

IEEE Western Australia (WA) Section Annual Report (2022)

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary –

- **Section Executive Committee Member List**

ELECTED SECTION OFFICERS 2022

Harry McDonald	CHAIR
Jacqueline Thomas	VICE CHAIR
Vijay Kumar	TREASURER
Dr Hossein Dehghanitafti	SECRETARY

OTHER ELECTED SECTION OFFICERS – AND THEIR APPOINTED ROLES 2022

A/Prof Douglas Chai	EVENTS COORDINATOR
A/ Prof Kevin Wong	MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
Christoph Tuettemann	WEB PAGE /E-NOTICE
Dr Leslie Sikos	STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR (SAC)
Harry McNally	INDUSTRY LIAISON

CHAPTER AND AFFINITY GROUP CHAIRS 2022

Circuits and Systems Society (CAS14) Chapter	Dr Hossein Dehghanitafti
Communications Society (COM19) Chapter	Assoc Prof Douglas Chai
Computer Society Chapter (C16)	Dr Hannes Herrmann
Control Systems Society (CS23) Chapter	Dr Honglei Xu
Industrial Electronics Society (IE13) Chapter	Adnan Hayat
Signal Processing Society (SP01) Chapter	Dr Syed Shams Islam
Joint Computational Intelligence / Robotics & Automation Society (Joint CIS11/RA24) Chapter	Dr Guanjin (Brenda) Wang
System, Man and Cybernetics Society (SMC28) Chapter	Assoc Prof Kevin Wong
Joint Electron Devices / Solid State Circuits / Photonics Society (Joint ED15/SSC37/PHO36) Chapter	Assoc Prof Dilusha Silva
Joint Power Engineering / Power Electronics Society (Joint PES31/PEL35) Chapter	Dr Alireza Fereidouni
WOMEN IN ENGINEERING (WIE)	Dr Fatemeh Rezaeibagha
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP)	Deep Desai

STUDENT BRANCHES 2022

Curtin University	Maryam El-Gamil
Edith Cowan University (ECU)	Muhammad Bilal Shaikh
Murdoch University	Vacant
University of Western Australia (UWA)	Fraser Soet

- **Section Highlights**

Three section chapters - IES, PES, SPS chapters, were awarded bonuses and /or outstanding award funds.

A mid year networking event was organized in May 2022. This was the first section activity for 2022 and was launched following the hiatus created by the sudden resignation of the 2021 section chair and the exec group.

A mid-year visit by the R10 Director accompanied by the R10 Director Elect was organized in June 2022.

An IEEE MGA Operations audit was conducted on the 2021 section operations and finances. This returned an unsatisfactory result. This was a further disreputable result for the WA section and other OUs. None of the current section officers were implicated in this and cooperated to the best of their capacity and access to information. Improvement recommendations were implemented immediately by the 2022 committee.

There was a Family Day out in Kings Park Perth that also recognized and celebrated IEEE Day in early October 2022.

Below is a summary and number breakdown of the events conducted by the WA section during 2022.

	Technical Events	Admin Events (Meetings)	Non Technical Events
WA Section	0	21	4

- **Major Events (International, National)**

2 international conferences were hosted by two chapters during 2022 (INDIN 2022 IES, ISPEC 2022 PES). For INDIN 2022 neither progress nor outcomes were reported back to the section by the IES chapter. ISPEC2022 was run virtually by PES in conjunction with Curtin University and met all of the expected goals.

- **Major Chapter Activities**

The combined Section and other OU events totaled 48 technical events, 31 administrative and 15 non-technical events. The joint PES/PELS chapter hosted a distinguished lecture event featuring two Distinguished lecturers.

- **Major Student and Affinity Group Activities**

The student and affinity group activities have been captured in the section totals, that is, overall the section and OU events totaled 49 technical events; 31 administrative events; and 15 non-technical/professional events.

- **Awards**

3 awards with some financial support were received by 3 chapters during 2022 – IES, PES and SPS.

