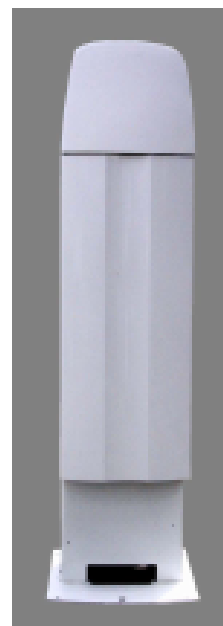


**Vaisala Ceilometer
CL31**

USER'S GUIDE

M210482EN-B
October 2004



 **VAISALA**

Version 1

Act 1

Scene 1 – Lyle

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, Cheshire Cat, stage right at podium), Chris Westbrook (stage left), Nicolas Bellouin (stage right, band), Ben Harvey (Tweedle P, stage right), Oscar Martinez-Alvarado (Tweedle V, stage left), Andrew Charlton-Perez (stage left), Alice (stage right near podium), White Rabbit (Rob Thompson, back of room), Bill Collins (stage right, band).

Lyle PPT on Screen. Narrator by podium. Light up with Alice on stage looking around confused and a little lost.

Narrator: Welcome to the 2015 Meteorology Department Pantomime. In case you haven't guessed, this year it's Alice in Metland. However, the story begins on the far side of the wilderness, in Lyle Tower.

SONG – LET IT GO – SUNG BY ALL SCENE 1 PEOPLE EXCEPT ROB THOMPSON

Narrator: I'm the Cheshire Matt. Cheshire Matt Owens. I'm here to shed some sunlight on this year's pantomime. That's Alice, a new PhD student who's been wandering the Lyle building trying to find a co-supervisor.

Alice wanders around. Chris enters from stage left

Chris W Ey up, I'm Chris Westbrook. How are you settling in?

Alice Good Morning, my name is Alice, I've just finished my Masters at Oxford and my project is looking at the dynamic...

Chris W I'm going to stop you right there. I work on radar, nothing dynamic about radars I'm afraid.

Exit Chris Westbrook stage left. Nicolas enters stage right

Nicolas Bonjour, err hello. I am err Nicolas err Bellouin. Are you enjoying your time in Lyle?

Alice Good Morning, my name is Alice, I've just finished my Masters at Oxford and my project is looking at the dynamic effect of the urban boundary layer, its effect on dynamic dispersion, in complex...

Nicolas I err am err going to err stop you there. Complex is too complex for me.

Exit Nicolas stage right. PV enter stage left

Tweedle P Hello this is Oscar Martinez-Alvarado, he studies vorticity

Tweedle V Hello this is Ben Harvey, he studies potential

Alice Good Morning, my name is Alice, I've just finished my Masters at Oxford and my project is looking at the dynamic effect of the urban boundary layer, its effect on dynamic dispersion, in complex urban geometries with the aim of creating a simplified dynamic model...

Tweedle P That doesn't sound like PV

Tweedle V Fancy a cup of tea?

Alice No wait a minute please don't go, I need another supervisor.

Exit Tweedle PV stage left. ACP enters stage left

ACP *(Spoken very quickly)* I'm Andrew Charlton-Perez. Who are you? Are you alright? Are you new here? Where are you from? What's your project title?

Alice Good Morning, my name is Alice, I've just finished my Masters at Oxford and my project is looking at the dynamic effect of the urban boundary layer, its effect on dynamic dispersion, in complex urban geometries with the aim of creating a simplified dynamic model of the city of London with intersections as nodes and streets as arcs and...

ACP *(stares into space)* That's nice...

Alice *(Quickly)* Supervised by Professor Sue Grimmond and I'm looking for a co-supervisor. .

ACP But Sue's based in Met, what are you doing here?

Alice *(stressed)* Met is overflowing with Sue's urbanites. The population density is so high in Met she's beginning to ship us over here to reduce the frontal area density of people!

ACP Well you best get to your desk, you do need to get a paper published in your first year after all!

ACP exits stage left

Alice walks to the front of stage. Giles & Andy B go from stage right -> left, Graeme & Chris W go stage left - > stage right.

Alice Where is everyone going?

Alice gets dizzy to some weird music and lays on the floor.

Lights Down

Lights up

Alice What happened? Am I dreaming?

Rob Thompson enters from the back of the room to front of stage right

A bell sounds. Clock appears on the PPT slide- Stopwatch maybe?

Rob I'm late! I'm late!

Rob runs/cycles past (behind) Alice

Alice (looks around) Hey excuse me! Where's everyone gone?

Alice goes to grab his arm.

Rob (*jogging on the spot*) Get off me! I'm late! I'm late! I have to beat my Robbit Thompson record of 3.14159 seconds in the race to Gu01 for the departmental seminar. I have to get to the front row before Andy Barrett steals my spot!

Rob exits stage left

Alice Departmental seminars? I'm sure Professor Grimmond expects me to attend. Where is this GU01? I know, I'll follow the white rabbit! It's not much of a record, I bet I could catch him up.

Alice exits stage left

Narrator So off goes Alice, (in Elmer Fudd voice) hunting wabbits (mmm my kind of fun! I do like rabbit)
I expect she'll be a little shocked by what she finds. Not everyone can cope with the Wonders of Metland...

Scene 2 – Down the rabbit hole

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, Cheshire Cat, at podium), Rob Thompson (White Rabbit, stage left), Alice (stage left), Chris Scott (stage right), Debbie Turner (stage right), Tweedle P (stage left), Tweedle V (stage left), Andrew Barrett (stage left).

Lights up

Narrator: Welcome to the wilderness. Here comes Alice, tailing after the white rabbit. When she... *(interrupted)*

Rob runs on from stage left.

Rob *(interrupts)* I'm going to beat my personal best! I'm 0.002 seconds ahead of schedule.

Rob runs across and off stage right. Enter Alice, out of breath from stage left.

