

# THE IEEE in AUSTRALIA, HISTORICAL OVERVIEW



*The following historical overview has been prepared and compiled by David E Burger.  
Assistance with corrections, photos, and updates to this history will be gratefully accepted.  
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## GENERAL

For an early overview of the origins of the IEEE, please refer to:

[http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history\\_center/historical\\_articles/history\\_of\\_ieee.html](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history_center/historical_articles/history_of_ieee.html)

An interesting overview of the IEEE badge and logo's can be found here:

[http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history\\_center/ieee\\_emblem.html](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history_center/ieee_emblem.html)

In addition to the above, albeit trivial, the Society of Wireless Telegraph Engineers (SWTE) badge was a diamond shape and showed a Hertz dumbbell oscillator on a blue background.

## Region 10 (1971 ~ 1984 period extract)

IEEE (IRE) sections began to develop in the Asia-Pacific region prior to the formation of a Region 10 district. New Zealand started in 1968, Pakistan in 1968, India (Bombay) in 1969 and Tokyo in 1955 (as part of IRE).

The inaugural steering director for IEEE Region 10 was Dr Shigeo Shima of Japan who was offered this task in 1967~1968 by the IEEE assembly.

In 1971, Mr Tatsuji Nomura of NHK and the then director took the initiative of forming a regional committee. The existing IEEE Sections in the Region 10 district, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Tokyo were represented on the committee, with the first meeting at the Peninsular Hotel, Hong Kong in July 1971.

The 1973 Region 10 meeting was conducted at the NHK headquarters building in Tokyo.

The Region 10 student paper contest was introduced in 1974, and was the first major exercise undertaken on a region wide basis.

In 1979, Dr S.Y. King of Hong Kong University initiated the drafting of the Region 10 bylaws and gained committee acceptance. The territory of Region 10 was also amended to exclude Africa, which by mutual agreement was then added to the European Region 8.

A Region 10 Centenary compilation was produced in 1984 with some material from that document used here. The Australian contribution to this book was prepared by Jim Vasseleu and Max Simons.

## AUSTRALIA

The history of the IEEE in Australia and New South Wales Section is outlined below and cross checked from various sources.

### The Early Years (1890~1970) in Australia

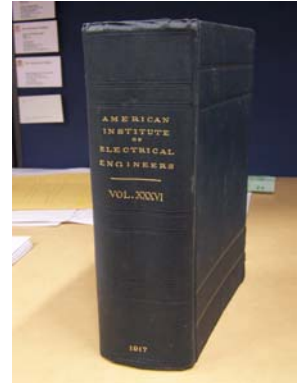


The first Australian member (Associate) of the AIEE was Mr Wilfred Joseph Spruson (1870~1939) pictured opposite, of Hepburn and Spruson Patent Attorneys, Sydney. His membership was recorded in 1890. He had two daughters.

Mr Gustav S Fisher of Tramway Construction, Sydney joins AIEE in 1891.

The "Local Honorary Secretaries" of 1917 listed Mr W.G.T. Goodman of Adelaide, South Australia in the AIEE transactions XXXVI. The AIEE transactions of 1917 are pictured opposite.

Dr Matt Darveniza was also known to be active in the IEEE PES in the late 60's and early 70's, more information may become available at the IEEE Queensland Section web-link.



### The Australian Section 1972 – 1985

Formal IEEE involvement occurred when there was only one Section in Australia, aptly called the 'Australian Section'.

The first meeting of IEEE Australian members was organised by James J. (Jim) Vasseleu in early 1972 and held at the Cell Block Theatre, Darlinghurst NSW. It was agreed, by those attending, that the formation of an Australian Section would be highly desirable and Mr Vasseleu should proceed with the preparation and submission of a petition. Mr Len Clemenson, Jim Vasseleu, Reg Ryan, Phil Amos, Allan James and Les Port were signatories to the Australia Section formation. Les was a partner in Port Warren & McCaskell engineers, he later became Mayor of Sydney and was a host to the original ABC<sup>1</sup> TV series of 'The Inventors'. Les died in 1978.