A.2 Financial Report –

- **Financial summary**

As of 31/12/2022 (opening is 1/1/2022 and closing is 31/12/2022).

	Opening Balance	Expenses	Credits	Closing Balance
Unibank I50 (fixed term) (\$Aus)	\$58,374.01	\$10,328.66	\$328.66	\$48,374.01
Unibank S1 (daily cheque) (\$Aus)	\$6,767.52	\$7,282.02	\$11,581.03	\$11,066.53
Total (\$Au)	\$65,141.53	\$17,610.68	\$11,909.69	\$59,440.54
Concentration Banking (\$US)	\$23,163.15	\$ 0	\$10,187.68	\$33,341.83

Table 1

Sub-account Balances (\$Aus)				
	Opening	Expenses	Credits	Closing
Computer Society (C16)	\$6,732.55			\$6,732.55
Communication Society (COM19)	\$2,894.33	\$146.50		\$2,747.83
Joint Power Engineering /Power electronics Society PES31/PELS35	\$2,400.15	\$1,363.11		\$1,037.04
Signal Processing Society (SP01)	\$2,580.59	\$84.60	\$284.84	\$2,780.83
Joint Computational Intelligence/Robotics & Automation Society 9Joint CIS11/RA24)	\$2,295.74			\$2,295.74
ESP – Joint ED(ED15)/SSC(CS23)/PHO(PHO36)	\$3,414.38	\$71.60		\$3,342.78
Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC28)	\$1,712.66	\$67.50		\$1,645.16
Industrial Electronics Society (IE13)	\$3,841.79	\$655.30		\$3,186.49
Circuits And Systems (CAS14)	\$288.00			\$288
YP	\$1,972.35			\$1,972.35
WIE	\$1,067.26			\$1,067.26
Curtin SB (CU)	\$1,712.66	\$76.40		\$1,636.26
Murdoch SB (MOR)	\$275.23			\$275.23
UWA SB (UWA)	\$709.79			\$709.79
ECU SB (ECU)	\$ 80.97			\$80.97
Subtotal	\$30,142.14	\$2,465.01	\$284.84	\$27,962.00
Section	\$34,999.39	\$15,145.68	\$11,624.85	\$31,478.54
Total	\$65,141.53	\$17,610.68	\$11,909.69	\$59,440.54

Table 2

Note that IEEE MGA rebates (2022) are still to be transferred. The credits in Table 1 will be increased accordingly. Table 2 does not include CB funds.

The opening balances of 2022 were based upon the closing balances presented in a report by the outgoing WA section treasurer. Approximately \$400 of income remains unaccounted for and no explanation was provided by the 2021 executive committee in spite of numerous requests.

There was no handover from the outgoing 2021 executive committee to the appointed interim 2021 chair and 2021 treasurer, respectively. Neither was there cooperation or diligent regard from the 2021 section chair and 2021 section treasurer towards diligent audit requests from with the IEEE MGA Operations Audit committee.

The lack of handover also contributed somewhat to the 2022 section treasurer not meeting a goal of getting back on track by the end of 2022. This was a strained effort to deal with and Nextgen bank transfers are still to be effected.

- **Other financial activities**

IEEE MGA conducted an audit of the previous WA section committee's management and financial operations for 2021. The audit result was unsatisfactory. The 2022 Section committee cooperated fully with the Operations Audit team and the unsatisfactory result was not a reflection of the 2022 operations. Recommendations from the operations audit were enacted immediately and will be sustained.

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- **Total number of active members in the past 3 years**

The total membership as of 8/12/2022 was 650. This is a progressive decline over the last 3 years.

- **Summary and evidence of work done to improve the value of membership**

There has been no specific membership tactics this year. Requests for membership elevation have been encouraged, supported and acted upon promptly.

B.2 Chapter Activities

- **Total number of Chapters in the Section**

The total number of Chapters in the WA Section is 10. These are listed below.

