

# A tribute to Wally Crawford

*Men may rise on stepping-stones  
Of their dead selves to higher things.*

- Alfred Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

IT IS with great sadness that we record the loss of Wearcheck managing director Wally Crawford who died suddenly on 14 October.

As managing director of Wearcheck Africa for 22 years, Wally's guiding hand has been evident in all aspects of the company's development. His accounting and management expertise have helped Wearcheck grow into a world class operation with 70% of the South African oil analysis market and strong international links.

Says colleague, Gary Brown, 'Wally was an astute businessman, who always looked beyond the immediate problem. Another quality that stood out was his sense of honour. Born to his parents relatively late in their lives, he was exposed to true old-fashioned values which he retained throughout his life.

'He was a quiet man with a great sense of humour when you got to know him, and had the wonderful gift of being able to truly enjoy his life.'

Bill Quesnel, general manager of Wearcheck Canada shares his thoughts on Wally.

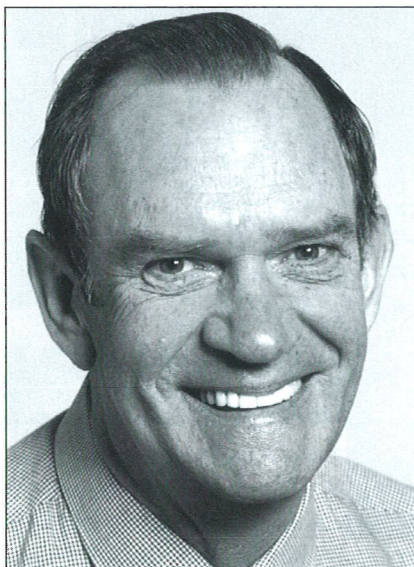
'Wally was a thinker. I loved to talk to him and hear what he was thinking for he

had the most delightful way of making the most serious humorous.

'I first met Wally and Lesley at the WCI conference in Atlanta in 1993. I remember being struck at how professional they presented, and how impressive Wearcheck South Africa appeared. What I was most impressed by, however, was their kindness and good nature.'

Jack Denz, plant director of Grinaker Civil Engineering Inland has worked with Wally for a number of years.

'There are not many gentlemen operating with integrity and honesty in our business but Wally was one of the few,' he said. 'He will be sadly missed.'



Wally Crawford

College. He completed his articles at Craib Winterton and Turner, a Pietermaritzburg firm of chartered accountants now known as Coopers and Lybrand, before running his family's trading store in Baynesfield for ten years. He joined Wearcheck full time in 1976 when the company's growth potential manifested itself, although he was closely involved from its inception, particularly on the accounting side.

Wally was a great lover of motor sport, starting with his first rally in 1958, and it was through the sport that he met his wife, Lesley. Both Wally and Lesley obtained their Natal Colours for off-road motor rallying in 1968, the year they got married. More recently, Wally took second place in the 1994 Total Economy Run with his partner Frank Wingels. Lesley acted as Wally's navigator in many successful rallies and it has been said that she remained his 'navigator' in life in more ways than one.

Wally leaves his wife Lesley and children, Bronwen and Andrew. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

## The future

Technical directors Lesley Crawford and Gary Brown, who were the founders of Wearcheck more than two decades ago, have taken up the reins and will lead the company into the future as joint managing directors.



Lesley Crawford and Gary Brown are now joint managing directors of Wearcheck.

## Wearcheck International (WCI) companies meet in Australia

THE ANNUAL meeting of Wearcheck International (WCI) in Australia in August once again gave all member companies the opportunity to share experiences and discuss international trends in oil analysis.

### Value

Says joint managing director Lesley Crawford, 'Being exposed to the views and techniques of our associates in Europe, North America and Australia is of enormous value to us, especially in a specialised field like oil analysis.'

'Whilst each of the member companies retains its autonomy, we continue to benefit from sharing expertise relating to training, developing new software and tests, and purchasing new equipment.'

# New equipment increases accuracy and sample throughput



Lab assistant Viloshini Bishwalall operates the new Bio-Rad infrared spectrometer.

THE commissioning of Wearcheck's new Bio-Rad automatic oil analysis unit and its R1.5 million dual ICP system will offer further enhancements to the precision, quality and output of the laboratory.

### ICP upgrade

The recently completed upgrade of the Fast Oils Analyser ICP following the purchase of the Accuris ICP last year, makes Wearcheck the only oil analysis company in South Africa with two state-of-the-art ICPs, and offers numerous benefits to cus-

tomers.