Narrator Have you got precision that purrr-fect? Which instrument are you using? Anyway... back on with the wabbit hunt. *(gets out newspaper)*

Alice *(looking around)* Where has that rabbit gone?

Alice comes to the stream and looks round for a bridge (on the ppt)

Alice Well how am I supposed to get across this river?

Narrator *(reading Daily Express, leaning on side of podium)* Well, according to the Daily Express, this is the coldest winter for 50 years with months of heavy snowfall and Arctic blasts. All that water has flooded our little stream and it appears the bridge has been swept away.

Alice But the weather has been, to quote the Met Office 'unexceptional overall'.

PPT of the map of the unexceptional summer

Alice *(Points to map)* See?

Narrator Well maybe it was the El Nino then. Don't ask me, I'm a space Matt!

PPT of Matt or a cat in an astronaut suit

Alice Either way it doesn't solve the issue at hand, how am I supposed to get to the other side?

Enter Chris Scott with giant cardboard Rhino biscuits from stage right.

Chris S *(Shouting like Barry Scott, Cillit Bang Advert)* Hi I'm Chris Scott and I'm here to tell you about Rhino biscuits! They solve all problems, including the extinction of rhinos. Buy a biscuit, save a rhino!

Alice How is a rhino biscuit going to solve my problems?

Chris S Everyone knows Rhino biscuits have magical properties. It's the secret ingredient...*(Winks at Audience)*

Alice Well how much is a rhino biscuit?

Chris S All donations welcome. £5 will provide one rhino with a onesie, £9.95 will give a herd 50 years of Reading weather, £10 a cup of tea and a hug.

Alice Well as I'm only a poor PhD student, here's £5 for the rhinos.

Alice hands over money and gets biscuit off Chris in return. Alice eats the biscuit. Lights dim/flash and Alice wails as she costume changes (costume behind podium, most likely a mask and some big grey fabric)

Alice *(wailing)* What have you done?

Chris S Well how else did you think I was going to save the rhinos? I will fill the world with rhinos, one PhD student at a time!
(shouting and exiting) Bang! And the Rhino problem is gone.

Narrator has been slouching against podium, slowly walks across to Alice and pats her on the shoulder. Chris Scott exits stage right.

Narrator There, there, nobody likes a scaredy-cat. *(pauses)* Well, it will certainly be easier to get across the river like that but Stephen Gill has just brought out a new rule for the department, *(holds up sign with red circle through a rhino)* No rhinos in GU01.

Alice *(Sobbing)* What will Sue think if I miss the first seminar?

Narrator It's not like she'd notice one of her students missing, she's got so many anyway...

Alice (wails) But I look ridiculous! Sue wouldn't want a rhino as a PhD student. How can I research buildings when I can't even fit in one?

Narrator wanders off back to the podium

Narrator (shrugs) I've seen worse. You'll get used to it. Knock knock.

Alice Who's there?

Narrator Rhino

Alice Rhino who?

Narrator (emphasis as in I know...) **Rhino** you are in there.

Alice wails more as Narrator laughs to himself.

Debbie enters stage right.

Debbie Do stop crying, it's getting rather soggy around here! There's just been a viva, one of Sue's students passed. I, Debbie Turner, have been put in charge of the viva wine. Odd though, there's loads of it left. No idea why, top quality stuff this, Asda's finest Basics. (offers Alice a glass).

Alice At Oxford we have champagne, I couldn't drink this muck! It smells like something you'd put on your chips. (wails get louder)

Debbie There is some warm apple juice instead. Not quite champagne though! (hands over a cup). Anyway I'm off to spread the joy of viva wine to all of Metland!

Alice takes the cups and begins to drink through the sobbing. Debbie takes her leave and Alice begins to change out of the rhino costume. Lights dim while this is happening.

Narrator Oh dear, you've caused quite a flood, washed yourself right across the river! I guess the rhino biscuits did help after all!

Tweedle P and V enter from stage left, miming swimming

TP Alice, it's been a quite a while!

TV We've not seen you since your induction in Lyle!

Alice I think I remember you, but which is which?

TP Don't you remember, this is Tweedle V.

TV That's me of course and that's Tweedle P.

Alice Oh, can you help Tweedle PV? This is ridiculous!
TP Well this flood was caused by you!
TV Oh whatever shall we do?
TP It's not very pleasant let's get to the other side!

PV move to front of stage, background changes (simulating crossing river. A bit of time passes (5s?) as they cross the river).

TV My clothes are all soggy, will they ever be dried?!
Alice This is most disagreeable. I can't go to the seminar like this.

Andy Barrett enters looking dejected from stage left.

Andrew B Rabbit Thompson has probably already nicked the best seat so I might as well help you.
Alice Oh, so you must be Andy Barrett.
Andrew B That's me. We can have a caucus conversation. you'll soon dry off. Let me tell you all about how a PhD actually works.
Alice What do you mean?
Andrew B Well they make it sound very linear, paper in the first year, quo vadis in the second, poster presentation and departmental seminar in the third and many many monitoring committees. Actually, it's more like an endless loop.
Narrator And all that hot air will dry you off in no time

PPT changes to a graph of productivity/time which loops all over the place, with labels like - supervisor meeting, post mc slump etc.

Andrew B Here, I'll show you, follow my lead, I've been here for years.
TP Round and round we go!

*All begin to run round stage in a circle, Alice Follows them hesitantly. *Caucus race**

TV Keep up Alice, you're going too slow!

Singers stop circling and group together for song

SONG- 12 days of MC. 5 singing, Narrator, P & V, Alice, Andy B

Alice interrupts the song

Alice (angrily) I get it, I get it. I'm dry now and I need to get to the seminar.

TP The seminars not far.

TV Just follow the smoke

TP But we're going to the bar

TV I need a rum and coke

Alice and Andrew exit stage right following the PPT smoke, Tweedle PV exit stage left.

