

2027 NEW SPEAKER COMPETITION

DATE: Thursday 22nd October 2026
VENUE: Copthorne Hotel, Fenton Street, Rotorua



Thank you to our sponsors: Kemira, Index Engineering, Solenis, Valmet NZ, Valmet AUS, Wood Beca, Scandinavian Electronics, Voith BTG, Aurelia

6:00pm **Registration and Cash Bar - House Bar**

6:30 -7:15 **Dinner - Hotel Restaurant**

New Speaker Competition Redwood Two Conference Room

7:30 **Ryan Walker, Mechanical Engineer, Wood Beca**
"Making Aged Assets Go Further: Vacuum Washer Refurbishments"

Two vacuum drum washer refurbishments at Oji Fibre Solutions Kinleith show how ageing assets can be repaired within tight shutdown windows. Ryan covers a bleach plant washer trunnion and foundation rebuild after chlorine dioxide corrosion, and a brown stock washer shaft repair that required removal of a 20-tonne drum. Both projects exposed hidden structural and mechanical issues and called for careful temporary works, simultaneous operations and contingency planning. The presentation shares lessons on controlling scope and cost, coordinating repairs, documenting asset condition and preserving knowledge for future maintenance.

8:00 **Reid Dale, Senior Technician, Bioeconomy Science Institute (Scion Group)**
"Compost and Compostable Packaging in New Zealand and Australia: Challenges and Opportunities."

What does it take for compostable packaging to break down in practice? Reid explains the science of composting and the difference between biodegradability and certified compostability. The presentation looks at fibre-based packaging and bioplastics, the tests used to assess them, and how home and industrial composting conditions affect results. New Zealand case studies show why moisture, material preparation and facility practices matter. Reid also considers the uneven infrastructure and acceptance criteria across New Zealand and Australia, and the standards and collection pathways needed for compostable packaging to support organics recovery.

8:30 Connor McGwynne, Graduate Mechanical Engineer, Index Engineering Ltd
"AS4343: Changes Coming to Hazard Levels"

Pressure vessels and piping are central to pulp and paper operations, and their hazard ratings guide inspection and compliance. Connor examines proposed changes in the draft AS 4343:2025 standard, including the removal of the tabular method, new numerical tables for vessels and piping, and revisions to fluid classifications and calculation guidance. Worked comparisons will show how ratings may change under the draft method. The presentation also explains how AS 4343 relates to New Zealand pressure equipment rules and why accurate hazard assessments matter throughout an asset's operating life.

9:00 Judging and Awarding of Prizes

COST: Members: \$55 Non-members: \$65 Appita Retired Members: \$30

Payment can be direct credited to: Appita NZ Section, ANZ, Rotorua 06 0413 0178800 00

If paying via credit card, please inform when registering.

NB: All Payments via NZ credits cards incur a surcharge of 3%). Pre-arranged invoicing also accepted.

COMPETITION ORGANISER: Matthew McGhie, Red Stag Timber

Please register by Monday 19th October by contacting
Shiraz Khashim, Appita at ShirazK@appita.com

(People who register for technical meetings but fail to attend on the night will be charged. Please advise Shiraz Khashim as early as possible if you can no longer attend. The hotel now charges for the final number given.)