training sessions were 3 hours each and presented by AIP Education Team experts who have a collective 150 years of experience in packaging including Prof Pierre Pienaar FAIP, Joe Foster FAIP, George Ganzenmüller FAIP and Nerida Kelton FAIP.



Topics included:

1. Introduction to Soft Plastics & Flexible Packaging.
2. Sustainable Future of Soft Plastics & Flexible Packaging.
3. Unboxing Accessibility: Accessible & Inclusive Packaging Design.
4. The Sustainable Future of Carton board and Corrugate.
5. New World of Plastics Technology: Polymers & Recycling.



GLOBAL VIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING COURSE

Including designing to be recycle ready/PPWR EU/eco design and Extended Producer Responsibility

Nerida Kelton FAIP
Executive Director - AIP
Vice President Sustainability & Save Food - WPO

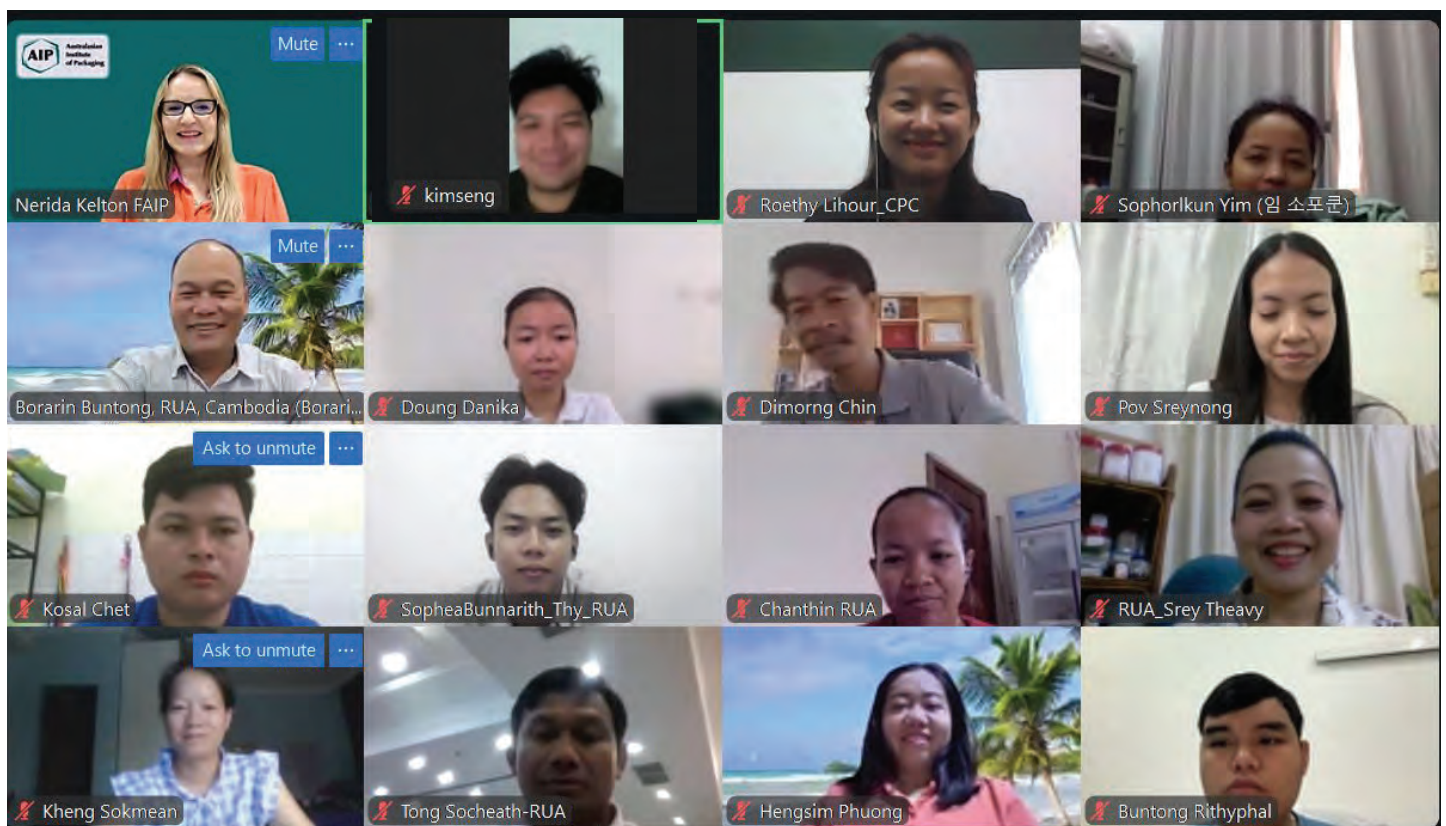
6 March 2026



6. Modified Atmosphere Packaging & Barrier Materials.
7. Introduction to the Cold Supply Chain.
8. Packaging for Transport and the Supply Chain.
9. Sustainable Food Systems: the intersection between food and packaging waste.
10. The global view on Sustainability including PPWR, Extended Producer Responsibility, Design for Recycling and the circular economy for packaging.

This training program for Cambodia was not possible without the dedication and drive from Aleksa Mirkovic, Kim Davin and Borarin Buntong, UNIDO Food Business Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI) and the support of the WPO World Packaging Organisation Rosa Khemara and Somathida Chea.

The AIP Education Team is ready for Stage 3...



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**WORLDSTAR
GLOBAL
PACKAGING
AWARDS
STUDENT**

21x Australian Students recognised at the 2026 WorldStar Student Awards on-line ceremony

More than 100 people from 30 countries including: Australia, Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Oman, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and many more, joined the on-line 2026 WorldStar Student award ceremony recently.

21x Australian students from across Monash University and UNSW Industrial Design were recognised during the ceremony including 2x Gold awards and 2x Bronze awards.

Please join with the AIP Australasian Institute of Packaging in congratulating all of the students that received global recognition for their packaging.