- Circuits and Systems Society (CAS14) Chapter
- Communications Society (COM19) Chapter
- Computer Society Chapter (C16)
- Control Systems Society (CS23)
- Industrial Electronics Society (IE13) Chapter
- Signal Processing Society (SP01) Chapter

- Joint Computational Intelligence / Robotics & Automation Society (Joint CIS11/RA24) Chapter
 - System, Man and Cybernetics Society (SMC28) Chapter
 - Joint Electron Devices / Solid State Circuits / Photonics Society (Joint ED15/SSC37/PHO36) Chapter
 - Joint Power Engineering / Power Electronics Society (Joint PES31/PEL35) Chapter
- **Number of Chapters formed in the current year**

No new chapters were formed during 2022.

Some consideration should be given to merging and forming joint chapters from the existing chapters in future years.

- **Number of active Chapters**

Each of the 10 Chapters in the WA section are active. That is, all 10 of the Chapters have reported the required number of meetings during the year.

- **Summary of Chapter activities**

Below is a summary of each Chapter and the activity breakdown for each Chapter throughout the year.

Chapter	Technical	Admin	Non-Technical
Circuits and Systems Society (CAS14) Chapter	2	0	0
Communications Society (COM19) Chapter	2	0	0
Computer Society Chapter (C16)	2	5	0
Control Systems Society (CS23)	2	0	0
Industrial Electronics Society (IE13) Chapter	9	1	3
Signal Processing Society (SP01) Chapter	4	0	0
Joint Computational Intelligence / Robotics & Automation Society (Joint CIS11/RA24) Chapter	3	0	0
System, Man and Cybernetics Society (SMC28) Chapter	4	0	0
Joint Electron Devices / Solid State Circuits / Photonics Society (Joint ED15/SSC37/PHO36) Chapter	3	2	0
Joint Power Engineering / Power Electronics Society (Joint PES31/PEL35) Chapter	9	0	1

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

- **Summary of continuing Educational activities including conferences, technical activities, training courses, and distinguished lecture programs**

There is nothing to report for this year.

B.4 Students Activities

- **Total number of Student Branches in the Section**

There are 4 student branches in the Section.

- **Number of Student Branches formed in the current year**

There were 0 (Nil) student branches formed in 2022.

- **Section Level Student Activities**

Two students attended the Korean conference SWYL 2022 –

- **Number of Active Student Branches**

Of the 4 student branches in WA Section, 3 student branches were active during 2022.

The inactive student branch leader had a connection to the outgoing 2021 WA Section Chair and was also dormant in 2021/2022. A new 2023 volunteer will hopefully restart activities in the inactive student branch.

- **Summary of Student Branch activities**

Below is a summary of the student branch activities for 2022.

Student Branch	Technical Events	Admin Events (Meetings)	Non-Technical Events
Curtin University	2	0	2
Edith Cowan University	2	0	0
Murdoch University	0	0	0
University Of Western Australia	4	0	0

Curtin University and UWA student branches organized a joint industry networking event that attracted over 100 participants. This included many large local Western Australian employers.

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

- **Young Professional (YP)**
- **Women in Engineering (WIE)**

Below is a summary of the Young Professional and Women in Engineering affinity group activities for 2022.

Both affinity groups require increased support from other volunteer participation and section support going forward.

Affinity Group	Technical Events	Admin Events (Meetings)	Non-Technical Events
Young Professionals (YP)	0	0	1
Women in Engineering (WIE)	1	0	0

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- **Award Constituted by WA Section in 2022**

The award presented in 2022 was the PES Outstanding Engineer Award 2022.

No other section awards were presented in 2022.

There is a standing section volunteer awards program encompassing each of professional, WIE, YP and student. This was paused pending more volunteer involvement.

- **Awards & Recognitions Received by the WA Section**

The WA PES/PELS chapter has been awarded the IEEE PES Outstanding Small Chapter Award 2021.

The WA IES chapter was awarded the Best IES Chapter Award 2021 and also received a special project grant.

The WA SPS chapter was awarded a membership growth award 2021, for the second year running

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

The home page of the WA Section is: https://ewh.ieee.org/r10/w_australia/.

