Image and Vision Computing New Zealand (IVCNZ 2016), held at Massey University, Palmerston North, 21-22 November, 2016

2016 Convenor: Donald Bailey
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Website: http://ivcnz.massey.ac.nz

IVCNZ is New Zealand's premier conference for innovations in computer vision, image processing, visualisation and computer graphics. Held annually, it attracts an international forum of scientists and researchers. The 2016 conference, the 31st in the series, was held in the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology at Massey University, in Palmerston North. The conference attracted 79 delegates, mostly from academia, with 25% of those registered coming from outside New Zealand (the most distant was from Germany). 60% of the delegates were student registrations.

We received 91 submissions, which were reviewed by between 2 and 4 reviewers. Of the submissions, 51 had the primary author from NZ (56%), 22 from Australia (24%), and the remaining 18 from the rest of the world (20%). From these, 56 were selected for publication. In keeping with the tradition of IVCNZs past, the conference ran as a single track, with 6 oral sessions (22 papers) and 3 poster sessions (33 papers). Of the accepted papers, 38 (69%) were from NZ, 12 (22%) were from Australia, and 5 (9%) from the rest of the world. There was no distinction in the proceedings between oral and poster papers – the papers were selected for oral presentation based on their grouping into topics to fill a session, and their likely appeal to a wider audience.

We had two excellent keynote addresses. Prof Brian Lovell (IAPR Distinguished Speaker) from University of Queensland spoke on his group's current research on face recognition, particularly in an uncooperative environment. He described some of the challenges in setting up surveillance systems for face recognition, and outlined some of the successes he has had recently. Dr Marcus Frean (Victoria University of Wellington) described some of the techniques he has been working on for detecting interesting objects in images captured by radio telescope. The techniques worked by detecting statistical differences between groups of pixels and the population, enabling both sharp and diffuse sources of interest to be detected.

The review team had difficulty selecting a single best paper, so two best paper awards were made to: Martin Stommel, Stephen Henry & Eleanor Williams for *"Baseline method for the decoding of optical markers known as 'snowflakes'"*, and Victor Wang & Michael Hayes for *"Modelling of feature matching performance on correlated speckle images"*.

Within the program we also had the NZ Robotics, Automation and Sensing Forum, where a number of applications and challenges of computer vision within robotics, automation and sensing within the New Zealand context were discussed.

The conference provided good opportunities for networking, catching up with colleagues, and making new acquaintances. The conference dinner was held at the Aberdeen Restaurant, which provided superb food.

It was my pleasure to be part of the team working on the organisation of this conference. My thanks go to the rest of the organising committee, in particular the TPC chairs, for organising reviews and selecting the papers for presentation, and the reviewers for providing timely reviews within quite a tight timeframe. I would also like to thank the other members of the organising committee: Lisa Lightband, Dilantha Punchihewa, Tia Cornwall, and Sharlene Lochore. Their efforts have greatly assisted in bringing together the various organisational details of this year's conference. On the ground at the conference, Sharlene Lochore looked after the registration desk, and student helpers (Ben, Anoop, and Leo) looked after the presentations, and ensured that the delegate's needs were met.

Many thanks also to the sponsors of this year's conference: the School of Engineering and Advanced Technology at Massey University for providing administrative support, the International Association for Pattern Recognition for endorsement and providing sponsorship towards the travel cost of Prof Brian Lovell (IAPR Distinguished Speaker), and IEEE New Zealand Central Section for providing technical co-sponsorship. The presented papers have been submitted for inclusion within the IEEE Xplore database.

Next year's conference will be hosted by University of Canterbury.

Donald Bailey
IVCNZ 2016 Convenor