

**Annual Report
IEEE New Zealand North Section
2008**

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PART A — SECTION SUMMARY

A.1 Executive Summary

- The New Zealand North Section provided around 25 events for members in 2008, mostly technical seminars, including 16 technical/professional meetings, 1 workshop, 2 field trips and 5 social events mostly for students. Chapter activity included:
 - 2 Computer Chapter
 - 2 Communications Chapter
 - 4 GOLD
 - 2 IA/IE
 - 4 PES/PEL
- The section membership is stable. The committee is also stable, with a healthy combination of experienced and new members. The Student Branch, GOLD and Women in Engineering affinity groups have all been very active, exhibiting some wonderful leadership and committee volunteering during the various events..
- Relations with the IET (UK) and our national society IPENZ are good and we hope to work together more in the future.
- Finances are healthy and stable, although our income fluctuates as the NZ dollar varies. Of note here has been the very high New Zealand dollar in 2008 which has resulted in an effective decrease in our funding from the IEEE centre. This has engaged the committee to really closely economize on the budgeted requests from the chapters. However, this did not stop the committee from supporting attendances to the R10 Student and GOLD congress.
- The number of senior members has not increased in 2008.

A.2 Financial Report

The Section's finances are in a healthy condition, as a result of the committee members' efforts in 2008 and before. The annual income was about NZ \$12K, with expenses being NZ \$14K. The income is mostly the section rebate, plus smaller amount from sponsorship of events, IEEE funding applied for and received, plus some interest. The section reserve funds are higher than normal, at about NZ\$24 k and the section should over time seek to reduce this somewhat with careful, strategic projects that have a long term benefit for the section over a number of years. Much of this amount is deposited in fixed term deposit accounts. Our income varies considerably with the value of the NZ dollar, which has been very volatile and to the disadvantage in 2008. The drawing down of our reserve from 30K of last year to 24K this year was one result of this volatility of exchange rate. The current favorable exchange rate in early 2009 indicates that we should not have trouble achieving our plans for 2009.

PART B — ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Programs

- Effort in Membership Development

Membership continues at a reasonably stable level of 617 active members (from SAMIEEE, 19 Feb 2009), including 305 members, 231 student members 28 senior members and 1 fellow. In the 2007 report we had 514 active members reported. Hence, there has been an increase since the last annual report.

- Evidence of retention of members
Our membership numbers have been reasonable stable from year to year.
- GOLD Activity
We have an active GOLD group which held several events in 2008. The section supported the GOLD chair to attend the 2008 R10 Gold Congress in Chennai, India. We will continue to promote the GOLD group in 2008 in an effort to maintain interest and increase membership.

B.2 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

A field trip to Aratiatia Hydro Power Station was organized by the GOLD group in 2008.

B.3 Recognized Educational Programs

Currently the REP data on the section is in the process of being updated. A committee was formed to look at recognized programs within the geographical boundaries of the NZ north section. Three institutes have been identified that should be recognized and documents from two of these institutions were developed as part of our update plans to passed on to IEEE R10 (March 2006), approved in principle in April 2006, and then passed on to REP committees at IEEE HQ for final approval. We are still awaiting outcomes from this process.

B.4 Students Activities

The Student Branch and WIE groups at The University of Auckland are very strong, and a variety of events are run including site visits, workshop regarding job interviews and seminar presentations, sports and social events. A second Student Branch at Auckland University of Technology has been established and we are actively promoting interest in this. Funding from R10 GINI was used to run a joint event. The University of Auckland Student Branch received the 2008 R10 Exemplary student branch award. It also received a Bronze Darrel Chong Student Activity Award for the Practice Interviews event. The section also supported the Student Branch Chair to attend the R10 Student Congress in Chennai, India.

B.5 E-mail and Newsletter Activities, Home Page

Messages are now sent by email as needed; very few specific newsletters are sent. There is a section web site but as with most websites consisting of static pages it is challenging for committee members to keep it up to date.

PART C — GOALS AND PLANS

Below are the section goals, as a result of our strategic planning meeting in March 2008. We have not yet held our strategic planning meeting for 2009 but we anticipate our goals to be very similar to those below.

On an ongoing basis the Section will provide an annual programme of technical events that comprises the following:

- A Monthly (February though to November) technical or professional meeting that consists of a high quality presentation of approximately 1 hours duration.
- A minimum of 2 technical/professional events and a minimum of 2 social events, targeted specifically to student members.
- A minimum of 2 Technical Site visits.

The Section will place a high priority on sponsoring or providing some of the following:

- Short courses of 2 days duration
- Emerging technology workshops of 2 days duration
- Professional development workshops of ½ day duration
- Host an IEEE conference

The section will also:

- Promote IEEE services to members
- Foster current student members and promote student events
- Provide and highlight topical information on IEEE and related conferences within Australasia and worldwide
- Aim to broaden the committee representation with members from related institutions and industries
- Encourage student members to become GOLD members, and promote GOLD activity
- Foster student branch formation in each related institution
- Foster social events
- Encourage members to participate in Women in Engineering
- Foster interaction with New Zealand South and Central Sections.

Below is a summary of our plans for 2008 compared to previous year performance. Planned meetings for 2009 have yet to be finalised at our 2009 Strategic Planning Meeting in March.

Activity	Type	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Plan	2006 Actual	2007 Plan	2007 Actual	2008 Plan	2008 Actual
Section events	DL or high profile meeting	7	13	7	7	8	3	4	4
	Other Tech/Prof meetings	29	18	15	19	15	10	11	9
	Social events		1	1	1	1	2	1	1
	Site visits	1				2			2
	Short courses/ Emerging Tech. & Prof. workshops	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
	Sponsored/other conferences	1		2	1	1			
GOLD events	Tech/Prof meetings	1		1	2	2	1	3	1
	Social events					1	1	2	2
	Site visits	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
	Short courses/ Emerging Tech. & Prof. workshops		1			1	1		
Student	Tech/Prof meetings	4	2	3	1	5	6	6	6

Please note that the section events number do not include the GOLD or student events, ie there is no duplication.

PART D — OTHERS

D.1 Relationship with National Societies

IEEE has an agreement with the national society for engineers within New Zealand (IPENZ) to help facilitate promotion of engineering, coordination of technical meetings and standards, in addition to providing enhanced membership benefits. The working of this is coordinated via the IEEE NZ Council. The current updated document is applicable for the next three year (2008-2010) cycle.

In 2004 an additional local partnership agreement was signed by IEEE (NZ Council), IET (NZ), and IPENZ to details means by which further cooperation at national level can be facilitated between all professional bodies. Again this partnership agreement follows a similar three year cycle.

In practice there has been some useful exchange on issues relating to standards, and in technical meeting exchanges for the benefit of all.

There has been some discussion about the establishment of a joint award with IPENZ, but progress has been difficult in that the criteria for such an award (as placed by IPENZ) does not follow the criteria normally applied by IEEE. Discussions here are on-going.