



CETANZ

Civil Engineering Testing Association New Zealand



ISSUE 34 | JANUARY 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

➔ **Update from
the Chair**

➔ **CPT
Seminar**

➔ **Auckland Has
Moved**

➔ **Captif Track
Visit**

➔ **Dust Monitoring
In Labs**

➔ **A Word From
The Editor**

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

Danny Wyatt

Hello and welcome to this year's Xmas edition of CETANZ news.

A couple of pieces of admin to start with. In October, my former colleague (first Lab Boss) and friend Alan Pheasant passed away unexpectedly at home. Alan was a larger than life character with a wicked, witty sense of humour and a penchant for puns! As Alan had worked for several lab businesses on both sides of the Tasman and in Papua New Guinea there were a lot of faces from the past at his funeral along with many members of the WSP lab fraternity. Alan, you will be missed.

As I write, the Whakaari/ White Island story continues to develop and we all hope that the anxiety that the families are currently experiencing will soon be relieved. Kia Kaha.

This year has been a busy one for the CETANZ crew with Jayden and the technical team advising on papers, John and the careers & events crew starting on next year's conference in Rotorua, review of the current qualification with Connexis and working hard on the independent third party Salary and Wage survey just to mention a few! Marco is continuing to fly the flag for CPT and CETANZ at various events while working on the best practice guide and a CPT event was recently held in conjunction with NZGS.

Continued on to the next page...

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED...

Last week, we had a great trip to the NZTA CAPTIF facility in Christchurch. It was a good turn out from our members. It was really interesting to see how the pavements under our roads are being put through their paces and how theories around specific road failures are being proven or disproven. I would like to take the opportunity to thank David Alabaster and his team for taking the time to show us around.

We have now pencilled in a tour of the TG project based on an invite from Construction Sciences, look out for this around March/ April next year.

I have represented CETANZ on the National Pavement Technical Group, the achieving optimum compaction steering group and the M/4 steering group whilst Jayden has been our eyes and ears on the National Surfacing technical group. All information gained from these meetings has been fed back into the technical group. If you feel you have missed out on the latest goings on, do not hesitate to get hold of either Jayden or myself for further information.

Early in the new year we will be running an independent Salary and Wage survey. The third party selected to run this survey is Strategic Pay who will be in contact with the manager of each member laboratory in due course. A lot of work has gone into this and we are expecting it will provide the organisations of our members with invaluable data for their employees!

Thank you for your continued support of CETANZ. This helps us achieve our mission of:

- Continuous improvement of the standard of testing in NZ
- Advancing the status of testing to the construction industry and
- Representing members views to regulatory authorities

Stay safe in the lead up to Xmas have a great break, and we will see you all in the new year!!

ONE DAY SEMINAR ON CONE PENETRATION TESTING

A one day seminar on CPT testing run by Ernst Wassenaar of Geomil was held last month. This was a joint NZGS and CEATNZ organised course held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The course was well attended by a combination of CPT contractor and engineers. The course was very informative and covered a wide range of topics, such as how the equipment works, how tests are performed and how the results are processed and interpreted.

This is the first joint CETANZ/NZGS course, with more to come in the new year. The next is likely to be a course on Seismic CPT, which Perry Geotech are organising. We are likely to follow this with courses and/or workshops on the Best Practice Document, once this is finalised.

Written By Marco Holtrigter



GEOTECHNICS AUCKLAND HAS MOVED!

The Auckland Geotechnics Office and the Measurement and Calibration Centre have relocated to Onehunga. Our New premises is situated right next to the Neilson Street off-ramp on SH20.

The new address and PO Box are as follows:

1 Hill Street Onehunga, Auckland, 1061

PO Box 13171, Onehunga, Auckland, 1643

All other contact details will remain the same.



CAPTIF TRACK VISIT PHOTOS



DUST MONITORING IN LABS

With the recent Worksafe driven promotion of the risks associated with respirable dust, in particular silicosis, there has been an increase in the amount of personal exposure monitoring being completed across the construction industry. While initially some areas appear likely to have high exposure, for example quarries with large dusty operations areas, and others, for example labs, don't appear to be as high exposure, this is not always the case.

As aggregate and soil samples are often dried prior to testing these are a large source of dust with the mechanics of testing often stirring the dust up. Monitoring completed across a range of laboratories has shown personal exposure to respirable silica anywhere from 30% of the worksafe personal exposure limit to several times the limit. These have been some of the higher exposure results seen across the quarries, labs and other fixed sites monitored.

These results have shown the value of completing personal monitoring to establish levels that staff are exposed to, rather than an assessment based on what can be seen. Note that when observing dust clouds, only 20 percent of the actual dust is viewable to the naked eye.

Example of the controls that have been put in place are:

- Extraction – these units need to be correctly designed and allowances made for make-up air. A poorly designed extraction unit will suck the dust away but can cause extra dust to enter the lab due to the vacuum created. Appropriate filters should be used with make-up air vents, wherever possible.
- Vacuum – a correctly rated vacuum with good filters will remove any residual dust from the floor and stop it being recirculated.
- Sealing sieve sets – sealing sieve sets will keep the dust contained until it has settled
- PPE – dust masks or respirators should be a last option, worksafes guidance is for engineering controls before PPE.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR...

Once again I would like to do a big shout out to all of you who have contributed to this issue of CETANewZ. Just so you know, scores are being kept, and it could be worth your while in the long run....

For many of you the newsletter is your main contact with CETANZ and what keeps you up to date with the good work that continues to be done in our industry. We put a lot of effort into getting the newsletter out and welcome your feedback and input .

Given the number of “unique personalities” in our industry, there has to be a lot of material for a CETANZ “Chinese whispers” column. Of course all identities will be protected and contributors kept anonymous BUT we would love to hear and publish your gossip (Jayden you will rock at this one)

The previous issue caption this competition was won by Denys Searl of Opus. Thanks to all those who submitted entries and thanks to our judges. Unlike the general election, our voting actually gave a result and no-one had to smooze Winston Peters!

Labour weekend is nearly upon us and lets hope the recent stunning weather is an omen of what is to come! Have a happy long weekend and stay safe—we are looking forward to catching up with you at our Conference/AGM if not before

Until next time,

Brigitte

Advertising in the
CETANewZ is a great way
to get your message out

Reach your target audience
for just \$75 per half page
or \$150 per full page
advertisement.

Contact the editor for
further details or to
make a booking

info@cetanz.org.nz



**ADVERTISE
WITH US**