The area to be encompassed by the proposed section was all Australian States and Territories comprising New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and the Territory of Papua New Guinea. The petition was signed by 63 members and submitted to IEEE Headquarters at the beginning of June 1972. Dr Tatsjui Nomura from the Tokyo Section (who was the Region 10 Director) supported the petition and the Australian Section was established on 16 August 1972. At the first official meeting, which was held at Neutral Bay Junction, NSW, on 12 September 1972, James Vasseleu was elected Chair, Lennox J. Clementson Vice Chair and James Deans Secretary/Treasurer.

Shortly afterwards, the 1972 IEEE President, Dr Robert Tanner, visited Australia and, accompanied by officers of the newly formed Australian Section, had discussions with representatives of the two chartered Australian National Societies, the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers, Australia.

Australian Section By-laws were prepared in October 1972 and submitted to IEEE Headquarters.

During 1973, a number of technical meetings were held in cooperation with the National Societies and, in early October, Dr John D. Ryder; 1973 Chair of the IEEE Fellows Committee, visited the Section and conducted a seminar at the University of New South Wales, Kensington.

Mr Vasseleu retired as Australian Section Chair at the end of 1973 and Mr Clementson was elected 1974 Chair.

A full program of technical meetings was again arranged in cooperation with the National Engineering Societies during 1974 and 1975.

From 1974 onwards, one very active IEEE person, Colin Kline, lecturer at the then Ballarat College of Advanced Education (now University of Ballarat) was very actively promoting student memberships to the newly accredited engineering degree streams in this regional Victorian college. Colin became the 1<sup>st</sup> IEEE Student Councillor at the BCAE in 1986.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Broadcasting Commission.

In September 1975, Papua New Guinea achieved independence, but was only dropped from the Australian Section in 1979. IEEE Members located in Papua New Guinea are still registered on the Australia Council member database, with a total of 10 listed May 2005.

The 1975 IEEE President, Arthur Stern, visited the Section in October 1975. In late 1975, as a result of an earlier petition, the Victorian Sub-Section was formed. The Victorian sub-section was active for around 3 years, and then became dormant. Mr Clementson retired at the end of 1975 and was succeeded as Chair by Dennis Bradshaw, who had been secretary of the Section.

During 1976, the Australian Section nominated Mr Vasseleu for the position of Region 10 Director for 1977-78. The IEEE Board of Directors appointed him Director in December the same year. Peter Greenwood was the corresponding member located in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Ivan Getting, the 1978 IEEE President, visited the Section in October 1978.

Mr Bradshaw retired in 1978 and was succeeded as Chair by Dr Ramutis Zakarevicius. Mr Clementson died in November 1978 and, in early 1979, the L.J. Clementson Memorial Student Prize was established.

In June 1981, Brian Love was appointed Chair of the Victorian Sub Section, which had been inactive for several years. An inaugural meeting was held in October 1981. A new committee was elected and the Victorian Sub Section was reactivated.

The 1981 IEEE President, Dr Richard Damon, visited the Section in August 1981, refer photo archive.

At the end of 1981, Dr Zakarevicius retired and was succeeded by Max Simons, who had been Secretary of the Australian Section.

Dr Robert Larson, the 1982 IEEE President, visited the Victorian Sub Section in the latter part of 1982 as well as the Australia Section in NSW.

Dr Harry Green was first "elected" Region 10 Director for 1983-84. This coincided with the region 10 boundary adjustments. Prior to this, Region 10 directors were simply appointed for a fixed 2 year term, while regions 1-9 had all elected their representatives. While Harry was never represented on the Australia Section committee, he was the Canberra liaison and host for many international visitors there.

A petition to upgrade the Victorian Sub Section to full Section status was prepared and submitted to IEEE Headquarters by Brian Love in mid 1983; approval was obtained in September 1983, but was not initiated until 1984. Refer to the IEEE Victorian Section history website <http://docs.ieeevic.org/history/uplink/>

The 1983 IEEE President, Dr James Owens and the IEEE General Manager, Eric Herz, visited the Victorian and Australian Sections during September 1983. They also visited the Canberra headquarters of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, for discussions about formalising a cooperative agreement.