Light Down

Scene 3 – The Caterpillar in the Labs

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, Cheshire Cat, at podium), Alice (stage right), Giles Harrison (stage left, goes onto stage at start), Paul Williams (stage right, goes onto stage at start), Keri Nicholl (stage right), Lab Tech 1 (stage left), Lab Tech 2 (stage left), Graeme Marlton (stage right).

Giles is on stage, sat on a table in the Lab. Paul is stood off to one side, busy with work. Band (one guitar/bass) start playing quietly.

Narrator: Alice has lost Andy Barrett in the smoke. Dazed and confused by the events that just happened, she's got lost again. Can you all hear that hum of music? Let's get Alice to investigate.

(Cheshire Cat pulls Alice onto stage, band start to play properly and Paul does air guitar as the band play).

PPT shows animation of smoke. Alice walks on stage looking confused. She walks over to Giles and Paul, who ignore her. Alice looks over to the audience, and shrugs her shoulders.

Once she has walked around once, made eye contact with the audience and narrator, the band dies away, Paul continues to play air guitar, for longer than is comfortable, eventually realising the band have stopped, and looks sheepish, pretending he so wasn't just doing that by burying his head in his work. Song titles (in capitals) made obvious in dialogue from here.

Alice Excuse me?!

Giles does not respond, and Paul refuses to make eye contact.

Alice (louder) Hello!?!

Giles opens a box he had behind him/behind table, and exaggeratedly sniffs it. The background slide animates, so it looks like the smoke is moving.

Alice (hands on hips) Excuse me, you cannot smoke indoors!

Giles H Whatever do you mean? This isn't real smoke! This is SMOKE ON THE WATER, or the smoke ring experiment over the fluid tank!

Alice Right... (Pause) so who are you?

Giles H Ah, a lady of many questions! I am Giles Harrison, have you not read my book; Meteorological Measurements and Instrumentation?

Giles gestures to the slide show. The slide changes to show "One Hundred Years of Reading Weather" by Stephen Burt and Roger Brugge.

Giles H Not that one! Get it right!

Slide changes again to show "Thermal Physics of the Atmosphere", by Maarten Ambaum.

Giles H *(Looks to the Narrator)* Seriously? *(Pause)* So many other authors RAINING ON MY PARADE.

Paul flips over onto page marked 'Weather Songs' on the A-Frame and starts hurriedly making notes (actions need to be obvious, and acknowledged by Alice and Giles as being odd before being ignored).

Slide transitions to "Meteorological Measurements and Instrumentation", by Giles Harrison. Giles turns to the audience, looking smug.

Alice *(Points to Paul.)* Who is this?

Giles gets snooty and annoyed by this comment

Giles H That is Paul Williams. He is doing research on weather related songs. As it isn't real meteorology, we can ignore him.

Alice I am sensing the relationship between you two is as COLD AS ICE

Paul W *(Looking at his notes)* Oh, hang on. I haven't got that one. *(Scribbles on his notes)*

Alice looks confused.

From this point on, every time a song title is mentioned, Paul gets more emotional / disappointed / sad.

Paul W *(Points to Giles)* He's just jealous because I get to listen to Spotify all day. I'm compiling a list of all the songs ever

written that reference weather. I believe that there's NOW not a song about weather out there that I don't know about.

Giles H *(Mimics talking with hand – blah blah blah)* He will now go on to boast that his list is limitless. Limitless knowledge, limitless energy, limitless potential

Slides now change to show a UOR slideshow template. Maybe have the title of the panto as the title of the presentation. Draw attention to the "limitless" stuff on the bottom of the slide.

Giles H ...Unlike myself, who is interested in the the big meteorological questions of our time. Like WHY DOES IT ALWAYS RAIN ON ME?

Paul W Damn it, I missed that one *(Scribbles on notes)*

Giles H Why do RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD?

Paul W *(Cries exasperatedly)*

Giles H I have limitless interests in the atmosphere, from clouds to ionospheres, from screen temperature errors, to fair weather currents.

Alice Is there an umbrella term for all of that research?

Giles H UMBRELLA –ELLA –ELLA *(Does a little dance with umbrella?)*

Alice But, seriously?

Giles H No, not really. I tend to research whatever is of interest. As long as I can get funding from the pot of gold from SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW.

Paul W *(Getting irate.)* Not another!

Keri enters stage left, looking tired and out of breath

Giles H Ah, Keri Nicoll, my trusted colleague. Where have you been? I lose track!

Keri N Just back from measuring storms in the Mediterranean. Turns out it is all GREASE LIGHTNING.

Narrator These are getting worse

Keri N While there, I became THUNDERSTRUCK by some fantastic research. Their presentation ROCKED ME LIKE A HURRICANE.

Giles H Stop this tomfoolery! You are all showing a distinct lack of MR BLUESKY thinking, especially as there is a solar eclipse upon us! I have sent the technicians out around Reading to take surface observations in preparation. Here come my minions now...

Minions stage left. Dressed in blue jean dungarees and yellow tops, and thick glasses, like the Minions from Despicable Me with Tech One and Two labels.

Tech 1 We have deployed the sensors, but had trouble with all the rubbish BLOWING IN THE WIND

Tech 2 Despite being put UNDER PRESSURE, the long SUMMER NIGHTS allowed us to get some initial results

Tech 1 Results indicate that it is HOT IN THE CITY, a result confirmed by data collected by the BOYS OF SUMMER.

Minions walk off to the side of the stage to the left

Alice I may be new here in the department, but even I know that Reading isn't a city!

Paul W You're right, it isn't! Their results are flawed because BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE. *(Looks at his notes and screams)* Now I'm doing it!

Giles H Now that we have surface observations, we need to get some profile measurements during the event, and time is running out!

Keri N I know just the person for the job, my first PhD student!

Giles H Ah, he is the WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

Paul W *(Looking dejected)* I have one for this *(Looks through his list)* Neunundneunzig Luftballons (99 Red Balloons)

Alice Who are you on about?

