



# IEEE Newsletter

IEEE Queensland Section

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Volume 3 Issue 1, September 1999

## ***From the Editor***

This is the main newsletter for the year for the IEEE Queensland section. It has been our plan to produce more issues, however due to circumstances beyond our control there has been a delay until now.

Newsletter Editor, IEEE Qld Section  
Jolon Faichney

## ***IEEE Queensland Section 1999 AGM***

The 1999 IEEE Queensland Section Annual General Meeting will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November at QUT S-block Room 10.18 starting at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. A dinner will be held at Valentines restaurant in Kenmore following the meeting at 7:00 pm. Price 20\$ pp + drinks. Spouses are welcome to attend the dinner.

Valentines Buffet Restaurant  
632 Moggil Road  
Kenmore Phone 3878 6800

Please RSVP by 1 Nov  
by e-mail to [r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au) or  
phone (07) 5594 8203 and leave a message.

## ***IEEE Queensland Section Web Site***

The IEEE Queensland Section has a new web site located at

<http://www.ieee.org/queensland>.

The site is currently under development by Peter Sutton [p.sutton@csee.uq.edu.au](mailto:p.sutton@csee.uq.edu.au).

## ***ISSPA '99***

First International Symposium on Signal Processing and Applications has been successfully held at the Brisbane exhibition centre during August. The conference was attended by more than 200 people. If you need more information about the conference or for purchasing the proceedings please check the web page on <http://www.sprc.qut.edu.au/isspa99>.

## ***IEEE Region 10 (Asia-Pacific) Meeting***

The IEEE region 10 meeting was held this year in Bali. The meeting was well attended and gave the opportunity for sections to share their expertise, their successful events and the failed ones.



IEEE President Kenneth Lake (centre) with Dr. Mohamed Deriche (left) and Dr. Renate Sitte (right).

Our section is considered to be a medium sized section with about 600 members. Compared to the activities carried elsewhere, ours were very low in numbers. Our section needs to be more active in attracting members and providing them with good services. I am certain that many of our members have bright ideas to improve on the performance of the section so I encourage all of

you to send us your comments and proposal activities.



Dr. Mohamed Deriche, Chair IEEE Queensland Section (right) and Dr. Renate Sitte, Secretary Queensland Section and Chair IEEE Computer Society Qld next to the stunning flower arrangement in the form of the IEEE logo.



Region 10 meeting - The opening session.

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## ***Final Year Student Thesis Prize Competition***

### **From the Secretary IEEE Queensland Section**

Final year Student theses from QUT, GU (Nathan), GU (Gold Coast) and UQ were submitted. The criteria for IEEE student prize for the best final year undergraduate thesis in all fields of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology were novelty, potential commercial value, technical merit, theoretical value, and thesis presentation. The IEEE Committee Queensland Section congratulates Jolon Faichney for his winning thesis titled "Mobile Handheld Video Conferencing".

The thesis investigated video coding techniques for suitability in a handheld computing environment using wireless communications.



Jolon Faichney, IEEE Queensland Section student prize winner for best undergraduate thesis.

Potential applications for this research include video phones and Dick Tracy-style video watches. Currently two papers have been accepted for publication in international conferences. Jolon Faichney is now a PhD student at Griffith University Gold Coast studying content-based video retrieval. The prize will be awarded at the AGM in November.

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## ***Seminar: Managing Your High Tech Career into the New Millennium***

**Date:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 1999 / 3 - 5 pm  
**Venue:** Room Z304 - Z Block, Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point Campus, 2 George Street, Brisbane  
**Presenters:** Dr. Sharon Crozier / Visiting scholar from the University of Calgary - Canada  
**Presentation Subject:** Managing Your High Tech Career into the New Millennium  
**Cost:** Symbolic fees of \$2 per participant to cover the refreshment cost  
**Notice:** Refreshments will be available after the seminar  
**Abstract:**  
Organizations are struggling to meet the challenges of increasing technology, globalization of economies, changing social demands. Job security is no longer "really" available to workers. In the new millennium we each need to manage our own careers. The presentation will help you to understand these changing times and how to use the new conditions organizations must cope with to your advantage, especially in the engineering and IT

sector. It will give you tools to manage your career and to present yourself effectively to prospective employers whether for full time or contract employment.