Although no student branches had yet been established in Australia, Australian students participated in all the Region 10 student prize competitions held since 1972. Dr Robert Radzyner was responsible for student activities including submission of entries for the Region 10 competitions.

By 1984, the Centenary year of IEEE, the IEEE Australian Section membership had grown over five-fold since its inception. The combined total of the Australian and Victorian Sub-section was in excess of 1700 members. Based on this membership, eight Australians were awarded the 1984 Centenary Medal. They were:

Ian P. Bates  
Louis W. Davies  
Robert H. Frater  
Douglas G. Lampard  
Hugo K. Messerle  
Peter I. Somlo

Sir A.W. Tyree  
James J. Vasseleu.

Max Simons retired as the Australia Section Chair in 1984 and was succeeded by James Vasseleu with Alan Rister as Secretary.

Early 1985, Jim Vasseleu petitioned for the formation of an IEEE Australia Council (AC). The first AC meeting was on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1986. Max Simons was the founding Chair of the IEEE Australia Council, with Richard Clark being Secretary / Treasurer.

The initial plan for the section structure in Australia was:

- Queensland / Papua New Guinea;
- New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory;
- Victoria / Tasmania;
- South Australia / Northern Territory; and
- Western Australia.

With the formation of the Victorian Section and the desire for other states to be equally represented, eventually lead to a change in the way IEEE operated in Australia and in New South Wales in particular. Approval for the formation of an Australia Council was granted in Dec 1985. Refer to the IEEE AC website: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r10/australia/council/>

Sections were formed in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland. The historical links of these sections are shown below:

The IEEE South Australia Section was chartered on the 23rd of August, 1985.

[http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/s\\_australia/IEEESAHistory.php](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/s_australia/IEEESAHistory.php)

The IEEE Queensland Section historical link:

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/queensland/QldSectionHistory.html>

The IEEE Western Australia Section have not yet developed an historical link.

### **The IEEE New South Wales Section History, 1986 to Present.**

In December 1985, in response to the earlier creation of the Victorian Section, the Australian Section was renamed the New South Wales Section and the Australia Council was formed.

The name of the old Australian Section was then changed to the New South Wales Section.

In 1986, the IEEE President Bruno Weinschel and General Manager Eric Herz visited Sydney en-route to the Region 10 meeting in Perth. Alan Rister arranged a dinner at the Royal Automotive Club. Interestingly, all the US representatives missed the Perth photo shoot, as they had to take first available flights out of Australia before an airline strike. Refer to the archive photo.

Jim Vasseleu retired as Chair of the New South Wales Section in 1987 and was succeeded by Walter Lachs, with Demetrios (Jim) Logothetis as Secretary.

Walter Lachs was Chair until 1990 when he was succeed by Jim Logothetis. Walter became Secretary and John Robinson was elected Treasurer.

Walter Lachs served as Australia Council Chair from 1993 to 1994.

Jim Logothetis retired in 1994 and was succeeded by Walter Lachs. Jim became Secretary and John Robinson was Treasurer.

Walter Lachs served one year as Chair in 1995. Jim Logothetis succeeded him in 1996. Walter Lachs became Secretary and John Robinson continued as Treasurer.

In 1995 Senior Executives of IEEE, including the 1995 President Tom Cane and the 1994 President H. Troy Nagle, visited Sydney and a meeting and dinner was held with the Section Committee on 15 August.

In 1996 the Max Simons Student Prize was established, noting it was formerly known as the Clementson Student Award back in 1979. The Clementson award was active for approximately 4 years. Mr Gary Anedo (dec~2002) was the 1<sup>st</sup> student to receive the Clementson award and was eventually a Professor at the University of Wollongong.

