



BIOPLASTICS WORKSHOP

Global trends and local innovations

Meet the speakers

The programme will be delivered by industry experts and researchers from Crown Research Institute Scion.

The Scion team comprises New Zealand's leading experts in industrial biopolymers and related technologies. Most come from backgrounds in the global polymer and packaging industries.

Scion is New Zealand's centre of expertise for integrated bioplastics technologies. Our researchers have monitored trends and developments for more than 10 years. We have developed unique technologies and capabilities, and our bioplastics research has earned us major international and domestic awards.



Claude D'Amico

Australasian Bioplastics Association, Innovia Films

Claude has been in the plastics industry since 1990, starting as the R&D manager at ABM Plastics, moving in 2000 to ExxonMobil Films and again in 2006 to Innovia Films Asia Pacific. In this time he has worked primarily in Technical and Market Development roles, advising direct and indirect customer on structure options to best suit their requirements.

He is a committee member of Victorian branch the Australian Institute of Packaging and both a Technical Committee member and part of the Executive Team of the Australasian Bioplastics Association. Claude is a keen environmentalist (runs five compost bins at home) and finds bioplastics a great fit with his own ideals.



Dr Alan Fernyhough

Scion

As a polymer chemist, Alan has more than 25 years' experience in a wide range of plastics, additives and composites technologies in the global polymer industry. He has helped develop new products for companies such as Acer, Sony, Nokia and Panasonic as well as leading several major developments in BP and Kobe Steel. At Scion, Alan currently leads projects on "Biobased Fibres, Resins and Foams" and "Bioplastics".



Prof Pete Halley
University of Queensland

Pete is a Professor of Chemical Engineering, Group Leader in the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Research Director of the Centre for High Performance Polymers and member of the new Advanced Materials Processing and Manufacturing Centre at The University of Queensland. His research interests are rheology and processing of ecomaterials, nanostructured materials and industrial polymers. Over his 17 years in biobased polymers, he has been involved with numerous CRCs, industrial and fundamental projects and was part of two successful spin-off companies from UQ (Plantic Technologies and TenasiTech).



Markus Leufgens
Cardia Bioplastics

Markus started his career in plastics with a degree in mechanical engineering/polymer processing at the IKV at the University of Aachen. He joined Dow Chemical as process engineer in the Foams R&D group developing extrusion process technology for extruded polystyrene foam using environmentally friendly blowing agents. In 1995 he relocated to Australia where he worked for Amcor in various locations and roles including technical responsibilities in blow molding, injection molding, stretch blow molding, coating/lamination and printing. In 2003 he followed his passion for environmental protection and joined Plantic Technologies, where he was in charge of new product and application development. Since May 2008 he is the Technical Manager at Cardia Bioplastics.



Dr Martin Markotsis
Scion

Martin is a polymer chemist with experience in extrusion compounding and moulding of starches and other bioplastics. He has undertaken several commercial trials using bioplastics with New Zealand plastic processing companies, including work with incorporating kiwifruit residues into the plastic spife. He also leads a project to develop biodegradation test facilities within Scion.



Tony Nowell
Food Innovation New Zealand

Tony is a professional company director and Founding Director of Valadenz Limited, a trade and export development company. The former CEO of Zespri International, Managing Director of Griffin's Food Limited and Regional Vice President of Sara Lee Asia, Tony is now the Chairman of Food Innovation New Zealand. His governance experience includes roles as Chair of the Food and Beverage Taskforce, Deputy Chair of Leadership New Zealand and Chair of NZ Packaging Accord Governing Board.



Rick Poynter
Poynter Agencies

Rick is Managing Director of Poynter Agencies, a plastics raw materials agency, and has 30 years' involvement in the plastics raw materials industry.

Since 1994 Rick has been working with the Cargill pilot PLA development team that became NatureWorks when commercialised in 2002. He is now the NatureWorks representative for Ingeo™ bioplastics for New Zealand and Australia as well as the raw materials representative on the Packaging Council of New Zealand's Executive Committee.



Andrew Sheerin
Convex Plastics Limited

Andrew Sheerin is the Technical Manager for Convex Plastics Ltd. After graduating from Waikato University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science and Technology and he is now responsible for the R&D team at Convex's Hamilton-based manufacturing site.

Developments include GreenSACK™ compostable food waste liners, Econic™ compostable coffee bags, composite films using PLA and hybrid materials using renewable and post consumer waste polymers.

Convex has been pioneering environmental packaging solutions in NZ since 1995.



Dawn Smith
Scion

Dawn is a polymer scientist with experience in new product development, both as a scientist and manager, within the US biomedical device industry (e.g. Ciba Vision). Dawn is currently Leader of the Functional Food Packaging Research Programme at Scion and a Science Leader in bioplastics related projects.



Jeremy Warnes
Scion

Jeremy's background is in chemistry/polymer chemistry. After holding research and management roles within industry he joined Scion and is now Business Development Manager and Science Project Leader, with a key focus on product commercialisation. Since joining the Scion team, Jeremy has also been a Resource Centre Manager for an adhesives group, a construction group, and a composite materials group.