Chun Ming Tsang, Robin Luo, Adriano Sturla, Keith James, Qianqian Wu, Kevin Arulraj, Akshata Sukhtankar, Muniba Mehboob, Satakshi Darmwal, Suzanne Ngasseppam, Angela Jessica, Audrey Victoria Purnomo, Chunyang Wang, Edison Cheng, Eugenia Cheung, Haojie Wang, Jie Yang, Lydia Lei, Melissa Esho, Samuel Thanopoulos, and Victoria Josefine Plastina.

The audience included student winners, lecturers, WPO Board Members, and packaging industry professionals, all coming together to celebrate the creativity, innovation and achievements showcased in this year's competition.

If you missed the live event, you can still join the celebration and discover this year's outstanding student designs.

“ It was such an honour to receive Gold in the Health & Personal Care category and Bronze in the Accessible Packaging category at the WorldStar Student Packaging Awards for my Mint toothpaste tube, amongst so many strong entries this year. Mint is a fully recyclable toothpaste tube made from polypropylene and was inspired by my experience working in the waste industry, where I often saw large numbers of toothpaste tubes being ‘wish-cycled’ despite not being recyclable. A big thank you to the Australasian Institute of Packaging for submitting my work and supporting the project. ”

Robin Luo



The recording of Online Award Ceremony is now available on the World Packaging Organisation's You Tube channel...

Watch the ceremony here



WPO PFAS compliance webinar recording now available

For those who may have missed the recent webinar hosted by the WPO World Packaging Organisation that discussed the impending PFAS Compliance Under the EU's PPWR the recording is now available.

Speakers were Dr. Manfred Tacker, Chief Scientific Officer, Circular Analytics and Packaging Cockpit and Lina Wimmer, MSc, Senior Consultant Circularity, Circular Analytics.

If you are selling into any country in Europe you need to be aware that from the 12th of August 2026, the Packaging & Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), will see restrictions on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food-contact packaging.

The PPWR also addresses substances of concern (SoCs) and recycled content, both of which may have implications for PFAS content in other types of packaging.

The WPO webinar explored the PFAS requirements introduced by the PPWR, and what they mean for your business. It also provided a better understanding of the updated Declaration of Conformity and how your business can get ready for the PFAS compliance.



