



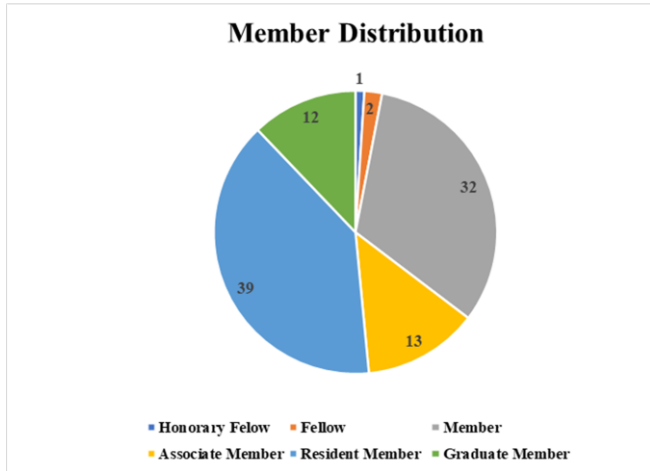
IESL QLD CHAPTER

VOLUME 09 ISSUE 02



Subcommittee Reports

Membership Subcommittee



The chart above reflects our current and updated Chapter membership distribution. As of the end of August 2024, we have a total membership strength of 99 distributed across the different membership categories, as shown.

As we step into the final quarter of 2024, aiding our members in securing fulfilling employment remains the primary goal for our Chapter. To this end, we have continued our Recent Migrant Engineers Support Programme (RMESP).

The RMESP is led by the steering committee and allows recent migrant Engineers to the state of Queensland to get connected with veterans of the industry through the chapter. This allows the recent migrant engineers to be mentored by experts in the field and will aid in their career development and networking. We have compiled a database of mentors and recent migrant engineers can reach out to us through secretary@ieslqld.org with their CV for us to connect them with the mentors.

After initiating this programme in April of 2024, we were able to assist about six engineers who had recently migrated to prepare for interviews with the aid of the expert and seasoned panel of mentors.

A Membership Eligibility Check Flow Chart – has been initiated to simplify the process of self-checking /screening for new applicants. This Chart is now available on the Chapter website.

The Chapter membership database is currently being further classified by Discipline/Qld region/ industry/expertise to generate profiles that will assist in the better planning of targeted services to the membership.

In the hopes of celebrating the accomplishments of the engineers in Queensland, we held an event titled 'The Professional Engineer of the Year Awards 2024 Queensland' which attracted more memberships and inquiries from potential valuable members to our chapter.

Our invitation remains open for more graduates and senior members to join and work with us to fulfil their engineering career aspirations by participating in various CPD events, contributing to newsletters, and availing of networking opportunities available.

Please contact us through info@ieslqld.org if you are interested in joining and engaging with Chapter activity.

Eng. Arthur De Alwis

Chair – Membership Subcommittee

Technical Subcommittee

Technical subcommittee organised a CPD Event on “***Tax Strategies for Engineers to Manage Their Taxes Efficiently***” on 16th of June 2024 at the Garden City Library in South Brisbane. The CPD event was presented by Vajira Jayasooriya and Dhammike Geekiyanage from Austral Accountants. The event was well attended by engineers and was a great success.



**The Institution of Engineers
Sri Lanka Queensland Chapter Inc.**

CPD Event

**Tax Strategies for Engineers to
Manage Their Taxes Efficiently**

This workshop will cover essential tax strategies specifically useful for engineers. Attendees will learn how to identify accessible and taxable income and implement effective tax planning techniques. We will explore the impact of salary packaging, novated leases, super contributions, and SMSFs on year-end taxes. The workshop will also provide an understanding of how to apply Personal Services Income (PSI) and Personal Services Business (PSB) rules. Additionally, we will discuss the taxation of business income, strategies for managing capital gains tax, and methods to legally reduce unnecessary tax liabilities.

Speakers:



Vajira Jayasooriya
Partner
Austral Accountants



Dhammike Geekiyanage
Partner
Austral Accountants

After successfully organising “***The Research Engineer of the Year***” Award last year, IESL QLD Chapter had the pleasure of organising “***The Professional Engineer of the Year***” award this year. The event took place on the 18th of July 2024 at Engineers Australia Auditorium Brisbane. The event aimed to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional engineers who have made significant contributions to their respective fields as well as their communities.

A panel of judges assessed the submissions rigorously against key criteria to choose the winner. This year, Dr. Thanuja Ranawaka won the Professional Engineer of the Year Award. More details available at www.ieslqld.org.



IESL QLD Chapter is planning to organise a joint CPD program with IESL Eastern Chapter in geotechnical engineering, in which resource persons from Australia and Sri Lanka will share their respective expertise and experience.



Please stay tuned for updates through our communication channels.

Dr. Abdul Ziyath

Chair – Technical Subcommittee

ICT Subcommittee



ICT team is at the forefront of delivering the underlying ICT related services, ensuring effective cyber presence and communications of the Chapter events. The second quarter was a productive one for the ICT team. The routine business of the Chapter – including the remote and hybrid conduct of the monthly Management Committee Meetings were facilitated without interruptions.

