



SEASON'S GREETINGS

As we look back on the events and achievements of 2007, it is an appropriate time to consider those who have played an important role in our development and contributed to our success. To our valued customers we extend grateful thanks for your support and wish you all peace and happiness over the festive season and prosperity in the coming year.



CUSTOM-BUILT SPECIALITY LAB NEARS COMPLETION



WearCheck managing director Neil Robinson (left) inspects construction work in progress at the new speciality lab at Set Point headquarters in Isando with diagnostic manager, John Evans.

WearCheck's custom-built new speciality lab, which will house the company's transformer and fuel laboratories, is nearing completion at Set Point headquarters in Electron Ave, Isando. It is scheduled to be fully operational in January 2008.

The fuel lab is situated at WearCheck's Isando offices at present and the transformer lab

will move from its current Boksburg premises.

'Customers are requested to continue to deliver all samples to WearCheck's offices in Die Agora Road, not to the new lab, as this will remain the co-ordination point,' said managing director, Neil Robinson.

The new speciality lab will be a brand new, purpose-built facility housing state of the art new instruments. These include a R300 000 Claris 600 automated Perkin Elmer gas chromatograph (GC), a R600 000 Claris 500 turbomatrix TOGA headspace GC and a HPLC for furanic analysis, amongst others.

'We plan to provide additional services at the speciality lab in future with the aim of creating an analytical centre of excellence that offers customers a variety of options in addition to transformer and fuel analysis,' Neil said.

'It is also likely that we will move the current Johannesburg office into bigger premises at Set Point across the freeway sometime next year.'

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Recent requests from people wanting to receive copies of WearCheck's technical publications have come from a gas company in Algeria, the Indian Institute for Production Management in Kansbahal and Barusan Makina

in Kazakhstan, the official Cat dealer in the Caspian.

Samples continue to be received from interesting locations around the world including Kandahar in Afghanistan, Bagram Air Base in Iraq and a fruit farm in Panama.

ON-SITE WEARCHECK LAB FOR ZAMBIAN COPPER MINE

WearCheck has set up and been operating an on-site container laboratory for Lumwana copper mine in Zambia since August this year.

This is the first step in a joint venture that will result in the construction of a permanent lab at the mine next year which will be operated by WearCheck to process all of the mine's oil samples.

'It will be run on the same principles as the Barloworld SOS lab in Johannesburg,' said MD Neil Robinson. 'Our staff at the Lumwana lab will process the samples and the data will be sent to Pinetown. However, diagnosis will be performed by WearCheck technical staff.'

The 12m air-conditioned container has been equipped with state-of-the-art instruments. These will all be transferred to the permanent lab when it is completed in April next year.

The container lab will shortly be processing about 1 000 samples a month when the mine introduces three working shifts and the plant starts operating. This is expected to increase as both partners have agreed to accept samples from other companies on the Zambian copper belt and the southern DRC.

WearCheck diagnostic manager John Evans and lab technician Clive Govender set the lab up in July this year. John, who has a BSc in Chemistry from Southampton University in the UK, established a laboratory in Gaborone, Botswana for Barlows in

1983 and two on-site labs for De Beers at Jwaneng and Orapa diamond mines, also in Botswana, in 1986. He also commissioned an on-site lab for Barlows in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1985 and has been involved in running remote diagnostic facilities for WearCheck since 1990.

Clive has remained at the mine, running the laboratory. He is continuously training Lumwana maintenance technicians to take samples and fill in WearCheck submission forms, and advising on sample cleanliness.

'It has been a completely new experience and a challenge in many ways but it has been a privilege to be part of a brand new venture which will be one of the biggest copper mines in Africa,' Clive said.

When Clive returns to South Africa in January, diagnostic assistant Shashay Rampersad will take over his position.

Says Neil, 'We have back-up staff in place to fill in for the Lumwana lab operator when needed. Diagnostician Ravi Chetty ran the lab for ten days in October while Clive was home on leave in South Africa and technical assistant Trevor Pillay is on stand-by to take over if required.'

'We have been investigating opportunities further afield in Africa for some time now, so when Lumwana approached us to set up the joint venture, it seemed the ideal opportunity to establish a foothold in the centre of the continent.'

