

IEEE Australia Council – 2022 Annual Report

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary

- Council Executive Committee Member List

Chair	Daniel Eghbal
Vice Chair	Fouad Karouta
Secretary	Sasha Nikolic
Treasurer	David Russell
Webmaster	Mike Robinson
Educational/Student Activities	Arslan Kiyani
WIE Forum Coordinator	Sharmil Randhawa
Life Member Coordinator	Colin Elston
Sections Chairs	
Australian Capital Territory	Ambarish Natu
Northern Australia	Mostafa Rahimiazghadi
New South Wales	Colin Elston
Queensland	Alexandra Posoldova
South Australia	Luke Rosenberg
Victoria	Annick Boghossian
Western Australia	Harry McDonald

Council Highlights

- IEEE Australia Council committee regularly meet every month. Due to wide geographical area covered by the council, all meetings are virtual WebEx meeting. The AC executive committee had a face-face strategy planning meeting in Brisbane in April 2022.
- IEEE Australia Council is a representative body of seven IEEE Sections in Australia and does not generally organize events independently rather provide coordination between Australian Sections.
- IEEE AC established two-member benefit initiatives with DELL and MediBank (private Health Insurance Company) for members in late 2021 and continued in 2022. The uptake of the DELL program has been positive.
- A LinkedIn page was established to improve communication with members and better outreach to non-members. The page has proven to be effective in reaching out to members and non-members.
- IEEE AC WIE forum had new officers appointed in 2022 and planning for an in-person event will be done in 2023.
- Supports Australian Sections to submit a bid for hosting major IEEE conferences.
- IEEE AC supported the ACT Ceremony Tree Planting August 2022 with R10 Director
- Australia New Zealand Student and Young Professionals Congress (ANZSCON) was held in Adelaide in Oct 2022
- IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit was held in Melbourne, 4-5 August 2022
- Australia Council supported a WIE Panel Discussion 1 Oct 2022 during the ANZSCON
- IEEE AC established a new award to recognize Australian teams with outstanding performance in the IEEE Xtreme 2022 and encourage more teams to participate.
- IEEE AC also collaborate with New Zealand Council and ANZSCON (Australia New Zealand Student and Young Professionals Congress) is a typical example.
- All meetings were registered and reported on vTools.
- The Financial report for 2022 was successfully submitted to MGA before the February deadline.

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- IEEE AC works with Australian sections rather than implement separate membership development activities.

B.2 Students Activities

- Total number of Student Branches in Australia are 33 and total number of Student Branch Chapters is 20.

While Australia Council does not have an individual student branch, and the SAC officer was inactive for most of the 2022, effort was made to improve the student activities. To encourage IEEE student members to participate in the IEEEExtreme competition solving a set of programming problems, the council established an award that aims to encourage more students to participate -for the first time- and progressively improve their global ranking. We had 12 teams compete with two finishing in the top 10 globally, and four teams in the top 50. This highlights the value of the local promotion.

B.3 Awards & Recognition Activities

A new award category was established to encourage student members to participate in the IEEE Xtreme competition.

B.4 Communication Activities (Newsletter, Home Page, E-mail etc.)

- IEEE AC website contains all the important information <http://ieee-ac.org/> and is updated regularly.
- IEEE AC mainly communicates with section representatives rather than members directly.
- A [LinkedIn](#) page was established in 2021 as an effective platform to communicate with members and also extend that to non-members. The page was actively maintained in 2022 and has gained reasonable amount of followers.

B.5 Industry Relations

- It is also important to note that more than half of the Section chairs (part of the IEEE AC Executive committee) and other committee members have an industry background.
- While most of Australian Sections have some level of collaboration with Engineers Australia (mainly in form of organizing joint technical events), IEEE AC is working to renew the MOU between IEEE and Engineers Australia (that was signed during the IEEE Sections Congress in 2017).

