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Minutes for January meeting 2007

For Committee meeting: **Thursday 25th January, 2007, 5:30 – 6:30 PM** at
UQ General Purpose South Building Room 78-421

Office	Attendance	Present	Apology	Absent
Chair	Vaughan Clarkson	X		
Vice Chair	Joe Dong	X		
Secretary	Abbas Bigdeli		X	
Treasurer	Peter Sutton		X	
Immediate Past Chair	Tapan Saha	X		
Newsletter Editor	Robert Ellen	X		
Webmaster	Sheng How Goh		X	
Professional Activities	Andrew Bradley		X	
Membership Coordinator	Peter McLarty			X
Educational Activities Coordinator	Tony Ahfock		X	
Computational Intelligence Chapter	Brijesh Verma/Marcus Gallagher		X	
Computer Chapter	John Williams/Simon Ellis		JW	
Control Systems/Robotics & Automation Chapter	Michael Lees	X		
Microwave Theory &Techniques Antennas & Propagation Chapter	David Thiel /Ashley Robinson		DT	
Power Engineering Chapter	Rajat Majumder	X		
Signal Processing & Communications Chapter	Bouchra Senadji/Jasmine Banks		JB	
Student Counsellor QUT	Ed Palmer			X
Student Counsellor UQ	Peter Sutton		X	
Student Counsellor GU-GC	Renate Sitte			X
Student Chapter GU-GC	Mark Livingstone			X
Student Counsellor GU-Nathan	Yongsheng Gao			X
Student Counsellor USQ	Tony Ahfock		X	
Student Counsellor CQU	Amoakoh Gyasi-Agyei			X
Awards & Recognition	Michael Lees	X		
Region 10 Director	Janina Mazierska	X		
Guest Observer	Greg Allen	X		

1. **About the meeting**
    1.1. Meeting opened at 5.35pm. Finished 7.10pm.
    1.2. Meeting chaired & minuted by Vaughan.

2. Confirmation of agenda

    2.1. No change.

3. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

    3.1. Minutes accepted without change.

4. Business arising from the last meeting

    4.1. None.

5. Address by Director of Region 10, Prof. Janina Mazierska

    5.1. After some opening remarks about the role of R10 in IEEE, Janina began by explaining that she was conducting a tour of some of the Australian sections. She had recently visited the WA, Victorian and NSW sections. From each, she has been seeking feedback about what makes a successful section and how R10 could help. She was particularly interested by some of the non-technical activities that some of these sections have recently experimented with.

        5.1.1. The WA section has been trialling social functions, picnics, etc., and found them to be a great success. They have also conducted seminars on financial planning.

        5.1.2. The Victorian section is interested in setting up student internships for its members and requests R10 help for this. In connection with this, Janina reported that she discussed the possibility of internships for Australian students with several Japanese and Korean companies on a recent visit there.

        5.1.3. The NSW section has been doing some research into its history. They plan to hold a symposium on 35 years of the IEEE in Australia.

    5.2. Janina asked for input about what R10 could do for its members.

        5.2.1. Tapan raised the point that Australian members don't enjoy some of the benefits of North Americans, namely, access to IEEE-branded credit cards and health insurance. Janina responded that the Australian Council had once before looked into the issue of an Australian IEEE credit card and had not received any interest from the major banks. However, she thought it was an issue that should be revisited in light of deregulation of the banking sector in Australia.

        5.2.2. In connection with social functions being trialled by WA Section, Tapan pointed out that insurance is an obstacle. IEEE currently provides no insurance, but maybe this should be considered. Janina agreed to raise this with IEEE HQ.

    5.3. Janina stated that one of her aims is to increase participation in IEEE elections by Australian members and throughout R10. She hopes to achieve a participation rate of 50%, as opposed to a rate of less than 5% currently. She is of the belief that HQ would not take R10 seriously while R10 continued to be apathetic about voting.

