

## IEEE New South Wales (NSW) Section, 2008 Report



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Section Chair – 2008.

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### PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

#### A.1 Executive Summary

Major Events and Achievements in 2008:

- Acceptance of the Cochlear IEEE Milestones nomination on 26 February 2008 by the IEEE History Center, Rutgers University. This is a first milestone nomination (and acceptance) to be obtained in Oceania and the first in Region 10 outside of Japan. A supplementary update was made in October'08, with the award outcome still pending.
- Introduction of a recognition award for the best speaker in the 2008 Joint lecture program. This is titled the "IEEE NSW Best Speaker Award in 2008, in memorial of Jim Vasseleu". The award is still being considered by the Awards Committee.
- Macquarie University student Michael Boers won the global IEEE MTT High Efficiency Power Amplifier Competition award, producing a 10 watt amplifier operating at 1.2Ghz with an efficiency of 80%.
- Mr Don Black, Chair of the Orange County Section in California visited and met with our Section here in February 2008, with a visit to The University of Sydney.
- Mr Roberto Saracco, 2008 appointed Director of the IEEE Communications Society visited our section from Italy on 4th March'08 and met with Communications Society members here.
- IEEE Communications Society distinguished lecturer Prof. Norman Beaulieu visited Sydney on 11-12 August'08.
- The successful conversion throughout the year of our EWH website to a Joomla content management system by Mr Eduardo Navarro of Puerto Rico, we now fully comply with IEEE web format and branding guidelines. The appointment of Fuat Acar to undertake web content management update activities was done in Oct 2008.
- A strong representation by IEEE NSW at the Quebec City 2008 Sections Congress with Eddie Fong and David Burger attending, and at the IEEE GOLD Congress with Ms Sarah Hakami attending.
- A major porting of the IEEE NSW History and heritage material and content across to the new IEEE Global History Network located at [www.ieeeghn.org/wiki](http://www.ieeeghn.org/wiki) This commenced in November 2008, and is in preparation for the IEEE 125 year anniversary for 2009.
- Mr Bob Grow, 2008 Chair IEEE-SA Standards Board, visited and met with our Section in coordination with the Singapore Convention centre.

#### A.2 Financial Report

Opening balance of our CBA cheque account at 1 Jan 2008 was AUD\$34,669.22  
and the Investment account balance AUD\$123,598.09

### A.3 List of Section Officer and Executive Committee Members

#### IEEE New South Wales Section - 2008 Committee

##### Executive Committee Members

Chairman	<a href="#">David Burger</a>
Vice-Chairman	<a href="#">David Tien</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Antony Zaglas</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Nuala Ward</a>

##### Section Officers

Fellow Search	<a href="#">Walter Lachs</a>
Past Chair	<a href="#">Graeme Gwilliam</a>
Membership Development	<a href="#">Bruce Poon</a>
Professional Activities	<a href="#">David Burger</a>
Educational Activities	<a href="#">Ms Kim Chin</a>
Student Activities	<a href="#">Ali Hellany</a>
Awards and Recognition	<a href="#">Zak Zakarevicius</a>
Life Member Activities	<a href="#">John Robinson</a>
Nominations	<a href="#">Graham Gwilliam</a> , <a href="#">Bruce Poon</a>
Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Eddie Fong</a>
GOLD Affinity Group	<a href="#">Alejandro Monroy</a> / Sarah Hakami
Historian	<a href="#">David Burger</a>
PEL/IAS/IE Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Danny Soetanto</a>
Comms/Sig Processing Chair	<a href="#">Iain Collings</a>
AP/MTT Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Ananda Sanagavarapu</a>
EMBS Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Jeff Armitstead</a>
LEOS/SSC/CS Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Graham Town</a>
Computer Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Kate Carruthers</a>
PES Chapter Chair	<a href="#">John Robinson</a>
Education Chapter Chair	<a href="#">Mark Lee</a>

## PART B - ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### B.1 Membership Development Programs

- Effort in Membership Development

The IEEE NSW Section targeted another 200 free student memberships in 2008. The sponsored memberships were for first time student members only. A total of 164 student members were sponsored in 2008. We also increased our visibility at Universities with posters, as well as maintaining a public "Google Calendar" for all our local NSW events. Many thanks to Mr Pankaj Mehta for keeping these events up to date.

