



The Australian Power Institute
SUMMER SCHOOL 2017
SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 3 MARCH, 2017



A REWARDING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

The API Summer School is the pre-eminent Accelerated Development Residential Program in Power Engineering in the southern hemisphere which the API is proud to be able to offer to the energy industry. Every year, API organises an intensive two-week residential program that provides a hands-on learning experience in a first class environment. This year's program was held at Mount Lofty House & Conference Centre in the Adelaide Hills, SA.



The theme of this year's program was about highlighting the importance of **agility, innovation and being proactive** in this constantly evolving dynamic industry. The program focused on **"Transitioning to the Future - An Agile Innovative Energy Industry Facilitating the Changing Needs of Customers, Community and Shareholders"**.

The daily schedules were filled with varied blends of different learning styles ranging from lectures, guest presentations, case studies, syndicate work as well as field tours and site visits. This busy format is designed to allow close interaction amongst the expert speakers/presenters and delegates to promote networking and cross training amongst the different roles and organisations Australia Wide.

The program was well attended with a total of 35 delegates from various backgrounds and experience.



The program was well supported with over 45 expert speakers and industry professionals from all over Australia. Speakers came from various positions ranging from specialists, University lecturers, managers, directors to CEOs and were from different sectors of the industry including commissioning, energy retailing, regulation, customer management, asset management, community planning, manufacturing, consulting, network utility and renewables.

We were also very fortunate to host an Industry Senior Executive Forum consisting of Rob Stobbe (CEO -SA Power Networks), Steve Masters (CEO - ElectraNet), and Peter McIntyre (Director - TasNetworks) who shared valuable insights in to what it takes to become a successful leader in today's complex and forever dynamic industry during an interactive session with delegates.

API is excited to announce that the 2018 Summer School Program will be held in Melbourne! Dates: 18 February - 2 March, 2018. Detailed information will be updated to the website soon.

LEARNING THROUGH SYNDICATE

Each year, facilitators consisting of industry professionals, propose a case study along with a current problem/need that the industry is facing. Delegates are asked to join a syndicate group/topic in which they are not currently working in order to widen their knowledge and broaden their outlook. Throughout the duration of the Summer School, delegates conduct thorough research within their area/topic in order to come up with an effective & realistic solution.



This year there were 8 groups consisting of 4-5 delegates with topic areas ranging from IEC61850 Goose Messaging in Multi-Vendor Environment, Optimising Investment in Bush Fire Risk Management Strategies, Distribution Network Improvement Project, Automatic Circuit Reclosers as an Isolating Device, Effective Network Augmentation using Probabilistic Planning, Technology/Storage for Voltage Management in Distribution Systems, Demand Management and Energy Efficiency, and New Trans Australian Interconnection.

At the end of the program, delegates produced a detailed report and gave a 25-minute presentation to share their findings. These presentations were graded by a diverse panel of 3 judges and were assessed on the innovation, originality, knowledge content and quality of the presentation. This year's group of delegates especially impressed the judges with their persistent work/study and content knowledge levels which were obvious through their presentations. The winner of the perpetual API Summer School plaque was the New Trans Australian Interconnection which was facilitated by Prof. Simon Bartlett (UQ).



Best Syndicate Presentation 2017

Congratulations to Will Wong (Western Power), Shanika Vithange (Endeavour), Jennifer Hughes (TransGrid), Charles King (Powerlink), & Mack Xue (AusGrid) for winning the 2017 "Best Syndicate Presentation Award"!

FIELD TOURS & SITE VISITS



API organised various site visits to leading companies within the industry to help delegates gain practical insight into a range of different sectors in which they might not typically know much about. These tours are designed to provide the opportunity for delegates to gain insight, network with industry leaders and increase their overall knowledge of industry operations as a whole.

Delegates reported they gained a great amount of value after visiting SA Power Networks Innovation Centre, SA Power Networks Operations & Control Centre, ElectraNet City West Terminal Substation, and the Starfish Hill Wind Farm where they were able to climb up and tour inside a wind turbine to better understand operations.

API would like to extend a sincere thank you to the SA Power Networks, ElectraNet and Christopher French at Starfish Hill for sharing your facility with us. Your contribution & support is much appreciated.



NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS

It's not all lectures and study! To help break up the learning activities, API provided various team building and social networking events during the evenings. Upon arrival, delegates met for the first time and enjoyed a Welcome BBQ, which was then followed by a friendly game of trivia. Syndicates competed against one another for the win.

Congratulations to Syndicate #7 Simon Hickey, Hash Edirisinghe, Doug Giles, Sam Oosterholt and Jeremy Yarnold for taking the title of the 2017 Trivia Champions!



On Friday, an enjoyable night was spent in the quaint town of Hahndorf where the Summer School team enjoyed a German feast.

On Saturday, after the tour of the wind farm, delegates were able to explore the beaches/town of Glenelg for a few hours before being rewarded with an easygoing night out at Zucca Mediterranean for Dinner.

Sunday was a free for all as delegates were encouraged to take advantage of the wide variety of local attractions. API provided a mini winery tour to 3 wineries in the Adelaide Hills, A day of golfing at Hahndorf Golf Course, and transfers to/from the city to explore downtown Adelaide. Some even took advantage of the nearby Botanic Gardens to get a bit of fresh air and enjoy the wide variety of plant life and beautiful hinterland views.



The final night's Celebration Dinner was spent at Mount Lofty following the **Keynote Speaker, Holly Ransom's** strongly motivating presentation on how to think differently to spark innovation. Holly's presentations was very well received by all delegates as it sparked much conversation throughout the remainder of evening. Delegates enjoyed canapes and drinks on the outside veranda overlooking the Piccadilly Valley. Dinner soon followed where Mike gave a short farewell speech and Mike Zammit announced the anticipated syndicate award winners!

The delegates also got involved in various sport throughout the conference. Whether the group was playing a game of soccer, cycling the winding streets on the hill, jogging along the botanic gardens or participating in the infamous API organised annual tennis tournament, everyone was glad to get in a bit of physical activity! Matches were hosted in the evenings after the conference. Advancing across the bracket each day, Beau Heath (TransGrid) and Shanika Vithange (Endeavour) stayed strong to claim the championship game on the final day! It was a great way for delegates to intermingle and network outside the professional work environment while getting some exercise at the same time.

Congratulations to Beau Heath and Shanika Vithange for earning the title of "2017 API Tennis Tournament Champions!"



SURVEY RESULTS & PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- ❖ **94%** of Participants rated the personal value of program to their overall career development “Excellent/Good” in terms of “refreshing/updating knowledge and broadening understanding of best practice in power engineering”.
- ❖ **91%** rated the number of lectures about right, **100%** rated the coverage about right and **94%** rated the level of treatment about right.
- ❖ **83%** thought the number of site visits was about right with **92%** rating the value/interest as okay to excellent.
- ❖ **96%** obtained good to high value out of the Syndicate Work.
- ❖ **97%** rated the social events enjoyable and **100%** felt they strongly enhanced the networking opportunities between other delegates and organisations.
- ❖ **86%** rated the overall Summer School program as “Excellent”, with **14%** rating it “Good Value”



100% of delegates responded they would recommend the Program/Summer School to their colleagues/managers.

"Broadened my scope significantly of what is happening in industry - especially at DNSP level and how that will likely affect network transformation in the near future. Networking with members from most other utilities within Australia is very valuable to me. Enhanced leadership skills via syndicate work presentation and group work."

"The API program is a fantastic opportunity to meet individuals from many other utilities, share issues and ideas and hear from expert presenters in a setting unlike any other conference - if you are presented with the opportunity to attend, take it."

"I thought I knew what my industry did and how our customers thought about us. This was not only idealistic but misinformed. The API summer school reintroduced me to the industry and provided me with an opportunity to make professional alliances that I will leverage off my entire career."

"A holistic approach, networking and work-life balance. These three important things are required by successful in order to succeed in this fast changing industry. If you value these skill sets then API is the perfect venue for you to develop and grow in these areas."

"An unparalleled opportunity to meet, ask, learn, give back and refresh your self and your career direction not only in the technical but in the industry... The intensity equals the benefits."

"Wow, what an amazing opportunity to get current and learn with amazing peers from industry leaders to new starters, well worth the investment."

"Undoubtedly, the most impressive and engaging array of presentations and speakers that I will see during my career, at a fascinating time in the industry."



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