6. Response, 'State of the Queensland Section', Vaughan Clarkson

    6.1. Vaughan presented a number of slides. These are attached as an Appendix (with corrections, courtesy of Peter).

    6.2. Janina asked whether there was a Women In Engineering affinity group in the Queensland Section. She suggested it would be a very good idea to form one.

    6.3. Janina expressed interest in Vaughan's proposal to explore opportunities for holding major IEEE conferences in SE Qld. She said that there might be a possibility to hold the Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference in Brisbane. She suggested that, if there were any interest from the MTT/A&P chapter, we should contact Trevor Bird at CSIRO.

    6.4. Janina asked about the finances of the Queensland Section. Vaughan responded that, to the best of his knowledge, the bank balance of the Section had been gradually accumulating for several years. While Janina acknowledged that the majority of Australian sections were in a similar situation, it was the Section's duty to find ways to spend the money responsibly. She made a particular suggestion that we might like to encourage student membership by sending a student, or perhaps even two, to the R10 student congress.

7. Committee coordination — Section Chair

    7.1. Vaughan welcomed new members of the committee.

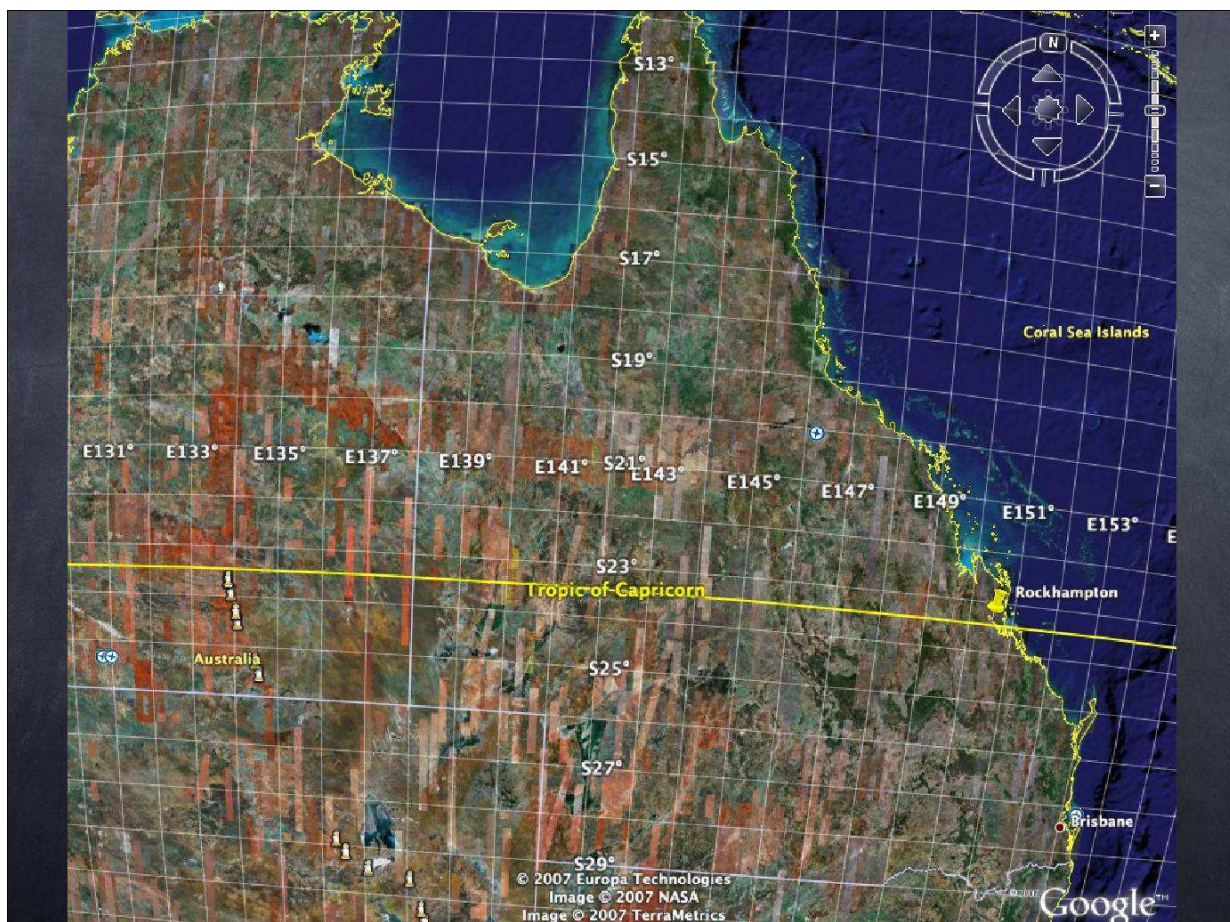   7.2. Plans for 2007 were held over to the next meeting.

