

IEEE New Zealand North Section

New Zealand

2002

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NZ North Section Chair (2003)
Auckland
New Zealand**

Part A Section Summary

A-1 Executive Summary

This report briefly summarizes the coordinating activities undertaken by the NZ North Section.

A strategic planning session was held 21 February 2002 for the past year and again recently on 20 February 2003 to re-examine and determine our progress against our Five Year Plan. Portions of this plan are included in this report under Part C: Goals and Plans.

A-2 Financial Report

Please see attached.

A-3 Section Membership

	2002	2003 (TBC)
Chairman	Dr Grant Covic	Dr Kevin Sowerby
Vice-chairman	Dr Kevin Sowerby	Dr Grant Covic
Secretary/Treasurer Hussmann	Dr. Bruce MacDonald	Dr. Stephan
Committee Members:		
Communications Society Rep (Joint chapter with NZ South)	Dr Kevin Sowerby	Dr Kevin Sowerby
Computer Chapter Chairman	Dr. Stephan Hussmann	Dr. Partha Roop
IAS Chapter Chairman	Dr Dariusz Kacprzak	Dr Dariusz Kacprzak
PES Chapter Rep (Joint chapter with NZ South)	Dr Patrick (Aiguo) Hu	Dr Patrick (Aiguo) Hu
Newsletter/email Editor & Database/Membership	Dr. Michael Neve	Dr. Michael Neve
PACE Chairman	Mr Peter Over	Mr Peter Over
WEB Development	Dr Sathiamoorthy Manoharan	Dr S. Manoharan
Student Branch:		
Counsellor	Dr Abbas BigDelli	Dr Abbas BigDelli
Chairman	Mr Adrian Pais	Mr Vinay Chinni
Vice Chair	Mr David Yuen	Mr Adrian Pais
Treasurer	Mr Kyle Lin	TBC
Secretary	Mr David Yuen	TBC

TBC = To be confirmed

Part B Organisational Activities

B-1 Membership Development Programmes

Approximately 80% of the membership of our section live within the greater Auckland area. The remaining 20% being spread geographically over the rest of the section's territory. Accordingly, the section's technical activities are focused around the Auckland area. The section's membership is spread between amongst the following societies: Computer, Communication, PES and IAS members. Because our members move around the country frequently and are distributed over the whole of New Zealand, both the PES & the communications society have been formed jointly with the New Zealand South section.

The University of Auckland Student Branch was formed in 2001 and saw strong growth and activity in 2002. This growth was stimulated by the enthusiastic efforts of the student branch committee, supported by the Section executive committee. Now that the University of Auckland Student Branch is well established it is hoped that branches can be fostered in sister universities offering IEEE relevant degrees. The Section executive committee would also like to include academic leaders from these universities.

New Zealand North Membership Distribution	Quantity	
	Dec 2002	(Dec 2001)
TOTAL ACTIVE Membership	424	(386)
Members	241	(254)
Student Members	113	(54)
Affiliates	47	(48)
Life Senior Member	4	(5)
Life Member	2	(2)
Senior Members	16	(13)
Pending Members	1	(11)
Fellows, Life Fellows Honorary Members, Life Associates,	0	(0)
No member grade	0	(0)
Members in Arrears	61	(53)
Members	37	(32)
Student Members	15	(4)
Affiliates	9	(17)

In order to better communicate with our geographically distributed membership, and to save costs, the Section now makes good use of a Web page and frequent short email messages rather than the formerly used paper mail-outs. Only one paper mail-out is conducted each year, in which the executive committee membership is submitted for election or contention. Feedback from our members is enabled directly through the web. At the end of 2002 the PACE group of the NZ North Section enabled a database to promote New Zealand active consultants and engineers working in the areas of IEEE interest. The creation of this database is the culmination of a major effort from Mr Peter Over and his team and it will promote the IEEE and benefit engineers in New Zealand.

