

Northern Australia Section Report 2015

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary

Section Executive Committee Member List 2016:

Mathew Whelan (Chair)
 Mohan Jacob (Vice Chair)
 Iain Morrison (NA / MTT Comm / PES Treasurer)
 Bronson Philippa (Student Branch Councilor / Cairns Representative)
 Janina Mazierska (MTT Comm Chair)
 Paul Chandler (PES Secretary & Vice chair, MD officer)
 Graham Woods (Industry Liaison Officer)
 Sina Vafi (Executive Committee Member / Darwin)
 Mal Heron (Northern Australia OES Representative)
 Greg Elkins (PES Chair)
 Kenny Leong (NA/MTT Comm Secretary, MTT Comm Vice chair)
 Michael Grasso (Student Representative)

Election Process:

Election details outlined in AGM minutes. Generally:

- Posts declared vacant
- Nominations taken for roles
- Voting for each role
- Process recorded and minuted.

MTT-S / Com Sec Chapter Executive Committee Member List 2016:

Janina Mazierska (MTT Comm Chair)
 Kenny Leong (NA/MTT Comm Secretary, MTT Comm Vice chair)
 Iain Morrison (NA / MTT Comm / PES Treasurer)

PES Chapter Executive Committee Member List 2016

Greg Elkins (PES Chair)
 Paul Chandler (PES Secretary & Vice chair, MD officer)
 Iain Morrison (NA / MTT Comm / PES Treasurer)

Administrative Meetings:

Joint Executive committee meeting of the Section, MTT-S-Com Sec Chapter, PES Chapter and OES Chapter were held on:

26 February 2015
 23 April 2015
 21 May 2015
 6 August 2015
 9 November 2015
 10 December 2015 (AGM)

Following Technical Seminars were organized (some are jointly with chapter):

DL John Norgard, Space Exploration: EMI/EMC Problems/Solutions NASA ~ Past/Present/Future Missions “Orion” Mars/Moon Spacecraft – 11 May NA, MTT Comm and OES)

A/Prof Keith Kikkert, The reasons for the SmartGrid and communications techniques used to implement it – 25 August (NA, PES and MTT Comm)

DL Robert Caverly, RF Aspects of Magnetic Resonance Imaging – 31 March (NA and MTT Comm)

DL Anura Jayasumana, ‘Internet’ to ‘Internet of Things’ to ‘Internet of Everything’- The Evolution Continues (Cairns and Townsville) (NA and MTT Comm) 24 and 26 August

Peter Herbert, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IN THE MINING INDUSTRY (NA and PES) – 8 September

DL Akihiko Sugiyama, Signal Processing for Robot Audition: How signal processing helps a robot recognize user commands in adverse environment (NA and MTT Comm) – 23 September

Andrew Maunder, Hazardous Areas Fundamentals (NA and PES) – 22 September

Emeritus Professor John Richards, Convergent Technologies and Digital Earth (Peter Arlett Memorial Lecture Series) (NA, PES and MTT Comm) – 29 October

Com Sec/MTT-S Chapter

DL John Norgard, Space Exploration: EMI/EMC Problems/Solutions NASA ~ Past/Present/Future Missions “Orion” Mars/Moon Spacecraft – 11 May

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

Cheque Book Account \$5 780.83

Term Deposit Account \$20 325.34

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

Our membership number is quite stable over the last 3 years. We are organizing more technical seminars in different areas. Also we planned to organize industry evening and member's picnic day in 2015.

B.2 Chapter Activities

Total number of Chapters in the Section:

There are 3 chapters, MTT-S/Com Sec Chapter, PES Chapter and OES chapter (Australia).

Number of active Chapters (Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year):

All Chapters are active.

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

We organize several technical seminars including several Distinguished Lecturer visits.

B.4 Students Activities

Total number of Student Branches in the Section:

2, JCU and CDU

Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc):

Several major robotics competitions were organized. First one was a line follower competition and 2nd one was a sumo competition. The section continues to support the student group and in particular the robotic club ongoing efforts. One competition included visitors from Rowan University and also UQ.

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

NIL

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

Award constituted by the Section:

IEEE Northern Australia section awards 3 UG students during the University awards ceremony. In Townsville we have awarded 3 IEEE prizes, 2 in Townsville and 1 in Darwin:

Townsville: 1st year Engineering Student with highest GPA, who is joining Electrical/ Computer Engineering UG program.

Townsville: 4th year Electrical/ Computer Engineering Student for the best project work.

Darwin: IEEE prize is awarded to a 3rd year Electrical Engineering Student with the highest GPA.

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

The old website: www.ieeenorthernaustralia.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ieeenorthernaustralia

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLLP9XfOMd5SuNLcqVW9VQ>

Google+:

<https://plus.google.com/101611799203660737552>

B.8 Industry Relations

NA Section has an industry Liaison Officer. Currently we are in the process of arranging a technical industry training event. NA Section organizes many events in close collaboration with the industry. Local industries, GHD and Ergon Energy have supported our Peter Arlett Annual Lecture Series, which originally started in 2013.

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

Nil

B.10 Community Activities

IEEE Social activities: A family BBQ is planned for Sept. 2015.

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

IEEE JCU student branch (Robotics Club) organized several competitions for student members. One competition included visiting teams from South Queensland and Rowan University.

C.2 Relationship with National Societies

Engineers Australia is Australia's main national Engineering professional organization. The local chapter of Engineers Australia and NA section agreed to co-host selected events and mutually advertise the events.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

Rowan University, New Jersey and University of Queensland student branch participated in the Robotics competition organized by JCU Student Branch

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

Chapters are tightly involved with section activities with representation at the section level organizational meeting by chapter representatives.

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

We are improving our local communications and extending our presence to other parts of the region, this has included presentations in Cairns last year which coincides with the progression of Cairns as a significant regional university town for engineering study.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

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

Industry technical training
Assistance with upcoming IEEE conference in Cairns in 2018
Technical seminars
Continuation of Peter Arlett Memorial Lecture series

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

Improve membership retention
Recruit new members
Promote the annual lecture series widely
Support and promote student branch activities.