



IEEE SOUTH AUSTRALIA
SECTION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting

8 December 2020

WebEx Online Platform

Part A Section Summary

A.1 Executive Summary

In my second annual report, as Chair of IEEE South Australia Section, I would like to express my thanks to all the Executive committee members for their support and making it possible for the smooth running of the committee during this year, despite the Covid-19 situation. These include: Vice-chair – Luke Rosenberg, Treasurer – Brian Ng, and Secretary – Elizabeth Hodgins.

I also would like to express my gratitude to all the Technical Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs and the members of the respective committees, as well as the leadership teams of our Student Branches: Shela Cook and Reilly Heijkoop-Logan. It was my intent for this year to continue to see that we support and re-invigorate student branches and Young Professionals in the section, so they can re-engage, as they are the future of the section. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we could not hold any face to face events or functions.

For the second time in the past two years, the South Australia section was a recipient of the IEEE R10 Incentive grant of US\$2,500. This was based that our section providing valuable resources to support our local IEEE organisational units and conducting activities that benefit our IEEE members. This incentive grant can be used by the incoming executive committee in organising more events in the coming new year.

Dr Sherry Randhawa
Chair IEEE SA Section, 2020
sherry.randhawa@ieee.org

SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LIST

South Australia Section	Chair	Sherry Randhawa
	Vice-Chair	Luke Rosenberg
	Treasurer	Brian Ng
	Secretary	Elizabeth Hodgins
WIE Affinity Group	Chair	Soumaya Jaber
	Vice-Chair	Catherine Sinclair
	Treasurer	Pina Dall'Armi-Stoks
	Secretary	Elizabeth Hodgins
Computer Society	Chair	Catherine Sinclair
	Treasurer	Latha Madhuri Pratti
	Secretary	Samya Bagchi
CAES	Chair	Luke Rosenberg
	Vice-Chair	Waddah Al-Ashwal
	Treasurer	Leigh Powis
	Secretary	Leigh Powis
C&SP	Chair	Ngoc Hung Nguyen
	Treasurer	Brian Ng
AP/MTT	Chair	Shengjian Jammy Chen
	Vice-Chair	Christophe Fumeaux
	Treasurer	Wendy Lee
	Secretary	Bobby Yau
Young Professionals	Chair	Scott Sleep
	Treasurer	Elizabeth Hodgins
	Secretary	Vincent Chong
IET Retired Engineers Group	Chair	Don Sinnott
	Vice-Chair	Keith Kikkert
Ocean Engineering-Australia Council Joint Chapter	SA rep	Karl Sammut
Power & Energy Society	Chair	Athmi Jayawardena

	Vice-Chair	Jamal Alameddine
	Treasurer	Jamal Alameddine
	Secretary	Cathryn McDonald
Web master		Bobby Yau
Retired Engineers Liaison/Section History		Michael Evans
Student Activity coordinator		Brian Ng
University of Adelaide Student branch		Harry Lees
Flinders University Student Branch		Shela Cook
University of South Australia Student Branch		

Our Section had a year full of high-quality technical activities. In support our members and the local community IEEE SA Section and chapters had close to 42 x technical and professional activities during 2020 and held 6x Section meetings (including AGM).

AP/MTT	PES	CAES	Computer	C&SP	YP	WIE	LMAG	Section JTP
6	2	6	2	4	3	3	6	10

The IEEE SA Section Committee met six times in 2020 (February, April, June, August, October and December (AGM)). Five of these meetings were conducted online due to the Covid-19 situation. The Section Committee members also maintained ongoing contact by email to deal with issues that could be handled by electronic means.

The SA Section Chair, Sherry Randhawa, attended the regular meetings of the IEEE Australia Council meetings in 2020, chaired by Daniel Eghbal, in order to coordinate with other Australian Sections.

The SA Section Chair also attended the Region 10 Section Online meeting in March 2020 with a view to meet and network with the Region 10 leadership team, the IEEE Australia Council team, and IEEE Headquarters office bearers.

