

IEEE New Zealand Central Section Newsletter

October 2009

125th Anniversary Event

To celebrate the 125th birthday of IEEE, the IEEE New Zealand Central Section holds a special public lecture in the Rutherford House Lecture Theatre at Victoria University of Wellington on 1 Oct 2009. Professor Emeritus Bob Hodgson delivered a fascinating talk on “Sparking a Revolution --- Marconi, Shipwrecks and Murder” at the lecture.

In the last years of the 19th Century the world was in desperate need of a system of communication that worked without wires and that bridged both the continents and the oceans. By that time Maxwell had published his theory of the propagation of electromagnetic energy and Hertz had demonstrated it in the laboratory. Marconi, then a teenager, made the vital mental connection between the work of Maxwell and Hertz and the communication at a distance problem. During the talk, Professor Hodgson used an amazing lecturing style and some interesting demos and made a fortune and literally sparked the communications revolution. The development of electric spark based radio was explained, and the story of the rescue of the survivors of the Titanic and the dramatic capture of the murderous Dr Crippen was related.

The event is highly successful. About 40 people attended the talk including most members in our Central Section committee. Before and after the talk, coffee, tea and finger food was served to provide a chance for our IEEE members to interact.

IEEE NZ Central Section Meeting

The IEEE NZ Central Section monthly committee meeting was held face to face in the Backbencher Café, Wellington at 7:30 – 8:30pm. Ten members of the committee attended the meeting and a number of decisions were made. Details can be seen from the meeting Minutes.

Other Events in October

Dr. Sinéad O’Keeffe the Optical Fibre Sensors Research Centre at the University of Limerick presented her recent work on “Optical Fibre Sensors for Applications in Environmental Monitoring” at Room: AH3.43a, AG-HORT Building, Massey University (Palmerston North campus) on 14 October 2009. About 15 people attended the event.

On 20 October 2009, Dr. Sinéad O’Keeffe the Optical Fibre Sensors Research Centre at the University of Limerick gave another presentation on “Advances in Optical Fibre Sensing Technology for Biomedical Applications” at Laby 408, Laby Building, Kelburn Campus, Victoria University of Wellington. About 30 people from Engineering, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science attend the event.

On 29 October 2009, Professor Shoogo Ueno at the Graduate School of Engineering, Kyushu University, Japan made a presentation on “Recent Advances in Biomagnetics and Bioimaging for Brain Research and Sensing Technologies” at the ICLT Veterinary Science Theatre, Massey University, Palmerston North campus.

The IEEE Sensors conference 2009 was held in the Christchurch Convention Centre on 25–28 **October 2009. This event was technically sponsored by IEEE NZ Central Section.**

Roger Meecham, a local writer on maritime matters and former Royal Navy diver, delivered a presentation on “The Thetis Submarine Disaster” at The Beca building, Aorangi House, 85 Molesworth Street, Wellington on Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 5:30pm after IET’s AGM.

**Upcoming:
Short Notice**

Dr. Pepijn van de Ven will give a presentation on “CAALYX – The Complete Ambient Assisted Living Experiment”
Room AH3.43A, Ag-Hort building, Massey University, Palmerston North Camps
Monday 9th November, 2009 at 4pm

AGM 2009

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 26 November. The exact time and location will be determined later.

IET Organized

Captain David Morgan will give a presentation on “Biofuel for Aviation – Air New Zealand’s Pioneering Trial” at Gallery Room, Turnbull House, 11 Bowen Street, Wellington on 12 November 2009 at 12pm.