In 1998, the NSW Section embarked on a major conference organisation proposed by Sam Reisenfeld with GlobeCom'98 held in Sydney. Jim Logothetis was the chair of the conference committee, and it faced many challenges with regard to the venue management, preparing a complete CD to offset the volume of paper and identifying enough volunteer assistance to bring the conference to a successful outcome. An excerpt of the GlobeCom'98 CD is kept in the archive. Mr (Jim) Demetrios N Logothetis was awarded the Region 10 outstanding Volunteer award in 1998.

The first agreement by IEEE was with IEE resulting from discussions by Jim Vasseleu and Leo Young in 1978 and signed circa 1993, modelled off a similar agreement that existed in Northern Italy. Negotiations with IEEE Australia Council stalled for 2 years, then escalated to IEEE HQ for a delegated signoff. The tri-partite agreement with IEEE, IEE and IEAust was formulated to offer Australian members of 2 or more Institutions a discount on membership fees, ranging from 5% to 10%. This was ratified 7 September 1998, signatories were Dr Andrew Parfitt (for IEEE), Barry ?. IEAust, and the then president of IEE.

John Robinson succeeded Jim Logothetis in 1999 as Chair. In this year, Jim Logothetis was Secretary and David Burger was Treasurer. In John's second year, Andrew Parfitt was Secretary and Graeme Gwilliam was Treasurer.

During John Robinson's term, IEEE Millennium Medals were presented to eleven Section Members at a luncheon sponsored by the IEEE Life Members Affinity Group. The luncheon was held in August 2000 at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron in Kirribilli. Reference the group photo in the archive. The Millennium medal recipients were:

- Trevor S. Bird
- Graeme Gwilliam
- Walter Lachs
- Demetrios Logothetis
- Vincent Morgan
- Bruce Poon
- Faz Rahman
- Sam Reisenfeld
- John L. Robinson
- James J. Vasseleu
- Ramutis Zakarevicius.

Two major international conferences organised during this time, Globecom 98 and PICA 2001. The financial side of the PICA 2001 conference took 3 years to complete. The APMC 2000 conference was hosted in Sydney during this period.

John Robinson retired at the end of 2000 and was succeeded by Chair, Trevor Bird. Andrew Parfitt continued as Secretary. Graeme Gwilliam retired as Treasurer in 2001 and was succeeded in 2002 by David Burger.

Dr Andrew Parfitt was awarded the Region 10 outstanding Volunteer award in 2001.

In 2002, the Section seconded the services of Mr Jon Paul Agnew to re-vamp, manage and bring the website into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Up to this time the IEEE NSW website was simply a banner. Mr Bruce Poon was awarded the Region 10 outstanding Volunteer award.

By the start of 2002, the Section had 13 IEEE Fellows. Mid 2002, the Grad's Of the Last Decade (GOLD) affinity group was launched with Ms Filita Barker being the founding chair of this initiative. Filita moved to Europe mid 2003, with Simon Boland assuming the chair.

On 16 August 2002, the NSW Section celebrated the 30th anniversary of its foundation at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Kirribilli. IEEE Life members attended.

2003 saw two South East Asian conferences relocated to Sydney at short notice due to the 'SARS' virus health warnings in Singapore and Hong Kong at that time. The SARS<sup>2</sup> warnings in south east Asia also delayed the Malaysian R10 meeting until October 2003. The IEEE President, Michael Adler visited Sydney in October 2003.

John Robinson also served as IEEE Australia Council chair in 2003 and 2004.

In early 2003, a detailed MOU was prepared between the IEEE, IEE and Engineers Australia which bridged the period until the tri-partite agreement could be re-ratified. Refer to the archives for a copy this document.

The IEEE NSW Section is awarded the inaugural 'R10 Large Section Award' for 2003; *refer to the photo archive for 2003.*

The 1998 tri-partite agreement (MOU) of IEE/IEEE/IEAust was not renewed automatically given objections from the Victorian Section. The objections were eventually addressed and a revised agreement was re-ratified on 27 June 2003 with expiry 1 Jan 2006.