According to laboratory manager Alistair Geach all samples received by the lab are analysed on one of the ICP spectrophotometers to check for wear metals, additives and contaminants.

'When both instruments are operated at full capacity we can analyse 200 samples per hour,' he says. 'This high capacity, along with other changes planned for the laboratory, will result in a significant improvement in sample processing time.'

'All samples are now prepared off-line which has resulted in higher precision in sample preparation and a 50% reduction in solvent usage.'

'Having two fully operational ICPs also means that output is not interrupted if we experience a problem with one of the units.'

The upgraded instrument and the new Accuris now have identical solid state RF

generators and both operate on windows-based software. Each instrument is capable of measuring 30 elements simultaneously with 26 of these elements being common to both instruments. The Accuris contains special optics which facilitate the measurement of elements such as chlorine and nitrogen which previously could not be performed by this analytical technique.

### New Bio-Rad

The new fully automatic Bio-Rad infrared spectrometer with advanced oil analysis software is set to enhance Wearcheck's ability to measure oil contamination and degradation in engine oils.

'Infrared analysis of used oil is an established technique that has been successfully employed by Wearcheck for many years on engine oils which make up about 40% of all samples,' says Alistair Geach. 'The new analytical methods employed in the Bio-Rad oil analysis software and the new sampling technique will enhance the accuracy and precision of the results as there is a substantial increase in sensitivity.'



A bird's eye view of the new dual ICP set-up.

**Infocheck  
Training Courses  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1998**

| Dates          | Venue        |
|----------------|--------------|
| 3-5 March      | Johannesburg |
| 12-14 May      | Johannesburg |
| 8-10 June      | Pinetown     |
| 14-16 July     | Johannesburg |
| 8-10 September | Johannesburg |
| 10-12 November | Pinetown     |

For more information, please phone Melanie Hynd on (031) 700-5460.

## New contract

KWAZULU Natal pulp manufacturer Sappi Saiccor has just signed up with Wearcheck. Training of Sappi Saiccor staff commenced in October.



## Seasons' Greetings

AS THIS will be the last issue of Monitor for the year, the directors and staff of Wwearcheck wish all customers a peaceful festive season and all prosperity for 1998.

In the spirit of Christmas, we will again be making a donation to the READ Educational Trust instead of sending out greeting cards, to help them continue the wonderful work they are doing in bringing the gift of literacy to those less fortunate than ourselves.

## NEW FACES

# New chemist applies his skills

NEIL ROBINSON, Wwearcheck's new chemist, has been putting his impressive educational qualifications to good use in the laboratory for the past six months.

A graduate of the Royal Society of Chemists, Neil spent four years studying for his PhD in chemistry at the University of Huddersfield in the UK and is currently writing his doctoral thesis. Prior to this he obtained his B Sc Honours in applied chemistry from DeMontfort University in Leicester.

### Esso

Whilst studying for his degree, Neil took a year off from university to gain practical work experience at the Esso Research Centre in Abingdon, UK. Here he was responsible for blending experimental lubricants, measuring their rotational viscosity and determining the oil film thickness in the big end and main bearings of test engines, running under high torque conditions, to investigate any metal to metal contact.

'It was here that I developed my computer skills to enable me to use the novel data collection techniques used by Esso and to analyse and present the results,' says Neil.

He also carried out an investigation into Esso's technique to measure elastomer compatibility and their tension test procedure



Neil Robinson, Wwearcheck's new chemist.

for engine oils.

At Wwearcheck he is responsible for preparing chemicals and reagents, and for the maintenance of laboratory equipment, as well as offering technical guidance to the lab staff and assisting lab manager, Alistair Geach. He also works closely with the IT section in the design of new computer software for the laboratory.

'The nice thing about this lab is that it is continually being updated to keep abreast of new developments and technologies,' says Neil. 'I also appreciate the opportunity to help with research and the introduction of new methodologies.'

Although born in South Africa, Neil left the country when he was three years old and, after a six-year spell in Botswana, completed his education in England.

Once a keen home brewer of vegetable wines, Neil now spends his leisure hours at the gym with the intention of resuming his rugby career next year, and has developed a keen interest in running.

# New industrial programme is ideal for fixed plant

THE MOST common cause of incorrect diagnosis is poor sampling. In the light of this, Wearcheck has introduced a new industrial programme whereby Wearcheck staff do all sampling and offer a consulting service.