Graeme enters stage right, with his face observed by a prop – potentially cardboard cut outs of balloons, He is wearing a t-shirt with his own face on it.

Alice Who is this?

Giles H This is Graeme Marlton, *(Possibly sung)* PhD researcher of the year!

Graeme M Hey Big G! Man, the weather is bad out there, it's RAINING MEN.

Offstage Hallelujah!

Paul W *(Big Sigh.)* How many more have I missed??

Alice How on earth is that possible? Men, falling from the sky?

Giles H Well, quite obviously, THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING, AND THE PRESSURES GETTING LOW

Paul W That doesn't count, those are lyrics, not song titles!

Graeme M I don't know about that, I BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN

Giles H *(To Graeme)* Graeme, get out there! It's starting!

Graeme rushes off stage left. Everyone but Alice looks excited.

Alice *(Confused.)* What's starting? What's going on?

Paul W *(Moves centre stage.)* Well, let me tell you all about it *(Pause)* In Song!

SONG: PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN – ALL ON STAGE SINGING
(MINIONS, KERI, GILES, PAUL, ALICE. PAUL LEADS SINGING WITH
ALICE STANDING WITH NARRATOR)

After the song, everyone looks excitedly around. The lights dim a little, but not totally. Everyone looks around, questioningly. Shrugging shoulders.

Narrator I know there's a lunar eclipse. And a solar eclipse. But I'd never heard of a cumulus eclipse...

Giles H Cirrus-ly...

Everyone but narrator exits stage left, looking disappointed.

Narrator Time for a Cheshire Matt cat-nap, I think. See you in a bit, when I'm feline refreshed. What craziness will Alice then face? Will our fascination with Neil Blanchonnet feature as heavily in the second act as it did last year? Will the second act make any sense at all? Come back after the break to see if we managed to pull together a coherent ending!

--- INTERVAL ---

ACT 2

Scene 4 – Tea Party

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, Cheshire cat, at podium), Alice (stage right), Javier (stage left), Hilary Weller (stage left), Keith Shine (stage right, band), Andrew Charlton-Perez (offscreen, recorded), Miguel Texeria (offscreen, in band), Humphrey Lean (Mad Hatter, stage left), Terry Davis (March Hare, stage left), PhD student (Dormouse, stage left), Tweddle P (stage left), Tweedle V (stage left), Jill Hazleton (stage right), John Methven (Queen of Hearts, stage right), Steven Gill (stage left),

Alice is at stage right

Narrator Welcome back everybody to the 2nd half of the Met pantomime. I see you've all settled down after that dismal interval act. As I'm sure you remember, Alice has met a white rabbit, saved the rhinos and navigated her way through a myriad of meteorological musical masterpieces. She's definitely missed the seminar. It's now time for the tea party. Let's send Alice to join them. *(Call offstage)* This way, Alice...

Powerpoint shows met department weather vane and flashing neon lights. Alice enters from stage right, and walks to stage wearing solar eclipse glasses. Stumbles around blindly.

Alice Ouch!

Narrator *(sarcastically)* The eclipse has finished. Try taking your glasses off.

Alice removes her glasses

Narrator *(singing)* You can see clearly now, the vane is on.

Alice I can certainly see that. Surely someone can design a better weather vane than this neon monstrosity.

Narrator We tried but it was most... inconvenient. Do you not appreciate our wonderful rave lights?

From right, enter Javier dressed fully in orange rave gear and Hillary Weller (both from stage left), to some kind of awfully brilliant 90s music (No Limit - 2 Unlimited).

Javier Ola. I'm Javier and I'm here to rave.

Hilary W Javier, can't you turn those rave lights off? I'm so tired. By the way, did you see my e-mail? I have 67.61 euros to get rid of, before I can take a break and have a nap.

Show e-mail from Hillary

Javier You're crazy Hilary Weller attempting to teach numerical modelling to those Masters students. It must be exhausting. You would be much better off taking a break and coming to the met-social auction.

Keith Shine enters from stage right holding a stick, walks to centre of stage.

Keith Shine Welcome to the met-social auction. (shouting) I'm Keith Shine, Regius Professor Extraordinaire. So, let's get ready to rumble... although before we start has anyone got a macbook charger?

Narrator A macbook charger you say?

Powerpoint shows a collage of macbook request emails. Lots of 'macbook chargers' thrown at Keith (by Pete Clark, whoever from band is closest to the front and Narrator). Narrator exits stage right, Alice sits at front of stage.

Keith S Right, now that's sorted, let's get on with the auction.

Powerpoint shows a picture of cat food alongside e-mail. Bargain hunt theme played by band. Keith improvises some kind of silly dance while band play.

Keith S First up is the finest cuisine this side of the Met vending machine courtesy of Rosy Wilson.

Hilary W Hmm, if I ate the cat food I might be able to take a nap in the box. 17 euros 11.

Keith S A low bid to start us off. Do we have any advance on 17 euros 11? (*random auctioneer jibberish*)

Javier 2 lemons and Pedro the Pinata

Keith S (random auctioneer jibberish)... sold.

Javier Excellent, I can feed it to Pedro!

Javier hands over pinata and takes cat food.

Javier uh oh!

Javier exits stage right the stage looking sad. Powerpoint shows cardboard boxes and emails.

Keith S Next up we have the Rolls Royce of house moving equipment. Triple ply, sturdy as a (looks around) piñata? Courtesy of Christina Charlton-Perez

Hilary W Hmm, I could maybe nap in those boxes. 12 euros 81.

Keith S Big bid! (auctioneer jibberish). Hang on, we have a telephone bid all the way from Lyle. It's Andrew Charlton-Perez...

Cut to still of video conference call with Andrew Charlton-Perez

ACP (recorded) I want those cardboard boxes. I need them. (in Dr. Evil from Austin Powers voice) One million dollars!