The home page is updated frequently, as details of events are provided.

Major edits of the home page were completed in 2022.

B.8 Industry Relations

- Membership growth and retention
- Activities for/with industrial members

Nil – however, work has commenced with an industry liaison officer, setting the groundwork for events to occur with industry in 2023.

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

Nil

B.10 Community Activities

- **IEEE Social Activities**

The WA section organized for a combined Family Day and IEEE Day lunchtime picnic at Kings Park, Perth. The event also paid tribute to IEEE volunteer partners, many sacrificing family time to allow IEEE volunteers time to participate in IEEE work.

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

- There was an outreach visit by R10 Director Deepak Mathur accompanied by R10 Director Elect Lance Fung in June 2022. This was important in reassuring the local volunteers that in this time of some difficulty, the WA section was being supported by the R10 leadership.
- Funding - No funding was secured from other sources other than IEEE. All was via IEEE rebates and other IEEE Chapter Awards. Members financially contributed to organized social events.

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

- Tripartite and Bipartite agreements and MOUs with IET and EA are managed at the Australia Council level. This is a collaborative effort involving all of the Australian Sections. The Western Australia Section is an active AC participant and attended all virtual meetings.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

Nil

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

Nil

C.5 Best Practices of your Section

Nil

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

There is a controversial challenge - volunteer remnants from the previous 2021 Section Executive Committee remain active in a current Chapter of the WA Section.

These volunteers perceive the previous 2021 unethical behaviors to be acceptable and have accused all in the IEEE as unfairly targeting the 2021 WA Section Chair.

The Chapter involved still appears to be disengaged from the 2022 and the incoming WA Section committee and occasionally responds negatively towards requests for IEEE compliance advice, transparency and good IEEE practice.

Individuals in this Chapter have continued to send intimidating and provocative emails when the 2022 Section committee of management requests input on their spending plans and seeks other operational compliance.

This Chapter has not collaborated enough with other OUs or the Section committee of management.

The method of countering this Chapters behaviour is to continue operation strictly within the MGA Operations Guidelines. Outreach efforts to find common ground and re-engage have not worked as yet. This effort will be enhanced during 2023.

There is also evidence of under-reporting by many OUs. Frequent reminders were sent by the 2022 Chair. Possible reasons for this – the volunteers are unaware of how to do it, lack of volunteers that undertake the admin work of volunteering.

Many new volunteers struggled with on-boarding during 2022. There was insufficient capacity to train and nurture them. IEEE on line resources are available but the new volunteers struggled with this and a more hands on approach will be needed in 2023.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

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

The main focus for 2022 was setting a strong foundation of good volunteers and managing their efforts to rebuild the WA Section – slowly and patiently. Initially this recovery was believed to be a one year project, but it has shown that it will take at least another year.

Many of the programs that were on hold during 2022 due to lack of volunteer resources, can be reinitiated in 2023.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

The WA section is still in recovery following a year of unethical behavior by members of the 2021 Section executive committee.

The main focus for 2023 is setting a strong foundation of good volunteers and managing their rebuilding effort. There is a strong dependence on retaining the more experienced volunteers to mentor and nurture new talent. Many of the standard programs run by IEEE Sections have been relegated to 'would like to do' rather than 'must do' and will resume once the section resources and capability is rebuilt.

An organized orientation program will be provided for new and inexperienced section and other OU volunteers early in 2023.

Elections for 2023 WA section committee have been conducted, and feature many new volunteers and the return of some previous experienced volunteers. Many of these had distanced themselves from the 2021 WA section committee.

Virtual meetings suited the covid lockdowns but lacked the richness and engagement of regular face to face meetings. At the very least there needs to be a blend of face to face and virtual meetings. At the very best all of the meetings should be face to face.

The section should consider establishing a nominations and appointments / advisory committee. This is also subject to having a critical mass of volunteers. Fortunately, the election of the 2023 officers has been more fruitful than that for 2022.

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

Nil

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

Nil