WEARCHECK CUSTOMERS IN CENTRAL AFRICA CAN USE LUMWANA LAB



Lab technician Clive Govender is operating WearCheck's on-site lab at Lumwana copper mine in Zambia.

WearCheck customers with equipment operating near the Lumwana mine will be welcome to send their samples to this lab, once it is fully operational, if it is more convenient for them. Because the Lumwana lab is fully integrated with the WearCheck system via electronic links, their samples will be diagnosed by the Pinetown diagnosticians as usual, they will receive their



WearCheck's on-site container lab at Lumwana.



The diesel workshop at Lumwana Mine under construction

reports in the same way they normally do and their data base will be maintained exactly as before. A surcharge for this service may be applicable.

GENERATOR PROVIDES SOLID BACK-UP



Checking on WearCheck's new generator are field service diagnostician, Peter Carty, store assistant, Sizwe Ndlovu and lab manager, Paul Swan. Peter has the task of ensuring that sufficient diesel supplies are retained and regular sampling of both fuel and oil is carried out, whilst Sizwe is responsible for the refuelling.

WearCheck's powerful new 200KVA Cummins generator is proving its worth. In the week after it was installed at the Pinetown offices in September it was forced into action by three power failures.

'We did not realise how much use we would be getting from the new generator in such a short period of time,' said managing director, Neil Robinson. 'It is providing invaluable back-up.'

'If the generator had not been in place when we experienced a prolonged power cut in the critical month end period at the end of September, we would have had to cancel a lab shift, increasing sample turnaround time. Monthly reports would also have been delayed.'

The three September incidents were followed by a series of outages due to load shedding during the cold, rainy period in Durban in October.

'We are delighted to report that our new generator kept the whole Pinetown facility in its entirety running smoothly throughout,' Neil said.

'The first outage occurred during a Saturday shift which we run to ensure that samples are processed over weekends so that results are accessible on Saturday rather than on Monday. The generator takes only seconds to kick in automatically when the power goes down which, allied to our UPS system, ensures seamless operation and guarantees no damage to our lab instrumentation and IT systems.'

The acquisition of the generator was part of Wearcheck's forward planning process in expectation of electricity supply problems going forward.

'Our customers work around the clock and we require uninterrupted power to be able to meet

their needs,' Neil said. 'A mine dump truck is not hampered by electricity outages and we cannot afford to be either.'

Another factor which influenced the decision to buy such a large generator was the need for air-conditioning in the laboratory.

'A constant temperature is essential in the laboratory to ensure accuracy of results. The generator gives us the reassurance that WearCheck's laboratory and hence our service, will not be compromised by power failures.'

After thoroughly researching the generators available, WearCheck decided that the 200KVA Cummins would comfortably meet all the needs of the Pinetown office and laboratory complex.

LUBE TIP

SELF GENERATION OF CONTAMINATION IN THE OIL

The Practical Handbook of Machinery Lubrication identifies five reasons for regular oil drain intervals. Here's number one:

Every engine, hydraulic pump, gear set or other component very slowly wears as it operates, and these tiny, sub-micronic particles of such elements as iron and copper, become catalysts which slowly attack the oil, causing acids to form.

