

Spotlight on Australia

IT'S ALL HAPPENING in Australia this month. Lesley and Wally Crawford went down under to attend the annual Wearcheck International (WCI) meeting in Brisbane, and diagnostician Nick Thomas has packed his bags permanently to join Wearcheck in Australia.

Training

An important item on the WCI meeting agenda - which was attended by representatives from each of the eight member companies from all over the world - was training.

Says MD Wally

Crawford, 'Wearcheck Africa is amongst the leaders in technical training in the WCI group at present. Our associate companies in other parts of the world recognise the importance of offering specialised training to customers and we will be making all of our course material available to them.'

Diagnostician Nick Thomas could well play a hand in developing training at the Brisbane office of Wearcheck in his new role as special services manager. Having spent seven years with Wearcheck in Pinetown he will be sadly missed.



Nick Thomas has moved to Wearcheck Australia.

Quality staff

'There is one consolation,' said technical director Gary Brown at Nick's farewell. 'It is encouraging that the Australians rate the quality of our staff so highly. It is also comforting to know that Nick will still be in the Wearcheck family even if, geographically, we are rather distant relations.'

ISO 9002 works for Wearcheck

MANY COMPANIES implement a quality management system simply to gain ISO 9002 registration or to please their customers, and so tend to find the resulting paperwork a burden.

At Wearcheck - which passed its second audit with flying colours this year - the opposite is true.

Says technical director, Lesley Crawford, 'There is no doubt that a quality management system does generate more documentation but, since receiving ISO 9002 certification last year, we have found that the system has far more positives than negatives.'

Expanded

'We have expanded our original documentation to include the accounts department, so that if any of our accounting staff are off sick or leave the company, everything is documented, and someone else can step in and take over with the minimum of fuss.

'The programme has also impacted positively on the laboratory where standards are more easily traceable and the quality of results is more consistent.

'We devoted a great deal of time and energy to devising our quality system with Chaplin QS Engineering, setting clear business objectives and giving the programme full management support. This has paid off. Quality management is now an integral part of our operations which has benefits both for us and for our customers.'

Visit Wearcheck's web site

INTERNET enthusiasts can now visit Wearcheck's new web site which features a host of information including:

- ◆ The services provided by the company
- ◆ A company profile
- ◆ Details of training courses offered
- ◆ Who's who at Wearcheck
- ◆ Publications - all current issues of Monitor, Wearcheck Flyer and the Technical Bulletin can be read on the Internet.

- ◆ The benefits of oil analysis
- ◆ Details on the laboratory and computer systems, and much more!

Look us up at:
<http://www.wearcheck.co.za>

Note: As more and more of our customers are linked to the Internet we would like to keep a note of e-mail addresses for our records. Please take a minute and e-mail your address to: info@wearcheck.co.za.

Portable test kit helps Grinaker find latent faults when buying used equipment

A WEARCHECK sample kit is an essential part of portable testing apparatus which Ian Burford of Grinaker Civil Engineering Inland has assembled to identify any latent defects in second-hand equipment Grinaker is thinking of buying, particularly from overseas countries.

As national technical and training manager of the plant department, Mr Burford is aware of the risks involved when buying used equipment. His kit has been put together over the years to give him an independent, reliable and accurate evaluation of the condition of the machine to be purchased.

Says Mr Burford, 'Second-hand machines from foreign countries are generally in better condition than their counterparts here, but we still need to have convincing evidence that the unit is worth buying. Our testing apparatus provides this.'

The portable apparatus was set to play a key role in the purchase of a D10N bulldozer from Japan recently.

'We were set to leave for Japan to inspect the machine and complete our tests prior to purchase,' says Mr Burford. 'Unfortunately the unit was sold prematurely.'

The Grinaker apparatus, which fits neatly into a large suitcase, is able to perform a comprehensive range of tests (see top right).

The Wearcheck equipment included in the kit comprises:

- ◆ A standard sample kit to perform oil analysis on samples from all components
- ◆ Filter kits for all filtered

Ian Burford of Grinaker displays his portable testing equipment.



- ◆ components, to check for abnormal wear particles
- ◆ RPD upgrade cards to perform ferrography analysis on all non-filtered components.

'If the Japanese deal had gone according to plan, we would have brought all the samples back with us and sent them immediately to Wearcheck for analysis. These results would have been pivotal to the process. If, for example, we had detected bad readings on a final drive we would not have bought the machine.'

Essential

Grinaker Civil Engineering Inland has been using Wearcheck for the past 15 years and currently has over 590 units of equipment on the programme.