8. Any other business

8.1. Referring to some committee discussion by email earlier in the day, Vaughan noted the upcoming R10 meeting in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, in March. He stated that he planned to attend at the expense of R10. He proposed that the Vice Chair, Joe Dong, should also attend at the expense of the Section. He observed that it had been the recent tradition of the Queensland Section that the Vice Chair attended the R10 meetings at the Section's expense. An email from Peter on this subject was noted, in which he raised the question of whether the Vice Chair should attend the R10 meeting every year or simply once during his term. It was resolved that Joe's travel to the R10 meeting should be approved this year but that the issue would be revisited next year.

8.2. Greg Allen, a guest observer at the meeting, reported on his involvement in IEEE over many years, mainly with North Qld Section, and especially his recent involvement with Papers & Awards. He suggested that the Donald W. Fink award be promoted to members as the number of nominations was low, especially from Australia.

8.3. Robert expressed interest in the formation of an Aerospace & Electronic Systems chapter. Vaughan encouraged the idea and suggested that, if interest from other members could be demonstrated, formation of a chapter should be actively pursued.

9. Next meeting

9.1. To be discussed via email.

State of the IEEE Queensland Section

25th January, 2007

History

- The Queensland Section was founded in 1985 through the efforts of Profs. Darveniza, Moody & Thiel.
- Prof. Thiel continues to serve to this day.

Structure

- The Section hosts several chapters

  - Computer Society

  - Computational Intelligence

  - Control Systems/Robotics & Automation

  - Microwave Theory & Techniques/Antennas & Propagation

  - Power Engineering

  - Signal Processing/Communications
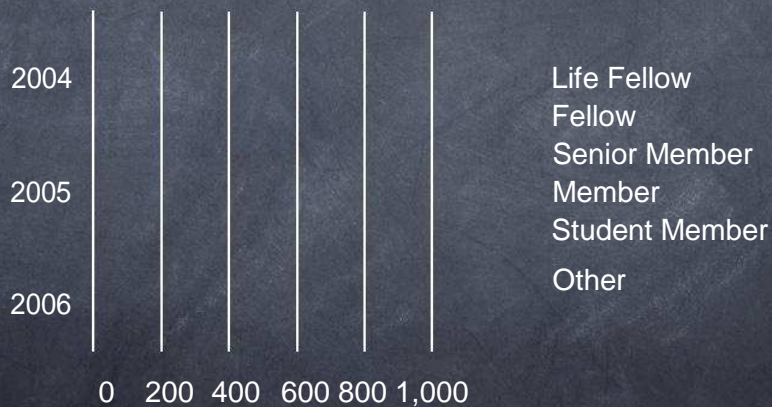
Structure [cont'd]

■ The main universities have student chapters

- The University of Queensland
- Queensland University of Technology
- Griffith University (Nathan & Gold Coast campuses)
- The University of Southern Queensland
- Central Queensland University

■ In 2006, we established a GOLD affinity group.

Membership

■ Membership is growing strongly

2004	Life Fellow Fellow Senior Member
2005	Member Student Member
2006	Other

0   200   400   600   800   1,000

■ 30% growth from 2005 to 2006!

Future

- Deliver more value to Queensland members

  - Strengthen student chapters

  - Make GOLD a success

  - Promote membership progression

    - Member -> Senior Member -> Fellow

  - Support technical chapters & activities