The IEEE NSW google calendar event weblink is located here→

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=k3hz%40ieee.org&ctz=Australia/Sydney>

● Evidence of retention of members

2008 showed a good upturn in all membership grades, except for students, where we had across the board drops in memberships at all Universities. We also ran the largest ever student sponsorship program in NSW during 2008. The membership comparison to 2007 is shown below, based on figures as at 31 October.

<b>Classification of IEEE NSW Member</b>		<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>from 2007</b>
		31/10/2007	31/10/2008	
<b>Total Active members</b>		2337	2445	105%
Active members	excluding affiliates	2183	2304	106%
Active Life member	all grades	52	53	102%
Active senior members	including Fellows	156	165	106%
Active student members	all grades	350	304	87%
Active female members		161	162	101%

<b>Student Branch</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>from 2007</b>
University of New South Wales	132	99	75%
The University of Sydney	57	46	81%
Macquarie University	27	21	78%
University of Technology Sydney	46	21	46%
University of Wollongong	23	18	78%
Western Sydney University of Nepean	14	12	86%
Charles Sturt University	18	8	44%
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>71%</b>

<b>Society Chapters in NSW</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>from 2007</b>
Computer	788	770	98%
Communications / Signal Processing	440	479	109%
Power Energy	130	139	107%
Industrial Electronics / Power Electronics / Industrial Applications	88	96	109%
Lasers and Electro-Optics / Circuit and Systems / Solid State Circuits	82	91	111%
Antennas & Propagation / Microwave Theory & Techniques	77	77	100%
Engineering in Medicine and Biology	79	72	91%
Education	15	13	87%
<b>Total Active Chapter members</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>1737</b>	<b>102%</b>

● GOLD, WIE and Life Members Group Activity

- IEEE NSW GOLD functions were conducted early in 2008 while Alejandro was looking after the GOLD group. Sadly Alejandro's work and finances did not allow him to continue in IEEE or this role, and we understand he has returned back to Bogota. We offer thanks for his participation. Sarah Hakami was appointed to the GOLD Chair in September 2008.
- An affinity start-up petition is still being canvassed for the second year now. A new WiE group here in New South Wales is still proposed. This is being championed by Ms Kim Chin.
- The Life Members will utilise the Nov '08 AGM to welcome new Life Members.

**B.2 Professional and Continuing Education Activities**

Continuing Educational activities including conferences, technical event, training courses. IEEE NSW cooperated with the IEEE Australia Council on distinguished lecturer events.

### **B.3 Recognised educational Programs.**

All our conferences, technical events, training courses are filtered and classified and recognised by IET and Engineers Australia in NSW. IEEE NSW cooperated with the IEEE Australia Council on distinguished lecturer events.

### **B.4 Students Activities**

- **Active Student Branches activity**

The University of New South Wales has the most active student branch in our Section, and has participated in all student awards conducted by NSW and the IEEE Australia Council. The University of Western Sydney student branch establishment and growth is being championed by Dr Ali Hellany with full support by the Section.

- **Recruitment of student members.**

This recruitment drive has grown into two significant areas:

1. A sponsored student member program where the IEEE NSW Section actively sponsors the membership costs of 200 students. There were 70 full year student sponsorships made and 94 half year student sponsorships made in 2008.

2. The IEEE NSW Section participates in first year Electrical Engineering student briefings at The University of Sydney. This is now a regular fixture, and occurs in March each year.

- **Student Paper contest**

This was developed by recent committee member Dr Ali Hellany of UWS. There are now two prizes on offer, The undergraduate prizes titled the "IEEE NSW Max Simons undergraduate Student Prize", and the "IEEE NSW Jim Vasseleu Postgraduate Student Prize". The implementation and publicity around these new prizes will be launched early 2009 given our academic calendar constraints.

- **Student Branch contest**

This is promoted on behalf of the IEEE Australia Council where NSW has committee representation.