Mr Burford says that oil analysis is an essential part of the company's maintenance programme for:

- ◆ early warning of failing components
- ◆ assistance in machine evaluations
- ◆ maintaining service intervals
- ◆ plant selection
- ◆ keeping archives with a comprehensive history of all units

'Oil analysis has saved us over R 8,2 million over the past ten years,' says Mr Burford. 'These are material costs calculated as half of the replacement cost of damaged components if problems had not been detected early enough. Last year alone we saved more than R1,1 million.'

'In my opinion, oil analysis is the most effective way of carrying out predictive maintenance.'

New custom-built mini-lab aids debris analysis

WEARCHECK has built a spacious new mini-lab to help staff cope with the increasing demand for in-depth debris analysis, as larger volumes of filter and ferrography samples enter the system.

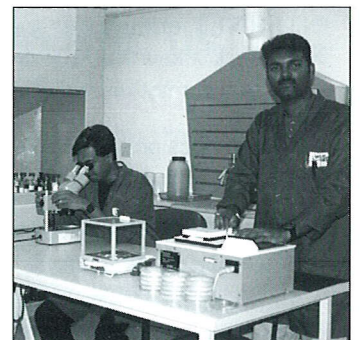
Some of the equipment from the upstairs mini-lab has been transferred to the new downstairs lab which is now equipped to handle the preparation of samples and chemical analysis. The filter and ferrography analysis of the samples is still performed in the upstairs mini-lab which houses the compound microscopes.

'The additional workspace coupled with the streamlining of the system enables us to handle far larger volumes of

The contents of Grinaker's portable test apparatus

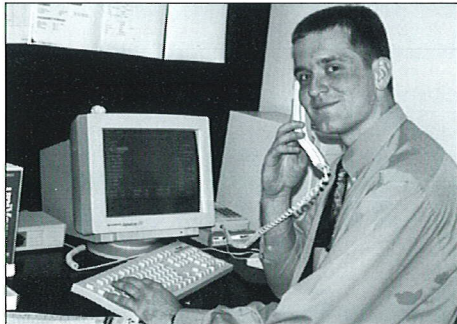
- ◆ a multi tachograph to perform oil mapping as well as to test high idle and full load
- ◆ an engine evaluation kit to measure turbo boost at full load, fuel pressure and manifold restriction
- ◆ an infrared gun to determine the temperature of turbo outlets, radiator differentials and torque converter stall, and to identify hot spots under full load
- ◆ hydraulic/transmission gauges to test directional and speed clutch, pump discharge transmission/hydraulic and torque converter stall
- ◆ a blow-by gauge to check the air flow through the radiator and the blow-by of the engine at full load
- ◆ a Wearcheck kit to test for wear on all components.

samples in the same amount of time,' says diagnostician Daan Burger who works in the bright, well-ventilated new lab with assistants Trevor Pillay and Ravi Chetty.



Lab assistants Ravi Chetty (right) and Trevor Pillay prepare samples in Wearcheck's custom-built new mini-lab.

NEW FACES



**Steven
Clur**

Skilled computer specialist

TWO NEW staff members have joined the Wearcheck team as part of the company's ongoing expansion.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN Steven Clur joined Wearcheck's information technology (IT) department at the beginning of June as a systems support analyst.

This involves him in a variety of activities including running the internal network, the computer systems and the servers. He is also part of the team that writes software for the different departments, such as programming the computers to perform routine database manipulations and administrative tasks. Providing support for users of the network, in the form of maintenance and technical back up, also keeps him busy.

After graduating with a BSc in computer science and applied maths from the University of Natal, Durban at the end of 1995, Steven hopes to complete a part-time Honours degree in computer science at the end of the year.

Prior to joining Wearcheck, he worked at a technical soft-

ware company in Durban, writing software for aerial photography and surveying, an area of specialisation which also formed the focus for his Honours research project. He has also undertaken a variety of freelance computer programming contracts and tutored computer science students whilst at university.

Steven says that he finds the Wearcheck system fascinating, and is looking forward to immersing himself in the high-tech equipment.

'Wearcheck's appreciation of technology and innovation makes it a very interesting place to work, because it affords you the opportunity to become involved in research and development at the forefront of technology.'

Steven relaxes by playing social hockey for his club in Hillcrest.



Janine Howard

Multi- talented systems analyst

SYSTEMS ANALYST Janine Howard joined Wearcheck's Information Technology (IT) department in May with responsibility for writing programmes to enable computers in other departments to perform fixed tasks or upgrading them to perform new tasks.

Janine finds this work most satisfying, 'I like the people side of computers. I enjoy finding out what someone needs to be able to do and translating this into software for them. It is fascinating discovering how the entire system works.'

Janine's qualifications set her apart from the average computer programmer. She holds a BSc degree in computer science and mathematics from the University of Natal, Durban, as well as a higher diploma in Fine Art (with distinction) from Technikon Natal. She also worked as a librarian at the Tech for two years.

