



New Zealand South Section – Section Report 2008

Executive Summary

A good programme of technical talks and industry visits was held this year, and the GOLD and student branches remained active.

Highlights of the year include a visit by distinguished lecturer Peter de Maagt and the formation of a New Zealand Robotics and Automation Chapter.

Challenges for the section in 2009 include:

- (i) engagement of industry members – the challenge still remains of bringing greater benefits to industry members
- (ii) fragmentation – unifying activities are required to bring student, GOLD and members together
- (iii) current arrangements are unsatisfactory for Chapter – Section coordination
- (iv) effective coordination of joint technical programme with other technical societies
- (v) hosting the IEEE Conference on Control & Automation 2009 in Christchurch in December 2009

1 Financial Report

IEEE South 2008 transactions as at 20-Oct-08

1.1.1 Westpac cheque account - 00

Date	Description	CHQ #	DR	CR	Balance
01/01/2008	Opening balance				1948.88
23/01/2008	RIO-ABS	153	2681.50		
29/01/2008	Term deposit			5153.33	
24/01/2008	Bank fee		25.00		
29/01/2008	Interest			165.89	
30/01/2008	RIO-AB	154	3240.90		
31/01/2008	Fee		3.35		
31/01/2008	Fee		5.00		

22/02/2008	Massey Univ.				2000.00	
04/03/2008	Catering - talk - Kim?	155	251.10			
18/03/2008	Peter de Maagt		703.00			
31/03/2008	Catering - Rudi Mather	156	175.90			
13/05/2008	Academy - Holtz	157	333.00			
26/05/2008	Celcius -??	158	219.00			
06/06/2008	Student branch	159	1000.00			
22/07/2008	Gold - dinner	160	150.00			
10/09/2008	Trevor - Congress	161	475.00			
30/09/2008	Transfer from CB a/c				4432.36	
30/09/2008	Fee		10.00			4427.71
	Max Farr – Innovation prize	162	400.00			
	Trevor- Congress	163	3157.10			
	Wireless workshop	164	300.00			
	Xiao Qi - Celcius - De Silva	165	180.00			
	Transfer from TD				12430.28	

1.1.1.1 Westpac term deposit - 81

Date	Description	CHQ #	DR	CR	Balance
					11443.45
17/10/2008	Interest			986.83	12430.28
20/10/2008	Transfer to 00 a/c		12430.28		0

1.1.1.2 Concentration banking account

Date	Description	DR	CR	US\$ Balance
01/01/2008	Opening balance			2383.43
01/01/2008	Interest		9.14	
01/02/2008	Interest		5.95	
01/03/2008	Interest		5.57	
31/03/2008	Misc, credit		60	
01/04/2008	Interest		5.5	
17/04/2008	Section rebate		3223	
01/05/2008	Interest		9.74	
01/06/2008	Interest		14.14	
01/07/2008	Interest		14.57	
01/08/2008	Interest		15.14	
01/09/2008	Interest		15.32	5761.5
	Transfer to 00 a/c		3000	
	ComSoc		750	

2 Meetings and Activities

2.1 Technical Programme

A highlight of the meeting programme was a talk in February by distinguished lecturer Peter de Maagt on 'Terahertz Technology for Space and Earth Applications'. This year also saw the IEEE Wireless Workshop being held in

Christchurch, which is the pre-eminent technical forum for wireless industry and researchers in New Zealand.

2.2 Industry Visits

Industry site visits are particularly well-received by members. The highlight was the on-site visit to Airways Corporation, organised by Robin Harrington. Later in the year a site visit to Eaton Corporation was held.

2.3 GOLD Group

The GOLD group was particularly active this year, reporting 8 meetings, including a winter dinner.

2.4 Student Activities

The student members held their **Get an Edge - Mock interview** event again this year, along with two student BBQs.

2.5 Collaboration with other Technical Societies

Given the size of the electronics industry in the South Island of New Zealand, the IEEE holds a joint technical programme with the local branch of the IET, and the Electro-Technical Group (ETG) of the Institute of Professional Engineers of New Zealand. The organiser of this joint programme was John Bean, who sadly passed away in February. A satisfactory solution to a joint programme has yet to be arranged, however some co-ordination with IET was done in an ad-hoc fashion, and initial talks have been held with the ETG on how to co-ordinate in future.

3 Awards

Maxwell Farr was awarded the IEEE Innovation prize for his third pro project "Computer Numerical Control for Hobby Machine Tools." The judges found his project to be characterised by innovation in multiple dimensions.

4 New Chapter

A IEEE Robotics and Automation New Zealand Chapter was formed this year. The founding committee is XiaoQi Chen (Chair), Bruce MacDonald (Vice Chair), Dale Carnegie, Peter Xu, Christopher Messom, and Wenhui Wang. The chapter held a seminar by Prof Clarence de Silva in August, and is set to host the IEEE Conference on Control & Automation 2009 in Christchurch in December 2009.

5 International Activities

Adrian Busch attended the annual Region 10 meeting in Ahmedabad, India in January. Trevor Ingham attended the 2008 Sections Congress and Region 10 meeting held in Quebec in September.

6 Membership

With New Zealand Central becoming a section in their own right, the membership of New Zealand South Section was effectively halved, resulting in the biggest membership drop of any section in region 10. (Not a statistic to be proud of!) In November 2008 the membership of the section was broken down as follows:

Affiliate	8
Associate Member	3
Graduate Student Member	21
Life Fellow	2
Life Senior	2
Member	151
Senior Member	23
Student Member	29
Total	239

7 Committee

Chair:	Adrian Busch
Vice-chair:	Gordon Milne
Secretary:	Trevor Ingham
Treasurer:	Rick Millane
Awards:	Richard Duke
Nominations:	Harsha Sirisena
Webmaster / Newsletter Editor:	Kim Eccleston
GOLD:	Daniel McRae
Student Branch Counsellor:	Andrew Bainbridge-Smith
Committee Member:	Stuart Langsley
Committee Member:	Robin Harrington
Committee Member:	Sharmalee Panagoda

8 Chapter Positions

Power Engineering / Power Electronics:	Neville Watson
Communications Society:	Harsha Sirisena
Microwave Theory and Techniques Society:	Kim Eccleston
Computer Society:	Richard Green

On behalf of the membership I would like to extend many thanks to the volunteers that have brought the local section to life over 2008.

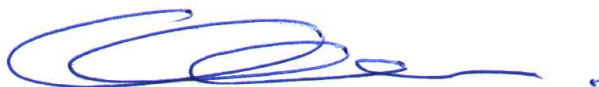
9 Personal Note

This has been a good year for the section, with numerous activities taking place, including two industry site visits, a visit by an MTT distinguished lecturer, the founding of a Robotics and Automation chapter, and two computer society meetings being held.

However I believe that the section does face some challenges:

- Engagement of industry members – the challenge still remains of bringing greater benefits to industry members – the objective of holding social/networking events for these members this year was not achieved
- Fragmentation – I believe we need unifying activities to bring student, GOLD and members together
- Chapter – Section coordination – this was not as good as it may have been, so new arrangements for Chapter – Section coordination will need to be found in 2009
- Joint technical programme – we have yet to establish effective coordination to enable the formation of a joint technical programme after the sad passing of John Bean

2009 will be the 125th anniversary of the IEEE, which offers a great focal point for initiatives to strengthen the local section and address some of the challenges above. I invite all members of the New Zealand South section to get involved in 2009 to work together to realise our great latent potential.



Adrian Busch
2008 Chair – New Zealand South Section