'This takes the responsibility for sampling entirely out of the hands of customers and places it squarely on Wearcheck's shoulders,' says joint managing director Gary Brown. 'We have been running the programme as a pilot study for a year and a half now - directed mainly at the sugar and paper and pulp industries - and it is showing excellent results.'

Wearcheck's new industrial programme slots into the customer's established maintenance plan. The customer's engineers identify key pieces of equipment, rating how critical it would be if individual units were to fail. Wearcheck uses these criteria to establish oil sampling and ferrography intervals.

Sampling is done by lab assistants Trevor Pillay and Ravi Chetty who, between them, have 11 years of experience working in Wearcheck's laboratory and data processing section, and so understand the value of correct data.

They fall directly under the diagnostics department and are closely involved both at the start and end of the cycle.

The programme also includes a consulting element. Wearcheck

diagnosticians establish the sampling points initially and consult on the results on an ongoing basis.

'Customers often use essential tradesmen who are thin on the ground and often haven't the time to take their samples to increase the chances of a correct sample being taken. There is no need for this once Wearcheck's industrial programme is in place. We take total responsibility for the integrity of the sample.'

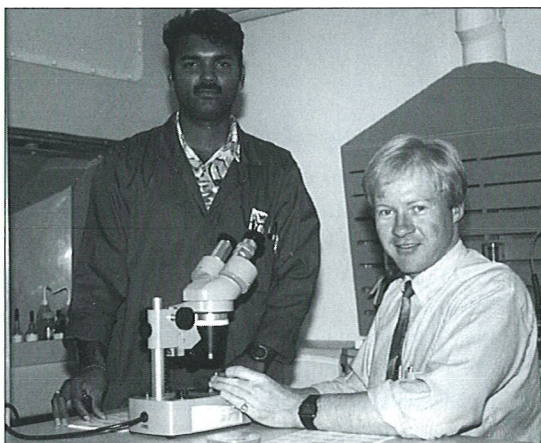
The programme also assists with refurbishment.

'We perform standard oil analysis and ferrography analysis on key equipment just prior to a scheduled shutdown. This helps customers decide which machines need to be refurbished and which need not be pulled apart at the set time. This can enable customers to extend the life of a unit with peace of mind, generating substantial savings.'

The industrial programme will soon be available in Gauteng as well as KwaZulu Natal. As the size and complexity of each factory's maintenance programmes differ, Wearcheck quotes on each programme individually.

Companies with mobile equipment can also benefit from RPD ferrography by purchasing RPD upgrade cards for capital intensive machines. In these cases Wearcheck recommends ferrographic analysis after every 1000 hours of use.

Lab assistant Ravi Chetty and diagnostician Ashley Mayer are part of the team working on Wearcheck's new industrial programme.



## Wearcheck Technical Training Courses JANUARY - JUNE 1998

| Date           | Course | Venue        |
|----------------|--------|--------------|
| 09 February    | 2      | Johannesburg |
| 10 February    | 3      | Johannesburg |
| 12/13 February | 4      | Johannesburg |
| 09 March       | 2      | Johannesburg |
| 10 March       | 3      | Johannesburg |
| 12/13 March    | 4      | Johannesburg |
| 21 April       | 2      | Pinetown     |
| 22 April       | 3      | Pinetown     |
| 23/24 April    | 4      | Pinetown     |
| 18 May         | 2      | Johannesburg |
| 19 May         | 3      | Johannesburg |
| 21/22 May      | 4      | Johannesburg |
| 22 June        | 2      | Johannesburg |
| 23 June        | 3      | Johannesburg |
| 25/26 June     | 4      | Johannesburg |

**Course 1:** *A practical introduction to oil analysis* (8h30 - 12h30). By arrangement. Cost: R132 (Wearcheck customers), R181.50 (others).

**Course 2:** *The application of analysis and an introduction to troubleshooting* (8h30 - 16h30). Cost: R434.50 (Wearcheck customers), R605 (others).

**Course 3:** *Troubleshooting series* (8h30 - 16h30). Cost: R434.50 (Wearcheck customers), R605 (others).

**Course 4:** *The technical management of oil analysis and lubrication* (Day 1: 8h30 - 16h30, Day 2: 8h30 - 12h30). Cost: R836 (Wearcheck customers), R1089 (others).

All prices include VAT.

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

## Where to find us

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### INTERNET SITE

<http://www.wearcheck.co.za>