

APVI AGM 2016

Australian National University 1st December 2016

Attendees

Members:

Name	Affiliation
1. Ken Guthrie	Sustainable Energy Transformations
2. Dylan McConnell	Uni Melbourne
3. Ben Elliston	IT Power
4. Steve Blume	No Carbon Pty Ltd
5. Pete Gorton	Bisi p/l
6. Igor Skyrabin	ANU
7. Chris Fell	CSIRO
8. Anna Bruce	UNSW
9. Muriel Watt	ITP Renewables
10. Evan Franklin	ANU
11. Trevor Lee	Exemplary Energy
12. Richard Corkish	UNSW and ACP
13. Alison Lennon	UNSW
14. Nathan Chang	Solinno / UNSW
15. Emily Mitchell	UNSW
16. Oliver Woldring	ITP Renewables
17. Rob Passey	UNSW/COREM/ITP
18. Nicole Ghiotto	First Solar

Non-members:

None

Apologies

Renate Egan, Chair APVI
Olivia Coldrey, Director APVI
Lyndon Frearson. Director APVI

The meeting commenced at 5:30pm, with Oliver Woldring as Chair.

Minutes

The minutes from the 2015 AGM were accepted as a true record.
(Moved Rob Passey, seconded Muriel Watt)

Matters Arising

None

Chair's Report

The Chair's report was presented. The report is embedded herein. Following is a summary of additional remarks made by the Chair and some ensuing discussion:

SUMMARY 2016 ACTIVITIES

Projects

- Roll-out of Solar Potential Tool (NSW Councils)
- IEA representation (through to end 2018)
- COREM (2015-
- Consumer Advocacy Panel
- Annual Solar Research Conference
- Real-time operational PV simulations for distribution network service providers with ANU (Nic Engerer)
- Networks Renewed with UTS (Geoff James)

Submissions on behalf of industry

- Cost Reflective Pricing (ECA)
- Queensland Productivity Commission Draft Report: Electricity Pricing Inquiry (March)
- AER SA Power Networks Tariff Structure Statement (May)
- AER on Ergon and Energex Tariff Structure Statement (May)
- Victorian Govt Review of Exemption Orders (Aug)
- Senate Enquiry on ARENA budget cuts (Sept)

Pending

- ANU – Blakers on pumped hydro
- Solar Analytics – live data for Solar Map

Presentations

- Energy Globe Award (January, Dubai)
- CSIRO Solar Hackathon (April, Newcastle)
- IEA & ARENA (May, Canberra)
- Renewable Cities (June)
- AES Workshop (June)
- Clean Energy Summit (July)
- Task 1 OA Meeting (October, Sydney)
- Solar Research Conference (Dec, ANU)



The Solar Map remains a key project for the APVI and is widely accessed, cited and acknowledged.

- Navid accepted award in Iran
- Solar Potential Tool going from strength to strength
 - Potential to expand, please get in touch with Anna
- CSIRO Hackathon (Renate participated in judging)

Partnerships have evolved a little since last year

- Climate council media one is interesting, just asked us to help respond to the Finkel investigation
- Becoming more involved in community projects, quite exciting

Reports, Submissions and Presentations

- The Chair presented a list of Many presentations and workshops produced by APVI this year
- APVI has made a number of submissions to the regulator, utilities and government offices on behalf of its members. These submissions can all be found on the APVI website
- The Chair thanked members who have made presentations or attended meetings on APVI's behalf.

PVPS Tasks and Research projects

- National survey reports to IEA
 - Great deal of potential to do more for the IEA, if you are interested in participating more in the APVI this would be a good avenue
- APVI hosted 2017 Task 1 meeting in Sydney and will host 2017 ExCo meeting
- Next conference in Melbourne
 - ExCos to be in parallel with conference
 - Geoff Stapleton joined task 9
 - Would be great to get support from Vic govt somehow – any ideas?

Future Projects

- The following is a summary of existing and planned projects;
 - Australia's representation to IEA on PV and SHC (ongoing)
 - Industry representation on policy and tariff reform (ongoing)
 - Solar Map Stage 2 – wider roll-out of Solar Potential Tool
 - 2017 Workshops – June, to co-incide with AESA Sydney Conference
 - 2017 IEA PVPS and SHC Executive Committee Meetings, late November 2017
 - 2017 Solar Research Conference –December 4-6, Melbourne
 - Battery and Module recycling, with ABRI (UTS, pending)
 - Solar in Urban Planning (SHC) (pending)
 - Performance and Reliability (IEA, pending)
 - High penetration PV (IEA, pending)
 - Building Integrated PV (IEA, pending)



Membership and Funding

- Issues: being apolitical, we struggle to be seen in a politically charged discussion
- We have enthusiastic members with lots of ideas, but not the resources to develop ideas and seek funding.
- Maintaining profile
 - Many months since Muriel was on the 730 report, do we have a plan? (Ben E)
 - Muriel: Renate has asked for me to stay involved on technical issues, though I am trying to step back. We didn't have the media here at this conference so for next year we should organise that – Jacek!
 - One of the submissions we did was an idea that came from a member, so membership engagement is very important
 - Main cost is the solar map, revenue neutral. Anna is doing a good job bringing in revenue to use to pay for costs.
 - One key business development idea is to figure out how to generate more income with the map
 - Thus far, roll out of solar potential tool, we have not done anything to actively promote it or attract business, so we could do more if we have resources

Suggestion on Finkel: they will do their presentation to COAG on the 9th Dec. After that you should make sure you get in touch and 2 or 3 people go in and have a solid presentation about the tools you are developing, that would be valuable (Steve Blume)

The Chair's report was accepted.
(Moved Rob Passey, seconded Muriel Watt)

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented..