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

- IEEE Australia Council meeting- ANZSCON Kickoff Meeting, 12 Jan 2022, 7-8PM
 - The purpose was to kick off the planning for ANZSCON 2022 with the organizing committee.
- IEEE Australia Council Strategic Planning Meeting, 9th Aug 2022
- R10 conference training workshop for Australia and New Zealand, 16 May 2022, 7-9PM

- IEEE R10 Region Realignment update & concept, 5 May 2022, 7-8PM
- Australia New Zealand Student and Young Professionals Congress (ANZSCON) was held in Adelaide in Oct 2022
- IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit was held in Melbourne, 4-5 August 2022

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

- Engineers Australia (mainly through joint technical events and conferences): IEEE Australia Council has been working for some time to renew the collaboration agreement between IEEE and Engineers Australia. Through continued work with IEEE team in US and Engineers Australia senior management, the draft agreement was finalized and was signed by Australia Council and sent to Engineers Australia for execution.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

- IEEE Australia Council is a representative body of seven IEEE Sections in Australia and does not organize events independently rather provide coordination between Australian Sections.
- IEEE Australia Council supports Australian hosting of major IEEE conferences
- IEEE AC also collaborates with New Zealand Council and ANZSCON (Australia New Zealand Student and Young Professionals Congress) is a typical example. ANZSCON 2022 was hosted by South Australia Section and supported by other sections and Australia and NZ councils.
- IEEE AC coordinates the visits to Australia of IEEE Distinguished Lecturers.
- IEEE AC supported the IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit held in Melbourne
- IEEE AC promote successful initiatives developed by a section and facilitate the extension to other sections. The recent member benefit initiative is an example.
- While all committee members at Australia Council are very experienced volunteers, the council facilitated and organized a meeting with IEEE MCE on conference quality with the support from R10. Volunteers from New Zealand were also invited to the workshop. The workshop discussed some of the key information that volunteers need to know when planning to host a conference to make sure it meets IEEE guidelines and expected quality.

C.4 Problems anticipated and suggestions for solutions, if any

Success of the council depends on number of factors of which dedicated volunteers is one of the important one. Retaining experienced volunteers and attracting new volunteers are sometime challenging. Also, Australia Council doesn't have a funding source like sections and it's mainly funded through collecting a levy from sections.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

- **Establish a YP and EA coordinator to increase number of activities across Australia and leverage R10 support (ONGOING)**
Currently, the council does not have a dedicated YP and EA coordinators and relies on section chairs to initiate and enable collaboration. While this works but more collaboration can be achieved if YP and EA coordinator roles are created that report to the council and are focused on fostering collaboration among YP and EA volunteers across the sections by enabling knowledge sharing and co-designing activities that can be implemented across all sections.
- **Strategic planning meeting and Future Plans (ACHIEVED)**
The council had its first in-person planning meeting after three years due to COVID. Having a regular in-person planning meeting has proven to be very effective to reflect on the performance of the council and plan future activities accordingly.

- **Increase presence on social media (ACHIEVED)**

Following the establishment of a LinkedIn page, increase the social media presence and advertise AC activities to reach out to the wider community in addition to IEEE members. This platform has been used to promote R10 events as well as events organised by Australian sections.

- **Continue and expand the AC Seminar Series (ONGOING)**

The IEEE Australia Council Seminar Series was established after the pandemic with the aim of organising virtual events on strategic topics that benefit many IEEE members across Australia. Based on the flexibility and benefits of virtual meeting platforms, this program can be extended and continued more regularly (e.g. regular monthly events). Key to this is cross promoting virtual events from all sections providing a greater reach

- **Support Student Branches through IEEE Xtreme (COMPLETE)**

Coal face evidence suggested that the IEEE Xtreme competition was a great recruitment and retention activity. In order to support the branches and the competition, the council developed an awards program to attract national participation.

- **Resurrect the WIE Forum (COMPLETE)**

The council sought to resurrect this activity and did so by establishing the AC WIE Forum Coordinator and AC WIE Forum Liaison Officer positions.

- **Web-guidelines (ONGOING)**

The council sought to support section web masters by executing the production of guidelines/documentation that respect historical content and user efficiency.