

ABECS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the JUNE 2023 Newsletter

I looked back at the opening paragraph of the December newsletter and was not overly surprised to see that most of the concerns we had 6 months ago are still current and, in fact, they're much the same as they were 12 months ago. Arguably, the main concern is the on-going increase in costs but we still have staff shortages and difficulties in obtaining supplies.

On the plus side, the anticipated financial year end P&L, as reported at the June Board meeting, had a solid bottom line such that the Directors approved a distribution of funds to members. (Details to be provided later.)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At time of writing, 58% (29 of 50) of member companies will be represented at our conference along with a number of our major suppliers. All up there'll be 71 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the function last year so we saw no reason to change the format; however, this year, there'll be a presentation by Chris Foley (CEO of APCO) who will address the broad issue of the need to increase the use of recycled materials in packaging.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership remains at 50. Earlier this year, Mike Perkins, due to ill health, sold his business (Planet Sales) to Tim Xenos (Bevpax) and we'll look forward to greeting Tim at the conference.

WEBSITE

The minutes of the March 2023 Board meeting were approved by the Directors at the June meeting and have been posted on the website.

SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

Our agreement with **Visy Plastics** (for supply of PET bottles) is now in place, as are agreements with **AMEC Plastics** and **Big Springs Water**. We are still awaiting finalisation of agreements with **Visy Board** and for the supply of plastic closures.

RECYCLING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There continues to be growing pressure on food, beverage, and packaging industries (amongst others) to increase the use of recycled 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. I expect Chris Foley will provide some detail about these matters.

As previously advised, following last year's AGM, we decided not to continue our membership of the Australian Beverages Council (ABCL). On the other hand, in April, we thought it would be opportune to join the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) given their central role in recycling and sustainability and the information they provide on these matters, which, when appropriate, we can promulgate to members.

In these challenging times let's look forward to a more buoyant six months.