B-2 Professional and Continuing Development Programmes

The major activity of the Section is a programme of technical meetings and visits. Because New Zealand is small (approximately 3.8 million people) it is difficult for an organisation such as the IEEE to maintain an active programme in isolation. Because this problem is common to professional engineering institutions within the country we have co-operated with other institutions operating locally, namely the national society IPENZ (Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand) and the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) to enable a wider set of programmes to be made available to our members.

Our programme is fairly extensive based on visiting distinguished lecturers and national speakers on specialist topics, and this is supplemented from the IPENZ and IEE technical programme, which normally arrange bi-monthly meetings or a site visit. The combined nature of all programmes is beneficial to all groups. In 2002 there were 24 technical meetings, 4 in conjunction with the IPENZ and IEE. Of these technical meeting, 4 were held by the IAS chapter, 7 by the computer society chapter, 5 by the communications chapter, 4 by the PES chapter. PACE held a well attended and received professional meeting on the subject of copyright in computer. The Student Branch held 5 very successful meetings and events.

The communications chapter ran a full-day Wireless Workshop in Christchurch in September in conjunction with the NZ South Section. These well attended workshops have now become an annual feature and the primary opportunity for New Zealand's communications researchers to assemble and discuss their work with each other. The representation is approximately 70% industry and 30% academic.

An example of successful cooperation with the other professional engineering institutions in New Zealand (namely IPENZ and the IEE) was the IPENZ Convention in March 2002. The NZ North Section supported the Software Engineering stream of the convention.

The creation of the Consultant Database by NZ North's PACE group is a significant contribution and service to professional engineering in New Zealand.

B-3 Recognised Educational Programmes

In recent years a number of educational institutions have developed new EEE educational programmes in the NZ North region. A number of these are yet to be recognised by the IEEE. The NZ north section is engaged in the task of identifying all relevant candidate programmes for IEEE accreditation.

B-4 Student Activities

The Student Branch based at the University of Auckland was particularly active and successful in 2002. They significantly increased student membership of the IEEE and increased student participation in events. A barbeque early in the year was instrumental in promoting the Student Branch and the IEEE to students. Similarly, visits to Navman NZ Ltd (a major electronics manufacturer in Auckland) and Auckland City's Sky Tower (the tallest tower in the southern hemisphere) were exciting activities that attracted interest in the IEEE.

The Student Branch contributed to the educational and professional development of its members by arranging practice job interviews for its members. The interviewers were genuine industry representatives who are engaged in the hiring of graduate engineers. Both students and interviewers treated the practice interviews with all the respect of real job interviews. The only difference being that at the end of the interview the interviewers

would review the interview with the student and suggest how the student's interview performance could be improved.

The Student Branch also assisted its members by staging practice seminar sessions for students about to present the findings of their final-year undergraduate project activity. Feedback from peer students and from more experienced postgraduate presenters was invaluable in raising the overall standard of the seminars presented for assessment.

The NZ North Section sponsored the overall Top Poster Prize for the same class of final-year BE degree students presenting their projects. This promoted the IEEE to the soon-to-complete class of 140 students, and to all those who attended the ceremony concluding the project activity.

B-5 Email, Newsletter and Web based Activities

The New Zealand North Section has adopted email as its primary means of publicising its activities and communicating with its members. Working through an intermediary this email "reach" extends to the members of our local sister institutions, namely IPENZ and the IEE. A paper mail-out is only conducted at the beginning of the year, when the membership of the executive committee needs to be elected. (Note that contested elections have not been necessary for many years. Committee membership has been uncontested by the members at large.)

Our web presence is growing and has been significantly boosted by the recent release of our consultant database. It is an important challenge for all executive committee members to keep the NZ North web pages current and attractive.

B-6 Awards

No award nominations are outstanding at present.

B-7 Chapter Activities

We successfully met and exceeded our strategic objectives by facilitating 7 Computer Society Chapter meetings, 4 Industrial Applications Society Chapter meetings, 5 Communications Society Chapter meetings and 4 Power Engineering Chapter meetings.

The NZ North Section enjoyed Distinguished Lecturer visits by Tenti Spiazzi (Industrial Applications Society, Feb 2002), Chris Jesshope (Computer Society, April 2002) and Lajos Hanzo (Communications Society, September 2002).