Replay Watch the recording: <https://youtu.be/6BJ7iUVJ8LE>

Are you ready for the impending PFAS compliance under PPWR in Europe?

In this webinar we will explore the PFAS requirements introduced by the PPWR, and what they mean for your business.



SPEAKER

Dr. Manfred Tacker
Chief Scientific Officer, Circular Analytics and Packaging Cockpit



SPEAKER

Lina Wimmer
MSc, Senior Consultant Circularity, Circular Analytics



MODERATOR

Dr. Johannes Bergmair CPP
General Secretary, World Packaging Organisation

During the presentation a new novel methodology was introduced for PFAS risk assessment, helping companies understand their exposure, assess compliance risks, and prepare effectively for the upcoming obligations.

Calling all AIP Members and industry colleagues in the region, please reach out to the AIP Australasian Institute of Packaging if you would like to know more about this risk assessment and how you can use it for your business.

Please share the recording within your own team and network.



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¹ Proven technology claim based on IT Strategies Digital Packaging 2022 report, which identifies HP as the market leader in Flexible Packaging with more than 90% share of installations.




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Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) Program updates

Light-Blocking HDPE Bottles (NZ only)

APCO has published a formal position statement regarding the recyclability of light-blocking high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles in New Zealand.

Following targeted consultation with NZ kerbside operators, sorters and reprocessors, APCO recognises that HDPE bottles incorporating approved light-blocking technology may be classified as Recyclable under the ARL Program in NZ, provided they meet the existing rigid plastic size thresholds and other ARL criteria.

This decision acknowledges the complexity of balancing packaging innovation, product protection requirements (particularly for dairy and light-sensitive beverages), and the need to maintain alignment with real-world recovery capability. While some stakeholders expressed caution regarding long-term market acceptance, particularly in relation to coloured and mixed HDPE bale specifications and evolving export requirements, current evidence indicates that these formats are being successfully collected, sorted and placed into viable end-markets within the NZ system. APCO will continue to monitor both domestic and export conditions to ensure this recognition remains aligned with recyclability at scale.

Recognition is:

- Time-bound (24 months) to allow for ongoing monitoring of system performance.
- Evidence-based, grounded in consultation and current end-market acceptance.
- Subject to a 12-month review should market conditions, bale specifications, export settings or reprocessing outcomes materially change.

APCO will continue to monitor downstream performance and reserves the right to amend or withdraw recognition if evidence demonstrates that the format no longer meets ARL recyclability criteria at scale.

Members are encouraged to review the full position statement for detailed parameters and reporting expectations.

APCO are committed to keeping you updated and supported every step of the way. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the ARL team at arl@apco.org.au



Access the position statement here.



Australia takes second place in WorldStar Student medal tally

With 246 entries from 90 educational institutions across 23 countries entering the 2026 round of the WorldStar Student Awards, the competition this year was fierce, writes AIP executive director **Nerida Kelton.**

TWENTY-ONE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY students from the Industrial Design School at UNSW and the Master of Food Science and Agribusiness program at Monash University took on the strong global competition and received two Gold, two Bronze and 16 WorldStar Certificates. Australia also placed second in the medal tally behind China, which is an incredible feat for such a small country.

RECYCLE-READY TOOTHPASTE TUBE TAKES TWO

The standout student from Australia was Robin Luo from the Industrial Design

School, UNSW, who received a Gold Award in the Health and Personal Care category and a Bronze Award in the inaugural Accessible Packaging category, for his project MINT Recyclable Toothpaste Tube.

The Mint toothpaste tube was designed in response to the significant waste and environmental impact caused by traditional toothpaste tubes. The mixed-media composition renders them

unrecyclable through standard kerbside recycling programs and Mint aims to offer a more sustainable packaging solution.

Additionally, toothpaste residue often remains trapped inside, making recycling more difficult and product waste an issue. To address these issues, Luo designed the MINT toothpaste tube entirely from polypropylene. This rigid, mono-material construction allows the tube to be easily recycled through standard kerbside programs. The design, inspired by a glue stick mechanism, features an auger and plunger system. This innovation ensures users can extract nearly all of the toothpaste, thereby reducing product waste, leaving the tube cleaner for recycling. The result is a more user-friendly and environmentally responsible solution.

