

Region 10

Australian Capital Territory Section Report

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary – (Please follow the format given below)

- Section Executive Committee Member List in 2016

Chair	Fouad Karouta
Vice Chairs	Ambarish Natu
Secretary	Elias Lopez
Treasurer	Ross Summerfield
Webmaster	Ambarish Natu
Educational/Student Activities	Xiuping Jia
Membership Development	Ashley Chonka
Societies Chapter Chairs	
Antennas and Propagation (AP03)	Greg Milford
Computer Society (C16)	Shaodi You
Joint Photonics & EDS (ED15/Pho36)	Sudha Mokkaapati
Signal Processing & Com (SP01/COM19)	Salman Durrani
Geosc. and Rem Sensing (GRS29)	Huiang Zhi
Nanotechnology Council (Nano42)	Lan Fu
Young Professionals	Quyên Do
WIE Affinity Group	Girija Chetty
Oceanic Engineering (AC)	Glenn Alcock
Students Branches Representatives	
Australian National University	Miranda Zhang
ANU Councilor	Liam Waldron
UNSW-Canberra (ADFA)	Shelvin Chand
UNSW-Canberra (ADFA)	Craig Benson
Canberra University	Matthew Collingridge
- Section Highlights

In 2016 the ACT Section ExCom held four meetings (18 Feb, 19 April, 19 July and 27 Sep) along with the annual general meeting held on 24th of November.

The Section did participate to the IEEEExtreme Challenge (22-23 October 2016) by supplying food and the drinks to the competitors along with fulfilling the Proctor role.

The Section was also involved in and present at Canberra Mathematical Association Conference 2016 (20 August, 2016), holding a booth and promoting TISP among the attendees.

Furthermore, the Section held a students Congress on 6 September, 2016, attended by 20 students with a presentation about presenting science work at conferences plus a few students who shared their experience at conferences and a panel discussion. Afterwards a trivia evening was organized which was very successful.

R10 Meeting in Bangkok
Fouad Karouta, Section Chair, represented the ACT Section at the R10 meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in March 2016.
- Major Chapter Activities

All ACT Chapters have organized a minimum of two technical activities with the Signal processing and Communications Chapter totaling 10 activities.

YP and WIE joined forces and organized an industry event where 4 representatives of local industries attended, presenting their companies (Thales Group, Dyesol, CEA Technologies and NSW Health and APS HR.), followed by informal discussion along with drinks/snacks. The event was attended by 32 attendees of whom 12 were IEEE members.

- **Major Student and Affinity Group Activities**
Again this year an industry visit was organized to DamSmart, a company specializing in digitization of content, on April 7, 2016 with 11 attendees, of whom 8 were IEEE members (mostly students). Non IEEE attendees were from Engineers Australia, a professional Australian organization associated with IEEE in Canberra.

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

- **Summary (as per submitted L50)**
The Section started year 2016 with total assets in bank accounts of AUD 13,116.53 and ended the year with a total asset of AUD 11,805.24, hence our balance has been relatively stable but slightly down and this is mainly due to and an increase in the level of activities conducted by our chapters over the previous 2015 year. Our main target remains to attract new members and retain existing members.

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- **Total number of active members in the past 3 years.**
The total IEEE members in the ACT Section was:
 - Dec 2016: 512
 - Dec 2015: 531
 - Dec 2014: 535
 - Dec 2013: 552
 The total IEEE members number shows a moderate fluctuation, however this is well below the membership drop world-wide.
- **Summary and evidence of work done to improve the value of membership, which leads to retention and growth of members.**
In all activities organized by the Section IEEE membership, benefits are exposed and especially student membership are promoted.

