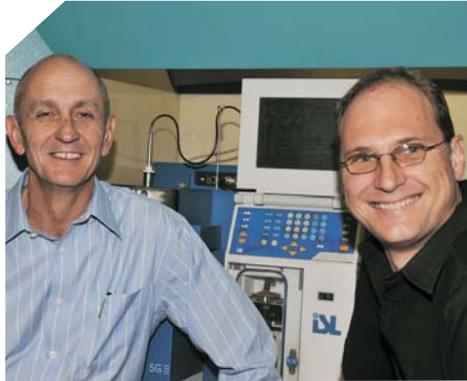


## WEARCHECK LAUNCHES CUSTOM-BUILT SPECIALITY LAB



Set Point CEO, Graeme Horsfield, (left) and WearCheck managing director, Neil Robinson, celebrate the launch of a purpose-built new speciality laboratory to house WearCheck's transformer and fuel laboratories in Isando on 11 March.

**WearCheck launched a purpose-built new speciality laboratory, housing its transformer and fuel laboratories, at the headquarters of holding company, Set Point Technology, in Isando on 11 March.**

'Transformer analysis is especially relevant in the current energy crisis and in the light of general acknowledgement that there is a need for more effective maintenance of electrical infrastructure in this country,' said WearCheck managing director, Neil Robinson.

'It is a strategic and necessary tool for a proactive, preventive electrical maintenance programme. Analysis of the oils which insulate many transformers, allows for the detection of problems before equipment fails and major breakdowns occur.'

'In the power generation industry, not only can damaged equipment cost millions to replace, but the loss of productivity caused by downtime can be equally expensive,' Neil said.

'Further, load-shedding and the constant switching on and off of power puts pressure on transformers. Oil analysis can be invaluable in this situation by monitoring and identifying component weaknesses before serious problems develop.'

WearCheck's speciality lab houses state of the art new transformer

analysis equipment. This includes a R300 000 Claris 600 automated Perkin Elmer gas chromatograph (GC) for PCB analysis, a R660 000 Claris 500 turbomatrix TOGA headspace GC for dissolved gas analysis, a R274 000 HPLC for furanic analysis and two new KV machines for dielectric testing. New equipment for testing corrosive sulphur is due later this year.

Said Neil, 'Our new headspace equipment makes it unnecessary for dissolved gas analysis (DGA) to be analysed in the same geographic location as it is sampled. It will also allow WearCheck to offer a three to five day turnaround on transformer oil samples submitted to Wearcheck's Durban and Johannesburg offices. To our knowledge we are the only service provider in South Africa to offer this timeframe. During the course of the year we hope to extend this service.'

The lab offers the full range of transformer analysis tests covering moisture, acid, dissolved gas, dielectric, furanics, PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) and corrosive sulphur.

It also offers a diesel and petrol analysis service – enabling the early identification of fuel contamination and the prevention of engine failure and costly downtime on fuel-driven equipment or vehicles used by plant hire, mining and transport companies as well as any organisation with bulk storage tanks.

'We plan to add to the test range in the long term, gradually introducing additional services as part of our mission to become the pre-eminent transformer oil and fuel analysis laboratory in Africa,' Neil said.

WearCheck's fuel lab was formerly situated at the company's Isando offices and the transformer lab was moved from premises in Boksburg.

It is hoped that WearCheck's existing Isando office will move into larger premises above the speciality laboratory at Set Point headquarters later this year.

**Note: Samples should still be delivered to WearCheck's offices in Die Agora Road, Isando and not to the new lab, as this will remain the co-ordination point.**

# UPDATE ON LUMWANA MINE ON-SITE LAB



WearCheck's on-site container laboratory at Lumwana copper mine in Zambia is now 100% operational.

Managing director, Neil Robinson paid a visit to the site in February and was satisfied with the progress that has been made.

'This is now a full service laboratory which is completely integrated into the WearCheck system,' he said. 'The results mimic those of the Pinetown laboratory and are incorporated directly into the company database.'

The lab is a joint venture between Lumwana Mine and WearCheck which operates in the same way as the Barloworld SOS lab in Johannesburg - samples are processed at the on-site lab but in this instance are diagnosed by WearCheck's Pinetown diagnosticians.



The diesel workshop at Lumwana under construction. When complete, this will house the WearCheck lab as well as offices for CAT, Sandvik and Hitachi.

'We have the capacity to process 6000 samples a month, but our initial goal is 3000 samples,' said Neil.

We would like to emphasise that WearCheck customers who have equipment operating nearby on the Zambian copper belt or in the south of the DRC are able to send samples to the Lumwana lab. Although a surcharge is applicable because of the way the joint venture is structured, it may still be more cost-effective for them. Sample bottles can be obtained from the Lumwana lab or special bottles can be ordered from WearCheck in South Africa. Customers will receive their reports the same way they usually do and their data base will be maintained exactly as before.

Fuel, coolant and transformer oil testing will soon be offered at the container lab which is due to move into a permanent lab in the mine's diesel workshop - currently under construction - in July. This building will also house offices for Caterpillar, Sandvik and Hitachi.



Lab technician Shashay Rampersad at work in WearCheck's container lab at Lumwana copper mine in Zambia.



WearCheck MD Neil Robinson with one of the mine's 27 dump trucks.

## POSITIVE RESPONSE TO CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY



Hennie Terblanche of Karbochem in Newcastle was the winner of the lucky draw prize for completing the survey. He won a weekend for two at any Protea Hotel in South Africa and chose Karridene Beach on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the questionnaire - we sincerely value your feedback.'