In March 2004, the IEEE Hunter sub-section was formally disbanded.

Some IEEE executives transited Sydney & met IEEE NSW Section members en-route to the April 2004 Adelaide Region 10 conference, Cleon Anderson (PresElect 2005), Gerard Alphonse (IEEE USA) and Roger Sullivan (Region 1).

Dr Andrew Parfitt resigned mid-term 2004 to relocate back to Adelaide. Graeme Gwilliam was elected as Chair and Ian Boyd as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2004. Trevor Bird also relinquished his 'Circuit' editorship due to his MTT editorial commitments. 'Circuit' editor tasks were taken over by Eddie Fong.

Dr Graeme Gwilliam and David Burger represented the IEEE NSW Section at the IEEE Region 10 conference held in Singapore on 30/31 March 2005. Dr Ian Boyd also attended, but in the capacity as IEEE Australia Council Secretary.

An event sharing MOU between Engineers Australia, IEE and IEEE was tabled for agreement at the state / division level in May 2005. This was abandoned some months later.

June 2005 marked the passing of Mr Demetrios Jim Logothetis, Jim had only resigned his joint lecture committee position in May. His memorial service was marked with the attendance of 150 people, with many IEEE members. Jim's wife Cecelia attended the 2005 Section AGM.

Eddy Fong, Graeme Gwilliam and Ian Boyd represented IEEE NSW at the Region 10 conference in March 2006 at Chiangmai, with Ms Filita Barker participating in the GOLD congress, and part of the R10 Student congress in Shanghai.

The new IEEE NSW EMBS Chapter was launched in Sept 2006 with Dr Carolyn McGregor being the founding chair, making it the first in Australia.

The 2007 Region 10 Director Ms Janina Mazierska met with the NSW Executive committee in mid January 2007 with a dinner meeting at Darling Harbour.

The NSW LEOS chapter and the NSW SSC/CS Chapter were merged into a single joint chapter in Jan 2007. An IEEE NSW Education Chapter was launched in March 2007 with Mark Lee being the founding chair.

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<sup>2</sup> Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

An overview of the number and types of IEEE members since the inception of the IEEE in Australia is shown below.

From 1985 onwards however, only the membership located in NSW is shown.

### IEEE NSW Section

### Australian Section

Year	Fellow	Senior	Member	Associate	Student	Total IEEE Members	Affiliates
2007							
2006	19	152	1613	88	446	2318	165
2005	15	131	1617	103	540	2406	191
2004	16	123	1571	100	418	2228	178
2003	15	126	1582	204	532	2459	210
2002	15	139	1492	243	559	2448	250
2001	16	134	1514	310	317	2291	262
2000	16	129	1544	240	357	2286	286
1999	16	124	1484	210	293	2127	378
1998	16	123	1473	181	345	2138	338
1997	16	113	1389	158	287	1963	281
1996	15	107	1336	167	285	1910	262
1995	14	93	1376	147	253	1883	274
1994	13	87	1266	88	302	1756	263
1993	10	85	1293	76	192	1656	194
1992	9	77	1202	75	200	1563	114
1991	9	63	1155	80	165	1472	113
1990	7	56	1026	74	171	1334	118
1989	6	56	911	74	141	1188	124
1988	5	58	833	58	121	1075	84
1987	6	64	826	45	117	1058	81
1986	5	64	720	44	100	933	76
1985	4	64	698	38	93	897	82
1984	5	77	954	44	183	1263	97
1983	5	79	916	57	185	1242	83
1982	5	86	1252	77	166	1586	117
1981	4	64	802	48	117	1035	80
1980	3	67	700	44	177	991	46
1979	3	64	680	38	142	927	35
1978	1	56	609	33	121	820	23
1977	1	53	507	18	113	692	16
1976	1	53	459	20	90	623	12
1975	1	54	384	17	96	552	8
1974	1	59	449	35	107	651	11
1973	1	51	400	33	80	565	7
1972	1	53	324	33	56	467	4