Power point animated to have ACP move his little finger to his mouth a la Dr. Evil

Keith S (auctioneer jibberish)

Hilary W Hah (counts money), 67 euros 61

Keith S Err, let me just check the mutually beneficial exchange rates.

Keith S (auctioneer jibberish)

Keith S I'm afraid that it's sold to Andrew Charlton-Perez.

ACP My wife, Cristina, is going to love these!

Keith S Next up, from Antonio Portas, we have 15 kilos of the finest, whitest, columbian..... sand.

Hilary W That is some top notch sand. So smooth, so soft. I could definitely nap on that. 43 euros 64.

Keith S Woah I'm not letting such quality merchandise go that cheaply. I'll buy this for fifty pounds. Take that Weller! I'm 'aving that. Sold to the handsome man with the stick. (*bangs stick on table*) Only one item left. Hillary, you still have plenty of money and nowhere to nap. Maybe this will be your lot.

Alice (*stands up*) What is going on? (*to audience*) This must be some kind of surreal dream. (*sits back down*)

Keith S So we have the final and most prestigious item in our auction.

KS picks up a large scroll of paper and clears throat. PV drag on big mattress prop from stage left, possibly use picture of mattress on PPT.

Keith S Purchased from Argos in February 2013, in an excellent condition, it was only used a few times. Dimensions of 190 x 90 x 16 centimetres, weighing in at 12.3kg. Fire resistant, conforming to the BS7177:2008 flammability standard for domestic use, low hazard. With a minimum fibre content of 20% polyester and a remaining 80% of mixed fibres.

Hilary W I need 30% polyester, no deal!

HW exits stage left

Keith S Looks like we've got no bidders!

Miguel shouts from side of stage/band

Miguel How many bids were there? No, no bids. Ah ah ah (*cries*)

Exit Keith stage right. Narrator comes back on to podium from stage right.

Alice That was mad!

Narrator Ah yes of course, the mad hatter's tea party. That's what this scene was supposed to be about! A tea party? Drinking coffee? From tea cups? In the coffee room? That's positively mad.

Lights down. Quick scene change. Enter Mad Hatter (Humphrey Lean), March Hare (Terry Davies), Dormouse, all from stage left, Javier and Tristan Quaife from stage left and Steven Gill from stage right enter and mill about at the front of stage.

Narrator and Alice are shouting to each other over the heads of everyone

Narrator So Alice, this is the department of meteorology coffee room at lunch time, not a spare seat to be seen. Look, the PhD students have taken their fourteen tables, over there the Met Office are cooped up in their enclave and, listen, can you hear the voice of Steve Woolnough booming in the distance?

Alice It's like Piccadilly Circus in here. It can't be real, I must be dreaming.

Narrator Don't worry I'll sort it out. *(shouting)* Free food on the balcony!

Everyone except Alice, the Mad Hatter, March Hare, Dormouse and PV scramble off stage left. Dormouse gets knocked down. Screams and crash can be heard offstage. PV becomes the table. Mad Hatter, March Hare, Dormouse, form semi-circle round the table

Alice Are they OK?

Narrator *(looks offstage)* They were saved by Miguel's magic mattress. He must have left it there after the auction. Typical. It looks like some of the Met Office staff that were too stubborn to move to Exeter have stayed around for their thrice daily tea party.

Alice joins the table, on end next to Dormouse

Mad Humphrey *(Shakes Alice's hand, Alice sits with the Met Office people)* Well hello there, my name is Mad Humphrey Lean.

Alice Why are you mad?

Mad Humphrey Because the Met Office lost their contract with the BBC.

Alice How terrible, why is that?

Mad Humphrey No comment.

Alice Oh OK. I thought you meant that other kind of mad. The kind of mad you get when trying to use the unified model.

Narrator Shhh, don't say that. (*pointing*) That's Terry Davies, the March Hare, he created the unified model.

March Hare The unified model is easy. If you're using version 6.6.3.6.6.3.1 you just need to open Options, user options, options for users, use the options button to untick the options option, you now have the option to install an optional options tab, don't do that as it will crash and delete your home directory. Just click submit, that's the right option. Simple.

Dormouse But what if I need an idealised setup?

March Hare Don't do that silly Dormouse you're just a student.

Mad Humphrey Yes silly Dormouse now fetch the tassimo.

March Hare The tassimo?

Mad Humphrey Yes, the tassimo!

March Hare The tasseled tassimo?

Mad Humphrey No! The regular tassimo you nitwit.

Alice Did you mean the coffee from the tassimo?

March Hare Ah yes the coffee, for our tea party. Fetch the coffee, Dormouse!

Exit Dormouse stage right

Alice Tea party?

Mad Humphrey Yes we're celebrating.

March Hare It's the un-birthday of the Met Office.

Narrator Isn't it the 50th birthday of the Met Department?

Mad Humphrey But we're the Met office and it's our **un**-birthday. We're much more important.

Un-birthday song clip on ppt? – Mad Humphrey and March Hare join in

March Hare We're so important that we celebrate 364 days a year.

Mad Humphrey Plus one more every leap year, we're that important.

March Hare Yes we have that very important BBC contract.

Mad humpers puts his head in his hands. Dormouse returns from stage right and hands coffee cups to everyone

Narrator Change places!

Dormouse takes the Alice's place and chivvies Alice towards Mad Humphrey. Alice gets flustered and confused, and mills about near TD/HM.

Mad Humphrey (*angrily*) We're not moving, this is our spot. This is Met Office in Reading. We're not moving to Exeter not now not ever. (*angrily slams cup on table, spilling some liquid*)

TP & TV Ouch! (*stands up*)

Alice I must be dreaming. That table is making my head spin

Tweedle PV stand to spell out VP in the middle. Humpers and Terry move over to the side slightly.

Dormouse VP? I don't get it?

Narrator Change places!

Tweedle PV change places

TP & TV (Pointing to PV tops) Don't you see?

March Hare Silly students.

TP & TV Let us tell you about PV...

