Editorial

I have always believed that we need to enhance the benefits that we can offer to IEEE NSW members. The NSW Section Committee has recently agreed to explore various benefits and one of them is Corporate Travel for our members.

I am pleased to share the latest good news - Donna Barlow Corporate Travel (DBT) will now be able to offer corporate travel and travel insurance services to IEEE members. Finally, we as individuals can now enjoy corporate travel services in planning our regional and overseas trips by letting DBT take care of our travel. You can find their details in this issue of Circuit and how to make use of their service. We will release other benefits as they become available.

I have also suggested that IEEE member benefits for Regions 1 to 6 will also be made available to Regions 7 to 10. This was raised in the 2008 Section Congress held in Quebec City, Canada and was selected and will be presented to the IEEE Board of Directors for consideration as one of the 10 consolidated recommendations from all the Regions for IEEE to work on.

Another year is drawing to a close in what seems an accelerating time machine. Measuring the amount of value we have provided our members here in NSW is arguably more subjective. Let's have a quick re-cap on some of the more significant things we have undertaken. We have expanded the Communications and Signal Processing Society Chapters by adding the Oceans Engineering Society, we have formalized the LEOS and Circuits Systems Chapter in one, two major conferences here by the Computer Society and the Communications Society, and around 160 sponsored student memberships, the highest for 4 years.

Looking forward, 2009 is the 125th Anniversary for the IEEE, and every event conducted through 2009 will be identified as an ‘IEEE 125 year Anniversary’ event. Planning for a major anniversary dinner on the 13th March 2009 (the actual anniversary date) will commence shortly, and any ideas, suggestions, assistance would be fantastic. Please communicate your ideas to the Committee at your earliest convenience. One of the events that I am personally championing through the IEEE is a “Gadget Summit”, where inventors, eccentrics and students can engage in a gadget display and presentation, and hopefully some type of award recognition from IEEE NSW.

There are many challenges with delivering on this idea, not only with patent law, but with publicity, contractual waivers and of course the inventions, gadgets and gizmo’s themselves.

As part of the ongoing succession plans with the committee for IEEE NSW, we have had three NSW participants attend the triennial IEEE Sections Congress (SC’08), where representatives from all 293 Sections in the world meet and share ideas, visions, experiences and establish contacts. The challenge facing the IEEE is maintaining its relevance, its values and initiatives in the face of changing social behavior. The 2008 Section Congress communicated means of engaging the media, with technology news, awards and recognition and raising the profile of important individuals. There is no Nobel Prize for technologists, and the IEEE is working to establish the IEEE Medal of Honor as the highest global technology award.
The 2008 Section Congress also gave attendees a first hand look at the personal stories behind 8 of the past IEEE presidents, as well as allowing us to meet some of the characters within the IEEE. It is apparent that most IEEE Sections face similar issues, as well stimulating lateral ideas to adapt what IEEE offers members.

Our NSW Section website has been quietWy transformed into a Joomla content management system, and we must offer our sincere thanks to Mr. Eduardo Navarro from Puerto Rico. We are getting very close to being able to manage our own web content now, and we can now focus more on keeping web content up to date rather than whiz bang HTML coding heroics.

Please consider getting involved in IEEE activities going forward, either as an event presenter, committee or even just attending our events. You are cordially invited to the IEEE NSW Annual General Meeting and Dinner, please RSVP on the form in this issue.

David Burger
k3hz@ieee.org
Chair, NSW Section

2. News in Brief

2.1. Gold from Around the World

In Quebec City, Canada, we all gathered to see how valuable Gold is, especially when it’s IEEE Gold members, Graduates of the last decade.

This year, 2008 Section Congress experienced its very first Gold Summit on 18 and 19 September 2008. In these two busy and fun days, more than 70 Gold delegates from around the world gathered to network and learn about the importance of IEEE Gold members, the young engineers who are the fresh blood of the engineering community. IEEE analysts also believe that the transition from being a student to becoming a graduate has important implications on IEEE membership statistics, as this is when student members become full members and also it when they leave the academic community and join industry. Therefore IEEE has defined the Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (STEP) to inform students of the advantages of Gold membership, and also to provide Gold members with the networking opportunities and cutting-edge information that a young professional requires.

The first implementations of this program will be experimented around the world in 2009. The IEEE community hopes to see improved retention of young members and increased involvement of Gold volunteers as a result.

Gold delegates at Gold Summit 2008, Quebec City

Sara Hakami
UNSW Student Branch

2.2. NSW Section AGM and Dinner – 28 November 2008

This year, we are hosting the NSW Section Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 30 Philip Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 on Friday, 28 Nov 2008, commencing at 7pm sharp.

The Annual Dinner will follow after the conclusion of the NSW Section AGM at 8pm. The cost of the dinner is $30 per person inclusive of drinks. This is the time for all IEEE members and their partners to meet and network.

For those members wishing to attend but have not submitted their reservation form, please do so as the reservation has now been extended to 10 November 2008.

