

Australia Council Report 2023

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY

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

1. Council Executive Committee Member List

Australia Council committee members are:

- Board members: Fouad Karouta (Chair), Mohan Jacob (Vice Chair), Melanie Olsen (Secretary) and Mike Robinson (Treasurer and Webmaster)
- Sections Chairs: Ambarish Natu (ACT), Mostafa Rahimi Azghadi (NA), Colin Elston (NSW), Om Perakash (QLD), Shela Cook (SA), Annick Boghossian (VIC), Kevin Wong (WA)
- Other members: Mamoun Alazab (NT subsection), Kiril Tenekedjiev (TAS Subsection), Sherry Randhawa (WIE Forum Coordinator), Sudha Mokkalapati (WIE Forum Liaison Officer), Hung Duc Nguyen (OES Chapter), Vijay Paul (YP Coordinator).

2. Council Highlights

The IEEE Australia Council Committee meets regularly on third Wednesday of each month from April to November. Also, the council meets early February to prepare for the f2f meeting along the R10 regional meeting. meetings have been registered on vTool events.

1. AC meeting 8 Feb 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
2. AC in person strategic planning meeting in Ho Chi Minh City: 3rd of March, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm (Vietnam time)
3. AC meeting 19 April 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
4. AC meeting 17 May 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
5. AC meeting 21 June 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
6. AC meeting 19 July 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
7. AC meeting 23 August 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
8. AC meeting 20 September 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
9. AC meeting 18 October 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
10. AC meeting 15 November 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online

3. Major Events (International, National)

4. Major Chapter Activities

OES Chapter has carried out the following activities:

- 8 November 2023, Sydney: Technical presentation by Melanie Olsen on “Marine Uncrewed Systems test and Evaluation: it’s a team effort”.
- 14 December 2023, Brisbane: Technical presentation by Melanie Olsen on “Better Together: Addressing Tropical Marine Testing & Simulation Challenges as a Team”
- 20 December 2023, Online Technical presentation by Shou-Han of James Cook University on “Unmanned Marine Surveying Systems”

5. Awards

Australia Council is encouraging SAC Coordinator to organize activities with the sections SAC coordinators and Australian students branches. However, the only student activity carried out in 2023 under the lead of AC was the prize awards for the best ranked two Australian teams participating in the IEEEExtreme Challenge #17. The first team “KFCA Yam Goreng Zhe J” ranked #6 in the world and #2 in R10 and the second team “Sounds Good” ranked #20 in the world and #14 in R10

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

- Summary (as per submitted on NetSuite)

	Account #	032-719 677017	
	Date	Balance	
Opening Balance	1/01/2023	0.00	
Closing Balance	27/12/2023	3,962.73	
Project Number Project Name	Date MM/DD/YYYY	Amount	Transaction Description
R005 Australia Council	24/03/2023	24,949.52	Transfer from New account CBA to Westpac DEPOSIT IEEE AUSTRALI
			WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1867198 Tsingying Xu
R005 Australia Council	24/03/2023	-166.67	IEEEExtreme 1st prize Tsingying Xu IEEEExtreme Award
			WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1863092 Fouad Karouta
R005 Australia Council	30/03/2023	-320.12	Fouad refund Refund
			WITHDRAWAL CASH 0000000 CANBERRA CENTRE
R005 Australia Council	30/05/2023	-10000.00	ACT
			WITHDRAWAL CASH 0000000 CANBERRA CENTRE
R005 Australia Council	30/05/2023	-10000.00	ACT
			WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1323111 Fouad Karouta
R005 Australia Council	27/12/2023	-500.00	Expense recovery ILS 23 DEC 2023
		3,962.73	

Note the two withdrawals of \$10k are in term deposits for Australia Council.
So total Assets: \$23,962.73

- Any other financial activities
Early 2023 we transferred all money from the AC CBA Account to the newly opened Westpac Account.
The Westpac system allows much easier internet transactions than the CBA system.

List of Transactions

Account name IEEE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
BSB 065122
Account number 10447045
Account type Society Cheque Account
Account currency AUD
Transactions from 21/04/22 - 24/03/23



Note:

This transaction listing may not display all payments on your account if filter settings were applied, prior to printing you this copy for the chosen date range. For a complete list of your transactions, please log on to your online channel.

Date	Transaction details	Amount	Balance
24 Mar 2023	Direct Credit 301500 IEEE AUSTRALIA C CommBiz CBA to Westpa	-\$24,949.52	\$0.00
15 Feb 2023	COMMBIZ FEES TRANS FEES-0348206	-\$6.00	\$24,949.52
16 Jan 2023	COMMBIZ FEES TRANS FEES-0348206	-\$1.20	\$24,955.52
5 Jan 2023	IMT 0071001356171 HAI THANH-LOTTE COMPANY LIMITED CommBiz REF F301051852630 VND 14950000.00000 Rate: 15272.0239	-\$978.91	\$24,956.72
14 Dec 2022	Transfer To Isaiah Iliffe CommBiz IEEE Xtreme 2nd	-\$66.67	\$25,935.63

