

THE AUSTRALIAN METROLOGIST

Issue 9 – October 1996

Introductory paragraphs to stories and comments in the paper version of

TAM, "The Australian Metrologist"

- Please see the magazine for the full story!

Presidents Column - by John Miles

This issue of TAM sees a change in editor following the resignation of the founding editor, John Mitchell. John finds he can no longer give the time required to keep TAM at its currently high standard, a standard he has set himself. I am pleased to announce that Jack Deller is the new editor.

Editors Column - by Jack Deller

I keep asking myself "Why" but here I am acting as Editor of our magazine. As Dr. John has said the task was accepted very reluctantly as I feel to follow John Mitchell will be an arduous task, and I am going to need your support in filing articles and comments on a regular basis.

Letters to the Editor

We had two letters this month. The first begins ...

Has the President lost it? - from Alex Smart of S.G.Prittie Precision Gauges Pty Ltd

Dear Editor,

Where is our highly respected President, Dr John Miles leading us? Did you read his Editorial in the last issue? Did the altitude over the Timor Sea affect him? Or was it a case of Bali belly going to his head? Or is there really some connection between metrology in Indonesia, Einstein's general theory of relativity, Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, Alfred Russell Wallace, Charles Darwin and the benefit to Captain William Bligh of a global positioning satellite system for navigation?

and the second letter begins ...

Time for Constitution Upgrade - from Ron Cook

Dear Editor,

I believe the time is now right for an upgrade to the MSA constitution. We presently have a very competent and hard working executive. They have achieved much and have brought the organisation to a mature state in a very short time.

Constitutional Changes

Jane Warne is currently preparing a working draft of modifications to the MSA constitution. The aims of the changes are to ensure that the Society does not become stale or insular, to build in proper succession planning and to enable the committee of management to be more responsive and operate more efficiently.

Metrology at the Speed-of-Light - by Philip Ciddor

For the last year or two I have been looking at better ways of calculating the speed of light, and have been forced to refresh and extend my knowledge of a great deal of basic science. I thought that it might be interesting to describe just how much is involved in such an investigation, and why such a task is ideally suited to a national standards laboratory and a semi-retired physicist.

News from the National Measurement Laboratory

Collaboration in the Philippines

A collaborative project to develop international recognition for the Philippines national standards is underway between NML and the Philippines national measurement laboratory, Industrial Technology Development Institute.

Vietnam Metrology Receives NML Assistance

As part of the Australian government's support for APEC, a new AusAID project has been approved. In this project, NML will be assisting the Vietnam Metrology Institute (VMI) gain international recognition of their national standards of measurement.

The Asia-Pacific Metrology Program

The Taiwan APMP member laboratory, Center for Measurement Standards/Industrial Technology Research Institute (CMS/ITRI), has recently published the APMP *Directory of Calibration Facilities*, providing details of measurement standards and calibration facilities and services in a number of Asia-Pacific laboratories. A copy of this document can be obtained from the ARMP Secretariat, Australia.

Name Change for CSIRO Division of Applied Physics

Due to the recent Federal Government decision to merge the roles of CSIRO Division of Applied Physics and Division of Radio Physics, the new name will be **Division of Telecommunications and Industrial Physics**. It is hoped that the name National Measurement Laboratory (NML) will be retained for standards related activities.

NSC News

Measurement in Sport

Measurement in Sport was officially launched by the Hon. Peter McGauran the Minister for Science and Technology on July 11 at the Australian Science Teachers annual conference. Measurement in Sport is a teaching resource developed by the National Standards Commission with the aid of a Department of Industry Science and Tourism grant. The resource aims to increase technological literacy and raise awareness of the role of measurement in our society.

Committee News

The following are just some of the points discussed at the Committee of Management meeting on the 18th September 1996.

- ✉ Letters have been sent to several members indicating that their membership will be terminated if outstanding fees are not paid immediately.
- ✉ A letter has been sent to Standards Australia recommending the adoption of the ISO GEUM as an Australian Guide.
- ✉ The Committee agreed that National Conference should be every two years.
- ✉ TAM (hey, the paper version, not this version) is to publish names and addresses of 1995 conference attendees in a future issue.
- ✉ The Committee is considering the MSA becoming a private provider of metrology modules.
- ✉ The production of badges, ties, tie pins, pens, and other merchandising items is being investigated by Horst Sieker.
- ✉ Planning for 1996 AGM has been initiated.
- ✉ A proposal to introduce national metrology awards in time for 1997 conference is under consideration.
- ✉ A laser printer has been purchased for use by the Secretary and other members of MSA.
- ✉ New A4 envelopes and MSA certificates of appreciation have been printed.
- ✉ The conference committee has been initiated and is to be chaired by Walter Giardini.

2nd National Conference

November 26 - 28, 1997,
Melbourne, Australia.

The Metrology Society of Australia will hold its second National Metrology Conference in Melbourne, Victoria on November the 26th to the 28th, 1997. The venue for Australia's premier conference in Metrology will be Melbourne University, in the geographical heart of Melbourne's commercial centre and centrally located to all of Melbourne's major industrial, technical and scientific centres.

Let people know you're a MSA member

The management committee feel the society is now established to a point where members may like to purchase items which will promote the MSA and give them a feeling of belonging. The items being considered at present are:

- ✉ Ties with logo at approx AUD\$20 each
- ✉ Tie Pins / Lapel Badges at AUD\$5 each
- ✉ Jumpers (Super Wash Wool) with logo at AUD\$50 each

Please contact Horst Sieker with a short message indicating which and how many items you may be interested in ordering.

Telephone: (03) 9555-0671, facsimile: (03) 9555-6589 or [E-mail](#) Horst.

Telstra Research Laboratories - Going, Going,?

A few of you may have read the article by Helen Meredith in the *Financial Review* of 22 October on the state of health of Telstra Research Laboratories at Clayton in Victoria. What you may not have heard is that one of the best electrical metrology laboratories in the country has been closed down.

State News

📍 New South Wales

There was a very successful visit to the Qantas Jet Base on the 9th October. Twenty-two people attended. They were shown the Standards Laboratory, co-ordinate measuring, the precision turning area and finished off by visiting the flight simulator. A dinner followed the tour.

The next activity will be the NSW annual meeting to be held at NML on 22 November.

📍 Victoria

The annual dinner for Victorian Members was held on 23 October at Capers restaurant. A little over forty people attended which was perhaps a little disappointing. The food compensated.

There will be a technical night following the annual general meeting of the MSA at the CSIRO Division of Telecommunications and Industrial Physics on 21 November.

📍 Queensland

A visit to SIMTARS in August was marred by poor attendance due to a road accident blocking the main access to the venue. It was decided to postpone the meeting of members to allow the staff at SIMTARS to give their presentation.

The next meeting will be on the 12 November and will be held at the Swanbank Power Station.

📍 South Australia

There was a successful meeting on 22 of August where Mr Richard Duncan addressed the members on the subject of the ISO Guide on uncertainties. Over twenty members attended.

There will be a technical visit to the Telstra Calibration facilities on 23 October.

📍 Western Australia

No news from the West

📍 Tasmania

No news from the "Apple Isle"

AGM Notice

The next Annual General Meeting of Metrology Society of Australia will be Thursday 21st November 1996.