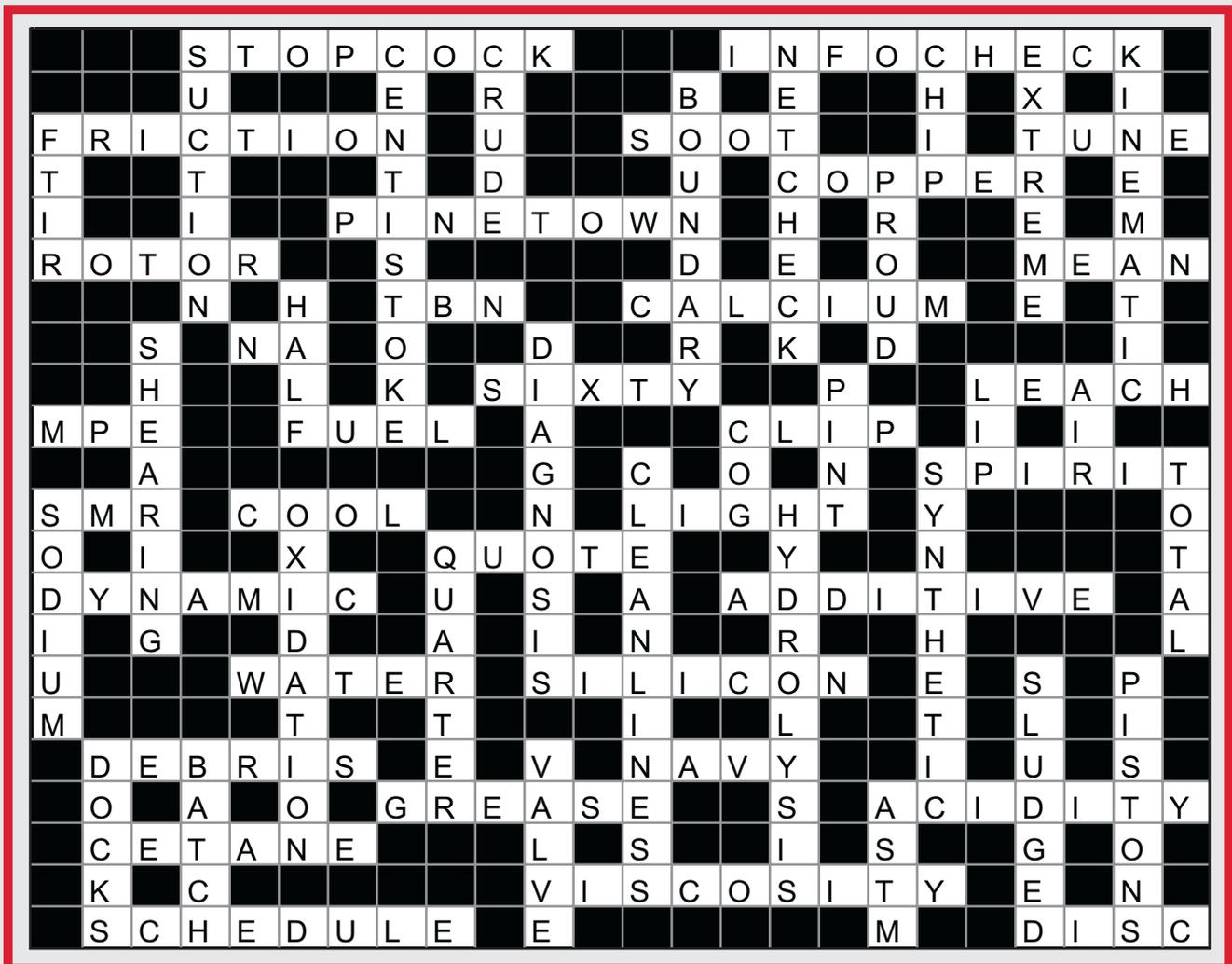
These tiny metal contaminants, combined with carbon soot particles resulting from the combustion process in engines, also circulate in the system and through their abrasive action, create more wear. These solid particles become just like a fine grinding compound and will slowly scratch and score bearing surfaces, turbocharger bearings, crankshaft journals, cylinder liners, and hydraulic pump and valve surfaces.

Normal full-flow filters are generally rated at about 10 micrometers and 40 micrometers in hydraulic systems and engines respectively, and will not remove these sub-micronic particles. Furthermore, if these filters become plugged, or if the by-pass valves within them remain open for long periods of time, such as at cold start up, contaminated oil will be pumped throughout the system.

It is important to remember that if the levels of self-generated contamination are allowed to increase until some damage by abrasion is caused, it will be too late to prevent more ongoing damage, even if the dirty oil is drained.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

For those who took the time to test their oil analysis knowledge and complete the crossword published in the last issue of Monitor - here are the answers.



NEED HELP WITH INDUSTRIAL SAMPLES?



A WearCheck technician carries out sampling for an industrial client.

If you need help with sample taking on industrial installations, we have specialists who can do the job for you. Simply contact:

Charmaine Thumbiran in KwaZulu-Natal,
Tel: (031) 700-5460

Keith Finlayson in Gauteng including Steelpoort,
Tel (011) 392-6322

Leon Marshall in the Eastern Cape,
Tel: (041) 360-1535

Sunette Visser in Rustenburg,
Tel (014) 596-5700

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



The pupils of New Germany Primary School are delighted with their new vegetable garden that was made possible by WearCheck. Having fun tending their seedlings are Lindo Shembe, Bongani Langa and Grant Cele.

