

# Australia Council Report 2024

## PART A - COUNCIL SUMMARY

### A.1 Executive Summary

- **Section Executive Committee Member List**

Australia Council committee members are:

- Board members: Fouad Karouta (Chair), Mohan Jacob (Vice Chair), Melanie Olsen (Secretary) and Mike Robinson (Treasurer and Webmaster)
- Sections Chairs: Li Qiao (ACT), Joel Cox (NA), Syed Muzahir Abbas (NSW), Chandima Ekanayake (QLD), Shela Cook (SA), Vijay Paul (VIC), Cesar Ortega-Sanchez (WA)
- Other members: Mamoun Alazab (NT subsection), Kiril Tenekedjiev (TAS Subsection), Melanie Olsen / Mohan Jacob (OES Chapter), Vernon Yuan (SAC Coordinator), Sudha Mokkalapati (WIE Forum Coordinator), Vijay Paul (YP Coordinator), Colin Elston (Life Members Coordinator), Fouad Karouta (Edu-Activities Coordinator).

- **Section Highlights**

The IEEE Australia Council Committee meets regularly on third Wednesday of each month from April to November. Also, the council meets early February to prepare for the f2f meeting along the R10 regional meeting. meetings have been registered on vTool events.

1. AC meeting 7 Feb 2024, 7-8PM (AEST), online
2. AC in person strategic planning meeting in Kuala Lumpur: 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm (Malaysia time). This meeting was chaired by Australia Council Secretary, Ms. Melanie Olsen, and attended by six Australian Sections (ACT, NSW, NA, SA, VIC and WA). It was also attended by:
  - three Australian R10 ExCom members (Janina Mazierska, Zia Ahmed and Daniel Eghbal), (R10 ExCom)
  - Nirmal Nair (NZ Council Chair – until lunch)
  - Lance Fung (R10 Director attended partly due to other commitments)
  - Biplob Ray (VIC Vice Chair and secondary delegate)
3. AC meeting 17 April 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
4. AC meeting 15 May 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
5. AC meeting 19 June 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
6. AC meeting 17 July 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
7. AC meeting 21 August 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
8. AC meeting 18 September 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
9. AC meeting 16 October 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online
10. AC meeting 20 November 2023, 7-8PM (AEST), online

Australia Council doesn't hold an Annual General Meeting in a country more like a continent and with more than 7000 IEEE members.

- **Major Events (International, National)**

- Ms Melanie Olsen AC Secretary attended the R10 meeting in Kuala Lumpur, 2-3 March 2024 and she chaired the Australia Council in person meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> in Kuala Lumpur as previously reported.
- R10 SYWL 2024 was held in Tokyo, Japan, 29 August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. It was attended by 12 Australian IEEE members from three sections. The delegates were supported by their sections.

- **Major Chapter Activities**

The Australia Council Oceanic Engineering Society (OES) Chapter has been dormant for a few years despite tremendous efforts undertaken by the past AC Chair Dr. Daniel Eghbal during his term (2021-22) to revitalize the Chapter. Fortunately, Australia Council Executive board counted two OES members (Melanie Olsen and Mohan Jacob) who carried the flag to reinvigorate the Chapter, organized three technical activities in 2023 (reported in vTools) and an AGM which elected a strong executive committee in 2024.

Regular Chapter executive committee meetings and 10 technical sessions have been held throughout this reporting period. The Chapter is now working to support TENCON 2025 and IGARSS 2025, while working to attract the OCEANS OES flagship conference to Australia within the next 5 years. Note Australia Council has only one AC Chapter: the OES chapter.

