

Pod refresh brewed up

alicia.nally@news.com.au

ALICIA NALLY

Compostable coffee capsules get new look

CAIRNS entrepreneur Ramzi Halabi has rebranded his 100 per cent biodegradable and compostable coffee capsules.

Mr Halabi's My Coffee Capsule brand is already marketed as an eco-friendly and environmentally responsible alternative to Nespresso machine capsules.

But the new-look product, called Capsul'in IML, is also different from the initial compostable capsules in design, make-up and qualities.

The body of the capsules is made from 60 per cent biobased mass and the lids use 90 per cent biobased mass.

Biobased mass is made from organic material such as trees, crops, grasses, manure or other waste of biological origin.

Mr Halabi said, in Australia alone, more than three million coffee pods went into landfill every single day.

"Traditional capsules are aluminium or plastic with foil lids, but ours are a compostable biopolymer (sugar cane), with a paper lid which uses no adhesive," he said.

"Most pods are made from plastic and aluminium, which can take up to 500 years to break down in landfill ... our capsules break down in 12 weeks.

"Every compostable capsule by definition is biodegradable, but not every biodegradable capsule is compostable.

"For the unacquainted, biopolymer is a macromolecule (like protein) that grows inside a living organism. It comes from the earth, so it's happy to make its return, without leaving a trace behind.

"That's why My Coffee Capsule's products are different to most others.

"Sure, there are plenty of other biodegradable pods around, but most of them aren't compostable."

Earlier this year, Mr Halabi came to the rescue of hundreds of cruise ship passengers who might otherwise have been addled with some serious caffeine withdrawals when the Europa II ran out of Nespresso capsules for the machines in each of the guest cabins. Even though the transaction was a one-off, Mr Halabi was spurred on to further invest in the product.

editorial@cairnspost.com.au

facebook.com/TheCairnsPost

www.cairnspost.com.au

twitter.com/TheCairnsPost