

Candidate Information Template

CANDIDATE NAME: Susan Keay

CANDIDATE EMAIL ADDRESS: sue@suekeay.com

CANDIDATE AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS: UNSW AI Institute, High Street, Kensington NSW 2031 AUSTRALIA

IEEE MEMBER NUMBER: 94815613

COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: AUSTRALIA

HOW WOULD YOU CATEGORIZE YOUR CURRENT ORGANIZATION?

☐ Government

☒ Academia

☐ Industry

☐ Retired

☐ Other

POSITION SOUGHT

Member of Administrative Committee

BIOGRAPHY

Please provide a biographical statement exclusive of your IEEE activities. (150 words maximum)

Dr Keay is Director of the UNSW AI Institute and Founder and Chair of Robotics Australia Group. She holds a PhD in Geochemistry and an Executive MBA, and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE) and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Her career spans leadership of major Australian research organisations, including CSIRO's Data61 cyber-physical systems research program and the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision, where she built national-scale capability in artificial intelligence and robotics. Dr Keay led development of Australia's first National Robotics Strategy and continues to shape the country's AI and robotics policy landscape through government advisory work, industry engagement, and public commentary.

She serves on multiple boards as a non-executive director and is regularly sought out by media and industry for her perspective on AI governance, sovereign AI capability, and the future of intelligent systems. Her work bridges research, policy, and commercialisation across the AI and robotics sectors.

IEEE ACTIVITIES

Please list your IEEE positions with dates of service.

n/a

QUALIFICATIONS

What are your qualifications for this position? i.e., what makes you an ideal candidate for this position? As Director of the UNSW AI Institute and Founder and Chair of Robotics Australia Group, I bring a rare combination of deep technical grounding in robotics and AI with a track record of building and scaling

national research capability. My career has included senior leadership roles at CSIRO's Data61 and the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision, where I directed large-scale robotics and AI programs from research through to translation and industry adoption. I led development of Australia's first National Robotics Strategy, giving me direct experience shaping policy and strategy at a national level, relevant to the governance and strategic oversight AdCom requires. My board experience as a non-executive director, alongside sustained engagement with industry sectors including mining and manufacturing, gives me a practical understanding of how robotics research translates into real-world deployment.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

List the major contribution(s) (up to five) you have brought to IEEE in your previous assignments. If you have not volunteered for IEEE before, list relevant contributions you have made with other organizations or in related work experience.

1. Led development of Australia's first National Robotics Strategy, establishing a national framework for robotics research, industry adoption, and policy coordination.
2. Founded and chair Robotics Australia Group, building a national body that unites robotics researchers, industry, and government.
3. Scaled major research organisations, including cyberphysical systems at CSIRO's Data61 and the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision growing their robotics and AI research capability and translation impact.
4. Currently direct the UNSW AI Institute, consolidating cross-disciplinary AI and robotics research capability at Australia's #1 ranked university and global Top 20 university.

POSITION STATEMENT

If elected to the position, what are your plans and how will they help support the mission of IEEE RAS? (350 words maximum)

If elected to represent Area 3 on the RAS AdCom, I will bring a strong focus on building research capability and connecting RAS's technical community more closely with industry translation and adoption.

My career has centred on scaling robotics and AI research organisations and I comfortably work across disciplines to advance robotics and AI research and its application. This experience has given me a practical understanding of what research groups need to grow, publish influential work, and see their technology adopted.

As a Society member representing Area 3, I want to strengthen support for early-career researchers and practitioners, ensuring RAS provides clear pathways into technical committees, conference leadership, and publication opportunities. I will also work to deepen ties between RAS and industry, drawing on my experience founding and chairing Robotics Australia Group, where I have built sustained collaboration between researchers, companies, and end users across multiple sectors.

I am committed to supporting RAS's core publications and flagship conferences, ensuring they remain the venues where the best robotics research is shared and where practitioners can engage directly with that work. I will bring the financial and operational discipline needed for AdCom's budgeting and resourcing decisions, informed by my experience managing large research programs and serving as a non-executive director on multiple boards.

My goal is straightforward: to help RAS remain the intellectual home for roboticists worldwide, while ensuring the Society's activities translate into real opportunities for its members such as stronger research networks, clearer paths to leadership, and closer connections to the industries where robotics makes an impact.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

I, Dr Sue Keay, hereby certify that if elected, I will serve in the position to which I am elected for the term of the office.