Whilst ensuring business as usual objectives for the Chapter events, ICT team thrives forward to reach new horizons. Our new look state-of-the-art Chapter website is operational on an industry standard Content Management System (CMS). Website is continuously undergoing frequent updates to ensure reliable online presence. We acknowledge that the Chapter website is a living entity and constructive feedback from the readership is encouraged and thankfully accepted.

We have started to review our existing contracts with our ICT service providers to ensure that the service scopes and standards match our ongoing/changing demands to ensure that we obtain value for money.

Furthermore, as the ICT subcommittee members, we always strive to deliver enhanced and secure ICT services to the Chapter. We wish to march forward with similar objectives and principles for the future.

Dr. Lahiru Ratnayake

Chair – ICT Subcommittee

Editorial Board



Wrapping up another noteworthy edition of our IESL QLD Chapter newsletter, it's my pleasure to acknowledge those pivotal to the seamless compilation and timely release of our publication.

From the last successful publication, the Editorial Board has been deeply engaged in several pivotal initiatives:

- The successful compilation and publication of our October 2024 Newsletter stand as a testament to our team's steadfast commitment to the timely dissemination of relevant knowledge.

- A great deal of attention has been devoted to ensuring the proper archival of all past Newsletters on our website, preserving our shared history and insights for future reference.

- A 'Lessons Learnt' analysis of prior publications has been undertaken – and the Editorial board received positive feedback to the May 2024 newsletter in a new template. Considering the feedback we decided to continue with the new template.

Since the establishment of our Chapter, we have proudly issued eighteen Newsletters, maintaining an average release rate of three per year. The editorial board has chosen to produce three issues for 2024, maintaining the same rate, October 2024 issue is the second issue for the year 2024.

Let's take a moment to applaud our collective successes and anticipate more in the future. The strength of the IESL QLD Chapter newsletter mirrors the strength of all those contributing to its creation. Here's to our enduring commitment to delivering top-tier technical and engineering knowledge to our readers.

Beyond the Editorial Board, sincere appreciation extends to the ICT committee, whose efforts were paramount to update the newsletter archive on the website.

Access the past Newsletters of the Chapter via the following link: [Qld Chapter Past Newsletters](#)

Eng. Gihan D Vitharanage
Editor & Chair - Editorial Board

Social Subcommittee



FAMILY DAY EXCURSION

IESL Qld Chapter

Come Join us for a relaxing and enjoyable day out in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. A day's group outing has been planned for the families and friends of Chapter members covering destinations of recreational interest in the scenic Sunshine Coast Hinterland

Sunday, 13th October 2024

Route:
Brisbane → Landsborough → Maleny
Montville → Blackall Range → Brisbane

Main Destinations of Interest
Maleny – Mary Cairncross Nature Reserve/ Winery/ Scenic Lookouts
www.visitsunshinecoast.com/place/maleny
Montville – Arts & Crafts/Shopping Village/Walks
www.visitsunshinecoast.com/guide/things-to-do-in-montville
Blackall Range – Scenic Lookouts
www.queenslandandbeyond.com/blackall-range-tourist-drive/

Itinerary
7.30am - 8.30am – Bus leaves Brisbane to Maleny via Bruce Hwy
9.30am - 12.00pm - Maleny [breakfast] & recreational activity
1.00pm - 3.00pm - Montville [lunch] & explore on foot
4.00pm - 5.00pm - Blackall Range Scenic Lookouts
6.00pm - Return to Brisbane

Cost
Adult - \$40
Child \$30 (occupying own seat)
Transport / Breakfast / Lunch - included in the cost

Places are limited & bookings need to be made before 30 September 2024.
Please contact Sudam Wanigatunga on 0449 553 535 for further details and bookings

For bookings, please contact Sudam Wanigatunga who is a member of SSC on 0449 553 535. Only limited seats available.

The SSC is not planning any more social events for this calendar year. We will publish Our 2025 events in the next issue of our newsletter.

IESL QLD Chapter conducts this program as an obligation-free guidance/advice program.

We invite you to participate enthusiastically in these upcoming events, contributing to the creation of enduring memories and the reinforcement of our community bonds.

With anticipation and warm regards,

Eng. Jayantha Wickramatunga

Chair – Social Sub Committee

The Social Subcommittee is delighted to announce that our long-awaited family trip is now becoming a reality. The Sub Committee recently finalised the details for the trip:

- **Date:** 13 October 2024 (Sunday)
- **Venue:** Maleny
- **Cost:** \$40 per adult and \$30 for children who occupy a seat
- **Pick up locations:** Mount Gravatt, Mount Ommaney and Chermside
- **Departure time:** 7 am from Mount Gravatt
- **Food:** Lunch and breakfast provided

Professional Engineer of the Year Awards – 2024 Queensland.

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Queensland Chapter, proudly announced Dr. Thanuja Ranawaka as the winner of the prestigious Professional Engineer of the Year- Queensland Award for 2024.



The award ceremony, held on July 18th at the Engineers Australia Auditorium in Brisbane, was a resounding success. The event celebrated the exceptional achievements of engineers who have made significant contributions to their fields and communities. More than 60 people attended the event.

