



Celebrating 125 Years
of Engineering the Future

IEEE New Zealand Central Section Newsletter

November 2009

Upcoming: IEEE NZ Central Section AGM 2009

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the New Zealand central Section is scheduled to be held on Thursday 26 November, commencing at 5:30pm. The location is yet to be determined, but will be in downtown Wellington. All members are welcome to participate in the AGM and vote for the incoming committee. The AGM will also include a forum of panel speakers, who will provide a brief description of what they have learned from IEEE conferences and meetings from around the world that they have participated in during the year. This should be a great opportunity for those of us who have not been fortunate to attend these meetings to learn a little about the latest developments in technology.

125th Anniversary Event

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of IEEE, the IEEE New Zealand Central Section held a special public lecture in the Rutherford House Lecture Theatre at Victoria University of Wellington on 1 Oct 2009. Professor Emeritus Bob Hodgson delivered a fascinating talk on "Sparking a Revolution --- Marconi, Shipwrecks and Murder".

In the last years of the 19th Century the world was in desperate need of a system of communication that worked without wires and that bridged both the continents and the oceans. By that time Maxwell had published his theory of the propagation of electromagnetic energy and Hertz had demonstrated it in the laboratory. Marconi, then a teenager, made the vital mental connection between the work of Maxwell and Hertz and the communication at a distance problem. During the talk, Professor Hodgson used an amazing lecturing style, together with some interesting demonstrations and literally sparked the communications revolution. The development of electric spark based radio was explained, and the story of the rescue of the survivors of the Titanic and the dramatic capture of the murderous Dr Crippen was related.

The event was highly successful. About 45 people attended the talk including many people that we have not seen at IEEE events for some time. Before and after the talk, coffee, tea and finger food was served to provide a chance for our IEEE members to interact.

IEEE NZ Central Section Committee Meeting

The IEEE NZ Central Section monthly committee meeting was held face to face in the Backbencher Café, Wellington from 7:30 – 8:30pm. Ten members of the committee attended the meeting and a number of decisions were made. Details can be seen from the meeting Minutes.

Other Events in October

Dr. Sinéad O'Keeffe the Optical Fibre Sensors Research Centre at the University of Limerick presented her recent work on “Optical Fibre Sensors for Applications in Environmental Monitoring” at Room: AH3.43a, AG-HORT Building, Massey University (Palmerston North campus) on 14 October 2009. About 15 people attended this event.

On 20 October 2009, Dr. Sinéad O'Keeffe gave another presentation on “Advances in Optical Fibre Sensing Technology for Biomedical Applications” at Laby 408, Laby Building, Kelburn Campus, Victoria University of Wellington. About 30 people from Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science attended this event.

On 29 October 2009, Professor Shoogo Ueno from the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University, Japan made a presentation on “Recent Advances in Biomagnetics and Bioimaging for Brain Research and Sensing Technologies” at the ICLT Veterinary Science Theatre, Massey University, Palmerston North campus.

The IEEE Sensors conference 2009 was held in the Christchurch Convention Centre on 25–28 **October 2009. This event was sponsored by IEEE NZ Central Section on a technical basis. By all accounts this was a very successful event.**

IET Collaborative Events

Roger Meecham, a local writer on maritime matters and former Royal Navy diver, delivered a presentation on “The Thetis Submarine Disaster” at The Beca building, Aorangi House, 85 Molesworth Street, Wellington on Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 5:30pm after IET's AGM. This was a fascinating story, enjoyed by several IEEE members.

More recently, Air New Zealand provided a presentation on “Biofuel for Aviation – Air New Zealand's Pioneering Trial” at Gallery Room, Turnbull House, 11 Bowen Street, Wellington on 12 November 2009.