

# ENZCon'06 Convenor's Report

Michael Hayes

ENZCon'06 (the 13<sup>th</sup> ENZCon) was hosted by the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Canterbury on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November. We started with an icebreaker event at the University Staff Club that was well attended. This provided a good chance to catch up with people over a few beers and at the same time utilise idle hands to assemble the conference packs.

A goal of the conference was to keep the student rates low without penalising the full rate paying delegates. We achieved this with a full rate of \$195 (inc GST) and a student rate of \$74 (inc GST). The student rate included dinner. To keep the rates low we decided to dispense with conference satchels (although at one stage we thought about recycling the plethora of conference satchels that the organising committee had acquired between us). This was made easier by the decision not to print a proceedings but to provide delegates with a CDROM version only. Instead of a satchel we opted for an A4 sized thin plastic box that could be inserted on a bookshelf in lieu of a printed proceedings.

For the first time we stipulated that we would only accept full paper submissions rather than extended abstracts. We organised a team of reviewers around the country and assigned at least three reviewers per paper. We then had a meeting of the programme committee to determine which papers would be accepted. We had 56 paper submissions and ended up declining 10%; several others were accepted on the proviso of substantial modifications. The coordination of the reviews was simplified using the Conftool program.

The oral presentations were kept on time using an electronic timing device. This made it obvious to the speaker, audience, and session chair when the allotted speaking and question times were exceeded. We also introduced a poster barking session where each person was allotted a minute to talk about their poster. To encourage people to look at the posters we asked the delegates to vote for the best poster. At the dinner we awarded prizes (multimeters) to the delegate voted to have the best poster ('the people's choice') and to a random person who had voted.

The conference dinner was held at the Volcano Cafe in Lyttelton. Delegates were taken by bus on a scenic detour via the summit road of the Port Hills (this gave me time to get the wine to the Cafe!). The cosy environment of the Cafe was an excellent choice and even with the assistance of some of the students there was some wine left over when the bus departed. At the dinner I presented a number of awards, including the longest paper title (Jack Lee and Stuart Lansley), the shortest paper title (Baker et al), the last submission (Jonas Hodel and Russ Webb), the largest PDF (Matt Chave and Tim Molteno), the smallest PDF (Chhun Kim Kang et al), the most authors (Baden Reilly et al et al et al), the most submissions (Molteno), the most acronyms in a paper title (Nan Li), the best hair (Mike Haslet's mohawk), and the most disorganised organiser (the sneaky buggers).

For a little twist, I constructed electronic name tags for each of the session chairs (by pushing a cryptic combination of the buttons you could play a simple version of space invaders with them).

We ended up with 36 full fee paying delegates and 41 students. Bart Provo was gusted without charge. The financial summary is:

**Income:**

Sponsorship	2,100.00	
Full fee	5,720.00	(33 @ 173.33)
Full fee (late)	653.33	(3 @ 217.78)
Student fee	2,600.00	(39 @ 66.67)
Student fee (late)	168.89	(2 @ 84.44)
Total	11,242.22	

**Expenditure:**

10,943.06

**Profit:**

299.16

I would like to thank the sponsors (RF Test Solutions, Farnell In One, and RS) for helping to balance the books, Adrian Busch of Tait Electronics for his keynote talk, Emily Hewat and Bev Hall for their administrative assistance, and the members of the organising committee (Richard Blaikie, Kim Eccleston, Paul Gaynor, Stuart Lansley, Adrian McDonald, Andrew Bainbridge-Smith, Russ Webb, and Steve Weddell) for chipping in and ensuring a successful conference.

Dr. Michael P. Hayes  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Canterbury