If recommending WearCheck to a friend or associate, these were some of the selling points that respondents said they would use:

- An absolute necessity in minimising failures
- Good customer service from bottom to top
- An essential maintenance tool
- Technical support
- Ease of use
- Knowledge and professionalism
- Prompt service
- It is a must for any company

When asked to rate the company's overall services, these were some of the replies:

- Professional
- Very good – astounded by your accuracy
- Excellent
- Friendly and helpful

'We will continue with these regular surveys to make sure that we continue to match our services with the needs and expectations of customers,' Neil said.

## 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 anytime on support@wearcheck.co.za

## OUT AND ABOUT

WearCheck will be mounting an exhibit at TECH X 2008, Nelspruit's first annual technology expo which takes place at the Lowveld Showgrounds from 17-19 April. We invite all our customers in the Nelspruit area to visit our stand at the show.

## MAKING HEADWAY

### NEW DIAGNOSTICIAN



New diagnostician, Steven Lara-Lee Lumley

Steven Lara-Lee Lumley joined WearCheck as a diagnostician at the beginning of March, bringing with her a wealth of oil analysis experience.

Steven has an N6 mechanical engineering diploma and, for the past 14 years, has played a lead diagnostic role at Spectracare Laboratories in Johannesburg as senior lubricant analyst (diagnostician).

She has been involved in the analysis and evaluation of oil samples from equipment serving a wide range of sectors - from earthmoving and forestry to maritime, road and rail transport. Industrial applications include coal, gold and platinum mines, brewing and bottling lines, power stations and military applications. She also has experience of diagnosing speciality greases and of fixed wing aircrafts as well as other aviation-related equipment, including failure analysis. Some of the many African countries she has worked with are the DRG, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Swaziland, Nigeria and Mauritius.

Says MD, Neil Robinson, 'We are delighted to have Steven on the diagnostic team. She will now complete WearCheck's intensive six-month training course which all our diagnosticians undergo to ensure that they are completely au fait with all of the company's custom-developed systems.'

Steven rates being a team player as a high priority. 'I have a comprehensive and competitive understanding of this specialised field and am always open to new and challenging opportunities plus new technologies and environments. I am looking forward to working in WearCheck's high-tech environment and playing a meaningful role as part of the diagnostic team.'

In her spare time, Steven enjoys reading, ancient history and collecting rare cats.

## GLOBAL REACH

- WearCheck's influence has now extended to the northern tip of Africa – with a request from a condition monitoring engineer working for In Salah Gas in Krechba to be added to the company's technical data mailing list.
- An enquiry was recently received from a procurement specialist in Ajman Freezone, in the United Arab Emirates.

# 2008 TRAINING COURSES

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

The WearCheck courses are full day and cost R1550 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 Patrya Huggett on (011) 392-6322.**

## WEARCHECK HAS THE POWER

With the purchase of its 200KVA generator last year, WearCheck has the power to keep the Pinetown laboratory operating smoothly no matter what loadshedding or unforeseen electricity cuts occur.

'This investment is an example of WearCheck's proactive planning process to make sure that service delivery is maintained at all costs,' said managing director, Neil Robinson.

'Hindsight is always an accurate science but management foresight in this instance was spot on given the long delays that companies are facing now to acquire adequate generators. The new "Genny" has become one of our most productive assets.'

The new generator is powerful enough to feed the entire Pinetown office and laboratory complex – including computers, lab equipment and air conditioners.

## CATHY IS TOP AUDITOR

Johannesburg branch co-ordinator Cathy Bolton was named internal auditor for 2007 at a special lunch at the end of last year. MD Neil Robinson presented her with an award for her dedication. Cathy has been with the company for 11 years and plays an invaluable role at the administrative hub of the office.



Cathy Bolton

## HIGHLIGHT YOUR SUCCESS

If you have an example of how oil analysis has helped you, we would be happy to feature this in Monitor. Email [melanie@wearcheck.co.za](mailto:melanie@wearcheck.co.za) and we will write the article from information supplied by you.

## PRODUCT PICK



**Heavy duty metal oil sample extraction pump**  
Supplied with a rinse bottle and tubing.  
Product code: WISPE

**Tubing**  
Additional tubing can be bought in 30m rolls.  
Product code: WRT

**Tubing cutter**  
This handy cutter can also be bought from WearCheck.  
Product code: WTC

*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](mailto:support@wearcheck.co.za)*

## THE LEADER IN OIL AND FUEL ANALYSIS

**KWAZULU-NATAL**  
9 LE MANS PLACE  
WESTMEAD, PINETOWN, RSA  
PO BOX 15108, WESTMEAD 3608  
TEL: +27 31 700 5460  
FAX: +27 31 700 5471  
[support@wearcheck.co.za](mailto:support@wearcheck.co.za)  
[www.wearcheck.co.za](http://www.wearcheck.co.za)



**GAUTENG**  
25 SAN CROY OFFICE PARK  
DIE AGORA RD, CROYDON RSA  
PO BOX 284, ISANDO 1600  
TEL: +27 11 392 6322  
FAX: +27 11 392 6340  
[jhbsupport@wearcheck.co.za](mailto:jhbsupport@wearcheck.co.za)  
[www.wearcheck.co.za](http://www.wearcheck.co.za)



Honeywell



Publications are welcome to reproduce articles or extracts from them providing they acknowledge Wearcheck Africa, a member of the Set Point group.

Felicity Howden Public Relations 3/2008