

Metrology and Calibration Newsletter

Issue 4

August 2016

Hello waxaa

Welcome to issue 4 in blustery August. I guess you could call this a Measurement Standards Laboratory 'special issue', since a lot of the content relates to MSL! Exciting times are afoot.

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MSL training courses

Every August, MSL hosts a suite of top-quality training courses run by internationally renowned experts in Wellington and Auckland (other sites are considered if there is interest registered). Courses include pressure calibration, mass and balances, uncertainty analysis and much more. This year uncertainty in RF and calibration of spectrophotometers have been added. You need to register your interest early, so that MSL can judge when and where the courses will be held, if there are enough people. So if you haven't already, get onto [their website](#) or email them, and register in your area(s) of interest.

PAC meetings

Yearly at IANZ, around this time of the year, each programme hosts its PAC meeting. The PAC is the Professional Advisory Committee, made up of professionals currently or previously employed by accredited laboratories or otherwise known to IANZ to be experts in their fields. Membership is designed to represent all areas of each programme, so for metrology the PAC members represent different fields of calibration. PAC membership is reviewed regularly. On 21 July IANZ hosted the MCPAC meeting (Metrology and Calibration

PAC) where discussions included trend analysis of CARs and strong recommendations from assessments, progress on proficiency testing, suitability of the Specific Criteria 5 document, the use of MSL technical guides and more. Reports were given by Tim Armstrong (MSL Chief Metrologist), Phil Barnes (IANZ General Manager), Llew Richards (IANZ CEO), Paul McMullen (NATA Sector Manager – Calibration) and by Gavin. You can read more about the IANZ PACs [here](#) on our website.

MSL Director: Fleur Francois

Fleur Francois was appointed in May as the new Director of MSL (Measurement Standards Laboratory). Fleur has a PhD in Biochemistry and did post-doctoral research on drugs to treat diabetes and prevent HIV transmission at Mt Sinai School of Medicine, New York City.



She has worked in the public sector for over 12 years in a range of policy and operational leadership roles: including the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Health, and Callaghan Innovation.

Prior to becoming Director of MSL Fleur was the Manager of Policy and Planning at Callaghan Innovation where she established and led the policy, external accountability, Ministerial Servicing, and business intelligence and evaluation functions.

Immediate plans and priorities for Fleur include preparing to move MSL from existing laboratories to new purpose-built facilities (on the same site in Gracefield). Fleur hopes that she can work with MSL staff to help set the strategic direction for the future and have a National Metrology Institute that will continue to support New Zealand's economic prosperity. (Edited from biography supplied by MSL).

New Chief Metrologist announced

On 28 June Fleur announced on Twitter that Eleanor Howick has been appointed as MSL's new Chief Metrologist from 1 August. Read more information about this appointment on MSL's website update from 13 July [here](#). Eleanor is the Head of Length Standards at MSL and you can read MSL's staff profile for her [here](#).

Specific Criteria 5 update

Some minor adjustments and additions have been made to the Metrology and Calibration specific criteria document. On the day of writing this newsletter, the 5th edition, July 2016 has been sent to be authorised and published on the website. Changes include clarification on scope extension requests and additional information on pressure gauge hysteresis assessment (see amendments table for full list of changes). [Please have a look here](#) and make sure you have the current copy on file!

National Tape Measure Day!

Speaking of length...



[Source](#)

Every so often you find out there is a 'day' for something. My husband's birthday is International Talk Like a Pirate day! Today, I just learnt, is International Chess Day. Anyway, on July 14 it was National Tape Measure Day in the USA. [Here's](#) a light-hearted look at it from a member of NIST.

Digital multimeter measurement audit

One of the things which has been on my to-do list was start organising a measurement audit for our electrical calibration laboratories. One of our accredited laboratories has generously offered to loan a 34401A DMM and I hope to use this as the basis of the measurement audit. I have drafted the instructions and results template and have given it to Gavin and Murray at MSL

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to review. Electrical calibration laboratories, of which we have ten (excluding MSL) will be asked to participate and authorised reps should keep an eye on their inboxes!

World Accreditation Day video

IAF and ILAC created a video on the theme of this year's World Accreditation Day, which was *Accreditation: A global tool to support Public Policy*. You can watch the video on [YouTube](#).

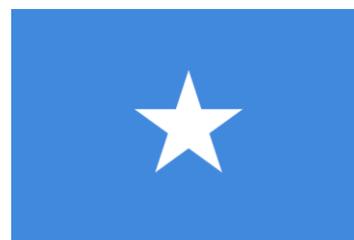
Science in the media

It's not strictly metrology (although 'standards' of a kind are mentioned), but I really enjoyed the article on Forensic Science in the July issue of National Geographic magazine. It discusses how and why scientists doubt the validity of some forms of forensic 'evidence' being used in courtrooms even though judges usually admit it, and why other forms are still judged as being valid by the scientific community.

Fun Bits and Internet Stuff

- ❖ I was entertained (like a dinner guest who stayed too long?) by [Ranking the Pain of Stinging Insects, From 'Caustic' to 'Blinding.'](#) I particularly liked "itchy with a hint of sharpness" – could that also be a review of a bad glass of wine?
- ❖ Watch this fascinating-big-stuff video about the world's biggest dead-weight tester (4.45 meganewtons!) [here](#).
- ❖ The New Zealand International Science Festival was held in Dunedin in July. I have yet to look properly at the 'best bits' but they can be found [here](#).

Nabad gelyo!



And because we all need some cuteness every now and then...Have you heard of quokkas? Now you have (this is a baby one). I was lucky enough to meet and pat some at the Adelaide Zoo recently. [Source](#).

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