In addition to six administrative events reported previously, the IEEE Australia Council OES Chapter organized ten Technical Activities in this reporting period:

1. OES supported Pre-U STEM Event: “STEM Changemakers - Encouraging Girls into Engineering in North Queensland”, 22 June 2024, 224 attendees
  2. OES supported WIE Event: “Townsville IEEE Women in Engineering Breakfast”, 8 Jul 2024, 21 attendees
  3. Technical Seminar: “Managing marine and atmospheric research data in NCMI: a data stewardship story”, 18 Jul 2024, 19 attendees
  4. Technical Seminar: “CSIRO Engineering and Technology Seminar - Large Profiler”, 21 Aug 2024, 24 attendees
  5. Technical Seminar: “Mass Coral Bleaching Weather and Oceanography – Past, Present and Future”, 5 Sep 2024, 25 attendees
  6. DL Technical Seminar: “Making defensible active-sonar measurements of pelagic fish abundance”, 13 Sep 2024, 31 attendees
  7. Technical Seminar: “Validation of an In-House BQC Standard for Marine Nutrients Analysis”, 29 Oct 2024, 17 attendees
  8. Technical Seminar: “Advanced Machining and Applications”, 25 Nov 2024, 20 attendees
  9. Technical Seminar Co-Chair: “IEEE Hawaii Seminar: A tutorial on Satellite Remote Sensing, 18 Dec 2024, 19 attendees
  10. Technical Seminar Co-Chair: “IEEE Hawaii OES DL Seminar: Big picture; why the future of ocean observation and operations will not look like the past”, 20 Dec 2024, 9 attendees
- Major Student and Affinity Group Activities
    - Under the lead of the SAC Coordinator Vernon Yuan (SA) Australia Council decided to set prizes for the two most active student Branches in 2023 and also in 2024. This means that in 2023 AC has given prizes to the first two ranked teams in Australia participating in the IEEEExtreme Challenge #17 in 2023 (see Awards for details).
    - Australia Council YP online meeting, 18 October 2024, 7:00 PM, 4 attendees
    - Australia Council Edu-Activities Email contacts with all Edu-Activities Coordinators (November 2024) with three coordinators reactions.
  - Awards

Australia Council is encouraging SAC Coordinator to organize activities with the sections SAC coordinators and Australian students branches. In 2024 prizes were given to:

    - Two student teams who participated in IEEEExtreme Challenge #17 (October 2023) who were ranked first and second in Australia:
      - The first team “KFCA Yam Goreng Zhe J” ranked #6 in the world and #2 in R10. A prize of \$150 was given to each of the three students members of the team.
      - The second team “Sounds Good” ranked #20 in the world and #14 in R10. A prize of \$75 was given to each of the three students members of the team.
    - Prizes to the two most active student Branches in Australia in 2023:
      - First Prize of \$500 to Griffith University Student Branch
      - Second prize of \$200 to University of Queensland Student Branch

## **A.2 Financial Report – (Please follow the format given below)**

- Summary (as per submitted on NetSuite)

Australia Council has solely bank accounts with Westpac Bank detailed in below print screen (as per 14-02-2025). Note the two term deposits (032-108 312950 and 032-108 312969) did not incur any transaction in the course of 2024 as the gained interests were credited to the Community Solutions One account 032-719 677107:



### Your accounts

Edit view



Transfer funds

Make a payment

<p>Westpac Community Solutions One 032-719 677107</p> <p>\$787.58</p>	<p>Term Deposit 032-108 312950</p> <p>\$10,000.00</p>	<p>Term Deposit 032-108 312969</p> <p>\$10,000.00</p>	<p>Upcoming payments</p> <p>There are no payments to display.</p>
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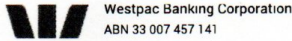
### Community Solutions One account 032-719 677107

Start balance 01-01-2024: AUD 4,062.73 (see image below from bank statement)

