

Metrology and Calibration Newsletter

Issue 1

February 2016

Welkom!

Welcome to 2016, and to the inaugural issue of the Metrology and Calibration newsletter. At IANZ we often refer to ourselves as “METR”. The METR team hope that this will be a welcome addition to your busy email inbox. We welcome feedback at any time, including ideas for features in upcoming newsletter issues. Each issue we will say welcome and goodbye in a different language.

We hope you were able to have a nice break from work, time spent with family or doing whatever you wanted to do!

Goals

- To provide helpful, relevant and interesting information to technical and ‘work-bench’ staff members at laboratories accredited under the IANZ METR programme, in a relatively informal and concise manner;
- To summarise IANZ activities of interest or importance to those laboratories;
- To become a platform for discussion (perhaps a Q&A feature?);
- To increase communication between the laboratories and IANZ;
- To release an issue every two months.

The team

Some of you may not have met all of the METR team. Well... there are not that many of us really. There’s Maggie Shum, who is the METR Coordination Officer (extraordinaire). You have probably received emails from her, especially regarding scope updates and formal things like continuation of accreditation. She also does other very helpful things (too many to list) like organising Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) and monthly team meetings. Claire Jongenelen is an Accreditation Assessor in the team and has been with IANZ since October 2012. She is also the Proficiency Testing Coordinator for METR. Gavin Tasker is the Programme

Manager, who also does assessments, and he is also the programme manager for the Electrical and Applied Physics programmes. Gavin has been with IANZ since June 2000. Alan Glover has been doing extra work on contract (even though he is officially retired) while Claire was on parental leave in 2015. And that’s us!



Visitor from China

Until the end of February, Zhou Jie from CNAS (China National Accreditation Service) in Beijing is working in the IANZ office in Ellerslie. Jie is senior manager of CNAS and has been working there for 10 years. She is member of IEC-ILAC-IAF Task Force 1 and APLAC Sub-committee on APEC TEL MRA Task Force. During her time in IECEE-CBTL, She participated in drafting *The Agreement between the Government of the People’s Republic of China And the Government of New Zealand on Cooperation in the Field of Conformity Assessment in Relation to Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Components*.

The aim of Jie’s visit is for her to be exposed to as many different practice and areas in IANZ and to learn the overall practice of IANZ. She is planning on observing a range of IANZ assessments.

MSA conference summary

In October 2015, the Metrology Society of Australasia (MSA) conference was held in Queenstown. The New Zealand-based conference organisation committee worked for over a year to put it altogether and it was

a great success. An exciting atmosphere of interest, discussion and enthusiasm was generated by the 120+ delegates attending (plus key note speakers) and the NZ MSA Committee is keen to continue the momentum through 2016 with more site visits and some special training events in planning. Watch this space and MSA communications for more details as they arise. For information about the MSA or the conference, including membership, please contact us, or visit [the website](#).

(Relatively) new General Manager

Phil Barnes took over from Barry Ashcroft in December 2014. As the IANZ GM Accreditation Services, Phil oversees all the accreditation programmes and the five programme managers. Phil was previously a member of the executive leadership team at Waitemata District Health Board, and before that a programme manager at IANZ for medical testing laboratories, radiology and pharmacy. As an IANZ advisor to ISO and Standards NZ, he introduced the international medical testing standard to New Zealand and completed the world's first assessment against the standard in Wellington in April 2003. (Feature copied in part from IANZ-Argus newsletter November 2014.)

Updated IANZ Specific Criteria document

In September 2015, the Specific Criteria 5 for Metrology and Calibration document was updated. This was in progress for about a year while we tried to get up to date with new findings in metrology, as well as complete a full review of the document. Input was sought from MSL, technical experts and the MCPAC (METR PAC). The document replaces the previous version 3 and can be found on [our website](#). Changes included:

- CMC replaces Least Uncertainty (terminology change)
- Traceability and proficiency testing sections replaced with reference to new IANZ policies (see below)
- More detail about thermocouple uncertainty
- Some additional/minor changes to classes of test

- More detail added regarding reporting compliance with specification.

IANZ Technical Policies

In October 2014 IANZ introduced its first two Technical Policies, which can also be found on [our website](#). These are: TP1 Measurement Traceability and TP2 Proficiency Testing Participation. These form part of the accreditation criteria and are referred to in the specific criteria document. Most of the information was included in the last version of the specific criteria but has now been formalised at a 'level up' in the document tree; the policies apply to some other IANZ programmes as well.

Metrology in Magazines

Exciting times in the world of the SI have been getting some coverage lately. If you have access to past copies, take a look at the relatively short but incredibly interesting articles on the new SI in:

- New Scientist issue 3041 (3 October 2015) and
- New Zealand Geographic issue 137 (January – February 2016).

Fun Bits and Internet Stuff

This will be a regular feature so be sure to look here next time!

- Entertaining 12-minute [YouTube video](#), *World's Roundest Object*, by Veritasium explaining the SI (International System of Units), amongst other things;
- An American website, [ISOBudgets](#), explains uncertainty-related terms and concepts.

Included in the next issue

- The first of our series on other IANZ programmes;
- The ILAC/international accreditation family tree.

Totsiens, mooii loop!