PV song – PV get down to bottom of stage as table. Terry, Dormouse and Humpers on stage left, Alice stage right near narrator.

Narrator Ah here comes the villain of the story, with her faithful assistant, Jill Hazleton. Boo! (*encourage audience to boo - pause for boos*).

Enter John Methven, Queen of Hearts with Jill Hazleton from stage right.

Jill H Clear the way for your Queen of Hearts John Methven, the glorious leader of SCENARIO.

John M (*Sternly*) Why aren't you celebrating - it's the department's 50th birthday and I am in charge. I demand you celebrate immediately.

Mad Humphrey Well, we're not really part of this department.

March Hare Our loyalty is with the Met Office

Mad Humphrey ...and this specific area of the coffee room.

John M (*gasps*)... off with their printing privileges! I need my print champion. Summon Stephen Gill

Enter Steven Gill the print champion from stage left to the tune of We are the Champions carrying a trophy.

Stephen Gill Yes, your highness?

John M Show these miscreants... the managed print service.

Met office lot Oh no!

Stephen Gill Come with me. And you (*pointing at Alice*). You haven't had your health and safety lecture yet.

Stephen G exits, leading Alice, the Mad hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse off stage left.

John M What's next in my diary?

Jill H Well you wanted to inspect the croquet lawn, but first we have to plan all of the scenario meetings to make sure they clash with PhD group.

John M Excellent!

Lights down, Jill and John leave stage right.

Scene 5 – Croquet

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, podium), Chart 1 (stage left), Chart 2 (stage left), Alice (stage left), Jill Hazleton (stage right), Queen John Methven (stage right), Tristan Quaife, Robin Smith, Hans De Leuw, Tweedle P, Tweedle V, Humphrey (one line)

Charts on stage from stage left before lights come up, Alice enters from stage left as soon as lights come up and goes to front left

Narrator: Alice has come outside for a breath of fresh air after a thrilling health and safety talk.

(Narrator pushes Alice towards the centre stage)

She stumbles upon the Queen of Hearts' prized Croquet Lawn. Here she meets some students with a rather large gardening predicament.

Chart 1 (sun) & Chart 2 (heavy rain) are on centre stage changing the NERC signs (roses on bushes/trees) to SCENARIO. Alice enters stage to the croquet lawn.

Chart 1 Quick Hurry, we don't have much time. *(Gasps)*
The queen, the queen!! *(cowering, drop props Both are very flustered)*

Chart 2 She's early....Oh No! it's ok it's just a girl.

Alice Who are you? What are you doing?

Chart 1 We are the Queen's official weather charts. Charged with the most important job in the whole of Metland. The maintenance of the croquet lawn.

Chart 2 Two years ago we planted these NERC trees for the Queen's croquet lawn and they have finally come into bloom and the Queen won't be happy.

Chart 1 The Queen of Heart's now favours scenario trees. She will go off like an atmospheric bomb and it will be off with our funding if she sees.

Chart 2 arghhh! look at the time! The Queen will be here any minute

John M *(off stage, shouting)* Off with their funding!

Chart 1 & 2 arghh!! help us help us! (*grabs Alice and drags her over to the NERC signs (at ppt)*)

Alice has time to change one rose before the queen enters stage. There is one remaining in full view - they couldn't reach up to change it.

Enter the queen and Jill from stage right. Possible fanfare from ppt.

Chart 1 & 2 run off stage (opposite direction to queen)

Jill H Make way, make way! Clear a path for your Queen of Hearts, the magnificent John Methven.

John M Jill Hazleton stop making all that racket, have you no emails to send?

Jill H Sorry your highness.

John M Ah young girl what are you doing here?

Alice Erm....

John M Spit it out girl

Narrator Alice has been doing a spot of gardening, haven't you Alice?

John M Whhhhaattt! I hope there are no holes in the royal croquet ground. How dare you touch this sacred lawn. I have an ensemble of charts who maintain this turf. Jill! Inspect the lawn!

Queen & Jill look around the lawn in a very exaggerated manner.

Narrator (*prows over to peer up at unchanged NERC sign in tree*). No, she didn't touch the lawn...

Alice shhhhhh!! (*Trying to pull Matt the Cat away*) she'll flare up.

Queen notices the NERC rose

John M WHAT IS THAT!!

(Narrator moves to hide behind Alice)

Narrator *(speaking in a high-pitched voice to pretend to be Alice)* It's the Natural Environment Research Council, supporting research, training and knowledge transfer activities in the environmental sciences. But that's not important right now.

Alice *(whispering, flustered)* Oi! Stop pretending to be me, you'll get me into trouble!

John M My beautiful SCENARIO trees!!! Why have they not been changed?!?

Narrator *(speaking in a high-pitched voice to pretend to be Alice)* NERC funds SCENARIObut what does SCENARIO do that NERC doesn't?

(Alice scowls at the Narrator)

Jill H SCENARIO is Her Majesty's favoured Doctoral Training Program, and stands for Some Contrived Esoteric Name to Aid pRocurement Including mOney

Narrator *(still pretending to be Alice)* That sounds more ridiculous than a Piers Corbyn forecast!

SONG - about forecasting? This can move depending on how well song fits.

(Possibly extra line here depending on whether song fits here about forecasting)

Queen staring at the trees, not knowing who is talking, thinks its Alice.

John M YOU!! *(points at Alice)* OFF WITH YOUR FUNDING!

Alice But, But it wasn't me.

John M You're the only one here and new to Metland. Everyone knows not to touch my precious trees.

Alice But I only got here today.

Jill H Your Majesty, think how long a tree takes to grow.

John M What?

Jill H Well they must have been planted many years ago for them to finally be in bloom

John M I want a second opinion. Bring me Tristan Quaife!

Jills runs off stage left and drags tristan back to left side of stage

John M YOU! How long does a tree take to grow?

Tristan Just because I use land surface models doesn't mean I know anything about trees.

