

Region 10 Northern Australia Section Report 2018

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary

- Section Executive Committee Member List
Greg Elkins (Chair)

Wei Xiang (Vice Chair)

Mostafa Azghadi (NA / MTT Comms / PES Treasurer)

Melanie Olsen (Secretary)

Mathew Whelan (Membership Development Officer)

Mostafa Azghadi (Technical seminar coordinator, YP rep)

Bronson Philippa (Std. Branch Councilor / Cairns)

Kelly Kraatz (WIE rep)

Graham Woods (MTT-S/Comms Chair)

Kianoush Emami (MTT-S/Comms Vice Chair)

Greg Elkins (PES Chair)

Paul Chandler (PES Secretary & Vice chair)

Joel Cox (Industry Liaison Officer)

Sina Vafi (Executive Committee Member / Darwin)

Mal Heron (NA OES Representative)

Kenny Leong (Web Master)

- Section Highlights
Kennedy Energy Park, Wind turbine inspection at Port of Townsville.

Technical co-sponsor for Industrial Symposium on Industrial Electronics, Cairns 13-15 June, 2018.

- Mohan Jacob helped advertise the event and obtained sponsorship from Tourism & Events Queensland (\$70k).
- 237 delegates
- 32 countries represented
- 103 registered speakers
- OES hosted a Marine Electronics Session

Melanie Olsen gave a presentation to University students on her job and industrial electronics in marine biology

OES Australian Chapter was heavily involved in the Antarctic & Southern Oceans Forum

Section presented 1st and 4th year IEEE student prizes in Townsville.

Peter Arlett lecture and networking event were a success and are seen as a focus event for the section each year

Peter Herbert talk on Electrical Engineering in Mining was again held to foster industry links into mining sector

- Major Events (International, National)
 - Technical co-sponsor for Industrial Symposium on Industrial Electronics, Cairns 13-15 June, 2018.
 - Mohan Jacob helped advertise the event and obtained sponsorship from Tourism & Events Queensland (\$70k).
 - 237 delegates
 - 32 countries represented
 - 103 registered speakers
 - OES hosted a Marine Electronics Session
- Major Chapter Activities
 - Nil
- Major Student and Affinity Group Activities
 - Janina Mazierska attended the IEEE Women in Engineering, International Leadership Summit, 26-27 November 2018 Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.
- Awards
 - Constituted by the Section:**
 - IEEE Northern Australia section awards three undergraduate students awards at University awards ceremonies:
 1. Townsville: 1st year Engineering Student with highest GPA, who is joining Electrical/ Computer Engineering UG program.
 2. Townsville: 4th year Electrical/ Computer Engineering Student for the best project work.
 3. Darwin: IEEE prize is awarded to a 3rd year Electrical Engineering Student with the highest GPA

A.2 Financial Report – (Please follow the format given below)

- Summary (as per submitted L50)
 - Had 3 term deposits and one every day account at start of year but two of these accounts were for the ISIE conference and have now been closed.
 - Have used on-line banking successfully this year
 - Received IEEE rebate of \$3,861.84
 - Final balance was \$12,702 in every day account and \$20,269 in term deposit
- Any other financial activities

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- Total number of active members in the past 3 years.
 - Membership ranges between 150 and 200 throughout the annual membership cycle.
- Summary and evidence of work done to improve the value of membership, which leads to retention and growth of members

Receiver certificate for growth in membership in 2017 year.

Our focus has been to attract quality technical presentations to the section to support the varied interests of members. We have also focused on high profile events such the Peter Arlett panel session to attract new members from the local profession, particularly industry members

B.2 Chapter Activities

- Total number of Chapters in the Section
 - Two (2) (MTT/Comm and PES). We are also part of an Australia wide OES Chapter.
- Number of Chapters formed in the current year
 - Nil
- Number of active Chapters (Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year)

One locally.

- Summary of Chapter activities (Chapter wise with attachment table/information)

PES

1. Kennedy Energy Park, Wind turbine inspection at Port of Townsville.
2. Technical co-sponsor for Industrial Symposium on Industrial Electronics, Cairns 13-15 June, 2018.
3. Melanie Olsen gave a presentation to University students on her job and industrial electronics in marine biology
4. Peter Arlett networking event on the 18th October, 2018.
5. Peter Arlett lecturer on the 18th October, 2018. Renewable Energy Production, Storage & Grid Integration Technical Talk by Prof. Tapan Saha.
6. Technical seminar Friday, 7th September 2018, Electrical Engineering in the Mining Industry by Peter Herbert, Senior Inspector of Mines (Electrical), Mackay District.

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

Summary of continuing Educational activities including conferences, technical activities, training courses, and distinguished lecture programs with attachment table / information

B.4 Students Activities

- Total number of Student Branches in the Section
One (1). We are presently working on a second which due to increased student numbers in Cairns is expected to be formed in 2019.
- Number of Student Branches formed in the current year
Nil
- Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc)
Nil
- Number of active Student Branches (Student Branches who have reported required number of meetings during the year)
Nil
- Summary of Student Branch activities (Student Branch wise with attachment table/information)
Nil

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

- Young Professional (YP)
Nil
- Women In Engineering (WIE)
One member of WIE attended the IEEE Women in Engineering, International Leadership Summit, 26-27 November 2018 Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.
- Life Member
Currently don't have enough members to form a LM affinity group.

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- Award constituted by the Section
IEEE Northern Australia section awards three undergraduate students awards at University awards ceremonies:
 1. Townsville: 1st year Engineering Student with highest GPA, who is joining Electrical/ Computer Engineering UG program.
 2. Townsville: 4th year Electrical/ Computer Engineering Student for the best project work.

