

NEWSLETTER OF THE



IEEE Queensland Section

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Special Edition:

Report from the 2008 AGM & Dinner Lecture



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Summary of the 2008 Annual General Meeting and Dinner Lecture

*Associate Professor Vaughan Clarkson
Chair, Queensland Section 2007-2008
Chair, Australia Council, 2009-2010*

THE YEAR 2008 ended for Queensland Section with a very positive, pleasant and successful Annual General Meeting and Dinner. The meeting was held on 4th December, again at the Sofitel in Brisbane. The weather in Brisbane at that time of year is notoriously stormy, and the traffic gridlock resulting from one such storm that afternoon caused a delay to the start of proceedings.

As my last official engagement as Chair of the Section, I was pleased to be able to report continued membership growth in the Section, although falling just short (by 40 members) of the 1,000 target we had set for ourselves. Our Section is also favoured by very strong



Mr. Michael Lees receives his IEEE Queensland Section Volunteer of the Year award 2008 from the Section Chair A/P Vaughan Clarkson

volunteer involvement, with two new Chapters (EMBS and AESS) having been established through the year, a strong showing of new talent in the nominations process for 2009 offices, with all Chapters and Affinity Groups achieving or maintaining active status. My final recommendation to the Section was to investigate setting up Sub-Sections: Queensland Section covers a vast geographical area and there are several regional centres with dozens of members who are not within easy commuting distance of the usual Brisbane-based activities. Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton are areas that could potentially benefit from establishment of Sub-Sections.

We had 32 guests for dinner at the Dinner following the AGM. It was a convivial occasion, as always; a chance for the membership to get to know each other in a social setting. Our distinguished dinner

speaker was Emeritus Professor Mat Darveniza, former Chair of the Section (two separate terms) and one of its original petitioners. His talk entitled 'Modern Thunderstorm Now-Casting' was very topical given the prevailing weather conditions that night, and more

still in view of devastating storms that had passed through Brisbane only a few weeks before. Needless to say, the talk was well received. We were also honoured to have Prof. Darveniza present the eponymous undergraduate thesis prize for power engineering.

It was a pleasure to serve as Queensland Section Chair. I have every confidence in the new Chair, Mr. Abbas Bigdeli, and in his executive committee. There is more good news to come from Queensland Section, I am certain!



Emeritus Professor Mat Darveniza begins his IEEE Queensland Section Annual Dinner Lecture entitled 'Modern Thunderstorm Now-Casting'



Some of the AGM and Dinner Lecture guests in the Concorde Room at the Sofitel, Brisbane

Awards and Recognition for 2008

*Mr Michael Lees
Chair, Awards & Recognition*

EACH AGM PROVIDES the Queensland Section an opportunity to recognise its volunteers with a selection of awards and nominations. In addition, two prizes are awarded to students of Electrical Engineering or Information Technology based on judgement of their Final Year Theses. In this edition the recipients of the awards and nominations are enumerated and the Section's history is discussed.

Section Awards

For 2008 the committee has retained the award structure that was used for 2007. This encompasses the following three categories.

The first category is *Recognition of*

Service awards. These are an official recognition of a person's contribution in a particular role and are awarded at the first AGM following the completion of a person's term in a role. They are awarded to all people in this category without



Dr. John Williams receives his Outstanding Contribution Award at the AGM from Awards & Recognition chair, Mr. Michael Lees

requiring nomination.

A total of 8 Recognition of Service awards were awarded within the

Table 1: Recognition of Service Awards

Recipient	Contribution
Dr. David Thiel	Chapter Chair Joint MTT/AP 2006-2007
Dr. Rajat Majumder	Chapter Chair Power Engineering 2007
Dr. John Williams	Chapter Chair Computer 2006-2008
Mr. Peter McLarty	Inaugural Chapter Chair GOLD 2006-2007
Dr. Jasmine Banks	Vice-Chair Joint SP/Comms 2007
Mr. Michael Lees	Chapter Chair Joint CSS/R&A 2006-2007
Dr. Bouchra Senadji	Chapter Chair Joint SP/Comms 2006-2007
Dr. Udantha Aberyratne	Student Counsellor UQ 2007

Queensland section during 2008. Most of them were presented in December at

the section AGM. The complete list is shown in Table 1.

The second category is *Outstanding Contribution* awards. These are awarded to people who have been identified as having made a significant contribution during their term in a role. They are awarded at the first AGM following the completion of a person's term in a role. These awards require a nomination (by a member of the IEEE Queensland section) to be submitted to the section committee.

A total of 4 Outstanding Contribution

awards were awarded within the Queensland section during 2008. Most of them were presented in December at the section AGM and the complete list is shown in Table 2.

