Western Australia Section Report 2024

PART A - SECTION SUMMARY
A.1 Executive Summary – (Please follow the format given below)

- Section Executive Committee Member List
    - Chair: Cesar Ortega-Sanchez
    - Vice-Chair: Sajib Mistry
    - Treasurer: Nee Nee Ong
    - Secretary: Ehsan Pashajavid
    - All continuing in 2025

- Section Highlights
    - Membership in December 2024: 609
    - 7 Section Committee meetings. 4 online, 3 hybrid.
    - The conference application for 2027 IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium (IV) has been approved. This event is scheduled to be held in Perth from 15 to 18 June 2027. It will be sponsored by IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society.
    - We celebrated IEEE Day with a social lunch. IEEE shirts were distributed to Committee members.

- Major Events (International, National)
    - Chair attended the Region 10 meeting in Kuala Lumpur in March.
    - Chair attended 10 Australian Council meetings. Vice-Chair deputised in 2.

- Major Chapter Activities
    - 45 events reported in vTools with 1,500 attendees (1,000 IEEE. 500 non-IEEE)
        - 28 technical
        - 3 professional
        - 8 administrative
        - 6 non-technical

- Major Student and Affinity Group Activities
    - Student branches organised 2 professional, 1 technical and 1 non-technical activities.

- Awards
    - The Section recognized with $500 AUD prizes the best students in electrical engineering in three universities in Western Australia (Curtin, Edith Cowan and Murdoch).
    - The Section sponsored 2 travel grants for IEEE students attending DICTA 2024. Unfortunately, there were no submissions applying for the grant.
    - The Signal Processing chapter received $150 USD in recognition of membership growth.

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

Local accounts

AUD		Opening Balance	Accum Expenses	Accum Credits	Closing Balance (YTD)
NAB (Term deposit)		$ 50,000.00			$ 50,000.00
NAB (Business account for general transactions)		$ 2,130.00	$ -		$ 24,772.95
TOTAL		**$ 52,130.00**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 74,772.95**

Sub-account Balances		Opening 2023	Expenses	Credits	Balance (YTD)
Computer Society (C16)		$ 6,772.64			$ 6,772.64
Communication Society (COM19)		$ 3,238.08	-$ 596.90		$ 2,641.18
Joint Power Engineering /Power electronics Society PES31/PELS35		$ 13,511.17	-$ 200.00		$ 13,311.17
Signal Processing Society (SP01)		$ 2,973.27			$ 2,973.27
Joint Computational Intelligence/Robotics & Automation Society (Joint CIS11/RA24)		$ 2,923.74	-$ 25.35		$ 2,898.39
ED(ED15)/SSC(CS23)/PHO(PHO36)		$ 2,780.13	-$ 298.69		$ 2,481.44
Systems, Mans and Cybernetics (SMC28)		$ 2,374.66	-$ 69.20		$ 2,305.46
Curtin SB (CU)		$ 2,097.04	-$ 1,000.00		$ 1,097.04
Murdoch SB (MOR)		$ 275.23			$ 275.23
UWA SB (UWA)		$ 934.79			$ 934.79
ECU SB (ECU)		$ 80.97			$ 80.97
YP		$ 2,614.85			$ 2,614.85
WIE		$ 1,067.26			$ 1,067.26
Industrial Electronics Society (IE13)		$ 7,344.31			$ 7,344.31
Control Systems Society (CS23)		$ 983.50	-$ 559.00		$ 424.50
CAS		$ 631.75			$ 288.00
TOTAL - Subunit OUs		**$ 50,603.39**	**-$ 2,749.14**	**$ -**	**$ 47,510.50**
Account Balances		$ 52,130.00	$ -	$ -	$ 74,772.95
Section Part		$ 1,526.61	-$ 2,890.91		$ 27,262.46

PART B - ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

B.1 Membership Development Activities

- Total number of active members in the past 3 years.
  2022 – 658
  2023 – 650
  2024 – 644
- Most IEEE members in Western Australia are academics. We advertise chapter activities via eNotice to all WA members. This keeps the interest and serves as a constant reminded to renew membership.
- The Section supports student branch activities to recruit new student members. In WA most student members are postgraduate students.

B.2 Chapter Activities

- Total number of Chapters in the Section: 7 individual chapters and 3 joint chapters, for a grand total of 14 chapters.
- Number of Chapters formed in the current year: None
- Number Chapters who have reported required number of meetings during the year: 10
- Summary of Chapter activities (Chapter wise with attachment table/information).

Code	Society Chapter	Number of events
R00547	Western Australia Section	10
CH10864	Circuits and Systems Society (CAS04) Chapter	0
CH10214	Communications Society (COM19) Chapter	4
CH10127	Computer Society Chapter (C16)	4
CH10993	Control Systems Society (CS23) Chapter	2
CH10886	Industrial Electronics Society (IE13) Chapter	0
CH10351	Joint Computational Int. / Robotics & Automation Society (Joint CIS11/RA24) Chapter	0
CH10417	Joint Elec. Dev./ Solid St. Circuits / Photonics Society (Joint ED15/SSC37/PHO36) Ch	12
CH10215	Joint Power Engineering / Power Electronics Society (Joint PE31/PEL35) Chapter	0
CH10203	Signal Processing Society (SP01) Chapter	7
CH10621	System, Man and Cybernetics Society (SMC28) Chapter	2
WE00547	Women in Engineering (WIE)	0
YP00547	Young Professsionals (YP)	0
STB18531	Edith Cowan student branch Chair	0
STB3681	Curtin student branch Chair	2
STB63841	Murdoch student branch Chair	0
STB01431	UWA student branch Chair	2