WearCheck is continuing its growing partnership with nearby New Germany Primary School, which has resulted in a thriving vegetable garden cared for by the pupils.

WearCheck has sponsored tools, seeds, fencing and a Jo-Jo tank to feed water to the garden. The children from the school's special needs class have contributed their green fingers, elbow grease and enthusiasm. With the guidance of teachers, Amber Chipps and Ros Standal, they have created a garden to be proud of.

'The children love the garden,' said Ros. 'It has given them a real sense of purpose and they have worked so hard in it - planting, weeding and watering.'

They tend the garden after school and during certain lessons in which the garden is used as a teaching aid.

They have several plans for the vegetables when they are ready to harvest.

'We want the children to learn to cook soups and salads so they can taste the fruits of their labour. We will also use the vegetables in our outreach programme – donating items to nearby old age homes and to the families of pupils that are affected by HIV/Aids to provide nutritious meals.'

WearCheck has donated indigenous trees to another local school on Arbor Day for a number of years as part of its ongoing corporate social responsibility programme.

MAKING HEADWAY

SOS LAB SUPERVISOR



Avish Maharaj (left) and Chris Joshua in the SOS lab.

Avish Maharaj joined WearCheck as a laboratory assistant in the Barloworld SOS laboratory in 2003. He was promoted to his current position in August this year.

LAB TECHNICIAN

Chris Joshua spent seven years at WearCheck Pinetown as a lab assistant before moving to Johannesburg in October this year. He now works as a lab technician, sharing his time between the speciality lab and the Barloworld SOS lab.

PINETOWN SALES CONSULTANT



Denver Naidoo

Denver Naidoo started his career at WearCheck in 2000 as a laboratory assistant on the night shift. He moved over to the day shift, before being promoted to diagnostic assistant in the mini lab, where one of his responsibilities was sampling at industrial sites. He is studying towards a diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

JOHANNESBURG RECEPTIONIST



Patrysa Huggett

Patricia ('Patrysa') Huggett is the new receptionist in the Johannesburg office. She joined the company in June this year.

TRANSFORMER KITS

Transformer analysis kits are available in any quantities for the regular testing of all types of transformers. The standard kit includes a 1 litre tin, label, submission form and full analysis (moisture content, acidity, dielectric, strength and gas).

Product code: WTAK

2008 TRAINING COURSES

COURSE	JOHANNESBURG	PINETOWN
NetCheck: Software	11 February, 9 June, 13 October	10 March, 11 August
WearCheck 1: Oil analysis orientation	12 February, 10 June, 14 October	11 March, 12 August
WearCheck 2: Understanding oil analysis	13 February, 11 June, 15 October	12 March, 13 August
WearCheck 3: Report interpretation	14 February, 12 June, 16 October	13 March, 14 August
WearCheck 4: Management	15 February, 13 June, 17 October	14 March, 15 August
Machinery & Lubrication: Level One	3-5 March, 6-8 October	23-25 June
Machinery & Lubrication: Level Two	6-7 March, 9-10 October	26-27 June

The WearCheck courses are full day and cost R 1550 plus VAT with the exception of Course 4 which is half day and costs R550 plus VAT.

The Machinery and Lubrication (MLA) courses are run in joint venture with the ABB School of Maintenance. Level One is a three-day course costing R5456.85 plus VAT. Level Two is a two-day course costing R4354.35 plus VAT.

For all bookings phone Patrys Huggett on (011) 392-6322.

PRAAT ONS AFRIKAANS?

Dit is 'n algemene wanopvatting dat ons personeel in Pinetown, anders as in ons Johannesburgse takkantoor, nie Afrikaans magtig is nie.

Om in Afrikaans in Pinetown gehelp te word, kontak: Lorain de Bruin vir NetCheck/databasis navrae Daan Burger vir diagnose navrae Kay Meyrick vir kliente navrae

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

If you have feedback of any sort you'd like to give us – praise, problems or suggestions - there is no need to wait for a customer survey. Feel free to email us at any time on support@wearcheck.co.za

If you would prefer to receive future issues of WearCheck Monitor and Technical Bulletin via e-mail instead of in printed form, please e-mail a request to: support@wearcheck.co.za

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Honeywell



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