**Biography:**

Dr. Sharon Crozier is currently on Professional Leave for 1999/2000 and is a Visiting Scholar at Queensland University of Technology, in Brisbane. Dr. Crozier is Career Development Coordinator and Senior Counsellor at the Counselling and Student Development Centre at the University of Calgary. Dr. Crozier is a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association and past President of the Canadian Counselling Association Career Development Chapter. Dr. Crozier has presented extensively at conferences both nationally and internationally on topics such as career management, career futures and effective job search strategies.

*Enquires: For further enquires about this seminar contact Dr. Anwar Dawood ([a.dawood@qut.edu.au](mailto:a.dawood@qut.edu.au)) Professional Activities Chair of the IEEE Queensland Section.*

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### **EMB Seeks New Members to Form Queensland Chapter**

Dr. Robert Quazer is seeking new members for the Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB) Society so that a Queensland chapter can be formed. Existing IEEE and Biomed society members may be interested in joining.

For more information about joining the EMB and the Queensland chapter please contact Dr. Robert Quazer at [rquazer@ieee.org](mailto:rquazer@ieee.org) or on 0412 205512.

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### **The Control Systems/Robotics & Automation Society Joint Chapter has been formed**

It is with great pleasure that I inform all members that the requirements of the IEEE Bylaws have been met, and the Control Systems/Robotics & Automation Society Joint Chapter of the Queensland Section, Australia, has been formed. The formation of this Chapter is effective from 12 March 1999.

The inaugural meeting of the Joint CS-023/RA-024 Society Chapter was held on 25th May 1999 at 5:30pm at Griffith University, Nathan Campus, Bray Centre, Room 2.06.

This meeting provided a great opportunity for all of us to get together, and discuss how to further our professional development under the umbrella of the IEEE sponsored activities.

It was decided that a thematic lecture series would be the core activity for future chapter meetings. To start with, the next meeting will focus on the projects that are currently undertaken by the Chapter members at their host institutions. The meeting will be supported by video-conference facilities at two sites, Griffith University Multimedia Centre in Brisbane and the Central Queensland University in Rockhampton. All IEEE members are welcome to participate and share in this unique opportunity.

The 1999 Chapter Duty Officers are as follows:

**Chair:**

Dr Ljubo Vlacic  
Head of School, School of Microelectronic Engineering, Griffith University  
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**Secretary:**

Associate Professor Xinghuo Yu  
Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Informatics and Communications, Central Queensland University  
Ph: 07 4930 9865; fax: 07 4930 9729; e-mail: [x.yu@cqu.edu.au](mailto:x.yu@cqu.edu.au)

**Treasurer:**

Dr Joaquin Sitte  
School of Computing Science, Queensland University of Technology  
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Ljubo Vlacic

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### **Professional Activities of IEEE Queensland Section**

Dr. Anwar Dawood the Professional Activities Chair has arranged for a series of workshops for IEEE current and potential members. The first

workshop was organised on Thursday 8 July 1999 at QUT Gardens Point Campus. Dr. Anwar Dawood and Dr. Ed Palmer worked cooperatively to arrange this event. They invited three consultants from Morgan and Banks to deliver this workshop. The three Morgan and Banks consultants (Mr Andrew Farrington, Mr Al Sheen, Ms Tanya Felton) provided very comprehensive and consistent presentation on current and future demand for Electrical Engineers and Information Technology specialists. The presentation was titled: Career Management in the Engineering and IT Markets. The workshop was interactive type event and the presenters and participants had the opportunity to address the following key issues:

- Current overview of engineering and IT employment markets including industry projections of short term future direction.
- Overview of general current and future employment trends.
- Insights into successful methods for individuals to manage own career development.
- Developing an understanding of individual's own personal and professional career drivers.
- Interactive discussion regarding career related topics that are of interest to the audience.

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### ***From the Chair of the Computer Society:***

1998 was a year full with activities organized for the members of the Computer Society. Some of the highlights were:

**"EDUCATION MEETS INDUSTRY IN COMPUTING"** This seems to be becoming an annual event. It is about how well (or not so well) our University graduates are prepared for the Industry that absorbs them.

