



INNOVATION & RESILIENCE IN THE NZ PLASTICS INDUSTRY

79TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE • 15-16TH MAY 2025

PLASTICS NZ
NEW ZEALAND'S INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



ELLERSLIE
EVENT CENTRE

Conference Programme

Wednesday 14th May

Pre-conference Events

12.00pm **Pre-conference Golf at Howick Golf Club**
Kindly sponsored by BASF

7.30pm **Free Evening for Delegates**

Thursday 15th May

Guineas Rooms

8.00am **National Executive Meeting**

8.00am **Registration Opens**

8.30am **First Timers Briefing**

9.00am **Conference Opening**

9.10am **Plastics New Zealand President's Address**

Bob Gutsell - PACT Group

9.30am **How leadership, inclusion, and workplace culture impact resilience and innovation**

Professor Jarrod Haar (PhD) *Kindly sponsored by Azelis*

10.30am **Morning Tea**

Kindly sponsored by Blender

11.00am **Plastics NZ Update**

Rachel Barker - PNZ CEO

11.30am **Not going it alone - the power of partnerships in reducing workplace harm, supporting injured employees' rehabilitation and achieving positive change**

Renee Graham - Head of Injury Prevention, ACC

12.00pm **Exporting New Zealand's packaging: The challenge for our packaging industry**

Emily Thomas - Sustainable Packaging Lead, Fonterra Research and Development Centre (FRDC)

12.30pm **Lunch**

Kindly sponsored by Willis Towers Watson

1.15pm **Navigating the new geopolitical faultlines: How global volatility will reshape innovation, trade and growth**

Christopher Boys & Heath Fisher - Icehouse

2.00pm **New generation of marine transportation requires high performance materials**

Garry Jolliffe - Vessev

2.30pm **Property manipulation by using a little science**

John McKee - MSL Ltd

3.00pm **Afternoon Tea**

Kindly sponsored by Auckland Branch

3.30pm **A journey in innovation & resilience**

Rui Peng - Critical.

4.00pm **Environmental Affairs 2025**

Katy Constance - PNZ Environmental Affairs

4.30pm **Vocational education reforms & industry-government collaboration on environmental practical solutions :**

Hon Penny Simmonds

5.00pm **Day 1 Sessions Close**

Thursday 15th May

Gala Evening -Tote on Ascot

6.00pm

Pre-dinner Drinks

6.30pm

Seat for Gala Evening

6.35pm

Competenz Learner & Company of the Year Awards

7.00pm

Buffet Dinner

8.00pm

Plastics New Zealand Presentations

8.30pm

Casino Evening

11.00pm

Prize Giving

12.00pm

Function End

Competenz 
Your industry training partner

Friday 16th May

Guineas Rooms

9.00am

Conference Opening Day 2

9.05am

Outlook for the NZ economy in uncertain times

Tony Alexander, Economist

Kindly sponsored by TCL Hunt NZ

10.00am

National AGM

10.15am

Morning Tea

Kindly sponsored by Alchemy Agencies

10.45am

Reflections on innovation & resilience in the NZ plastics industry

Terry Mischevski, Life Member/Expol Ltd

11.15am

Innovation & Design Panel

Blender, Caliber Design & Shear Edge

11.45am

Industry Deep Dive : Training & Vocational Education

Rachel Barker, PNZ CEO & Training Committee

12.15pm

Lunch

Kindly sponsored by Auckland Branch

1.15pm

Curiosity is a catalyst for innovation

Dr Michelle Dickinson (MNZM)

Kindly sponsored by PIL

2.45pm

Conference Official Close of Plenary Sessions

2.45pm

Afternoon Tea Networking Event

Kindly sponsored by Ravago

4.00pm

Conference Close

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