The third category is for the *IEEE Queensland Section Volunteer of the Year*. This is awarded to the person who is regarded as having made the most substantial contribution during their time in office. Only people who have completed their term of office are eligible. A single plaque is awarded each year. Nominations (by members of the IEEE Queensland section) are submitted to the section committee.

Table 2: Outstanding Contribution Awards

Recipient	Contribution
Dr. David Thiel	Chapter Chair Joint MTT/AP 2006-2007
Dr. John Williams	Chapter Chair Computer 2006-2008
Dr. Jasmine Banks	Vice-Chair Joint SP/Comms 2007
Mr. Michael Lees	Chapter Chair Joint CSS/R&A 2006-2007

The IEEE Queensland Section Volunteer of the Year 2008 was awarded to
Mr. Michael Lees.

IEEE Region 10 Outstanding Volunteer Award 2008 Nomination

After considering a number of potential candidates the IEEE Queensland section committee has nominated the immediate past Chair of the joint CSS/R&A Chapter Michael Lees for this award. Michael was nominated for his contribution to the Queensland section during his term as Chair of the Joint CSS/R&A Chapter.

Each section within Region 10 is eligible to submit a nomination. The results were announced in January 2009 and this year it was awarded to the following three recipients:

- Deepak Mathur of Gujarat Section
- Rajagopalan Kannan of Hyderabad Section
- Hideyuki Sawada, Shikoku Section

Thesis prize awards

There were two categories of award for undergraduate theses this year.

1. **The IEEE Queensland Section Student Prize for the Best Final Year Thesis in All Fields of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology** was awarded to Will Maddern from The University of Queensland, for his thesis entitled 'A Biomimetic Compound for Visual Odometry Estimation'
2. **The ICPADM* Mat Darveniza IEEE Queensland Section Student Prize for the Best Final Year Thesis in Power Engineering** was awarded to Tze Hin Yip from the University of Queensland for his thesis entitled 'An Analysis of the Impact of Grid-Connected Photovoltaic Generation on Maintaining Acceptable Distribution Supply Voltages'

**ICPADM: The International Conference on the Properties and Applications of Dielectric Materials.

Section History

Work has continued this year on documenting the history of the IEEE Queensland section. The information that has been collated so far can be viewed on the section web site. (Thank you to everybody that has contributed to this.) However there are still many gaps in the section's history. We are still missing information for some of the office bearers (for the 'minor' roles in particular) prior to 2001. We are also interested in the early history of the formation of each of the chapters in the Queensland section. If anyone is able to forward a copy of any of this information it would be most appreciated.

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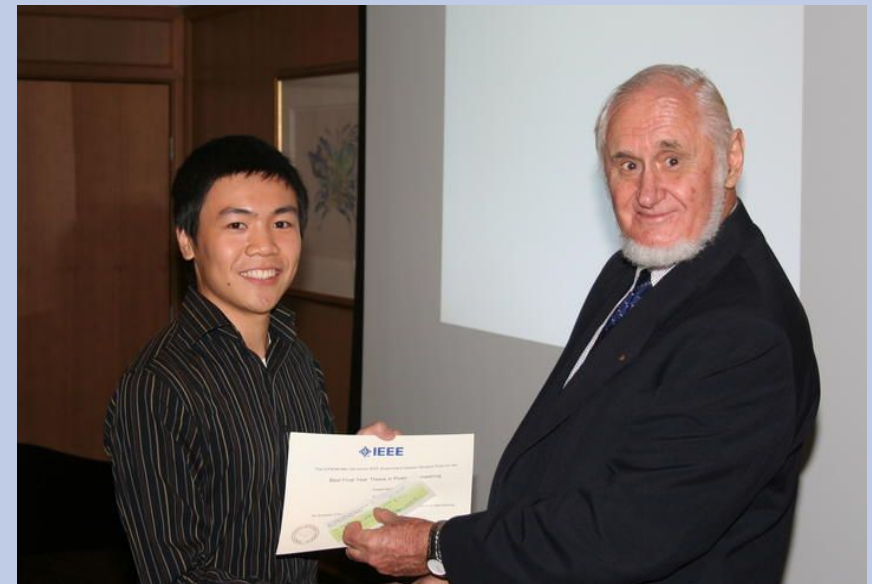
Dr. Jasmine Banks receives her Outstanding Contribution Award at the AGM from Awards & Recognition chair, Mr. Michael Lees



Mr Michael Lees receives his Outstanding Contribution Award at the AGM from Section Chair A/P Vaughan Clarkson



Mr. Will Maddern receives his prize for Best Final Year Thesis in All Fields of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology at the AGM from Section Chair A/P Vaughan Clarkson



Mr. Tze Hin Yip receives his prize for ICPADM Mat Darveniza IEEE Queensland Section Student Prize for the Best Final Year Thesis in Power Engineering at the AGM from the Award Sponsor Emeritus Professor Matt Darveniza