Conference Activities

2002 Events

- Japanese-Australian-New Zealand Joint seminar on electromagnetics - January 2002
- IEEE NZ Electromagnetic compatibility half day Tutorials (Auckland & Wellington) – February 2002
- IPENZ Annual Convention 2002 – March 2002
- IEEE NZ Wireless Workshop - September 2002

A similar range of conference activities is planned for 2003.

Part C **Goals and Plan**

C-1 **Goals**

Four key goals for the NZ North Section in 2003 have been agreed. These are essentially the same as those for 2002. They are listed below:

- A minimum of a monthly technical or professional meeting that consists of a high quality presentation of approximately 1 hour duration.
- A minimum of 2 of the following:
 - A short course of 1-2 days duration
 - A new technology workshop of 1-2 days duration
 - A professional development workshop of 1/2 day duration
- A minimum of 2 technical/professional events targeted specifically to student members
- Development of Active Web based information – in particular a database of available consultants within New Zealand for IEEE members.

A specific goal for 2003 is to investigate the benefits of making the NZ North Section a non-profit incorporated society in New Zealand. This requires some additional financial reporting, but would provide a degree of legal protection for committee members.

C-2 **Detail Implementation Plans**

The following numbers represent minimum desirable targets. The Section hopes to exceed the planned figures if possible.

Activity	1999 Actual	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Plan	2005 plan
Technical/professional meetings	25	20	12	24	20	20	20
Short courses/ Emerging Technology and Professional workshops	0	1	3	4	3	3	3
Student events	3	2	2	5	3	3	3

C-3 **Proposed Budget**

The budget for 2003 is not finalised. There is some uncertainty as to the currency exchange rate between the New Zealand and US dollars, which influences income paid from the USA (IEEE). However expenditure on regular activities is expected to be close to that of 2002.

The 2003 expenditure is likely to be in the order of NZ\$12,000 depending on the amount of subsidy acquired from various supporting organisations (e.g. industrial and academic). This figure is likely to exceed our annual income slightly, but this is not of concern given the size of the Section's reserve (approximately NZ\$28,000).

The financial report for 2002 is attached as an appendix.

Part D Other

D-1 Relationship with National Societies

IEEE members in New Zealand work closely with the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ) and with the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE) to provide access to the best resources for our members. Continuing education events provided by all groups and the University of Auckland along with conferences workshops and field trips for the benefits of all members.

The liaising officers (typically the IEEE Chairman and the Secretary) ensure the overlap and coordination of the technical programmes such local conferences where suitable. The arrangement allows for each group to put forward around 3 major events throughout the year. These events are open equally to members of all but are paid for by the organising group. Such an approach increases the range and variety of technical activities available to IEEE members in New Zealand and is working well.

D-2 Special Events

The section plans to provide social drinks and food at all major events to foster member interaction. Major events planned centre around distinguished lecturer visits and workshops.

D-3 Problems to be anticipated

The problems faced by the New Zealand North Section are perennial. They are:

1. Budget constraint; the Section has limited financial resources to undertake major international conferences. Smaller workshop-type events are more attractive.
2. Time of committee members; the Section Committee members are volunteers and hence a limited time in which to carry out Section work. The section executive committee is dominated by members from the University of Auckland, who face growing demands on their time in a competitive academic environment.
3. Interest of members; the Section's members are predominantly interested in technical information via learned journals, presentations, conferences and workshops. Given the geographical spread of the section's members and the difficulty many have in attending meetings, the challenge is to hold events with specific technical appeal while still retaining sufficiently broad appeal to attract an "economic" number of attendees.
4. Availability of top class presenters; New Zealand's geographic remoteness can be a limiting factor when accessing top class presenters. Distinguished lecturers are often reluctant to travel as far as New Zealand, but they are very well received when they do.

APPENDIX: 2002 NZ North Section Financial Report

- See attached Spreadsheet: NZNorth_Financial2002.xls