End Balance 31-12-2024: AUD 787.58

<p><b>Westpac Community Solutions One</b></p>	<p>Statement Period 21 August 2023 - 21 February 2024</p>																				
	<p>Account Name IEEE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL</p> <p>Customer ID 5785 2777 IEEE AUSTRALIA COUNCIL</p> <p>BSB 032-719</p> <p>Account Number 677 107</p>																				
<p>Opening Balance + \$4,562.73</p> <p>Total Credits + \$0.00</p> <p>Total Debits - \$1,666.79</p> <p>Closing Balance + \$2,895.94</p>																					
<p><b>TRANSACTIONS</b></p> <p>Please check all entries on this statement and promptly inform Westpac of any possible error or unauthorised transaction</p>																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DATE</th> <th>TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION</th> <th>DEBIT</th> <th>CREDIT</th> <th>BALANCE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>21/08/23</td> <td>STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4,562.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27/12/23</td> <td>Withdrawal-Osko Payment 1323111 Fouad Karouta Expense recovery lls 23 Dec 2023</td> <td>500.00</td> <td></td> <td>4,062.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/01/24</td> <td>Withdrawal Online 1949767 Pymt Michael Jo Meridien deposit</td> <td>1,166.79</td> <td></td> <td>2,895.94</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE	21/08/23	STATEMENT OPENING BALANCE			4,562.73	27/12/23	Withdrawal-Osko Payment 1323111 Fouad Karouta Expense recovery lls 23 Dec 2023	500.00		4,062.73	29/01/24	Withdrawal Online 1949767 Pymt Michael Jo Meridien deposit	1,166.79		2,895.94	
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The 2024 transactions overview of the Community Solutions One account 032-719 677107 are listed below:



Printed:12/02/2025 10:51:16 EST

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ONE 032719 677107

Branch Name: CANBERRA CENTRE  
 Current Balance: \$ 787.58  
 Available Funds: \$ 787.58



Transactions

Date	Description	Withdrawals	Deposits	Running Balance
27/12/2024	WITHDRAWAL MOBILE 1201524 PYMT Michael Jo Seoul refund	\$ 1,605.74		\$ 787.58
21/10/2024	WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1074277 IEEEE QLD Section 1st SB Prize GU SB 20 OCT 2024	\$ 500.00		\$ 2,393.32
18/10/2024	WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1907172 IEEEE QLD Section AC SB 2nd Prize UQ-SB AC SB 2nd Prize U Q-SB	\$ 200.00		\$ 2,893.32
17/10/2024	DEPOSIT-OSKO PAYMENT REVERSAL 1308455 16 Oct 2024 CH21 Unable to complete payment 1st S B 2023 Prize 16 OCT 2024		\$ 500.00	\$ 3,093.32
17/10/2024	DEPOSIT-OSKO PAYMENT REVERSAL 1309505 16 Oct 2024 CH21 Unable to complete payment 2nd S B 2023 Prize Uni-QLD 16 OCT 2024		\$ 200.00	\$ 2,593.32
16/10/2024	WITHDRAWAL MOBILE MULTI 1313387 PYMT MA NUAL 1st Prize IEEEXtre	\$ 525.00		\$ 2,393.32
16/10/2024	WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1309505 IEEEE QLD Section 2nd SB 2023 Prize Uni-QLD 2nd SB 2023 Prize Uni-QLD	\$ 200.00		\$ 2,918.32
16/10/2024	WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1308455 IEEEE QLD Section 1st SB 2023 Prize GU PES 1st SB 2023 Prize	\$ 500.00		\$ 3,118.32
04/09/2024	WITHDRAWAL-OSKO PAYMENT 1080493 Joseph L ou IEEEXtreme payment	\$ 150.00		\$ 3,618.32
24/06/2024	DEPOSIT TFNWT REFUND SYS TFN WT REFUND-4605		\$ 204.00	\$ 3,768.32
24/06/2024	DEPOSIT TFNWT REFUND SYS TFN WT REFUND-4605		\$ 204.00	\$ 3,564.32
21/05/2024	INTEREST PAID ON 0000000 TERM DEPOSIT 312950		\$ 232.19	\$ 3,360.32
21/05/2024	INTEREST PAID ON 0000000 TERM DEPOSIT 312969		\$ 232.19	\$ 3,128.13
29/01/2024	WITHDRAWAL ONLINE 1949767 PYMT Michael Jo Meridien deposit	\$ 1,166.79		\$ 2,895.94

Things you should know

1. Running balance means the balance of a customer's account, based on the deposits and withdrawals we've recorded on the account at a particular point in time.
2. This page is current as at 12/02/2025 10:37:27 AEST. This is not an official statement and is subject to change.

