



2018 SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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 2018 program was held at Lancemore Hill Hotel & Conference Centre in the Macedon Ranges, Victoria.



The theme of the 2018 program was **“Journey on the Energy Revolution. An Agile, Innovative, Energy Industry Supporting the Changing Needs of Customers, Community & Shareholders”**.

The daily schedules were filled with varied blends of learning styles ranging from lectures, guest presentations, case studies, syndicate work, 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 34 delegates from various backgrounds and experience.

There were over 48 expert speakers and industry professionals from across 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 Leaders/Senior Executive Forum consisting of 4 API Board Members **Ed Wilson** (Managing Director - Wilson Transformer Company), **Phil Livingston** (Founder/Managing Director - Redback Technologies), **Peter Langdon** (Manager Asset Management/Strategy - Endeavour Energy), **Wayne Tucker** (General Manager Asset Management - TasNetworks & API Chairman) as well as **Nada Kalam** (Energy Systems Engineer - Telstra) 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.



Planning has commenced for the 2019 program. Detailed information will be updated to the API website soon, stay tuned!

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 9 groups consisting of 3-4 delegates with topic areas ranging from Virtual Synchronous Machines, IEC61850 Mini Grids, Justification of Online Condition Monitoring, Distribution Network Improvement Project, Risk Based Asset Management, Keeping up with Consumer Energy Requirements, Designing Networks for High DER Penetration, Energy Security Challenges - Finkel Review, and Enabling Very High PV Penetrations.

At the end of the program, delegates produced a succinct board proposal paper to outline their research and proposed solutions followed by a 25 minute presentation to the Summer School cohort to verbally present findings. These presentations were graded by 2 industry judges and peer assessed by their colleagues. The criteria included innovation, creativity, knowledge content and quality of the presentation. The winner of the perpetual API Summer School plaque went to group 9 "Enabling High PV Penetrations on the LV Distribution Network with Voltage Regulating Distribution Transformers" which was facilitated by Peter Kilby (Power Systems Engineer - Energy Queensland).



Peter McIntyre (Engineers Australia) presents Award to Group Members

Congratulations to Renato Villarica (Ausgrid), Shaun Bartlett (Aurecon), Paul De Sousa Roque (Ergon Energy), & Blake Christian (Endeavour Energy) for winning the 2018 "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 projects 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 Ausnet Services Mooroolbark Mini Grid, Wilson Transformers Factory Tour, Waubra Wind Farm (operated by Acciona), and Victoria University Mini Grid .

API would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Ausnet Services, Wilson Transformer Company, Victoria University and Acciona at Waubra Wind Farm for sharing your facilities with the group. Your contribution & support for the industry is very 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 Gratian Punchiwedikkarage (Australian Energy Market Operator), Boris Celic (SA Power Networks), & Adam Rands (TransGrid) for taking first place as 2018 Trivia Champions!



On Friday, an enjoyable night was spent at Cleveland Winery where the group enjoyed a Wine Tour (as well as some fresh air/scenery).

On Saturday, after the tour of the wind farm and Mini Grid, delegates were able to explore Melbourne CBD before being rewarded with an easygoing night out and dinner in Federation Square.

Sunday was a free for all as delegates were encouraged to take advantage of the wide variety of local attractions. Some went into the local towns for lunch as others voyaged back to the CBD to tour the MCG/city sights. Although, many delegates stayed behind and enjoyed well earned R&R before delving back into their research/group work for their syndicate projects... talk about dedication!



The final night's Celebration Dinner was spent at Lancemore Hill following the **Keynote Speaker, Peter McIntyre (Chief Executive - Engineers Australia)** eye opening presentation on how to think differently to spark innovation and break down unconscious bias'. Peter's presentation was very well received by all delegates as it sparked much thought throughout the remainder of evening on what we can do to help alleviate our own unconscious bias'. Delegates enjoyed dinner outside overlooking the local vineyards. Mike Griffin (Chief Executive - API) gave a short farewell speech before Peter McIntyre announced the anticipated syndicate award winners!

Throughout the conference, the delegates also got involved in various sporting activities. Whether the group was playing a game of basketball, soccer, hiking along the kangaroo inhabited trails 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, Ed Wilcox (Western Power) and David Dawson (Ausgrid) 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 Ed Wilcox and David Dawson (middle picture - right court) 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”.
- ❖ **81%** rated the number of lectures about right, **83%** rated the coverage about right and **96%** rated the level of treatment about right.
- ❖ **83%** thought the number of site visits was about right with **89%** rating the value/interest as okay to excellent.
- ❖ **91%** obtained good to high value out of the Syndicate Work.
- ❖ **95%** rated the social events extremely valuable and **92%** felt they strongly enhanced the networking opportunities between other delegates and organisations.
- ❖ **96%** rated the overall Summer School program as “Excellent/Good Value”.



97% of delegates responded they would recommend the Program/Summer School to their colleagues/managers.

"I have never been as inspired to be in the Power industry as right now. Knowledge is power and I now feel much more informed and prepared to deal with the coming opportunities in the Australian Power industry".

"I would strongly recommend the API summer school as it provided a fantastic opportunity to network with likeminded colleagues across the industry, whilst also providing a thorough insight into current innovations, best practices, challenges, etc. The syndicate work was certainly a stretch at times, although a great opportunity to work with other industry experts whilst developing understanding of a topic outside my immediate area of expertise".

"API summer school has helped me to understand the workings of the broader industry and the unprecedented level of change under way. I am better placed to recognise and capitalise on the opportunities this presents and to be a champion for change within my own organisation".

"The API Summer School is an incubator for like minded professionals to absorb information from industry leaders and give you the skills to go back into your company and make meaningful, high impact changes".

"The API summer school opened my eyes to the challenges and opportunities awaiting me in the electricity industry. I found it a valuable and rewarding experience and the friendships I have made the last fortnight I will carry with me throughout my career".

"It was an honour to attend the API Summer School. The knowledge and experience of the delegates was impressive. I hope to maintain the relationships I've built here".

"API summer school is a great event to meet a varied group of engineers, technical experts and managers from the power industry, you will hear from industry leaders about upcoming issues and solutions in the Power Field and not only will you gain technical knowledge but also interpersonal (soft) skills for your future career".