IEEE New South Wales Section

Minutes of the 178th Executive Committee Meeting, 13th October 2003
North Sydney TAFE, St Leonards.

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:06pm.

1 Attendance and Apologies

Present: David Burger, Graeme Gwilliam, Ian Boyd, Stephanie Boyd, Jim Vasseleu, Bruce Poon, Trevor Bird, Andrew Parfitt, Sam Reisenfeld, Stefan Mozar, Zak Zakarevicius.

Apologies: John Robinson, David Tien, Olly D'Souza, Faz Rahman, Jim Logothetis, Simon Boland

2 Approval of Agenda

This meetings agenda was accepted with additions of AGM and 2004 Student membership issues.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were moved: Stephanie, 2nd:Jim V; carried.

Action 12/2002 E-mails were sent following up with IEAust. regarding student counsellors. Follow up with Mark Edmonds & Alan Sangster by Andrew. This has been overtaken by the fact that student councillors no longer need to sign application forms, and will be pursued under different initiatives. COMPLETE.

Action 24/2002 Privacy matters to be discussed by Chair and legal counsel. Trevor to follow up with Ms Hart at CSIRO. Graeme to mail Trevor regarding privacy thresholds. Recommendation to use BCC e-mail distribution in the future. (Continuing).

Action 12/2003: Follow up by Andrew regarding the Max Simons award submission papers to be sent to Trevor for review. COMPLETE

Action 13/2003: The section requested Trevor to provide some background and details of the nominee for next meeting. COMPLETE.

Action 14/2003: Olly was nominated to Chair the 'Space Signal Processing joint lecture at IEAust on 23 Oct. COMPLETE.

4 Correspondence

- St George student association (TAFE) request for IEEE promotional desk at enrolment. GG to follow up, as they are located at Kogarah.
- Region 10 meeting/notes and folder from the Malaysian Penang event. Section reports are on the web.

5 Treasurer's Report

Refer to separate treasurers e-mail report. Given timing, this could not be included in this report.

The treasurer is requested to table a draft financial report at the AGM.

The treasurer is requested to review a re-distribution of funds to take our CMT over $100K and achieve a higher rate of interest.

The PICA financial requires follow up with John Robinson to formally conclude this task, and permit section account audits to be finalised for 2001 and 2002.

Graham Gwilliam reported that under Division 63 of the ATO GST Act 1999, non-profit sub-entities can have GST reporting collapsed back to the main body. This especially applies to the IEEE NSW Section and Chapters relationships.

6 CIRCUIT Report

Trevor tabled a draft CIRCUIT, noting the joint technical meeting info is light on. The timetable to get printing underway is the 18 Oct. Also confirming the AGM venue as the Masonic Club Cello room (GG) on 28th Nov. Payments of $35 by 21st November for IEEE members. The 2004 Committee will be listed in circuit including Faz Rahman, Stefan Mozar and Simon Boland.

7 Chair's Forum

The IEEE President's visit on 30th Oct will involve dinner and drinks at the Duxton Hotel in Milsons Point commencing at 6:00pm – approx $2,500 budget. Publicity in Circuit; with a request to the President for a CV and topic. Invitations to IEE chair, IEAust divisional president and if standards related, then Standards Australia. Stephanie to advise AP regarding attendance by the ACS CEO.

IEEE NSW to purchase engraved pens or other promotional material as a hand out at key events like this, noting this will probably not happen prior to this event.

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Fellow Search	Walter Lachs; no report.
8.2 Membership Devel't	Bruce Poon; Active members were 2622 with 724 student members. No senior member enquirys. Newcastle representation inquiry by Daryl Peacock and Paul Russell, noting Hunter sub-section has been disbanded.

8.3 Professional Activities	Jim Logothetis; Trevor to follow up regarding the 2004 Joint program.
8.4 Educational Activities	Karu Esselle; no report.
8.5 Student Activities	Stephanie Boyd; Student member fee rise to USD$25 now. UWS Mahood BBQ planned on 20/24 October with Dr Ali Helleny to boost student numbers there from the present 11. Daniel Moore from CSU has a $600 proposal for a kick-off student function at CSU in Bathurst. UNSW has a market day on 15 October and follow up on student papers award. The issue of free student memberships in 2004 was to offer as many as we can afford by maintaining the same budget expenditure as we had in 2003. Moved: JV, 2nd GG, carried.
8.6 Awards and Recognition	Jim Vasseleu; Bruce Poon's outstanding volunteer award was finally presented at the Region 10 meeting last month.

Olly reports; "Industry Support Acknowledgment Award" (or Certificate or Letter based on the seriousness and level of involvement in the support of Unique Engineering Endeavours and the Profession). Noting that selection criteria is still required.

