

APPITA TECHNICAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday 25th June 2026
VENUE: Copthorne Hotel, Fenton Street, Rotorua

PROGRAMME

6:00pm Registration and Cash Bar, House Bar

6:30 Dinner, Restaurant

Technical Programme – Redwood 2

7.30 Appita Award – L.R. Benjamin Medal

7:40 “From Hardwood Biomass to Biomaterials: Driving Plastics Green”

Kevin Snowdon, Founder, GreenChem Limited

GreenChem Ltd transforms hardwood residues into high-value biopolymers — turning waste into profit while reducing emissions, diverting landfill, and tackling the global microplastics challenge. Our integrated technology platform combines proven processing steps to maximise the recovery of high-quality biopolymers from hardwood feedstocks without compromising yield or performance. With a modular, moderate-CAPEX approach, GreenChem is developing scalable solutions for the production of compostable, microplastic-free materials across multiple industries. A key focus is advancing fermentation technology to convert wood sugars into biopolymers, with Scion playing an important role in this next phase of innovation. The market opportunity is substantial: the global plastics sector exceeds 440 million tonnes annually and represents a ~\$5 trillion market — similar in volume to paper, but five times the value.

8:10 “Woody biomass to fermentation technology – A new paradigm shift for New Zealand in the 21 st Century”

Alankar Vaidya, Senior Scientist, Bioeconomy Science Institute

This presentation will discuss how woody biomass can be converted into fermentable sugars. It will highlight the value of cellulose and hemicellulose from forestry resources and industrial wood residues. The talk will also explore the production of a range of high-value fermentation products from wood-derived sugars. This will illustrate potential of wood bioconversion to support a circular and low-carbon bioeconomy.

ORGANISER:

Alec Foster, Bioeconomy Science Limited - alec.foster@scionresearch.com

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

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

If you pay via credit card, please inform when registering. Pre-arranged invoicing also accepted.

(NB: All credit card payments will incur a credit card surcharge of 3%)

Please register **by Monday 22nd June** at the latest 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 charges for the final number given)