On behalf of the IEEE Computer Society Chapter, Queensland Section, I would like to thank the Information Industries Branch for its participation and hosting the "Education meets Industry in Computing" forum, aimed at helping industry work more closely with the academic community.

Initially the discussion was limited to a selected panel from the Industry and local Universities. This was followed by inviting the audience for their comments. An informal discussion amongst all participants concluded the event.

The main discussion theme was

"Students trained a la carte: disaster or blessing?" Could you imagine your students being trained in the IT topics that Industry has requested to be taught at Universities via a "request a topic data base entry" (e.g. each topic requires one or more lectures, but no set courses are offered)

Needless to say that it was a very interesting at times controversial and fervent event. Here is a sample of issues that arose:

- "What a wonderful Idea - where do we sign up?"
- "Is technical expertise relevant in today's increasingly management / service oriented business climate?"
- "As a nation, we are attempting to educate far too many young people to a degree level in far too many vocations and in far too many Universities for our size of population."
- "University IT courses should be structured as a Business!"
- "It is impossible for employers to play a strategic role in curriculum design. Many employers of 2004 do not exist now."
- "... Gartner indicates that there are only 7 people for every 10 jobs, yet the Universities continue to produce people who lack specific skills needed to find jobs"
- "All Computer Science degrees should include enough business components to allow students to understand the basic principles of issues like cash flow, organizational structure, marketing, etc."
- "If academics are so good, why aren't they in industry making a fortune?"
- "The major issue in IT education is the balance between the immediately useful and the fundamentals which provide for future adaptability."

#### **Further events held were:**

"INTERPOLATION IN HIERARCHICAL FUZZY RULE BASES" a Seminar/Workshop presented by Prof. Lazslo Kocky, Vice President of the International Fuzzy Systems Association and

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Fellow of the Hungarian Academy of Engineering, University of Budapest

WORKSHOP FOR NEW BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS: "A Guide to Keeping Your Business Records" This workshop was presented by speakers from the Australian Taxation Office. It was prepared for all those who have recently started a small business or are thinking about starting one, e.g. Computing Consultants, Software Developments, Programmers, Support for Computer Networks, Website Developers, or any other.

"COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROTECTION IN AUSTRALIA – COPYRIGHT" PRESENTED by Dr Cristina Cifuentes Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, from The University of Queensland and Anne Fitzgerald Member of the Expert Advisory Group, assisting the Copyright Law Review Committee Member of the Advisory Council on Industrial Property (ACIP), JSD Candidate, Columbia Law School.

### ***Computer Society Forthcoming Events:***

#### **"EDUCATION MEETS INDUSTRY IN COMPUTING '99" INVITATION**

The IEEE Computer Society wish to invite you to participate in the forum "Education meets Industry in Computing '99". It is about how well (or not so well) our University graduates are prepared for the Industry that employs them.

**Date:** Thursday 11 November 1999

**Time:** 5:30 PM to start 6:00 PM

**Venue:** Griffith University  
Nathan Campus  
Central Theatre 2 (CTN2)

The forum starts with a panel discussion with special guests from Industry and local Universities (approx 45 min), and is followed by audience input and participation (approx 45 min). Wine and pizza bites will be served. Please RSVP (book your attendance) by Tuesday 9 November COB to [r.sitte@gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@gu.edu.au) or phone (07) 5594 8203 (Gold Coast) or (07) 3206 3347 (Brisbane).

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This year the Computer Society aims also at bringing Industry closer to the students, in the form of presentations held by specialists from the computer industry. Several such events are scheduled. The theme is "WHAT THEY NEVER TOLD YOU AT UNI". For the first event our guest speaker is Mr. Ralph Hunt, Hitachi Data Systems State Manager for Queensland.

He will address university students close to graduating through advice and interactive discussions. Students in their final years are welcome.

**Date:** Tuesday 21 September 1999

**Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Venue:** Griffith University  
Gold Coast Campus  
Room EDA 3.18

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP (book your attendance) by Friday 17 September COB to [r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au) or phone (07) 5594 8203 (Gold Coast) or (07) 3206 3347 (Brisbane).

If your company wishes to contribute with a presentation, then please contact [r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au).

