

# ABECS NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter

Little seems to have changed since the June newsletter – we still have a number of matters causing everyone concern. Inflation is still with us, there are staff shortages, COVID seems to be back on the rise, we've had floods, energy and transport costs have increased and there are difficulties in obtaining supplies plus global conflicts are adversely affecting us in a number of ways.

On the other hand, it was pleasing to be able to report, at the recent Board meeting, that the group is in a healthy financial position and our P&L bottom line is better than budget.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Notwithstanding that our numbers were down a little because of illness, it was great to catch up with all those who attended the conference in August. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and, overall, the weekend was deemed to be a success. We have already made bookings for the 2023 conference, which will broadly follow the same program as this year; however, because an air show will be held on the Gold Coast during our 'usual' weekend, next year's conference will be held on the weekend of 11-13 August.

### MEMBERSHIP

There have been some changes to our membership but the number of members remains at 50. During the last six-month period: Magic Springs decided not to renew their membership; Mt. Seaview Springs sold their business to The Water Place, who have taken over the membership; similarly, pH8 sold their business and the new operation trades as pH8 Water, who also have taken over the membership; Jolt Corporation and Pittsworth Confectionery have become new members. We welcome – Jock Germany, Joe Rossi, Peter Ballard and Ash and Michelle Porter.

### WEBSITE

The minutes of the August 2022 Board meeting were approved by the Directors at the December meeting and have been posted on the website.

### SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

Our agreement with **Visy Plastics** (for supply of PET bottles) is expected to finish by the end of December or early January; we are negotiating a new agreement and will provide details when this is in place.

### ABCL MEMBERSHIP

We were offered a new and more expensive membership category by ABCL. The Board and members at the AGM agreed that it did not provide benefit for the increased annual fee. We put a counteroffer to them but ABCL did not revise theirs and, consequently, we have not continued our membership. Despite this we recommend that members consider membership in their own right.

### RECYCLING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

As you would all be aware there is growing pressure on food, beverage, and packaging industries (amongst others) to increase the use of recycled materials. The increased availability (and use) of rPET bottles will be a part of the new Visy Plastics PET bottle supply agreement. It's complex and, at this stage, all I can state is that forward forecasting will be critical; rPET bottles will not be available ex stock. Also, as was made clear via the presentations at our conference, the cost of purchasing recycled materials will normally be greater than the cost of virgin materials. Other matters that will affect almost all members will be the introduction of a health star rating system and an increased range of products and package sizes for inclusion in Compulsory Deposit Systems (CDS) for various states. You should be aware of these.

**We wish all members and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, successful and joyful New Year.**