

Chairman's address



As I write this, I am in Knysna, sitting on the front stoep of my guest-house looking out over the lagoon. A view of the foreground of the lagoon consists of earth-moving machines frenetically busy finishing the lagoon-side road for the rush of holiday season visitors. But even they cannot really spoil the beauty of the Knysna Lagoon. Now, before you assume I am here for an off-season holiday, I want to let you know I am here for some serious work which is not bottled water related at all:

The South Cape Region is in the grip of the most serious drought since records have been kept, namely for 132 years! The Knysna main water supply dam is at 26% full, with the tourist crush rapidly approaching. Bearing in mind that January and February are the lowest rainfall months, the degree of anxiousness seen amongst the water-supply staff is quite understandable. I have two drilling rigs under my control and we are roaming the hills around Knysna trying to find some decent yields of groundwater. So far with some success, two out of three boreholes have potentially useful yields. If I can get the same amount of water as is used by our industry then there will be some happy faces around. That might just be enough to get the town through to the wet season.

In this edition of Ripples and Waves there are two articles I have written. The first one talks about rPET, and how we can help the rPET industry by applying our minds to using bottles and labels that help and do not hinder the recycling industry. This article is a result of one of those very fortunate encounters at the airport departure hall. I was wandering along when Peter Waldburger called out and we shared a beer together. Peter and I were close friends in Johannesburg twenty five years ago, but we lost touch when he moved to Durban and I to Cape Town. He is now the manager of HOSAF Recycling, so when I mentioned we were including recycling in our revised 'Guidelines & Standards' he was very encouraging. He provided me with a document 'Guidelines for Recycling PET Bottles'. I have used this extensively in the second article.

At our AGM it was agreed that SANBWA should develop a position statement regarding the use of oxo-biodegradable additives to PET. During the open session Mr David Hughes presented the Plastics Federation standpoint on these additives, and it is strongly opposed to their use. This article has been circulated amongst our members and is generally supported, with some voices expressing caution and advocating an open mind.

Yours in quality
John Weaver

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Weaver', is located below the typed name.

