We were privileged last month (19-24 April) to have the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, the world's largest signal processing conference, as close as Brisbane: the last time it was anywhere near as close was in Adelaide in 1994. In total nearly 1800 people registered for the conference, which was hosted at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

As usual, the conference began on Sunday afternoon and on Monday with 17 tutorials, including some emerging topics such as genomic signal processing, and tools for big data analytics.

Tuesday to Friday included a plenary presentation and three 2-hour blocks of current presentations, each consisting of six oral and eight poster sessions. Twelve of the oral sessions were special sessions that included a focus on assistive listening, signal processing for the square kilometre array, and cooperative signal processing.

An innovation for this year's ICASSP was the "School of ICASSP," a series of 16 1-hour invited sessions, with topics selected to provide an overview of some of the significant advances over the last decade. This includes phase retrieval, signal processing on manifolds, and behavioural signal processing. Most of the school of ICASSP talks, as well as the plenary sessions will soon appear on the IEEE Signal Processing Society Online Video Library - SigView.