B.2 Chapter Activities

- **Total number of Chapters in the Section**
7
- **Number of Chapters formed in the current year**
None.
- **Number of active Chapters (Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year)**
7
- **Summary of Chapter activities (Chapter wise with attachment table/information)**
Summary:
 - **Antennas and Propagation Chapter AP03**
Chair: Greg Milford. Five technical activities seminars were organized on 1st August, 17 and 28 October, 14 and 15 November.
 - **Computer Society Chapter C16**
Chair: Shaodi You. Four technical activities were organized (10 May, 19 July, 13 and 19 September along the involvement of the Chapter with the IEEEExtreme Challenge on 22-23 October 2016.
 - **Photonics and EDS Chapter ED15/PHO36**
Chair: Fouad Karouta (Acting from July 2016). Two events were organized, one celebrating Photonics day on 21 October with a local DL prof. Hoe Tan (ANU); this DL talk was jointly organized with Nano Technology Council. Another photonics DL talk was held on 15 December by Prof. Brian Kolner.
 - **Nanotechnology Council**

Chair Lan Fu (tbc).

- **Signal Processing & Communications Chapter:**
Chair: Salman Durrani. Ten activities were organized in 2016, mostly seminars, on 28 January, 19 February, 7 April, 1 and 28 June, 16 and 19 August, 6, 12 and 13 October.
- **Geoscience and Remote Sensing joint ACT and NSW Chapter**
Chair: Huang Zhi. Two activities were organized on 2 March and 8 November. The latter was a workshop involving three speakers.
- **Computational Intelligence Society**
Chair Ray Tapabrata. Five technical activities were organized on 17 and 31 March, two on 30 June and 14 September.

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
ACT has two student branches: one at ANU and one at ADFA. Both branches are active and each has organized a social event to attract new student members (see above). We also have active students at University of Canberra but without official student branch.
- Number of Student Branches formed in the current year
N/A
- Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc)
- Number of active Student Branches (Student Branches who have reported required number of meetings during the year)
- Summary of Student Branch activities (Student Branch wise with attachment table/information)

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

- Young Professional (YP),
Chair Quyen Do. Three activities were organized on 26 February, 4 March and 13 October.
- Women In Engineering (WIE)
Chair: Girija Chetty and acting from September Rita Brimo. Four activities were organized on 5 May, 17 June, 11 August and 13 October.
- Life Member

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- Award constituted by the Section
N/A
- Award(s) received from R10
N/A
- Award(s) received from IEEE HQ
N/A

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

- Newsletter (name and number of issues in the year)
None
- Home Page of the Section (give the URL and how often it is updated)

<http://ieeect.org/>

- Other means of contacts with Section members
IEEE e-notices and emails and website.

B.8 Industry Relations

- Membership growth and retention
The ACT Section still maintains a high percentage of its members working in industry (about 40% of the total number of Section members).
- Activities for/with industrial members
An industry visit was organized to DamSmart and an industry event was held where 4 representatives of local industries presented their companies.

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

B.10 Community Activities

- IEEE Social activities (Family day, IEEE day, Engineers Week)”
At the Annual General Meeting (November 24, 2016) we had an unprecedented number of 85 attendees including partners and children of IEEE members have attended the event (and enjoyed Turkish food and drinks along a Science Show performed by Questacon (Canberra science museum).

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

YP/WIE industry event on October 13, 2016

C.2 Relationship with National Societies

IEEE ACT Section maintains an excellent relation with Engineers Australia through a Section Liaison officer.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

- Support extended to neighboring Sections
- Joint activities with any other Section

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

The Section contributed to local costs of speakers at seminars and other events of various Chapters and Affinity Groups.

C.5 Best Practices of your Section (which you would like to share with other Sections for the benefits of members)

N/A

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

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

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

The Section will continue to pay attention to the recruitment and retention of IEEE members and is happy to receive any hints in this matter.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

The ACT Section is a modest Section situated in a territory counting less than half million population and therefore the Section is quite happy with a total number of members just greater than 500.

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

The ACT Section follows the outline and instructions the Membership Development Team from their meetings and gives consideration to what might work and what will engage our membership. We still maintain the loyalty program and preparing the existing members who qualify to move the different levels within the IEEE society. Such as Member to Senior Member and Follows. ACT Section leaves and try's new options to help with recruitment. One of these options included a pilot of working with industry to try to encourage more STEM recruitment through some schools.