



SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

Post Program 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 2020 program was held at Sebel Pelican Water Resort & Conference Centre on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland.



The theme of this year's program was "**Agile, Innovative, Supportive: A Focus on Change and Innovation for a Fully Integrated Renewable Energy Market**".

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 loaded program is designed to allow close interaction amongst the expert speakers, presenters and delegates to promote networking and information sharing amongst the different roles and organisations Australia wide.

The program was well attended with a total of 32 delegates from various backgrounds and experience.



There were over 53 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/ infrastructure, manufacturing, consulting, network utility and renewables.



We were also very fortunate to host an Industry Leaders/Senior Executive Forum consisting of 6 API Board Members: **Peter Langdon** (Manager Asset Strategy & Planning - Endeavour Energy), **Patrick Matweew** (CEO - Redback Technologies), **Wayne Tucker** (General Manager Asset Management - TasNetworks & API Chairman), **Violette Mouchaileh** (EGM Emerging Markets & Services - AEMO), **Heidi Sick** (Client Director - Aurecon) and **Ed Wilson** (Managing Director - Wilson Transformer Company) who shared valuable insights in to what it takes to become a successful leader in today's complex and rapidly changing industry during an interactive Q&A session with the delegates.



Planning has commenced for the 2021 program which will be held from 21 February - 5 March 2021. Detailed information will be updated to the API website soon, stay tuned!

LEARNING THROUGH SYNDICATE PROJECTS

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.



The 8 groups of 4 delegates had topic areas ranging from "Innovation and Agility in Asset Management", "Interoperability in Multi-Vendor IEDs- GOOSE Messaging", "Impact of DER", "Impact of DER on Transformers & Switchgear", "Field Force Transformation through Technology", "AUS Energy Storage Requirements for 50% Renewables by 2030", "Maintaining Supply Reliability in Isolated Systems with High Solar Penetration", "MV/LV Network Visibility Development", and "Enabling High DER Penetrations".

At the end of the program, delegates produced a succinct board paper and 25 minute presentation to outline their research and propose solutions. These deliverables were assessed by 3 industry judges and also by the facilitators. The assessment criteria included innovation, creativity, knowledge content and quality of the presentation. The winner of the perpetual API Summer School plaque went to group 8 for their work on "Enabling High DER Penetrations with Network State Estimation, Capacity Constrained Optimisation and Dynamic DER Operating Envelopes" which was facilitated by Peter Kilby (Intelligent Grid Engineer at Energy Queensland).



Congratulations to Vlora Dzeladini (SA Power Networks), Prem Malhi (AEMO), Peter Martino (Western Power), and Kanchana Amarasekara (TransGrid) for winning the 2020 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 be exposed to in their every day roles. 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 the Powerlink Murrarie Terminal Station, NOJA Power Switchgear Manufacturer and Energy Queensland's Eagle Farm Solar PV and BESS Installation Site.

API would like to extend a sincere thank you to Powerlink Queensland, Noja Power and Energy Queensland for sharing your facilities and insights 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 dinner, which was then followed by a friendly turned competitive game of trivia. Syndicates competed against one another for the win.

Congratulations to the two teams who tied for Trivia Champions 2020!



On Friday, the Summer School team enjoyed a relaxing sunset cruise along the Pumice-stone Passage followed by dinner at Pelican Waters Tavern. On Saturday, after smashing out a day of syndicate work, the Delegates were rewarded with an easygoing night out at the Green Zebra for dinner. 93% of delegates rated the social events to be extremely valuable and 90% felt they strongly enhanced relationship building between other delegates and organisations.

Sunday was a free for all as delegates were encouraged to take advantage of the wide variety of local attractions. While one group teed off to a game of golf, others chose to visit the famous Australia Zoo and local Go Karting Track instead. Some delegates chose to visit Mooloolaba to get a taste of the beach, and other stayed back to catch up on some well deserved rest at the resort.



The final night's Celebration Dinner was spent at Sebel Pelican Waters Resort. Delegates enjoyed one last meal together as they celebrated the end of the conference and reflected on the many learnings and friendships made over the last 2 weeks. Wayne Tucker (Chairman - API Board) sent Mike Griffin (Summer School Manager/Former CEO - API) off into retirement with a very well deserved acknowledgment for his last 13 years of hard work and achievements made for the Australian Power Institute.

The API Board is excited to build upon Mike's success under newly appointed CEO, David Pointing's capable lead. Dr. Pointing shared *"I am thrilled to be taking on the CEO role at such a significant time for the Australian community, our energy sector, and for the professional power engineering and technology workforce. We face many challenges and significant opportunities such as disruptive changes in technology, community expectations, markets and workforce and I look forward to contributing to solutions with the API. This was my first experience with the Summer School and I can see why industry values it so highly – I look forward to working with the API community to continue this wonderful program and to building a Summer School alumni community"*.

API would like to invite those interested in being involved in the 2021 program to express interest via the Summer School tab on API Website.



SURVEY RESULTS & PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- ❖ 100% 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”.
- ❖ 80% rated the number of lectures about right, 93% rated the coverage about right and 97% rated the level of treatment about right.
- ❖ 74% rated the Site Visit value/interest as good to excellent.
- ❖ 93% obtained good to high value out of the Syndicate Work.
- ❖ 93% rated the social events extremely valuable and 90% felt they strongly enhanced the networking opportunities between other delegates and organisations.
- ❖ 100% rated the overall Summer School program as “Excellent/Good Value”.



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

"The API Summer School really broadens one's perspective of the whole industry. The way the lectures are scheduled, I was able to get a well-rounded perspective on each particular aspect. The lectures were of high quality and I learned more useful things in these two weeks than possibly in a whole semester or two at University."

"API provides an interactive learning experience that allows delegates to understand network issues and innovation across the entire power industry and provides a platform for networking with like minded people from the industry."

"API summer school is a well organised training program which boosted my connection, my industry knowledge and my understanding about future challenges and opportunities. It's a privilege to be able to attend this summer school and I'll definitely recommend it to my employer and colleagues."

"The API summer school gave me an opportunity to gain an insight into the wider utility community, share challenges and learnings, and understand how my role fits within the overall industry. Being an introvert, the way the summer school is structured allows for networking opportunities that in hindsight are quite valuable. Would recommend to all engineers (and non-engineers) that have between 5 -15 years of experience within the industry."

"Broad and challenging schedule, that as a result of attending, will make you a better industry participant."

"API Summer School is one of the best professional development activity for any power engineer in Australia. The program covers most of the current topics related to power engineering and helps to broaden the understanding of overall Australian power system, the challenges and opportunities."

"Once in a career experience that challenges you to think deeply on various issues and focuses heavily on innovation!"

Interested in what else the API is doing? Follow us on LinkedIn for regular updates!



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"The Australian Power Institute"