Prior to the NSW Section AGM, Chapters will conduct their AGMs to elect new office bearers from 6pm at Crowne Plaza. All Chapter Chairs will conclude their meetings by 7 pm and also provide annual reports for
distribution at the NSW Section AGM.

**Proposed Agenda - NSW Section AGM 2008**

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Minutes of 2007 AGM
3. Business arising
4. Section Chair Report
5. Section Treasurer Report
6. Chapter Reports
7. 2009 Section Committee
8. Other General Businesses

### 2.3. 2008 Section Congress in Quebec City, Canada – 19 to 22 Oct 2008

The Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board partnered with Region 7 and Quebec Section in hosting the 2008 Section Congress in Quebec City, Canada from 19 to 22 September 2008. There were 1,072 attendees from 89 countries representing 293 Sections.

IEEE Honours Ceremony was held on 20 September 2008. IEEE President presented 22 awards at the Ceremony. The Medal of Honour was presented to Dr. Godon Moore, Co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Emeritus, of Intel Corporation.

The 2008 Section Congress provided Section Chairs to speak, share and discuss their view for change. Final recommendations from all the Regions were ranked and the top ten will be presented to the IEEE Board of Directors at its November meeting. The top 10 recommendations are:

1. Every member to have an annual entitlement to a limited number of free IEEE Xplore downloads
2. Payment Flexibility
3. Provide ‘Leadership Training Handbook for Section Officers’
4. MGA Board to assign staff to develop, a user friendly system and support to enable Sections, Chapters, and Affinity Groups to deliver, at low cost, teleconferencing, collaborative technologies and webinars as a free member benefit.
5. For digital libraries – to develop additional, smaller tiered packages which allow members to purchase defined quantities of digital content without expiration and provide permanent access to previously purchased content.
6. Improve the implementation of recommendations identified at Sections Congress
7. There are a good number of IEEE member benefits that are relevant or accessible to Region 1 to 6 members only, should implement similar benefits of local relevance across all Regions.
8. Sections and Chapters need a web based payment solution for small local events
9. Provide support and tools for the creation and maintenance of easy to update Section Web
10. Implement sustained membership options for all membership grades except Student grade

The Board then assigns each of the 10 recommendations to specific IEEE business units for action.

### 2.4. IEEE’s 125th Anniversary

IEEE is looking forward to 2009, to celebrate IEEE’s 125th anniversary. Every event conducted in 2009 will be identified as an IEEE 125 year Anniversary event.

At this stage, R10 Student Activities Committee (SAC) is planning to host the Global Student Congress to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of IEEE to be held in October 2009.

Information about other activities can be found on the new 125th Anniversary Web site, which has message boards, a series of video greetings from members and some well-known technology leaders, and other interactive features.

### 2.5. Welcome to Our New Members and Upgrade Members

From June to September 2008, we have the following new members or newly upgraded members:

**Life Senior Member Grade**
- Martin R Sanders

**Senior Member Grade**
- Shanmugam Chandrasekaran
- Jingling Xue
- Dan C Popescu
- Prashantha K Premaratne
- Christian H Ritz
- Jing Chen
- Willy Susilo

**Member Grade**
- Simon D Boland
- Nihar T Trivedi
- Shanta P Jayawardana
- Jurgen H Opfer
- Salvatore Mattera
- G Wilson
- Rimas G Keblikas
- Golam M Sorwar
- Kingsley R W Jones
- Vicknarajah Prahatheesan
2.6. Life Members

The next Life Members Meeting will be held at the Annual Dinner after the AGM on Friday 28 November. There will be no charge for the first 4 life members and their partners who make a booking. Please contact Olivia Robinson on 9418 6209 to make your claim before 21 November.
2.7. 2009 Membership Renewal

Your 2009 membership renewal package will arrive in the mail soon, or you can renew online right now.

Renew before 15 November and you'll be entered into a draw to win one of three laptops.

3. Chapter News

3.1 ComSig Chapter

It has been a busy couple of months for the Joint Communications and Signal Processing Chapter. We started with three successful lectures from IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Prof Norman Beaulieu, the Canada Research Chair in Broadband Wireless Communications, at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. He talked to us about “Designing Ultra-Wide Bandwidth (UWB) Receivers for Multi-User Interference Environments”, and he made the presentations at CSIRO’s ICT Centre, UNSW and the University of Newcastle. Roughly 60 people attended the events, which were warmly received, and it was especially good to get out of Sydney and visit some of our regional areas of NSW. We were treated to some excellent insights into the current status of UWB, and even enjoyed some of Norm’s jokes about Australian beer!

Last week I attended the IEEE Communications Society Asia Pacific Regional Chapters Chair Congress (AP-RCCC), and the IEEE Communications Society Asia Pacific Sister Societies Summit (SSS) 2008, jointly held in Tokyo. It was a very interesting insight into the workings of the IEEE, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. Much of the discussion was around the topic of attracting new members, and how best to serve current members. The magazines and Chapter meetings were seen as important to members, as well as chances for networking and mentoring through the organization. If you have any comments or suggestions on things which we can do to improve the benefits of your membership, please drop me an email.