“
The bottle was developed under the inclusive design and accessibility category, guided by criteria such as ease of use, ergonomic function, and sensory guidance.

Below: Chun Accessible Water Bottle scored Gold in the new Accessible Design category.



In the Beverage category, H2OLYTE pack design brought home a Bronze

GOLD FOR ACCESSIBLE WATER BOTTLE

A team of students from the Master of Food Science and Agribusiness program at Monash University, Chun Ming Tsang, Queenie Wu and Keith James, received a Gold in the inaugural Accessible & Inclusive Packaging Design category for the Chun Accessible Water Bottle.

The water bottle was designed to support individuals with neurological impairments, particularly post-stroke users who experience limited mobility. Chun Ming Tsang personally suffered a stroke in childhood, which caused a loss of mobility on the left side. Through the daily experiences, realising that how challenging it can be to perform simple tasks like opening a traditional water bottle, which typically requires twisting the lid with two hands. This design aims to address that barrier by enabling single-handed and even hands-free operation, empowering users with limited mobility to drink water independently, safely, and with dignity.





MINT Recyclable Toothpaste Tube received Gold and Bronze recognition.

The bottle was developed under the inclusive design and accessibility category, guided by criteria such as ease of use, ergonomic function, and sensory guidance. Key innovative features include a spring-loaded, mouth-activated opening that allows users to push down with their top lip to drink; once released, it automatically seals to prevent leakage. A bayonet-style twist mechanism replaces the traditional multi-turn cap, requiring only a short turn with one hand.

Together, these features make the bottle significantly more user-friendly, reducing reliance on two hands and making everyday hydration more accessible to people with motor impairments.

BEVERAGE PACK DESIGN SCORES BRONZE

Adding to the Australian student success, Adriano Sturla Gomez, also from the Industrial Design School, UNSW, received a Bronze Award in the Beverage category for his project H2OLYTE. The redesigned electrolyte container prevents landfill waste by addressing sorting challenges at recycling facilities. Its optimised shape ensures compatibility with filtration systems, while reducing material usage by 30 per cent. Enhanced stacking and accessibility features maximise transport efficiency and consumer usability, making this a standout pack on the shelf. ■

16 WorldStar Certificates

In addition to the medal awards, 16 students from across the Industrial Design School, NSW and the Master of Food Science and Agribusiness program, Monash University, were recognised with WorldStar Student Certificates including: Kevin Arulraj, Akshata Sukhtankar, Muniba Mehboob, Satakshi Darmwal, Suzanne Ngasseppam, Angela Jessica, Audrey Victoria Purnomo, Chunyang Wang, Edison Cheng, Eugenia Cheung, Haojie Wang, Jie Yang, Lydia Lei, Melissa Esho, Samuel Thanopoulos, and Victoria Josefina Plastina.

Commenting on the success of the program, Rod Heath, GM Industry and Education, Monash Food Innovation, said, "The AIP has been an invaluable contributor to Monash University's Master of Food Science and Agribusiness course.

"An 'industry informed' unit within the masters, FSC5051 – Innovation, Consumer Behaviour and Food Marketing inspires students to bring a new food product to life inclusive of the all-important pack design."

Heath explains that AIP experts guest lecture in this unit and their expertise brings an essential government and industry perspective to the curriculum, providing

students with up-to-date knowledge on packaging regulations, sustainability frameworks, and accurate on-pack communication. AIP's involvement strengthens Monash's ability to develop graduates who understand the complexities of modern packaging and the real-world challenges of commercialising innovative food and beverage products that can be 'better for earth'.

"For Monash students, winning a PIDA Award is genuinely special. It shows that the work they created within a university unit meets national industry standards. It boosts their confidence, opens doors for their career development, and gives them recognition from the industry they aspire to join," Heath adds.

"For the students, it is also a stepping stone to the international WorldStar Student Awards, highlighting the global relevance of their achievements in innovative and sustainable packaging design."

Only winners from the Australasian Packaging Innovation & Design (PIDA) Student Awards are eligible to enter the WorldStar Student Awards from across Australia and New Zealand.

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