

Report for 2003 IEEE Region 10 Committee Meeting

IEEE Australia Council (R005)

Australia

**2003 content by John L Robinson Chair, IEEE Australia Council
2002 content by Harry McDonald Past Chair IEEE Australia Council**

March 2003

Part A Section Summary

A.1 Executive Summary

This report summarises the coordinating activities undertaken by the Australia Council. The Australia Council's main function is to network the IEEE Sections in Australia to achieve a result that is greater than the sum of the parts. This results in the following activities: coordination of Distinguished Lecture tours; fostering the National Society Agreement with ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA (EA) formerly IEAust and IEE, national student competition coordination; working on common problems, networking ideas and resources.

Two key governance activities were progressed during the past fifteen months. Firstly, a Tripartite Agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IEEE, EA and IEE was reviewed and modernised. This was signed off by all parties on 26 March 2003 back dated to the 1st January 2003 and will be up for renewal 1st January 2006. Secondly, The Australia Council By-Laws were reviewed and approved by the Regional Activities Board on 7 March 2003.

The Council was also able to progress its tactical business more effectively through the use of telephone meetings. Historically the main business has been dealt with through one or two meetings per annum. In 2002 seven meetings were hosted, five by *Telstra Conferencing Phone* and this has helped to build a much stronger working relationship amongst the section chairs. This operating practice is expected to continue.

A.2 Financial Report

The Council is financially healthy with a balance in the order of \$14,000 as at end of December 2002 with outstanding liabilities of approximately \$3,000. To sustain the student competition, participate in the national societies electrical college board and provide float for distinguished lecturers program a desirable balance of \$8,000 to \$12,000 is needed. A levy each year on each Section based on membership numbers has proven to be the fairest way of funding the Australia Council.

A.3 Council Membership

	2002	2003
Chair	Harry McDonald	John Robinson
Vice Chair	John Robinson	Michael Evans
Treasurer	Michael Evans	Peter Wills
Secretary	Michael Evans	Peter Wills
Student Competition Coordinator	WWL Keerthipala	WWL Keerthipala
Past Council Chair	Dalma Novak	Harry McDonald
ACT Section Chair	Erik Lensson*	Erik Lensson*
North Qld Section Chair	Mal Heron*	Mal Heron*
NSW Section Chair	Trevor Bird*	Andrew Parfitt*
Qld Section Chair	Ed Palmer*	Peter Sutton*
SA Section Chair	Michael Evans *	Michael Evans *
Vic Section Chair	Peter Wills*	Peter Wills*
WA Section Chair	Lance C C Fung*	Douglas Chai*

Voting Members*

Part B Organisational Activities

B.1 Membership Development Programs

Most membership development is pitched towards students. Active IEEE membership in Australia was 6,655 at the end of December 2002.

There are 31 IEEE Fellows and 6 New Fellows had been elected at the end of 2002. (3 from NSW, 1 from Vic, 1 from N Qld, and 1 from SA). All sections actively promote senior membership.

The geographic distribution is approximately as follows:

Section		Section	
New South Wales	38%	Queensland	11%
Hunter – subsection	1%	Nth Queensland	2%
Victoria	24%	Western Australia	10%
South Australia	8%	Australian Capital Territory	6%

The Hunter Sub-section had been delinquent for several years. Action has now been completed by the NSW Section to dissolve the unit

B.2 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

Not applicable.

B.3 Recognized Educational Programs

Not applicable

B.4 Student Activities

The Council coordinates an Australian Student Paper Competition (SPC) which is integrated with SPCs at Section and Region levels. The prizes now consist of \$500 in cash for the first prize winners in the undergraduate and postgraduate paper competitions and a \$1000 travel grant for the postgraduate student winner. (A total commitment of \$2,000 per annum).

The 2001 postgraduate competition was won by:

- Elaine Wong for a paper titled 'Collision Avoidance in Wavelength Division Multiplexed Packet Networks' and the undergraduate prize was won by:
- Amir H Tanady, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, WA for a paper titled 'Modeling of Self-Excited Induction Generator and AC/DC/AC Converter for Energy Conversion Schemes'

A large number of under-graduate and postgraduate papers have been received for the 2002 competition that closed in mid November.