Watch this space for further announcements!

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**To all members in the computer industry:** If you have a friend or a colleague who wishes to become a member of the IEEE Computer Society or just wants to know more about the IEEE and its benefits, please refer them either to <http://www.ieee.org> or to [r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au).

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If you have a topic, an idea, a suggestion or a question that you wish to discuss with other computer professionals in a workshop or technical meeting please let us know. I am committed to helping reduce the gap between Academia and Industry.

Dr. Renate Sitte  
Chair of the IEEE Computer Society,  
Queensland Section  
[r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au](mailto:r.sitte@mailbox.gu.edu.au)

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## **Activities of the GUGC IEEE Student Branch**

Griffith University Gold Coast may be a small campus with no complete Electrical Engineering degree on offer; however, this has done little to stifle the formation of a very active IEEE Student Branch. In late 1997 formation of the Branch began within the School of Information Technology with the few active IEEE members with degrees in EE on staff and as postgraduates. This was sufficient to "set the ball rolling" and on 27 August 1998 the GUGC IEEE Student Branch was officially recognised by the IEEE.

The official recognition of the GUGC IEEE Student Branch was the culmination of approximately 12 months of planning, petitioning and promotion. The concept was brought to the IEEE Queensland section, the School and its students using various means. The chief motivator in the formation of the Branch was Renate Sitte, whose continued support is greatly appreciated.

Since it's inception, the GUGC Student Branch has hosted several activities. These have included promotional social gatherings for students of the School of Information Technology, technical activities and combined social events in conjunction with the SoIT.

Three social gatherings aimed at undergraduate students of the school have involved formal addresses from various IEEE executive members including the QLD section secretary, as well as the Student Branch counsellor and Chair. In July of 1998 a similar event was aimed at Master's students. This event was co-sponsored by the School of Information Technology and the campus' Science and Engineering Society. All of these events have been very successful in attracting student interest in the IEEE. The most recent social gathering for undergraduates was held in March 1999. As a result of this event, over 30% of the students present signed up for IEEE membership on the day with several others submitting forms within the following fortnight.

In October 1998, the Student Branch co-hosted, with the IEEE Computer Society, its first technical activity: a workshop by the taxation office called "A Guide to Keeping Your Business Records". One of the chief concerns of the branch is to provide activities that are of

interest to its members locally, since most QLD section activities are currently held in Brisbane making it difficult for members on the Gold Coast to attend. This year we plan to hold two further technical activities in conjunction with the Computer Society.

Membership continues to grow steadily. As a service to new members, the branch mails out completed application forms. Generally, applications are collected over the course of a month and bulked mailed. The next mail out will contain at least 15 membership forms.

Another major aim for Branch is to strengthen our relationship with the School of Engineering. Although, a full EE degree is not offered on the Gold Coast, relevant transfer courses are. Thus, we could provide many useful activities for students in the earlier phases of their degrees.

Despite being new and small, the GUGC IEEE Student Branch has been very busy in the past 18 months. Our plan of activities for 1999 would appear to continue this trend. In keeping with the IEEE motto, we would be happy to collaborate with any other Student Branch in suitable activities. Further we extend an invitation to all IEEE members to attend any of our technical activities.

Kathy Melih.

Chair,  
GUGC IEEE Student Branch.

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## **IEEE QUEENSLAND SECTION**

### **Chair's Report for 1998**

#### **1. Committee Meetings and Office Bearers**

The full list of volunteers for this year's committee is given below:

**Chair** Dr. Mohamed Deriche  
**Vice Chair** Mr. Andrew West  
**Secretary** Dr. Renate Sitte  
**Treasurer** Dr. Mohammed Bennamoun

#### **Membership Development**

**and Email Coordinator** Mr. Simon Ellis  
**Student Activities** Dr. Mariam Majewski  
**Technical Activities** Dr. Bouchra Senadji  
**Newsletter Editors** Jolon Faichney  
Mark Keir

**Webmaster**

Dr. Tapan K Saha

**Student Councillors:**

Dr. Mariam Majweski (UQ)  
Dr. Khourshid Alam (GU)  
Dr. Ruben Gonzalez (GU-GC)  
Dr. Wageeh Boles (QUT)  
Mr. Jack Sandell (CQU)  
Mr. Jack Leis (USQ)

**Chapters' Chairs:**

**Computer Society** Dr. Renate Sitte  
**Signal Processing and Communications** Dr. S. Sridharan  
**Power Society** Dr. K. Khouzam

The committee held monthly meetings during the year (11 meetings).

