Wholly Water

ECan Laboratory's Newsletter

Issue No. 4 November 2006

"<" and ">" What do they mean?

Often on your report you may see one of these little characters as part of a result. They are used to indicate that a result is less than (<) or greater than (>) the detection limit for the test performed. For example: if we test a well sample for *E.coli,* the limit of detection is usually 1 bacterium per 100ml of water. So if we don't find any *E.coli* in the sample we are required to report the result as <1 rather than 0, even though to all intents and purposes the two results mean the same thing. With some other tests, however, a "<" result is not the same as a "0" result, depending on the limit of detection for the test. If you have any questions about your results don't hesitate to contact the laboratory.

Did you know?

Your brain tissue is 65% water. Messages from your brain to everywhere in your body are transported on 'waterways'.

Where has the last 6 months gone? We missed our last quarterly newsletter and for this we apologise. We have had a couple of staff changes during this time and below we are introducing our new Microbiologist, Marta Torok who started on the 13th November. We also welcomed Gaynor Harvey as a Chemistry Technician.

Due to the recent media releases regarding the high Nitrate Nitrogen levels in shallow groundwater, we have been very busy with numerous drinking water and Nitrate Nitrogen analyses.

Our summer recreational sampling is underway where water quality is monitored at numerous recreational swimming sites around Canterbury.

IANZ ACCREDITATION

IANZ have once again carried out their routine assessment of our Laboratory and we received several commendations for the procedures, quality control, staff knowledge and managements systems we have in place.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR LABORATORY HOURS

Our offices will be closed from midday on 22 December, and re-opening on 3 January. Our microbiology staff will be in the laboratory from 3 January, however our chemistry staff will not be back until 8 January.

We extend to you our very best wishes for the festive season.

STAFF PROFILE

My name is Marta and I have recently joined the team in the Laboratory as the Microbiology Technician. I graduated in Sciences and have been working in the science field for most of my career having teaching experience, medical microbiology and parasitology skills.

EMAILING OF REPORTS

Should you wish a copy of your Laboratory report to be emailed to you, prior to the original being sent by mail, please contact: sue.steel@ecan.govt.nz and Sue will set this up for you. The report is emailed in a pdf version.

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