<https://gso.intranet.westpac.com.au/solm/sol/>

12/02/2025

The transaction on 16/10/2024 had a multiple payment to students' members of IEEEXtreme 17.0 (2023) teams ranked first and second in Australia to whom prizes were distributed (\$450 to first team and \$225 to second team with each team formed of three members, hence \$150 for a member from first team and \$75 for a member of second team. The details of these payments are shown below:



**Payment summary**

Payment type Pay Anyone  
Payment status Sent  
Payment ID abc18611-2757-4c9d-a288-31f6ebc3c6c7

**From**

From account Westpac Community Solutions One 032-719 xx7107  
Payer description 1st Prize IEEEExtre  
Payer name IEEE AUSTRALIA C

**Payment Details**

Number of payments 5  
Amount \$525.00  
Date 16 Oct 2024



**Other details**

Method Online Banking  
Withdrawal receipt number 1313387  
Submitted by Fouad Karouta 12:52pm, 16 Oct 2024  
Approved by Fouad Karouta 12:52pm, 16 Oct 2024, Mohan Jacob 1:01pm, 16 Oct 2024

**Payments(5)**

Payee	Description	Deposit Receipt Number	Status	Amount
Tsingying Xu 012-390 (ANZ BANKING GROUP LIMITED) xxxxx1486	1st Prize IEEEExtre		Sent	\$150.00
Tao He <b>New</b> 062-188 (COMMONWEALTH BANKING CORPORATION) xxx0013	1st Prize IEEEExtre		Sent	\$150.00
Isaiah Iliffe <b>New</b> 112-879 (ST GEORGE BANK LIMITED) xxxxx2287	2nd Prize IEEEExtre		Sent	\$75.00
Ryan Ong <b>New</b> 032-257 (WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION) xx2035	2nd Prize IEEEExtre	2406545	Paid	\$75.00
Zhi Yuan Qi <b>New</b> 012-055 (ANZ BANKING GROUP LIMITED) xxxxx4667	2nd Prize IEEEExtre		Sent	\$75.00
(Showing 5 of 5 results)			Total from 5 Payments	AUD \$525.00

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ABN 33 007 457 141 & AFSL & Australian credit license 233714

- Any other financial activities  
There was no expenditure made from the Australia Council NextGen account except a rebate from Region 10 crediting Australia Council account the sum of USD1,000.00 as a result of submitting timely an incentive report to R10 (by 31 October 2024).



## **PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **B.1 Membership Development Activities**

- Total number of active members in the past 3 years.  
Total Australia: 7634 (Jan 2025), 7580 members (Feb 2024)
- Summary and evidence of work done to improve the value of membership, which leads to retention and growth of members  
Australia Council is a coordinating body between all Australian sections and as such AC encourages sections to organize activities to help retaining and attracting new members to their sections.

### **B.2 Chapter Activities**

- Total number of Chapters in the Council  
ACT (11) NSW (20), NA (2), QLD (9), SA (7), VIC (16), WA (14)
- Number of Chapters formed in the current year  
A few local groups were formed in Australia: Blockchain and SIGHT groups in VIC (2024)
- Number of active Chapters (Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year)  
N/A (reported by sections)
- Summary of Chapter activities (Chapter wise with attachment table/information)  
N/A (reported by sections)

### **B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities**

Summary of continuing Educational activities including conferences, technical activities, training courses, and distinguished lecture programs with attachment table / information  
N/A (reported by sections)

### **B.4 Students Activities**

- Total number of Student Branches in the Council
  - Australian Capital Territory section: 3
  - New South Wales section: 5
  - Northern Australia section: 2
  - Queensland section: 5
  - South Australia section: 3
  - Victorian section: 8
  - Western Australia: 4
- Number of Student Branches formed in the current year
  - A new SB IAS chapter (SBC09141A) was formed in the ACT section in 2024.
  - A new SB GRSS Chapter at Monash University was formed in 2024 in VIC section.
  - A new IAS SB Chapter at James Cook University (Townsville).
  - University Canberra student branch has been formed in December 2024 bringing the total number of student branches in ACT to three.
- Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc)  
See under Awards
- Number of active Student Branches (Student Branches who have reported required number of meetings during the year)  
N/A (reported by sections)
- Summary of Student Branch activities (Student Branch wise with attachment table/information)  
N/A (reported by sections)

### **B.5 Affinity Group Activities**

- Young Professional (YP)

