

News and Current Activities

Developing PIQET[®]

The development of a first-of-its-kind tool to rapidly determine the environmental impacts of packaging is underway. Five leading Australian brand-owners and Sustainability Victoria are sponsoring the development of a proof-of-concept prototype tool. PIQET[®] (Packaging Impact Quick Evaluation Tool) aims to provide companies with rapid and credible environmental performance indicators to support decision making in; packaging development and innovation strategies, selecting materials for packaging re-design or packaging innovation, and in specifying packaging for the procurement of incoming goods. An international review of relevant tools and methodologies has been completed and the task of assembling and linking disparate life cycle and other data sources is about to commence. SPA is seeking additional private and public sector sponsors for PIQET[®] and is planning the post prototype development and adoption of the tool.

For further information or to arrange a briefing contact: Robert Jordan, (03) 9681 8199

Round Table Updates

SPA's 7th Round Table (24th June 2005) *Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Packaging*, which attracted more than 50 participants, explored technical and innovation barriers constraining advancement of sustainable packaging and packaging supply chain technologies. With reference to SPA's preliminary definition of sustainable packaging, a variety of speakers outlined technical/innovation constraints, explored potential solution routes to overcome these and proposed examples of sustainable innovative solutions. These same topics were developed further by all participants in round table discussions.

For further information <http://www.sustainablepack.org/roundtables/page.aspx?id=12>

SPA's 8th Round Table (28th October 2005) *Eco-design and Material Selection: Creating Cyclic Packaging*, attracted 40 participants, discussed the cyclic material flows that are an important aspect of sustainable packaging design. Three industry speakers presented specific issues relating to plastics, bioplastics and fibre packaging. Ecodesign is essential to ensure that recoverability of packaging is maximised, whether in conventional recycling processes or in the emerging bioplastic and composting industries. Much of the Round Table discussion focused on the opportunities for redesign of particular packaging, and some of the organisational and market barriers to adoption of existing solutions. The need for increased dialogue between reprocessors, brand owners and packaging designers to discuss recyclability and overcome any problems was also highlighted. These issues will be explored further at the next SPA Round Table in February 2006.



SPA is growing – new team members

Huon Morton has joined the Birubi Innovation office to undertake an internship with SPA. Huon is undertaking a Bachelor of Commerce at Monash University. He will investigate the extent to which Marketing Managers in the FMGC sector are aware of the NPC and Environmental Code of Practice, and the influence that the NPC and ECoPP are perceived to have on product development, package design choice, and other areas within their business scope.

Areli Avendano is our first SPA PhD student and has joined the Centre for Design, RMIT University team. Areli has been sponsored by the Mexican Government and will focus on the “Development of design strategies for sustainable packaging systems by linking production, consumption and waste management practices”. As an industrial designer Areli is interested in the development of innovative strategies that move beyond conventional methods of recycling, effectively tackling the constraints and complexities of the environmental and social issues in packaging and waste management systems.



SPA Website Update

We have added new and improved features to our website. These include web links and additional information on SPA services. Why not visit our website www.sustainablepack.org to check out the updates.

The researcher formerly known as James

Following her recent marriage Karli will no longer be using her maiden name (James) – she will now be known as Dr Karli Verghese. Please update your email address book (Karli.Verghese@rmit.edu.au). Congratulations!

SPA Services

SPA provides private and public sector organisations with a range of services that enable the uptake of its knowledge, utilise its specialist capability to advance sustainable packaging, eco-design and innovation, and ensure its activities and expertise are relevant to rapidly changing environments. Services currently provided by SPA include: [Sustainable Packaging Research](#), [Packaging Environmental Risk Assessment](#), [Training Programs](#) (including tailored in-house), [Integrating environment into the new product development process](#), [Life cycle assessment](#) and [Packaging Technology Advisory Service](#).

For general information on SPA's services contact Robert Jordan on (03) 9681 8199

Forthcoming SPA events

Sustainable Packaging Training in Auckland (2005)

Helen and Karli ran the Sustainable Packaging training course in conjunction with the Packaging Council of New Zealand in Auckland on the 24th and 25th November.

Round Table, Melbourne (24th February 2006)

SPA's ninth Round Table will be on the topic of packaging materials recovery.

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Forthcoming events

AIP National Conference – 15th - 16th June 2006

The Australian Institute of Packaging is running its next National Conference on the Gold Coast in June 2006.

For further information: <http://www.aipack.com.au/index.cfm?MenuID=28>

15th IAPRI World Conference (2006)

The next International Association of Packaging Research Institutes (IAPRI) World Conference on Packaging will be held from 2nd-5th October 2006 in Tokyo, Japan.

For further information: www.tokyo-pack.jp/iapri/i_01.html

SPA is Supported by Sustainability Victoria