For consideration by the Section Committee :
The Engineering profession in Australia is undergoing a period when local endeavour is often supplanted by hype and a subsequent sales effort that decimates the opportunity. Mostly entrepreneurs have to go to "backers" who may like the technology but do not support the initiative because they see no "market" (or customer) support. This is apparent almost in every field of endeavour in Australia.

Very rarely a customer, even with the clause requiring "Australian Content", sticks his neck out and supports a technology initiative or an "Australian developed" solution. Any opportunity we get to promote the support of Australian "inventiveness" and "innovation" we must take and there are a few commercially backed bodies like this. But through all this the "customer" who sticks his neck out, has faith in and supports the engineering profession, sticks with the "idea" through all the ups and downs till things are completed, tends to become history - as there is no "reward" when the pressure is on and most people take the short cut and buy product which are the fruits of efforts made by others, overseas.

My submission requests that the IEEE section created an award titled "Industry Support Acknowledgement Award" for people not engineers but administrators and "customers" who stick their necks out to see innovation through and back the "engineers" working on the idea and almost ensure its success by virtue of their tremendous positive encouragement and confidence in the profession.

Most IEEE awards are "inwards" looking, given by us to our membership.
What I am proposing is to give awards that promote the support of the profession and the innovation where one or more engineers have been involved in creating and developing a unique technology or implementation that has benefited the community, government in the support of the community and been instrumental in triggering a whole host of

opportunities for other engineers who are given permission by the "customer" to learn from the experience.

8.7 Nominations	Trevor Bird, The list was reviewed an will appear in Circuit. Refer to the Circuit report for detail.
8.8 Historian	Zak Zakarevicius, Jim Vasseleu and Trevor Bird: A list of past presidents and photos was complied for those who had visited Australia. This report to be uploaded to the website. An ad looking for historic material will be placed in CIRCUIT as well.

9 Affinity Group Reports

9.1 GOLD Affinity Group	Simon Boland: GOLD advertisement in CIRCUIT, no further report.
9.2 Life Member Affinity	Jim Vasseleu; Loss of two life members, Mr George Gemes and Mr Phil Amos. This brings active life members to 40.

10 Chapter Reports

10.1 Computer Society	Stephanie Boyd: e-mail from Bob Frankston regarding a separate lecture outside his conference tour. Details to be advertised when known.
10.2 MTT/AntP	Trevor Bird; Graham Town speaking on 27 Nov'03 at combined IEEE/IEAust meeting. The meeting on 14th August was attended by 40 people on Electromagnetic engineering of photonic crystals by Karu Esselle and Andrew Wesly. Trevor nominated for AP Chair.
10.3 CommSig	Olly d'Souza; no report.
10.4 PES	Graeme Gwilliam; The section voted thanks to Graeme and Paul Russell for delivering a DL lecture. The final position of this lecture was a nett cost of $1,012.82 after some donations toward printing costs were received.
10.5 PEL/IA/IE	Faz Rahman: no report.
10.6 C&S/SSC	Steven Duvall: no report.

11 Conferences

11.1 **PICA 2001**, This activity is now under the treasurers report and will be deleted next month (AGM).

11.2 **Asian Control Conference 2004**, pending a decision with the MOU. The conference is however proceeding with SA and Melbourne Uni committing funds. It was proposed we remit seed funds as agreed. Moved: TB, 2nd: GG, carried.

11.3 **IEEE International Symposium on Spread Spectrum Techniques and Applications 2004,** MOU has been signed, invoice for $10K seed funds received.

11.4 **International Symposium on Consumer Electronics 03** – To be held at the Grace hotel with the Singapore Chair as MC. The lack of communication is starting to change, QBE are underwriting the conference insurance, and a copy of the certificate will be tabled once in hand. The conference has around 90 papers with the president of CE speaking. **Action 15/2003**: Request confirmation letter regarding Bob Frankston on Home Networking topic. Request detailed information on insurance and tax resolution.

11.5 International Conference on Networks (Dec 03)
This conference has society sponsorship and is supported by UNSW (Aruna). The NSW Section has offered technical cosponsorship.

11.6 7th International Conference on Digital Image Computing - Techniques and Applications (DICTA 2003 - Dec 03)
Coordinator is Tony Adriansson / CSIRO Telecommunications and Industrial Physics.

12 Other Business

12.1 Formation of **Joint Information Theory Chapter**. NSW has been added to the sponsoring Sections.

12.2 Formation of **LEOS Chapter** in NSW, with Prof. Ben Eggleton (Sydney University). Ben advises he is still trying to contact LEOS members in NSW.

12.3 TenCon 2005 Conference has been won by Melbourne, with invitations to other sections to participate likely to follow shortly.

13 Closure

The meeting closed at 21:15 hours. The next meeting will be 3rd November.