- Australia Council YP online meeting, 18 October 2024, 7:00 PM, 4 attendees
- Women In Engineering (WIE)
  - Life Member (LM)

## **B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities**

- Award constituted by the Section
- Please list all Awards and Recognitions received by the Section, and members in the Section, from R 10 and IEEE HQ during the year

## **B.7 Communication Activities (Newsletter, Home Page, E-mail etc.)**

- Newsletter (name and number of issues in the year)
- Home Page of the Section (give the URL and how often it is updated)  
<https://iee-ac.org/index.html> however the webmaster has lost access to the website for most of the year till 2024-year end.
- Other means of contacts with Section members including social media  
eNotices

## **B.8 Industry Relations**

- Membership growth and retention
- Activities for/with industrial members

## **B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities**

- Humanitarian Technology related activities supported by the Section including collaboration with other OUs.
- SIGHT Activities

## **B.10 Community Activities**

- IEEE Social activities (Family day, IEEE day, Engineers Week)”

## **PART C - OTHERS**

### **C.1 Special Events**

- Please briefly describe the importance of special events and the outcomes achieved
  - The Australian Capital Territory section celebrated the IEEE DSS43 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone at the Tidbinbilla Deep Tracking Station (south of the Australian Capital Territory) and that in the presence of then IEEE president-elect Prof. Kathleen Kramer and R10 Director Prof. Fung. It was attended by Deep Tracking station personnel, ACT ExCom members, and invitees from the Canberra Convention Centre and the ACT Children Week organization and two IEEE members from the New South Wales section. This is the second Australian milestone.
  - The Australian Capital Territory section also celebrated an IEEE Special Citation of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Solar Observatory in 1924 at Mount Stromlo (south west of ACT territory) in the presence of IEEE President Dr. Tom Coughlin and R10 Director-Elect Prof. Takako Hashimoto. The event was attended by staff of the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics (Australian National University) along invitees from the Canberra Convention Centre and the ACT Children Week organization and some ACT ExCom members.
- Funding secured from the IEEE and external sources including sponsorships

Australia Council received a one-off grant from R10 of USD 1,000.00 after having submitted an incentives report covering the period 01-November 2023 – 31-October 2024).

## **C.2 Relationship with National and International Societies and Non-Government Organizations (NGO)**

- Nature of relationship and details of any formal agreement signed
- Details of joint activities
- Benefit to IEEE members (for example discounts, access to technical information etc.)  
Australia Council has secured an agreement with Dell-Australia and a local insurance company (Medibank) to offer a discount to Australian IEEE members when purchasing computers and medical cover insurance respectively.
- Benefit to Section (for example help in membership development, venue facilities, cost saving etc.)

## **C.3 Collaboration with other IEEE Sections**

- Support extended to neighboring Sections
- Joint activities with any other Section

## **C.4 Support extended to Sub-sections & Society Chapters within the Section**

- Support extended for organising technical, educational and professional activities
- Joint activities for membership development
- Support extended for the formation of a Sub-section or transition of a Sub-section into a full Section

## **C.5 Best Practices of your Section (which you would like to share with other Sections for the benefits of members)**

## **C.6 Problems anticipated and suggestions for solutions, if any**

## **PART D - GOALS AND PLANS**

### **D.1 Continuation of project/activity in progress and their implementation plans**

AC will continue its mission and coordination role between the seven Australian Sections encouraging:

- Cross-sections advertisement of online seminars.
- Encouraging AGs (LM, WIE and YP) to hold regular meetings with the corresponding sections Reps and stimulate organizing technical/social activities within the local groups.
- AC will continue supporting students activities through prizes and certificates of appreciation managed by the SAC Coordinator.

### **D.2 Goals and Future Plans**

AC will continue organizing a face-to-face meeting along the R10 meeting which sets the year plan for the AC activities.

### **D.3 Any innovative ideas to make IEEE more creative and value added for sustaining the membership retention and recruitment goals.**

### **D.4 Business Plan for Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability.**

AC has no proper resources from IEEE MGA and relies on raising levy whenever needed to complement its funding and/or submitting an incentive report to R10 whenever a call is opened. In the past AC secured a few special funding from R10 submitting in due time incentive reports (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, 2024).