### **B.5 Awards**

- IEEE NSW prepared a History Milestone Nomination submission for the cochlear Implant, submitted on 20 September 2007, with acceptance from the IEEE History Center, Rutgers University received on 26 February 2008.

### **B.6 Chapter Activities**

Chapter	Activity
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES SECTION</b>	10
<b>EMB18</b>	7
<b>SP01/COM19</b>	5
<b>AP03/MTT17</b>	4
<b>C16</b>	4
<b>CAS04/LEO36/SSC37</b>	4
<b>E25</b>	4
<b>GOLD</b>	2
<b>IE13/IA34/PEL35</b>	2
<b>LIFE MEMBER</b>	2
<b>PE31</b>	2

A summary of Chapter and related Activities is located above.

Section: NEW SOUTH WALES Type: CHAPTER Geocode: R00509 as at 22 Jan 2009.

### **B.7 E-mail and Newsletter Activities, Home Page**

The NSW Section Chair distributed a monthly activities update e-mail to all members through the IEEE e-Notice facility. We have received good feedback about this style of communication with members.

- Number of hard print Newsletter –  
One hardcopy newsletter was sent to all members located in NSW in July'08,
- Number of electronic Newsletters – The Newsletters are titled Circuit.  
Three issues were produced in 2008, delivered on both e-mail and web. Additionally there was a monthly e-mail update issued to all members in NSW. An electronic copy of these Newsletters is at our website. For those without e-mail access, paper copies were sent for all three issues.

- Section, Chapters and Student Branches Web Pages  
The new South Wales section WebPages includes Chapter links and material at :  
<http://ewh.ieee.org/r10/nsw/>

We have engaged an IEEE volunteer Mr Eduardo Navarro from Puerto Rico to get our website migrated to a Joomla content management system. This commenced in May 2008. This has proved to be very successful, even though Eduardo had other significant other commitments to deal with. We express our sincere thanks to Eduardo for helping us out and also to Don Black, Chair of the Orange County Section in California for providing the introductions.

The Section website also includes all our Chapter activities. In October 2008, the committee appointed Mr Fuat Acar to undertake the Joomla content management of our website.

Student Branch WebPages are maintained at:

- University of NSW
- The University of Sydney
- Charles Sturt University
- University of Western Sydney

## **PART C – OTHERS**

### **C.1 Relationship with National Societies**

- An Memo of understanding is active between Engineers Australia and the IET during 2008. We have also cooperated in a 10 day Engineering week program held mid-year with Engineers Australia; with events and a \$1,500 sponsorship from IEEE NSW.
- IEEE NSW also sponsored a Young Engineers speaking function in concert with the Australian Institute of Energy on 22 April.

### **C.2 Special Events**

- There were no special events conducted in 2008, but preliminary planning for the IEEE 125 year anniversary in 2009 was undertaken.

### **C.3 Anticipated Problems**

- None.

## **PART D – GOALS AND PLANS**

### **D.1 Projects / Activities & Implementation Plans**

- To streamline financial matters and handovers between treasurers. The handover of signature to all accounts from the 2006 treasurer to 2007 treasurer took over 4 months.
- To consolidate our financial banking into one branch located in the city centre.

### **D.2 Future Plans**

As part of the ongoing succession plans with the committee for IEEE NSW, we have had three NSW participants attend the triennial IEEE Sections Congress (SC'08), where representatives from all 328 Sections in the world meet and share ideas, visions, experiences and establish contacts. The challenge facing the IEEE is maintaining its relevance, its values and initiatives in the face of changing social behaviors. The SC'08 communicated means of engaging the media, with technology news, awards and recognition and raising the profile of important individuals. There is no Nobel Prize for technologists, and the IEEE is working to establish the IEEE Medal of Honour as the highest global technology award.

The SC'08 also gave attendees a first hand look at the personal stories behind 8 of the past IEEE presidents, as well as allowing us to meet some of the characters within the IEEE. It is apparent that most IEEE Sections face similar issues, as well stimulating lateral ideas to adapt what IEEE offers members.