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the committee members for their continuous effort and assistance in all the activities, events, and initiatives during the year. Without our commitment, the section would have been reduced to name and a committee. Thanks for all of you.

**2. Technical Activities**

The three chapters namely: Signal Processing, Computer, and Power, have developed a program of activities for the year. Many of the events were well attended. I congratulate the chapter chairs for their efforts.

The Chair has also initiated a focused 2-day series of seminars for which he has invited eminent scholars attending ICPR. In addition to the above, the Chair is organising an evening on the Dec. 8 for which he has invited Prof. Brian Anderson from Canberra.

I take also this opportunity to announce that the section is planning to create two new chapters, namely: a chapter for control and robotics, and a split of the Signal Processing and Communications into two, one for Signal Processing and the other for Communications.

**3. Newsletter and Contact with Members**

Continuing on the initiative from the last year, a proper alias was set up which included the emails of all section members. Two newsletters were published during this year. I believe that we should work more on the newsletter so as to enhance our interaction with the members. The newsletters were also posted on the Web.

**4. Finance**

I feel confident in saying that we currently have a very healthy budget and balance. However, I take this opportunity to encourage the members:

- To initiate more programs under the IEEE.
- To balance their expenses and may be to make a small profit from these events.

**5. Initiatives**

The main initiatives for this year are:

- The IEEE Thesis prizes for undergraduate students.
- The IEEE Distinguished lecturers fund.
- The development and follow up of action plans for different roles within the IEEE section.

**6. Region 10 and Australia Council**

The Chair attended the Region 10 meeting held in Perth during April 1998. Compared to other sections within the region, ours can be seen of moderate size (there are 35 sections). However, we are proud to say that we have a relatively low number of members not renewing their membership. Moreover, during 1998, we saw an increase in membership by about 60. Thanks for all.

Within Australia, there is good progress on facilitating combined membership among the IEEE, the IEE, and the IEAust.

**7. Final Note**

I have been involved with the section for the last five years. This year specifically gave me a excellent opportunity to interact with more members. I must say that I enjoyed working with the all the members and specifically the committee members. As I mentioned in my note in the newsletter, the section is all of us and we are the ones who can make it a "learned society for the future" or just a "rubber stamp".

Andrew, Renate, Mohammed, Simon, Bouchra, Tapan, Sugan, Marian, Kame, Wageeh, Sridha, thanks for all your efforts.

Chair, IEEE Qld Section

Dr M. Deriche

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## **Past Section Committee Member Awards Presentation and Dinner**

The chair invited the past and newly elected members to the presentation of IEEE plaques to past Section Committee members for their effort. The plaques were presented to:

- Prof. M. Darveniza, Chair, 1997
- Mr. Simon Ellis, Chair, 1995 – 1996
- Mr. Andrew West, Secretary, 1995 – 1996
- Dr. Tapan K. Saha, Secretary, 1997.

The dinner was held at "Valentines" on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Also at the meeting the IEEE approved the formation of the new Control Systems/Robotics and Automation Society Joint Chapter. The IEEE Queensland section wishes to congratulate Dr. Ljubo Vlacic to the formation of the chapter. Dr.Ljubo Vlacic is also the new chapter chair.

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## **AGM 1998**

The 1998 Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November at the University of Queensland. Chapter chairs and student chapters gave their reports for 1998.

The IEEE Queensland Section would like to congratulate the following members for being elected to the following positions at the AGM:

**Chair:** M. Deriche

**Vice Chair:** M. Bennamoun

**Treasurer:** S. Ellis

**Secretary:** R. Sitte

**Technical Activities:** A. Dawood

**Membership Development and Email Co-ordinator:** E. Palmer

**Newsletter Editors:** J. Faichney and M. Keir

**Webmaster:** P. Sutton

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### **The IEEE Queensland Section**

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