3. Darwin: IEEE prize is awarded to a 3rd year Electrical Engineering Student with the highest GPA.
- Please list all Awards and Recognitions received by the Section, and members in the Section, from R 10 and IEEE HQ during the year 2018.
Nil.

B.7 Communication Activities (Newsletter, Home Page, E-mail etc.)

- Newsletter (name and number of issues in the year)
Nil.
- Home Page of the Section (give the URL and how often it is updated)
<http://sites.ieee.org/nas/>
Website is updated on an ad-hoc basis approximately 10 times a year.
- Other means of contacts with Section members including social media
Member contact is based on ad-hoc email to the member lists with information on upcoming events. NEWS & EVENTS are also typically reported on the section Web site.

B.8 Industry Relations

- Membership growth and retention
Have had strong growth in Industry membership over recent years. A number of events including the Peter Arlett night and the Wind Turbine Visit were particularly focused at industry members. These events also included catering to encourage networking between members.
- Activities for/with industrial members
2018 IEEE Peter Arlett Lecture. Joint event with PES. This talk was held at James Cook University and was very well attended by industry professionals and IEEE members. Catering was provided prior to the event to enhance the networking opportunity. A total of \$200 industry sponsorship was secured to help fund the event.

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

- Humanitarian Technology related activities supported by the Section including collaboration with other OUs.
Nil
- SIGHT Activities
Nil

B.10 Community Activities

- IEEE Social activities (Family day, IEEE day, Engineers Week)”
A catered networking event was undertaken prior to the Peter Arlett lecture. Speakers at technical seminars were taken to local attractions and dinner with other members of the executive team.

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

- Please briefly describe the importance of special events and the outcomes achieved.
Section was a Technical co-sponsor for the Industrial Symposium on Industrial Electronics, Cairns 13-15 June, 2018.
 - Mohan Jacob helped advertise the event and obtained sponsorship from Tourism & Events Queensland (\$70k).
 - 237 delegates attended

- 32 countries represented
- 103 registered speakers
- Local members of OES hosted a Marine Electronics Session at this conference
- Funding secured from the IEEE and external sources including sponsorships
Peter Arlett technical seminar was partially sponsored by industry

C.2 Relationship with National and International Societies and Non-Government Organizations (NGO)

- Nature of relationship and details of any formal agreement signed
Nil
- Details of joint activities
Nil
- Benefit to IEEE members (for example discounts, access to technical information etc.)
Nil
- Benefit to Section (for example help in membership development, venue facilities, cost saving etc.)
Nil

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

- Support extended to neighboring Sections
Supported the formation of the IEEE Northern Territory sub-section.
As part of the Australia Council our section contributes to Australia wide initiatives such as the student paper award and also consultation on important matters relevant to Australia.
- Joint activities with any other Section
The Northern Australia section covers a huge geographical area. The nearest section is approximately 1500km from our sections geographic centre. Joint activities typically involve coordinating visiting lecturers throughout the year.

C.4 Support extended to Sub-sections & Society Chapters within the Section

- Support extended for organising technical, educational and professional activities
In a small section the activities of the section and chapters are very closely linked with section executive committee members often also having chapter official positions. In this way the support from the section to chapters is absolute through the near complete removal of barriers in the organizational structure.
- Joint activities for membership development
Live streaming of talks to engage members from across the section.
- Support extended for the formation of a Sub-section or transition of a Sub-section into a full Section
Supported the formation of the IEEE Northern Territory sub-section.

C.5 Best Practices of your Section

The section has focused on a small number of special events to enhance the IEEE's profile within the local professional community. These events also included catering in order to promote networking within the section and with other potential members within the wider community.

Executive committee members were encouraged to assist with the planning and execution of key events throughout the year. This was very successful not only leading to outstanding events but also empowering members within the Section. This has led to increased interest from members, particularly young members to take on new executive roles within the Section.

An activities calendar was developed at the start of the year to set dates and start planning for key events in the year. This planning was useful to ensure funding was available to support upcoming events and new initiatives.

C.6 Problems anticipated and suggestions for solutions, if any

The student branch was not as active this year. It is suggested to invite and encourage the student branch executive committee members to attend Section executive committee meetings and plan events for the student branch.

Communication Chapter did not hold any technical seminars this year. The Chapter will be encouraged to engage visiting academics at James Cook University to present talks and so increase activities.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

D.1 Continuation of project/activity in progress and their implementation plans

Develop a strategic plan for the section to focus resources in optimum fashion.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

To hold one, preferably two, high profile events within the year to promote the IEEE within the wider professional community.

To improve the Web resource and promote social media interaction between members.

Encourage activities within other geographic units and the student branch.

D.3 Any innovative ideas to make IEEE more creative and value added for sustaining the membership retention and recruitment goals.

Investigate opportunities for hands-on workshops catering to the interests and needs of local members.

D.4. Business Plan for Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability.

The Section is fortunate to have a stable organizational committee with a good mix of members from academic and industry backgrounds that understand the area and member needs. The executive members are also generally highly motivated and willing to assist and support the Section as required.

By focusing on a small number of high profile events, the Section aims to remain relevant to the needs of local members and promote growth with the wider professional community.

Thorough encouraging events within other geographic areas (Cairns, Darwin) demonstrate value to members within the whole of the Section's footprint.

By undertaking financial planning, the financial sustainability and stability of the unit is to be ensured.