John M SILENCE!! Just tell me how old these trees are!

Tristan Well... They are taller than that girl so I would saaaayyy older than her.

Jill H See Your Majesty, it can't possibly have been Alice. How about a nice game of croquet to calm down?

Jill fans down the Queen.

John M (*Looking flustered*) Well I guess that would be acceptable, but who will I play against?

Jill H You can play with Robin, Your Majesty.

John M Robin, Robin who? Robin Hogan?

Jill H No no your majesty he left us for ECMWF long ago

John M Robin Hood?

Narrator That was so last year

John M Well who then?

Jill H Robin Smith. He is the best in the land, much better than that Neil Blanchonnet. Neil spends all his time talking about his sports car. Robin should be on your team, after all he did win this year's croquet competition.

John M Perfect! And who shall we be beating today?

Jill H Hans de Leuw is one of your official weather charts and is the worst croquet player that Metland has ever seen. Make him play with the new student.

Alice But I don't know how to play croquet.

John M Perfect! FETCH ME MY MALLET!

Lights Down – Narrator goes back to podium, Jill, John and Alice leave stage right, Tristan stage left.

Slapstick Video of Croquet Game to music

Queen missing
Jill moving the ball
P & V are the croquet gates and they move around (letting in Queens ball but not Alice)
Football for croquet ball
Blow up mallets
Queen breaks a window - Stephen Gill runs out, sees it was the queen and runs away again.
ball rolls off screen and rolls across the stage

Queen follows the ball, Alice, Jill and Hans enter stage right, Robin enters stage left.

Robin Excellent shot your majesty.

John M Well of course it was.

Hans takes his shot and moves ball out of stage left.

John M FOUL!!

Hans But the rule book says....

John M SILENCE! it was a foul you fool.

Alice should be stood over to stage right with the Narrator, with everyone else stage left. Whilst Hans and Queen have silent convo with giant rule book (incoherently mumbling), Narrator sneaks onstage and hands Alice a cup of coffee.

Narrator Alice would you like a cup of tea? Playing with the Queen can use more energy than forming a convective system.

Alice Thank you (*Takes cup and stands to one side*)

Back to the queen and Hans

Hans (*bowing to Queen*) Yes your excellency

Robin Go on Your Majesty hit it like a sting jet

John M (*Hits Hans with her mallet*) WHERE IS MY BALL?

Jill runs on from stage right all flustered

Jill H Your Majesty, Your Majesty! Something terrible has happened. It's the worst thing since the Met Office lost the BBC forecasting contract.

Humphrey (*runs on from stage left*) NO COMMENT
(*leaves stage right*)

John M Do we have to make the PhD demonstrating budget bigger?

Jill H No, It's worse. Worse than having clouds during the eclipse.

John M (*Getting more irate*) Has Paul the Porter gone on holiday again?

Jill H No, it's worse than that. Worse than a Monday 9am numerical modelling lecture with Hilary Weller.

John M (*Angrily*) Well what is it??

Jill H A calamity has befallen the coffee room....SOMEONE HAS BROKEN THE TASSIMO MACHINE!!!

everyone gasps and looks around!

John M But where will I get my supply of Costa Americano now?

Narrator You could always drink the instant coffee.

John M No, no that will never do. Someone must lose their funding for this.

Queen dramatically looks around and points at Alice

John M YOU!! What is that?

Narrator *(sniffs)* Smells like tassimo coffee to me your highness.

Alice looks confused and shakes her head

John M *(Getting louder)* You broke my machine!

Narrator And she has stolen Ellie Highwood's mug.

John M OFF WITH HER FUNDING!!

Jill H Wait Your Majesty. Don't you think she deserves a fair trial? If not there will be endless paperwork for us to do.

John M FINE!! Let the trial commence. Charts! Take her away!

Charts 1 & 2 enter and drag Alice off stage right with John following stage right, Hans going back to band, Robin and Jill exiting stage left. Narrator stays by podium.

Lights Down

Scene 6 – The Trial

Characters: Narrator (Matt Owens, Cheshire Cat, podium), Pete Clark (sitting in front row closest to stage left), John Methven (Queen of Hearts, stage right), Humphrey Lean (Mad Hatter, stage right), Anthony Illingworth (sitting front row, next to Pete (second seat)), Hilary Weller (stage left), Giles Harrison (Caterpillar, sitting front row, third seat), Keri Nicholl (sitting front row, fourth seat), Rob Thompson (White Rabbit, sitting front row, end seat), Alice (stage right), Dormouse.

Seminar bell rings. WCD slides appear with a link to "The Trial of Alice" amongst other stories. Include pictures of the staff as they are called. Alice is stood next to the podium and gradually falls asleep throughout the scene. Queen of Hearts is stood behind her looking down her nose. PC enters.

Lights up

Pete Clark Welcome to this week's Weather and Crime Discussion with me, Pete Clark. Today we shall be discussing this week's forecast, an accurate headline in the Daily Mail, the much awaited grass minimum prediction - are we going to have a new record? As well as an in-depth review of my chaotic and unpredictable lava lamp. But first, the trial for who broke our beloved yet despised Tassimo machine. On the Commemorative 50th Anniversary Croquet match, an unknown assailant sabotaged and brought about the untimely demise of the mechanical barista. We call to the stand our first witness, Anthony Illingworth.

(AI enters from front stage left).

Anthony Illing Before we start, has anyone rung the seminar bell?

Peter C Yes, I was lucky enough to ring it myself this week.

Anthony I Are you sure it's been rung? I'm certain I didn't hear it.

Peter C Yes it has.

Anthony I Oh no it hasn't.

Peter C Oh yes it has.

(Repeat with audience). Peter eventually rings seminar bell to put an end to it.

Peter C Fine, there! Please, can we stay on topic! It really does annoy me when people stray off on a tangent without any regard for the issue at hand. Anyway, did you break the Tassimo machine?