A string of awards earned while she was studying bear testimony to her talents - she was awarded the Dean's Commendation and a certificate of merit at university, in addition to scoring a distinction in computer science and winning an academic scholarship and several awards for academic excellence.

Prior to joining Wearcheck, Janine worked at a Durban-based computer consultancy as a database programmer on the Oracle database system, focusing on claims processing for a medical aid system. She was also involved in the designing and implementation of the Intranet and Internet projects at the company.

Her love of sailing has earned her Natal colours. She has also participated in the J22 sailing world championships and is a qualified international yacht racing union race officer. In sailing season her leisure hours are filled by racing sprogs, otherwise she relaxes by reading a good book.

New Johannesburg Infocheck line

WEARCHECK has introduced a Johannesburg telephone link for Infocheck users in Gauteng and the northern provinces.

'The new line is a dual channel digital ISDN link which offers greater reliability,' says information systems manager, Gary Dor-

man. 'Call costs will also be cheaper for customers based in and around Johannesburg.'

The number to dial is (011) 392-3081. The existing two Durban numbers for Infocheck remain unchanged.

Strong demand for troubleshooting training courses

OVER the past year more than 700 people have attended one of the training courses run by Wearcheck at the company's Johannesburg and Pinetown offices, and close on 3 000 people were given a practical introduction to oil analysis on their own company's premises.

Says technical director, Gary Brown, 'More and more of our customers are appreciating the benefits of training to get the best results from oil analysis.

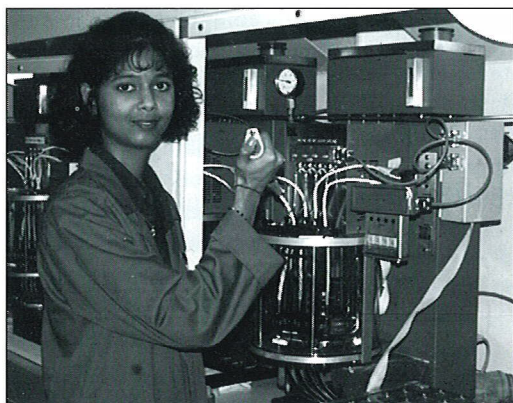
'We have seen a particular interest in Course 3, our new troubleshooting series which gives employees an in-depth look at problems arising from lubricant contamination and degradation.'

This course, which is aimed at all levels of maintenance personnel from mechanical aides to supervisors, covers the concept of proactive maintenance and its implementation and takes an in-depth look at troubleshooting for diesel engines.

'It is ideal for 'hands-on' experienced people who can apply the practical recommendations given on the course in their own working environments and so will be able to see the benefits right away,' says Gary.

It follows on from Course 2 - the applications of oil analysis and an introduction to troubleshooting - and can also be conducted on the premises of customers by arrangement.

Additional viscometer speeds up sample throughput



Lab assistant, Shireen Brijlal, operates the new viscometer.

THE acquisition of a fourth VH1 viscometer has boosted the lab's sample throughput by 30%, enabling an average of 1 000 samples to be processed in an eight-hour shift.

Wearcheck laboratory manager Alistair Geach explains, 'The computer system which drives the viscometers can 'talk' to four systems simultaneously. The system is now operating at maximum efficiency.'

'When we were operating only three VH1 viscometers, our output was about 100 samples per hour. This has increased to 130 with the introduction of the fourth instrument which translates into a quicker turnaround time for the processing of customers' samples.'

A fifth viscometer, a VH2 model, has also been purchased but is not yet operational.

Wearcheck Technical Training Courses September - November 1997

Date	Course	Venue
15 September	2	Johannesburg
16 September	3	Johannesburg
17/18 September	4	Johannesburg
6 October	2	Pinetown
7 October	3	Pinetown
8/9 October	4	Pinetown
13 October	2	Johannesburg
14 October	3	Johannesburg
15/16 October	4	Johannesburg
10 November	2	Johannesburg
11 November	3	Johannesburg
12/13 November	4	Johannesburg
17 November	2	Pinetown
18 November	3	Pinetown
19/20 November	4	Pinetown

Course 1: *A practical introduction to oil analysis* (8h30 - 12h30). By arrangement. Cost: R120 (Wearcheck customers), R165 (others).

Course 2: *The application of analysis and an introduction to troubleshooting* (8h30 - 16h30). Cost: R395 (Wearcheck customers), R550 (others).

Course 3: *Troubleshooting series* (8h30 - 16h30). Cost: R395 (Wearcheck customers), R550 (others).

Course 4: *The technical management of oil analysis and lubrication* (Day 1: 8h30 - 16h30, Day 2: 8h30 - 12h30). Cost: R760 (Wearcheck customers), R990 (others).

All prices include VAT.

For bookings phone Melanie Hynd on (031) 700-5460.

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