# ABECS NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2026

**Greetings Members**

The Management Team, Peter, Dimity, and I, would like to thank members for your support of the co-op throughout what has been a challenging year. We have had to absorb significant cost increases resulting from a number of issues; not the least being the Middle East turmoil. However, while rebates look to be below our budgeted position, we still anticipate that the co-op will make an end of financial year profit.
Once our accounts are audited, which will be just prior to the conference, we will be able to provide accurate information. However, we anticipate the distribution of surplus funds to members for the 2025/26 financial year will be substantially less than has been the case over the past few years.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference will be held over the weekend of **Friday 14th to Sunday 16th August**. It will be held, once again, at the Sofitel Gold Coast at Broadbeach, which we have found to suit our requirements most adequately. Kurrawa Surf Club is a place we always enjoy and will be the venue for our Saturday night dinner.
Between morning tea and lunch we will receive presentations from Geoff Parker (ABCL), who always provides us with a wealth of information, and Alan Wilkes (Plastics Partners) and ABECS director, who will share his thoughts based on substantial experience in the packaging industry.
At time of writing, the total number of attendees will be 79, made up of 61 members and partners, 13 suppliers and partners and a total of 5 directors and partner, management team, and presenter. 32 member companies will be represented.
No activities have been planned between lunch and dinner on the Saturday, and it is anticipated most attendees will enjoy watching the Gold Coast Air Show.

## MEMBERSHIP

During the year, Mangrove Mountain Springs and pH Perfect discontinued their memberships; however, at the June board meeting the Directors approved application of Hydro Genuis to join the co-op. This will put our membership at 49.
As referrals from existing members remain the most effective way to attract new members, we ask you to continue to pass on to the Management Team details of potential members.

## BOARD MEETINGS

At the June board meeting, the minutes of the **March 2026** meeting were approved and have since been posted to the website.
At this year's AGM, two Directors (Ian Bailey and Warren Douglas) will retire by rotation and have advised that they will stand for re-election. A Directors Nomination form will be provided soon.

## SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

During the year the Management Team renewed supply agreements with **AMEC Plastics, Visy Board** and **Plasdene Glass-Pak**, and entered into contract packing agreements with **Aquaworks** and **Nu-Pure**. We now have 20 supply agreements in place.
Also, in addition to our supply agreements, we have 8 sugar contracts in place with **Bundaberg** and **Manildra** which should cover members' requirements through the busy season.

**We look forward to getting together with members and suppliers at the August conference.**