B.5 Awards

Contemplation of joint Student Paper prize with ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA and IEE to reinforce the tripartite agreement was discussed at the 27 March Executive meeting of the ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA Electrical College Board Executive. A decision to proceed is expected at the full Board Meeting in June 2003 at Perth.

B.6 Conference Activities

Not Applicable.

B.7 Chapter Activities

Individual Sections who undertake various Chapter activities carry these out. The AC is available to provide Australia wide support for inter section based chapters where the numbers of state based chapters don't meet IEEE criteria.

B.8 Email and Newsletter Activities

All Sections coordinate regular newsletters, both paper and email versions, and most have implemented Section web sites.

Part C Goals and Plans

C.1 Goals

The four main goals of the Australia Council for 2003 are to:

- Maintain the ongoing coordination of the seven Australian IEEE Sections and maintain vitality of the technical programs delivered to all IEEE members in Australia
- Ensure that the national society agreement with IEAust and IEE produces tangible outcomes,

- Liaise with the IEEE New Zealand Council to promote regional efforts especially with the Distinguished Lecturer Program,
- Populate the Australia Council Website
- Modernize the Operating Procedures

C.2 Detailed Implementation Plans

One plan already underway to achieve the goals is to establish an Australia Council web site with up-to-date information for local Sections including Council By-Laws and Operating Procedures, Section Chapters, Distinguished Lecturer Program, IEEE headquarters' key contact staff, upcoming Region 10 Conferences and National Society Agreements.

C.3 Proposed Budget (rounded)

Opening Bank Balance at 1/1/03:	\$14,000
Outstanding Liabilities	\$3,000
PROJECTED INCOME	
Suggested 2003 Levy @ 50c per member	\$3,250
Interest	\$500
PROJECTED EXPENDITURE	
2002 SPC Travel Grants	\$1,000
2002 SPC Awards and Travel Grants	\$2,000
DL costs program 2003	\$3,000
Minor Expenses – Postage etc	\$600
PROJECTED BANK BALANCE at 31/12/2003	\$9,650

Part D Others

D.1 Relationship with National Societies

In 1998 and IEEE/IEAust/IEE agreement was signed that proved beneficial for multi-society members and maintained positive relationships between the IEEE, IEAust and IEE. This agreement was due for renewal at the end of 2001 and has majority support. The re-signing has been delayed due to different changes needed by all three organizations (refer executive summary). The joint technical programs already carried out in most Sections are proving to be beneficial for all parties, in particular local members. The Australia Council delegate has continued with participation of invited membership of the IEAust Electrical College Board. This is the main forum for furthering the tripartite agreement and provides implementation plans that support the strategies.

D.2 Special Events

The distinguished lecturer program is the main source of special events. A number of speakers have toured in 2002. IEEE APO managed the Comsoc tour. Two of these were coordinated with New Zealand Council.

Speaker & Visits	Society
Paolo Tenti Feb 2002, (WA, VIC, NSW, QLD)	Industry Applications Society (IA)
Tapan Sarkar April 2002 (WA, SA, VIC, NSW, QLD, NQLD)	Antennas & Propagation Society (AP)
G Sivakumar May 2002 (WA, SA, VIC, NSW)	Computer Society
Katsushi Ikeuchi Jun 2002 (ACT, VIC)	Signal Processing Society (SP)
Lajos Hanzo Sept 2002 (WA, SA, Vic, ACT, NSW, QLD, NQLD)	Communications Society (COM)
Hector de Los Santos Oct 2002 (Vic, NSW, NQLD)	Microwave Theory & Techniques Society (MTT)

Conceptual planning had commenced on the 2003 program by the end of 2002. The main focus is expected to continue in Power Engineering, Computer, Communications, Signal Processing, AP and MTT Societies

D.3 Problems to be anticipated

No major problems are foreseen at this stage.