Anthony I I couldn't possibly have broken the machine, I spent all day at Chilbolton. Did you know it's the largest, fully-steerable meteorological radar in the world? More specifically, I rarely use the machine as I don't like any of the coffee pods on offer.

Peter C Very well, away with you (*AI leaves stage left*). I now call upon Giles Harrison.

(Giles Harrison enters from sitting stage left).

Peter C So Giles, where were you at the time of the Tassimo destruction?

Giles Harrison I was on the roof demonstrating the instruments to the students. I was pre-occupied with some light topiary work to remove the branches blocking the sunlight from the Campbell-Stokes sunshine recorder, a job which remains unfinished. I don't have time for this, I nominate in my place my trusty associate, Keri Nicholl

(GH leaves stage right, Keri enters from sitting front stage left. Alice starting to fall asleep)

Peter C Did you break the Tassimo machine?

Keri N I'd never break anything associated with the department, our funds are far too tight for such reckless behaviour.

Peter C So where were you at the time of the incident?

Keri N I was busy crashing oversized party balloons into trees and losing expensive radiosondes with the help of PhD Researcher of the Year, Graeme Marlton. These trees are a disgrace and a hazard.

Peter C You're a disgrace and a hazard, go away and make better observations, and don't ruin any more trees, my heron has nowhere to perch. (*Keri leaves.*) I now call Hilary Weller. (*Hilary enters stage left*) Where were you at the time of the Tassimo destruction?

Hilary Weller I was teaching our beloved Masters students about the wonders of numerical modelling. I say *Masters* students, they still seem incredibly confused by the basic Arakawa-Alphabet, it's really not that hard.

(Slide showing grid with letters A-Z on.)

Peter C When did you say you were teaching?

Hilary W It was 9:00 on a Monday as always.

Peter C The Tassimo was broken at 2:00 on a Thursday...

Hilary W Ah...

Peter C And doesn't the Arakawa-Alphabet only go up to E?

Hilary W Well spotted Pete, do you want a tiny chocolate?

Peter C Absolutely. You're free to leave.

(HW exits stage left)

Peter C I now call on Robbit Thompson. *(RT enters from sitting in front of stage left)*. What is your version of events?

Rob Thompson Well, let's see. My day began with an arduous cycle into work. Shinfield Road was packed, like always. And people were randomly stopping in the cycle lane, as usual. Oh and people were constantly trying to drive into me, as always. To make things worse, at the Sports Park junction I picked up a flat tyre, and shortly afterwards, mine was flat too due to a large puncture. I carried my bike tirelessly across the cricket field. By the time I'd finally reached Lyle Tower I realised I'd forgotten my bike lock so I tried leaving it standing up by itself, but it fell over, because it was two *tyre*-d. By the time I'd updated the office about my eventful morning, it was time for a late lunch in Met. On arrival, I found people running around in a fluster over something to do with a broken coffee making machine?

Peter C So, are you trying to tell me you didn't break the Tassimo machine?

Rob T Oh no, of course I didn't, did I not mention? Let me fill you in on what happened.

Peter C Please, please no. Let's move on. Next I want to question the Mad Hatter.

(RT leaves stage left, Mad Hatter enters stage right).

(The dropping of the Met Office BBC contract appears on slide).

Peter C Do you have anything to say about the recent Met Office-BBC debacle?

Mad Humphrey No comment.

Peter C You spend all your time in the coffee room, did you observe anything odd?

Mad Humphrey No comment.

Peter C Did anything seem untoward?

Mad Humphrey No comment.

Peter C Anyone acting suspiciously?

Mad Humphrey No comment.

Peter C Do you have any useful information relating to the matter at all?

Mad Humphrey It was Dormouse.

John M No it wasn't! It was Alice! Alice!

(MH leaves sheepishly stage left)

Peter C Bowing to public pressure, I call Alice. Alice?

(Alice wakes with a start).

Alice Oh, I hoped this was a dream.

Peter C Alice. You stand accused of breaking the Tassimo machine. How do you respond?

During this monologue the Dormouse wanders on from stage left, drinking coffee

Alice I didn't do it, I promise. I don't even drink coffee, I only like tea and anyway it's far too expensive for a PhD student like me. This is stupid, the whole department's stupid. Why are there neon lights everywhere? Why do you even play croquet? Who has a barn dance? What's going on with that panto they do every year? Why are you spread across 3 buildings, do you not get along? Why are there obstacles everywhere, like woods, and Psychology?

Peter C You raise some good points. But it's hardly relevant.

John M It was her, I know it was her, off with her funding!

Peter C Well, we know the Queen's views. *(looks around and sees Dormouse)* Ah, let's check with the Dormouse.

(Spot Dormouse with a cup of coffee).

Dormouse It was me! I can't work without coffee. It was taking so long to descale, I couldn't stand and watch it waste precious water that I could be using to fill up my cup. Where would the department be without it? When I put in the capsule it flashed red at me and made a horrible hissing sound. Not knowing what to do, I ran.

John M It was you! You're the menace of this department. Off with your funding! There'll be no money for you!

Dormouse *(not accusingly, said light-heartedly)* You can't do that. Where would you be without the students? We practically run the department. We put on fantastic shows, we distract you from your work with excellent games of croquet *and* we provide the tea and coffee for all of you to drink.

Alice This is the most ridiculous dream I've ever had. I would really like to wake up now. We all know this story ends with me waking up.

(Characters round on Alice. Lights dim and come back up.)

Peter C *I think you'll find that this is not a dream Alice!*

Dormouse Sorry Alice, but this really has all happened!

John M *(said angrily)* Yes yes girl, you'll just have to
accept it.

Narrator It's not that bad is? Haven't you enjoyed your first
day in the department?

Alice Well I guess I've made some interesting new
friends. Being a rhino was actually pretty cool. And I could learn to play
croquet. *(pause)* Yes, yes I think I have. Is it time for tea?

Enter entire cast for final song

SONG