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

Our membership statistics for 2020 (IEEE OU Analytics as of 6 December 2020) are shown in the table below.

Current Grade Description	Count of Members (2020)
Fellow	6
Graduate, Student member	40
Life Fellow	2
Life Member	16
Life Senior	6
Member	320
Senior Member	66
Student member	11
Affiliate	12
TOTAL	479

Overall, SA section total count of members in 2020 is down by 3% compared to 2019.

B.2 Chapter Activities

The IEEE South Australia Section has a total of 10 Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches as listed below:

- Five chapters: Antennas and Propagation/Microwave Theory & Techniques Chapter (AP/MTT), Communications and Signal Processing (C&SP) Chapter, Joint Control, Aerospace and Electronic System Chapter (CAES), Computer Society (CS) Chapter, Power & Energy Society (PES) Chapter
- Three Affinity Groups: Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group, Young Professionals Group and Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG)
- Two Student Branch Chapters (The University of Adelaide, Flinders University)

In addition, the Australia Council has Australia wide Instrumentation & Measurements Society (IMS) chapter and the Ocean Engineering Chapter.

The technical activities for each of the current chapters are shown in their respective AGM reports.

B.3 Students Activities

IEEE South Australia has three student branches at Adelaide University, Flinders University, and the University of South Australia. In order to encourage more student members, the Section presents an award to a student at each of the three South Australian universities for the best achievement in electrical and electronic courses. The students are nominated by the University, and the awardees receive a certificate and a cash prize. The student award prize-winners for the IEEE South Australia Section 2019 Student Award for Excellence in Engineering with an electrical and/or electronics emphasis are:

- Sebastian Fortuna, University of Adelaide
- Lianye Yang, Flinders University

These awards were presented to each of the student at the 2020 IEEE SA AGM.

The Student Branches at The University of Adelaide and Flinders University continued their high levels of activity. However, whilst University of South Australia branch had a chair in 2018, unfortunately there was no representative for 2019 and 2020.

B.4 Affinity Group Activities

South Australia Section has three Affinity Groups: Young Professionals (YP), Women in Engineering (WIE) and Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG). The reports for these Affinity Groups are included in their respective AGM reports.

Part C- External Engagements

C.1 Relationship with National Societies

The IEEE-SA Section has also a very strong collaboration with our professional colleagues in Engineers Australia, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), and the Telecommunication Society of Australia (TSA) through the Joint Technical Program (JTP) and IET Retired Engineers Group.

C.2 Special Events

C.2.1 Virtual R10 SYWL Congress 2020



Don Sinnott, Elizabeth Hodgins and Sherry Randhawa attended the 2020 R10 SYWL virtual congress which was held between 19 September to 4 October 2020.

C.2.2 2020 IEEE SA Section End of Year Social Cocktail Event

Unfortunately to the Covid-19 situation in Adelaide, this event was cancelled out of the safety concerns for members.

C.2.3 R10 Small Section of the Month

The South Australia Section was featured in the R10 October Newsletter.

<https://www.ieeer10.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-October-Newsletter-Compressed.pdf>

C.3 Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

Collaboration with other neighbouring IEEE Sections has been handled through IEEE Australia Council.

C.4 Problems ongoing/anticipated

The section anticipates that finding young people to be active IEEE members and volunteers is one of the biggest challenges that our section is facing in the future. This problem is also faced by many other sections around the world. Young members are under increasing time pressure from their employers and finding time for IEEE volunteering is a challenge. Another major concern is that we need to develop new Chapters that are in-tune with new directions in the industry.

Part D – Concluding Remarks

Whilst the section does have a strong bank balance and has financial stability, I hope that for the coming year, the section will try different strategies to engage with potential members, particularly young professionals and postgraduate university students. I hope to see further engagement and leadership from our young members. I also look forward to continuing to see new Chapters being formed that can attract younger members to IEEE-SA section.

Dr Sherry Randhawa
Chair IEEE SA Section
6 December 2020
sherry.randhawa@ieee.org