

**Aerosol  
Association  
Of Australia Inc**



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**Presented to the  
Annual Meeting  
27 September 2006**



# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006**

The year in review was very much a 'mixed bag' which presented a number of challenges that were very taxing but which also showed some of the strengths of the Association and its important role in protecting and advancing the interests of the sector.

On the positive side we saw the "FutureAerosol" Innovation Showcase and associated activities held in May 2005 and continued strengthening of our international and regional links.

We also had a number of significant achievements in the regulatory arena such as continued approval of hydrocarbon propellants in food products and a generally good outcome for aerosols in the HSNO Group Standard development process in New Zealand.

At today's meeting we will also be announcing some exciting new upcoming initiatives including our "FutureAerosol 2006" cocktail function in November and a two-day training workshop timed for mid-March 2007.

It was also encouraging to welcome a number of new members to the Association (a trend that has continued since the 31 March 'cut-off' for this report!)

On the 'negative' side we saw continued agitation about aerosols and anti-social mis-use such as graffiti and sniffing.

These achievements and activities are covered in more detail overleaf.

*I would also like to thank my fellow Executive members for their support and hard work over the past year and, in particular, our Executive Director, Philip Fleming and his assistant Alison Lawther.*



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Showyin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay Showyin  
**PRESIDENT**

**Highlights of the year included:**

## *Public Affairs/Promotional*

The Association continues to be an active and committed member of the Steel Can Recycling Council which this year celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Over the ten years of its existence the Council has played an important role in:

- Maximising the number of councils that include steel packaging in their kerbside collections,
- Increasing the recycling rate for steel packaging;
- Promoting awareness of the recyclability of steel packaging (and hence its credentials as a sustainable packaging solution); and
- Working with marketers of products packaged in steel to include these sustainability messages in their marketing and labelling.



As a result, since the Council's establishment we have seen the number of local councils recycling post-consumer steel packaging increase threefold from 128 to 386; and the recycling rate for steel cans increase from 14% to 56%. We have also seen steady and equally impressive rises in the proportion of these councils accepting post-consumer tinplate aerosols in their collections.

The future of the Council is now under review following the announcement that BlueScope Steel (which provided the majority of its funding) is exiting the packaging market.

With a very demanding (by international standards) target of a 65% rate required for steel packaging under the Packaging Covenant Mk II, the Association sincerely hopes that the Council will continue its important mission and hence avoid the threat of government intervention and mandatory deposits and levies.

*Note: The Association is conscious of the unsatisfactory situation regarding aluminium aerosols, which are currently excluded from the recycling recoveries accepted by Alcoa, and is working to address this issue.*

Our other main PR activity, the Association website [www.aerosol.com.au](http://www.aerosol.com.au), also continues to be an important pillar of our promotional and communication efforts, and ranks as the number one 'aerosol' website in the world according to Google™.



Since January 2003 the website has recorded over 1 million 'hits' and over 117,000 'unique sessions' – an excellent achievement given the modest budget for its creation and ('in-house') maintenance.

## *Technical*

During the year work commenced – at the Association's request – on revision of the Australian Standard AS2278, which was published in 2000 and which required updating in a number of areas to reflect changes in technology and in regulatory requirements (such as the acceptance of alternatives to the waterbath test).



At the request of a local company, work also commenced on the preparation of a separate Standard for plastic aerosol dispensers.

This development was paralleled by the creation by the European Aerosol Federation (“FEA”) of a specialist working group to develop a standard for plastic aerosols, the launch on the US market of a plastic aerosol and interest by regulators in the issue (including the passage of provisions that will allow these to be transported by air from 1 January 2007.)

Unfortunately forward progress on these fronts during the year was somewhat hampered by the push from a local inventor of a new aerosol security system - who got himself nominated to the Standards Committee during the year - to amend the Standard to make fitment of his device mandatory.

In early 2006 his lobbying and legal threats saw Standards Australia ‘fast track’ a minor amendment to the Standard which took the word “non-refillable’ out of its title and Preface.

Responding to this gentlemen’s claims - which seek to exploit contemporary concern with everything from graffiti to terrorism and ‘swindling’ of consumers - has demanded considerable sensitivity and skill.

## *‘Aerosols Under Pressure’ (Graffiti & Sniffing)*

In early 2006 we saw the New South Wales Premier - in an ‘exclusive’ for a Sunday newspaper - announce a ‘lock up’ of spray paints as an anti-graffiti initiative.

In conjunction with other affected groups , the Association sought a review of the decision and has subsequently worked to minimise and communicate its impacts on members.



During the year our Executive Director - on behalf of the New Zealand Association - also made submissions to a New Zealand Parliamentary Select Committee looking at a Bill which would gave local government the power to introduce a similar “lock up” in the Auckland region.

The other issue attracting concern during the year was solvent abuse and the Association made input into the work of National Inhalant Abuse Taskforce, which was explicitly tasked with examining 'product modification' to deter such abuse.

## *Household Insecticides*

Dialogue with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority continues to be an important part of the Association's efforts in the regulatory area and it sits on a number of consultative committees and specialist working parties.



The Association took a lead role in coordinating industry input into the draft 'standard' for pyrethrum, which was released as a draft by the APVMA in late 2005 and in conjunction with a variety of local and overseas laboratories initiated a series of tests in order that the industry better understand the challenges of testing these products.

We also lodged a number of complaints about non-complying imported products on local shelves.

## *Regulatory/Technical*

Representations on the still pending(!) Seventh Edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code continued during the year.



The Association also made several submissions to the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee on moves by that body to introduce national restrictions on the retail display of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 products.

(At time of writing the matter remains unresolved but it would appear that the initial 'scare' has receded, if only as a result of the inefficiencies and inertia regrettably characteristic of the Federal system.)

In New Zealand, work on its HSNO regime was at 'fever pitch' during the year as that country worked to meet its target date of 1 July 2006 for the transfer of all hazardous substances to the new controls.

During the year our Executive Director made a number of visits to New Zealand to meet with officials of the regulator ERMA and to ensure that the Group Standards developed for aerosol products were workable.

This experience will be invaluable as Australian regulators work to introduce controls based on the GHS principles which underpin the HSNO regime.

## *Member Activities*

The stand out activity during the year was our major regional and international event - the "FutureAerosol" Innovation Showcase, which was reported on in last year's report.



Our Second Victorian Golf Day was held in early April 2005 and work also commenced on a major "FutureAerosol" themed event in Melbourne timed for November 2006 and a two day training workshop tentatively scheduled for March 2007.



All such events are dependent on the generous financial support of many sponsors and the Association gratefully acknowledges the support of these companies.

I would also like to express our appreciation to David Rowe, our erstwhile Golf Day Organiser, and to David Cowper, who has seized the initiative on training with great enthusiasm and energy.

## *International*

The Association participated in the International Liaison Committee meeting held in Athens in September 2005 and has signalled its commitment to also participate in the 2006 meeting of the Committee, which is being held in Shanghai, China.



The Association also took a position of regional leadership in joining with its US and European counterpart bodies in seeking representation at an upcoming meeting of ICAO, the international aviation regulatory body.

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