Distinguished guests included Chief Guest Andrew Reid, President of Engineers Australia QLD division, and keynote speaker Olga Sudnitsin, Global Practice Lead – Vehicle Interaction and Road Transport Risk at SOUTH32. Their insights inspired attendees.



A panel of industry experts, chaired by A/Prof Prasanna Egodawatta, diligently evaluated the finalists. Evaluation Panel consisted of industry professionals including Pooya Saba, Burcin Ozturk, Sonia Reis, Jamie Hayes, and A/Prof D.M.G. Preethichandra.

The six shortlisted engineers included Damitha Peiris, Manoj Mudiyansele, Balesh Baleshan, Lokanatham Logitharan, and Dhanushka Ariyaratna. The winner was awarded a cash prize and a memento. The finalists were also awarded cash prizes and mementos.

The event was made possible through the generous support of sponsors Infrastructure Products Australia, ENVIROMESH®, ARBT PreFab, and Tonkin + Taylor.

The Management Committee

IESL QLD Chapter

Celebrating the 75 years legacy of Prof. E.O.E Pereira – Faculty of Engineering UoP

As part of Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Faculty of Engineering, Peradeniya has organised a series of events to commemorate and honour this important milestone. One of the key events organised is the commemoration of its founder, Vidya Jyothi Eng. Prof. E.O.E Pereira (13 September 1907 – 22 May 1988), who established the Engineering faculty and laid the foundation for engineering education in Sri Lanka. This event took place on 21 August 2024 at the faculty.

Lorenz Pereire, MA, Cambridge, son of Prof. E.O.E Pereira delivered a speech on this occasion and the newspaper article written by Dr. Damayanthi Herath covering the event can be found [here](#).

I was touched by Lorenz's speech, which created in me a portrait of a man whom we affectionately call E.O.E as a truly a great human being endowed with a brilliant mind and a deep intellect but also with a burning compassion and a love for his people and his country.

In Rudyard Kipling's words, a man who could walk with Kings and not lose the common touch.

Humility, honesty, incorruptibility, and simplicity marked his life and his service to the nation. Nation's interests and others' needs were sacrosanct and came first, never his own. I bow in deep reverence and a sense of respect to a remarkable human being and a true patriot of Sri Lanka.

Derrick Fernando

The Editorial Remark

As we approach the end of 2024, the engineering sector in Australia is witnessing pivotal changes. The Federal Budget in May emphasised critical minerals, aiming to enhance Australia's role in the global supply chain by boosting mining and processing capabilities. Meanwhile, the Queensland State Budget has earmarked significant funds for infrastructure projects, promising new opportunities for engineers across various fields.

In a notable shift, the Federal opposition has proposed integrating nuclear power plants into the energy mix, challenging the current reliance on renewables. This proposal has sparked a debate on the future of Australia's energy strategy, with engineers at the forefront of evaluating its feasibility and safety.

The engineering job market remains robust, with high demand for skilled professionals. However, the industry faces challenges in sourcing qualified candidates, highlighting the importance of ongoing professional development.

Changes to the Skilled Migration Programme aim to attract top global talent, addressing skill shortages and supporting sector growth. Additionally, Australia is set to import LNG for the first time to mitigate domestic shortages, reflecting the complexities of our energy market.

These developments underscore the dynamic nature of the engineering profession and its critical role in shaping Australia's future. Staying informed and adaptable will be key as we navigate these changes.

We applaud the IESLQLD 2023/24 management committee's achievements to date by way of staging events to suit the needs of the QLD engineering community for continuous professional development opportunities, networking events and community engagement through entertainment events during the first half of the year. Most notable endeavours are "Professional Engineer of the Year- 2024" program and the "Recent Migrant Engineer Support" program to enhance the visibility and recognition of outstanding veteran engineers, as well as mentoring recently migrated engineers.

Our newsletter encapsulates a wealth of insights and updates vital to Queensland's engineering community. Engaging with the Chapter and contributing to the newsletter not only keeps members abreast of industry trends and opportunities but also provides a platform for networking and knowledge exchange. As we navigate the complex terrain of the engineering landscape, joining the Chapter promises an array of benefits, from professional growth to exclusive access to events and resources tailored to your career journey. The strength of our community lies in your active participation, ensuring a thriving and supportive ecosystem for Queensland's engineering professionals.

In these transformative times, the state's strategic investments in ambitious targets, sustainability, and workforce development pave the way for a robust economic future. As we stand on the precincts of progress, Queensland's engineering community plays a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous tomorrow.

Eng. Gihan Vitharanage

Editor



Web Links and Feedback

Web Links

IESL Qld Website

<http://www.ieslqld.org/>

IESL Website

<http://www.iesl.lk/>

IESL Qld LinkedIn Page

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieslqld/>

IESL Qld Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/IESLQLD/>

Feedback

The success of this Newsletter is very much dependent upon how well it is received by the wider audience as a timely publication carrying information of relevance and value. To this end we would highly appreciate if you could spare a few minutes to provide your feedback to us via the survey form below

[IESL Feedback Form](#)