

Chairs report, 2016.

Welcome to our AGM.

I would like to start by expressing my thanks to the executive committee, for your assistance in helping make 2016 another successful year for IEEE in the NZ Central region. Particular mention goes to Richard Harris for compiling the history of the NZ Central Section since its inception.

Mostly we have met monthly via Skype on the first Tuesday of the month. We also had a brainstorm meeting on 24 June to come up with ways of improving the visibility of IEEE and expanding the membership.

Here is a highlight of our activities during 2016.

R 10 meeting

I attended the R10 meeting in March in Bangkok, Thailand, representing the NZ Central Section. I found this a valuable opportunity to meet with the other chairs from throughout R10, and also to meet with a number of other representatives attending the meeting.

At the meeting, I received the R10 Distinguished Small Section award on behalf of the Section. At the meeting we also held a New Zealand Council meeting, where we discussed incorporation, and the possibility of a joint bid to host Tencon at some stage in the future.

Distinguished Lecturers and other technical meetings

Throughout the year we were able to host a number of distinguished lecturers and other technical visitors:

Dr Prabha S. Kundur – Power and Energy Society Chapter, 12 February 2016 “Sustainable electric power systems in the 21st century: requirements, challenges and the role of smart grid technologies”

Prof Jalel Ben-Othman – Computer Society Chapter, 8 June 2016 “DoS in VANETs an issue or a fatality”

Prof Hisao Ishibuchi – Computational Intelligence Chapter, 17 June 2016 “Evolutionary Many-Objective Optimization: Difficulties and Future Directions”

Jonathan Sykes – Power and Energy Society Chapter, 23 June 2016 “Comprehensive asset strategies”

Raghavender Goud Deshagani – Power and Energy Society Chapter, 28 August 2016 “Lightning protection and analysis of wind turbine generators”

Prof Jun Wang – Computational Intelligence Chapter, 23 November 2016 “The start of the art of neurodynamic optimization: past, present and prospects”

Chapter Workshops:

IEEE NZ Wireless Workshop – Communications Society Chapter, 2 September 2016, Hutt Valley

IEEE Instrumentation & Measurement Society Workshop – 18 April 2016, Lincoln University.

Wellington Engineering and Science Festival 2016 Lecture Series

David MacLennan, 19 April 2016 "Where to next? Human spaceflight at the crossroads" This was jointly hosted by IEEE, IET, IPENZ, The Royal Society of NZ, and the Wellington Astronomical Society.

Joint Institutions Industry Breakfast

27 September 2016, Scott Houston "From ORCs to AZURE" was a very interesting talk on his experiences as an entrepreneur. He described his journey from being CTO at Weta Digital during the Lord of the Rings trilogy, to founding GreenButton - a startup company, to being taken over by Microsoft.

At the breakfast, we also honoured Murray Milner as Outstanding Volunteer Award, 2015.

Student Branches:

Victoria University Student Branch held a joint Student and Young Professionals Social Networking Event – 1 April 2016 to try and connect graduate students with young engineers from industry.

The annual Postgraduate Presentation Day was held on 30 August 2016, hosted by Victoria University Student Branch. It was a great success, with 33 ten minute presentations on a diverse range of topics.

Conference Technical Sponsorship

We were technical co-sponsors of Image and Vision Computing New Zealand (IVCNZ) held at Massey University, Palmerston North on 21-22 November 2016. The conference was a great success, with about 75 delegates.

We are also providing technical co-sponsorship to the 2017 2nd Workshop on Recent Trends in Telecommunications Research (RTTR) to be held on 10-Feb-2017.

The Central Section was able to support a successful bid to host the IMTC 2019 conference in New Zealand, through the Instrumentation and Measurement Society Chapter.

Plans for 2017

With 2017 just around the corner we have a number of plans:

In February or March, IEEE New Zealand are planning on an IEEE NZ day to celebrate the 50th jubilee of IEEE Region 10 with a series of events at different centres throughout New Zealand, as a 1 day review of IEEE within New Zealand.

IEEE Sections Congress will be held in Sydney in August 2017. I would like to see some of our up and coming leaders participate, get training, and build their enthusiasm for their leadership roles.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a joyful holiday season.