B.3 Professional and Continuing Education Activities

In 2024 we ran the following professional and continuing education activities in Western Australia:
- WA HDR symposium. For Postgraduate by research (HDR) students in WA's universities. Students presented their thesis topic in 5 minutes (elevator pitch), followed by Q&A and feedback/recommendations by attendees. Followed by workshop on micro-credentials and keynote speeches by industry representatives.
- Webinar: Mathematical artificial intelligence.
- The Signal Processing Society Chapter organised the 25th Conference on Digital Image Computing: Techniques and Applications (DICTA). 166 submissions from 23 countries. 101 accepted papers. 176 attendees.

B.4 Students Activities

- Total number of Student Branches in the Section: 4.
- Number of Student Branches formed in the current year: none.
- Section level student activities (student congress, paper and other contests, awards etc). Student branches organised 4 events for IEEE student members.
- Number of active Student Branches: 2.
- Summary of Student Branch activities
  1. Hiring Skills Workshop : Curtin University
  2. Space Launch and Learn : Curtin University
  3. Laser Tag : Curtin University & UWA
  4. Beers with Engineers Networking Night : Curtin University & UWA

B.5 Affinity Group Activities

This year we struggled finding leaders for affinity groups. No activities were organised.

B.6 Awards & Recognition Activities

- The Section recognized with $500 AUD prizes the best students in electrical engineering in three universities in Western Australia (Curtin, Edith Cowan and Murdoch).
- The Section sponsored 2 travel grants for IEEE students attending DICTA 2024. Unfortunately, there were no submissions applying for the grant.
- The Signal Processing chapter received $150 USD in recognition of membership growth.

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

- Newsletter. The section does not publish a newsletter.
- Home Page of the Section: https://ewh.ieee.org/r10/w_australia/. Updated 2 to 3 times a year to capture new committee members and other relevant news.
- Other means of contacts with Section members including social media. The section has a LinkedIn account accessible on this link: https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieee-western-australia-section

B.8 Industry Relations

- We have an Industry Relations Coordinator who organised a site visit for IEEE members.

B.9 Humanitarian Technology Activities

- None

B.10 Community Activities

- IEEE Social activities
  1. Family day on 17 August. Visit to the Western Australia museum to see an exhibition on the Moon. Attendance: 18.
  2. IEEE day on 5 October. Lunch for Section members. Attendance: 14.

C.1 Special Events

- The Highlight of the year was bringing the DICTA 2025 conference to Perth.

- The Communications Society was successful in bringing the 22nd Australian Communications Theory Workshop (AusCTW 2025) to Perth in February 2025.

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

- Since most IEEE members work in academia, the IEEE WS Section has very good relationship with the four public universities in Perth. We host our meetings at university boardrooms and student events in classrooms and auditoriums. This relationship is mutually beneficial because IEEE members run activities in world class facilities, while universities fulfill their commitment to engage with industry and so support students.

C3. Collaboration with other IEEE Sections

- The WA Section interacts with other sections by participating in the Australian Council. In 2024 we attended 10 AC meetings.

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

In 2024 the WA Section supported the following events:

- HDR symposium. Sponsored awards for best elevator pitches.

- Curtin student branch "Space Launch and Learn". Section Chair introduced the event and promoted IEEE amongst Curtin student engineers.

- Joint student event "Beers with Engineers Networking Night". Section representatives attended the event and provided IEEE merchandise to promote IEEE amongst students.

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

- In 2024 we created a section under our webpage to pay tribute to IEEE distinguished Section members who have passed away. This initiative was well-received by the Section committee.

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

- Under the WA legislation governing non-profit organisations, the IEEE WA section must declare its income to the government. To do this we need a password that is in possession of a disgruntled past chair who is not responding to our requests. The Chair will try to seek advice from the government, but that could be a time-consuming task.

- Other OU's outside Western Australia have been nominating Perth as venue for IEEE conferences without notifying the Section. Section support should be requested well in advance of the conference organisation. We have decided not to support any technical events when the section was not given notice from the beginning of the organisation process.

- We do not have Chairs for WIE and YP. We aim at filling this positions soon.

PART D - GOALS AND PLANS

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

- In 2025 we will continue supporting student activities and engaged in Australia Council activities.

D.2   Goals and Future Plans

- In 2025 we will organise another edition of the HDR symposium. We aim at reaching more HDR students from the 4 public universities in Perth.
- We will support student activities to promote IEEE and increase undergraduate student membership.
- We will run a training/planning day to upskill new committee members and plan social and technical activities.
- We will try to reactivate the 2 dormant student branches, as well as WIE and YP, but the shortage of volunteers makes achieving this goal difficult.

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

- Make IEEE merchandise more accessible to students. The current system is very limited in choice and frequency.

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

- We are working on succession plans for Section and Chapter executives.
- The current treasurer is being mentored by aa past treasurer.
- We have created a set of forms to request financial support and reimbursements from the Section, and publication of events in eNotice.