Other activities during the past month or so include our Section and Chapter’s decision to technically sponsor the upcoming Australian Communication Theory Workshop, to be held in Sydney in February 2009.

Keep an eye on the calendar for future events leading up to Christmas. I look forward to meeting you at the Section AGM, or at another of our events.

3.2. Power & Energy Society & Life Members

Distinguished Lecturer Prof Roma Rinkeviciene from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania gave two lectures at the Energy Australia Auditorium in Sydney on 23 Sept 2008. The first lecture was on the development of the Lithuanian Energy Sector, the second on Women in Electrical Engineering in Lithuania. Kim Chin is arranging to form an affinity group for WIE and all women members are asked to contact her at kim.chin@ieee.org

Special thanks are due to Patrick McMullan, Energy Australia for donating the facilities and providing light refreshments. Also many thanks to Alan Harvey from the Victorian Section, who did all the hard work bringing Roma to Australia and Zac and Ramona Zakarevicius who worked on the local arrangements.

Next year our Vice Chair, Prof Vassilios Agelidis will be giving a lecture on Thursday 12 March 2009 for the Joint Institutions Lecture Program at Engineers Australia, Chatswood. His presentation will deal with the advances made in the development of Flexible Alternating Current Transmission System (FACTS) Technologies. Vassilios is also to be congratulated on raising considerable funds for the establishment of a new Power Engineering facility at the University of Sydney.

John L Robinson jl.robinson@ieee.org
Chair, Power & Energy Chapter & Life Members
4. Technical Meetings & Conferences

All members are cordially invited to attend these joint meetings with the Engineers Australia (EA), IEEE and IET. These joint meetings are held at 6.00 pm (with light refreshments from 5:30pm) at the Engineers Australia, 8 Thomas Street, Chatswood, NSW unless otherwise stated.

All members should check the latest updates of the Meetings & Conferences a couple of days prior to the actual date at the IEEE NSW News bulletins at [http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=k3hz%40ieee.org&ctz=Australia/Sydney](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=k3hz%40ieee.org&ctz=Australia/Sydney) and also the Engineers Australia at [http://sydney.ieaust.org.au/weekevents.html](http://sydney.ieaust.org.au/weekevents.html) to prevent any potential disappointment due to last minute changes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>iTech Corporation talking about embedded systems and outsourcing</td>
<td>Nick Fondas – iTech Corporation</td>
<td>Joint Program</td>
<td>Peter Hitchiner</td>
<td>6.00pm 8 Thomas St, Chatswood</td>
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<td>27/11/2008</td>
<td>Engineers Australia Electrical branch AGM.</td>
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<td>IEEE NSW Section AGM / DINNER</td>
<td>NSW Section Committee</td>
<td>IEEE</td>
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<td>Crowne Plaza, 30 Philip Street, Parramatta 2150 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm</td>
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**Call for Abstracts**

The Symposium aims to bring together engineers, scientists, and industry representatives working in antennas and related areas to discuss developments relevant to Australia. It is sponsored by CSIRO ICT Centre.

You are invited to attend and participate in this major technical event, and we encourage you to submit an abstract on a topic of current interest.

- Full registration costs $350 and $250 for students and retirees (GST inclusive), if prepaid prior to 31 December 2008.
- There will be a $600 prize for the best student presentation.
- Abstracts are required by 28 November 2008.
- See website for registration and submission of abstracts. For further information, contact Ms Dallas Rolph (02) 9372 4289, fax (02) 9372 4446. email: dallas.rolph@csiro.au.

**ELEVENTH AUSTRALIAN SYMPOSIUM ON ANTENNAS**

**Sydney**

**18-19 February 2009**
6. IEEE NSW Section 2008 Annual General Meeting Reservation

Date: Friday, 28 November 2008

Times: 6pm Chapters’ AGMs, 7pm NSW Section AGM, and 8pm NSW Section Dinner

Venue: Crowne Plaza (Parramatta), 30 Phillip Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150. Tel: 9689 3333 and www.crowneplazaparramatta.com.au

Hotel Room: $160 per double bed room (through IEEE) subject to availability

Car Park: $10 car park in the hotel subject to availability

Contribution: $30 per person (including drinks on table). Enclosed is payment of $................ for .......... persons

Name:.............................................................................................................Tel: (W).................................(H)...........................(M)..........................

Address:.............................................................................................................Postcode:..........................membership number:............

Attending: AGM ……. Dinner……. (Yes/No as applicable) Vegetarian…….(Yes/No as applicable)

Kindly Post or fax by 10 November 2008 to:
IEEE NSW Tresurer, C/O Australian Professional Centre, PO Box 576. CROWS NEST NSW 1585
Or Fax: +61 2 9130 4574 or email nuala.ward@ieee.org

7. Continue to Receive Circuit by Post

Circuit is currently provided electronically from the IEEE NSW Section Website http://ewh.ieee.org/r10/nsw. Members will be notified by email when a new issue is posted on the Website. A printed copy of Circuit will only be sent on request by members and for those without an email address.

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