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- Total number of active members in the past 3 years.
Australian Capital Territory section: 490 members, 11 chapters (Feb 2024)
New South Wales section: 2685 members, 20 chapters (Feb 2024)
Northern Australia section: 156 members, 2 chapters (Feb 2024)
Queensland section: 1037 members, 9 chapters (Feb 2024)
South Australia section: 542 members, 7 chapters (Feb 2024)
Victorian section: 2025 members, 18 chapters (Feb 2024)
Western Australia section: 628 members, 10 chapters (Feb 2024)
Total Australia: 7580 members, 77 chapters (Feb 2024)
- Summary and evidence of work done to improve the value of membership, which leads to retention and growth of members
Australia Council is a coordinating body between all Australian sections and as such AC encourages sections to organize activities to help retaining and attracting new members to their sections. In 2023 Australia Council added two positions within the committee: YP Coordinator and EA Coordinator with the role of establishing a YP and EA networks and coordinating between section officers and also stimulate them to plan activities with their sections.

B.2 Chapter Activities

- Total number of Chapters in the Section
The Australia Council has one Chapter: Oceanic Engineering (OES) Chapter, a joint chapter with all 7 Australian sections. Note NSW has also its own OES Chapter. The AC OES chapter was inactive in the past few years despite many attempts undertaken by the Council since 2020 to revive that chapter. Finally, we manage to find two volunteers from Northern Australia (NA) Section: Melanie Olsen and Mohan Jacob who have organized a few activities in 2023.
The total number of Chapters within the 7 Australian sections is 67: 53 individual chapters, 13 joint inter-society chapters and 1 inter-section joint chapter between NSW and ACT.
The total number of students branches in Australia is 23. All sections have WIE and YP Affinity Groups.
- Number of Chapters formed in the current year
- N/A
- Number of active Chapters (Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year)
1, OES Chapter is the sole AC Chapter
- Summary of Chapter activities (Chapter wise with attachment table/information)
OES Chapter has carried out the following activities:
 - 8 November 2023, Sydney: Technical presentation by Melanie Olsen on “Marine Uncrewed Systems test and Evaluation: it’s a team effort”.
 - 14 December 2023, Brisbane: Technical presentation by Melanie Olsen on “Better Together: Addressing Tropical Marine Testing & Simulation Challenges as a Team”
 - 20 December 2023, Online Technical presentation by Shou-Han of James Cook University on “Unmanned Marine Surveying Systems”

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

The AC chair, Fouad Karouta, joined the organizing committee of the IEEE International Leadership Summit, held in Auckland on 11-12 December 2023, as Chair of the program committee. This involves a fair amount of work in drafting the conference program and get it confirmed by all authors in one iteration. The ILS conference was a very successful event and attracted 120 attendees. AC did provide a partial financial support to Fouad and also to Sudha Mokkalapati (WIE Forum Coordinator) to attend the event in Auckland, New Zealand.

B.4 Students Activities

- Total number of Student Branches in the Council
Australian Capital Territory section: 2
New South Wales section: 8
Northern Australia section: 2
Queensland section: 7
South Australia section: 3
Victorian section: 9
Western Australia section: 4
Total Australia: 35 SBs
- 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)
N/A
- Women In Engineering (WIE)
N/A
- Life Member (LM)
N/A

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- Award constituted by the Section
- Please list all Awards and Recognitions received by the Section, and members in the Section, from R 10 and IEEE HQ during the year

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

- Newsletter (name and number of issues in the year)
N/A
- Home Page of the Section (give the URL and how often it is updated)
<https://iee-ac.org/index.html> 1x/month
- Other means of contacts with Section members including social media
eNotices

B.8 Industry Relations

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

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

- Humanitarian Technology related activities supported by the Section including collaboration with other OUs.
- SIGHT Activities

B.10 Community Activities

- IEEE Social activities (Family day, IEEE day, Engineers Week)”

PART C - OTHERS

C.1 Special Events

- Please briefly describe the importance of special events and the outcomes achieved
- Funding secured from the IEEE and external sources including sponsorships

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

- Nature of relationship and details of any formal agreement signed
- Details of joint activities
- Benefit to IEEE members (for example discounts, access to technical information etc.)
Australia Council has secured an agreement with Dell-Australia and a local insurance company (Medibank) to offer a discount to Australian IEEE members when purchasing computers and medical cover insurance respectively. AC reminds its members through an eNotice with information on end of year sales.
- Benefit to Section (for example help in membership development, venue facilities, cost saving etc.)

C.3. 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

- Support extended for organising technical, educational and professional activities
- Joint activities for membership development
- Support extended for the formation of a Sub-section or transition of a Sub-section into a full Section

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

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

AC will continue its mission and coordination role between the seven Australian Sections encouraging:

* a cross-sections advertisement of online seminars.

* Encouraging AGs (LM, WIE and YP) to hold regular meetings with the corresponding sections Reps and stimulate organizing technical/social activities within the local groups.

AC will continue supporting students activities through prizes and certificates of appreciation.

D.2 Goals and Future Plans

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

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

AC has no proper resources from IEEE MGA and relies on raising levy whenever needed to complement its funding and/or submitting an incentive report to R10 whenever a call is opened. However AC secured a few special funding from R10 submitting in due time incentive reports (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022).