

Metrology and Calibration Newsletter

Issue 3

June 2016

आपनुं स्वागत छे: Āpanum svāgata chē

Welcome to issue 3 of the METR newsletter. We had some great feedback after the last issue which I really appreciate! If you have any feedback, ideas for features, comments (or complaints!) please do let Gavin, Maggie or me know.

In this feature

- World Metrology Day!
- Intro to Mechanical Programme
- World Accreditation Day!
- PSTL newsletter
- Proficiency Testing Update

World Metrology Day! May 20, 2016

World Metrology Day was celebrated at the Measurement Standards Laboratory (MSL) this year on Friday 20 May. The programme included viewing the Metrology Society of Australasia's (MSA) new [promotional video](#), cutting a lovely big chocolate cake (by MSL's new director, Fleur Francois), listening to a great talk by Dr Chris Sutton about plans for reshaping the SI system and quick-fire workshops and lab tours around MSL. It was a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues throughout the fields of metrology in New Zealand, and to meet some new faces. Also a great time to ask the staff at MSL your questions!

I hope to have a short biography on Fleur in the next issue.

Intro to Mechanical Programme

The Mechanical Laboratory Testing Programme encompasses a range of laboratories with wide variation in technologies and industries. Approximately one third of the clients are civil materials laboratories, testing roading materials, concrete/cement and soils. Another third test Gas Cylinders; including LPG, SCUBA, Firefighter's Breathing Air and fire extinguisher cylinders.

The remaining third includes a diverse range of laboratories including testing of weathertightness in windows and building

facades, metals, plastic and composite materials products, pressure relief valves, timber, armoured glass, safety harnesses and webbing, cyclist helmets, toy safety, leather, textiles, plumbing products, dangerous goods packaging, credit cards, motorway barriers and non-destructive testing of metal products and welds.

Keith Towl is the Programme Manager, and Paul Nichols and Andrew Skeates are accreditation assessors in the team.

World Accreditation Day! June 9, 2016



The focus of this year's WAD is Accreditation: a global tool to support public policy. You can find the ILAC brochure on 2016 WAD [here](#). There is even a hashtag #WAD2016 if you would like to keep up to date via twitter! The IAF-ILAC [joint statement](#) outlines four ways the public sector can benefit from accreditation:

- ✓ Government can help improve businesses by encouraging the use of conformity assessment to minimise risk and promote trade.
- ✓ Accredited conformity assessment can help government deliver and enforce its policies.
- ✓ Conformity assessment helps regulators regulate.
- ✓ Government can improve its own performance by using conformity assessment in its own departments.

PSTL newsletter

I am working on a newsletter for the Physical Sciences Testing Laboratories (mechanical, applied physics and electrical) and my aim is to have this come out in months alternative to the METR newsletter. The PSTL newsletter will share some features with this newsletter but I hope there won't be too much repetition for readers. The first PSTL newsletter I am planning to release for July.

Proficiency Testing Update

Proficiency Testing Australia ([PTA](#)) is an accredited proficiency testing provider and New Zealand organisations can apply to join [their programmes](#). They have the following programmes available starting from July on their schedule:

- Mass 10 mg, 1 g, 10 g, 200 g
- Temperature 0 °C to 420 °C
- Digital multimeter HP 34401A various quantities
- Gauge blocks 2 mm, 8 mm, 20 mm, 100 mm

If you would like to take part in these proficiency testing programmes please contact PTA.

Science in the Media

Peter Griffin at SciBlogs gives some great examples of New Zealand media coverage of science related topics [here](#).

Fun Bits and Internet Stuff

- ✚ David Attenborough turned 90 on 8 May 2016. He is one of my favourite famous people. There's a little tribute to him over on SciBlogs which you can see [here](#).
- ✚ "*The Festival of Dangerous Ideas (FODI) is an annual event that brings leading thinkers and culture creators from around the world to the Sydney Opera House stages and online to discuss and debate the important ideas of our time.*" FODI produces some really good YouTube videos (via [Ideas at the House](#)) with interesting, provocative and educational topics. Recently I listened to [Eric Schlosser's](#) talk from the 2015 FODI and found it fascinating! Pick a title which looks interesting to you and have a listen. The questions at the end are usually pretty good too!
- ✚ Test your knowledge and intuition regarding density – have a go at the ball beaker balance problem [here](#)!

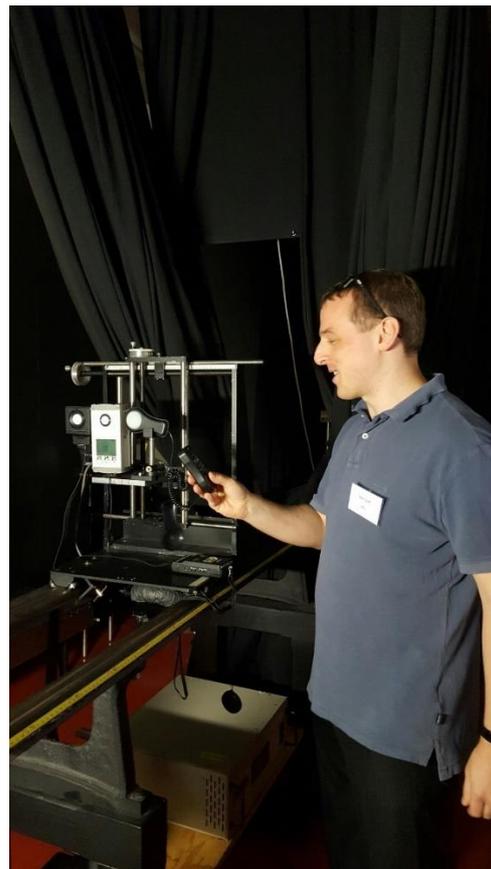


ಗುಡಬಾಯಿ: Guḍabāya!

[Source](#)



WMD2016: The UTC clock at MSL Time Standards.



WMD2016: Neil Swift giving demonstration of light-meter calibration at MSL. Photos by Claire