Following is a summary of remarks made by the Treasurer and ensuing discussion:

Current Financial Year

- 2 reports, the audited reports are not actually that useful because project funds from ARENA are very lumpy.
- The audited reports are available on the website, but here we'll talk about operational funds, which are what matter.
- For several years we were losing money. But last year we made some money, and this year we did too.
- A lot more money coming in and going out from projects, which is all from the solar map
- Finally got around to finishing the APVA and had to pay some auditing for that
- Consultancy salary was to pay Stephanie to write an ARENA proposal for the solar map (didn't get the money)
- Memberships have been pretty static, as always, so it would be good to get more members.

Questions

Muriel: Is the conference itself revenue neutral?

- We don't include the conference in this because it is lumpy and goes from one financial year to the next, and because we make quite a nice profit from it. Each year we have had ARENA support. If we didn't get that next year we would use up all the buffer. We could increase the conference fees but expect fewer would come
- It is normal that conferences run at a loss, unless sponsored and it is hard to get sponsors
- We don't use the conference nearly enough to promote APVI. We should!
- Would it be worth paying a few thousand dollars to do more publicity?
- We are hopeless at self promotion
- ARENA promote it a little bit, but people present haven't seen it
- This is the biggest conference we've had
- We could attract more industry people if ARENA required everyone with a project to present here (ARENA has knowledge sharing as a key KPI)
- Steve forwards on conference announcement to 28000 members but it is a very plain announcement, could involve a stronger pitch
- People are time poor, so perhaps one day could be a special industry ARENA focus or something to get more people on that day?
- Would we need to make the conference longer if we have more ARENA projects submitting. It would not be possible to bounce the ARENA papers. We'd also need more people to review if there are more abstracts.

- Students quite like posters, they're not expecting an oral, so the poster session could be built a lot.
- Another marketing point, we gave away \$3000 in prizes, but none of the students even knew there was an award!!
- Nicole suggests that the budget could be emailed around.

Appointment of auditor

- Rob is very happy with current auditors, they are good and thorough.

**WC Accountants proposed as auditors.
Moved Anna Bruce, seconded Ken Guthrie**

Subscription fees

- 10% increase
- Should make it \$55 for students to keep in line with the 10% increase
- We have very few student members anyway because all of their unis are members already (ANU, Murdoch, UQ,
- Dylan question: what do we have to do to join (melb uni)? Pay money, then you get access to the map.
- Macquarie would also like to join
- Monash are not a member
- We should approach all other unis, particularly Monash! (They don't realise)
- Could we just agree that the fees go up by whatever standard national metric, like cpi rounded to nearest number. **RECOMMENDATION to the board.**

**Motion to accept increase and put in this recommended ongoing process,
proposed by Steve Blume, Seconded by Ken Guthrie**

**The Treasurer's report was accepted.
Proposed by Steve Blume, seconded Ken Guthrie**

Election of Board and Office Bearers

Directors are in place for 2 years unless they retire.

ELECTION OF 2016 BOARD AND OFFICE BEARERS

- The current APVI Board consists of

Nicole Ghiotto Lyndon Frearson Oliver Woldring,
Igor Skyrabin Olivia Coldrey Renate Egan

- **Retiring:** Nicole Ghiotto and Olivia Coldrey
- **Nominations:** Nicole Ghiotto, Olivia Coldrey and Chris Fell

▪ **PENDING: The Board agrees to increase the number of Directors to seven. Three Directors are elected unopposed**

Chair and Executive Committee positions (current holder indicated in brackets)

Chair*1 (Renate Egan) Secretary*2 (Emily Mitchell)
Treasurer (Rob Passey) Public Officer (Igor Skyrabin)

The meeting to take nominations, the Directors to elect office bearers.

*1 Renate Egan is agreeable to continue in the role of Chair

*2 Emily Mitchell will retire as Secretary, the Chair thanks Emily Mitchell. Renate Egan nominates Linda Koschier



The board had resolved to increase to number of Directors to seven

- Chris Fell has been nominated
- Nicole Ghiotto, Olivia Coldrey and Chris Fell are elected unopposed (no other candidates)
- Renate Egan will continue in the role of chair (Oliver Woldring proposed and Nicole Ghiotto seconded)
- Emily Mitchell retires as secretary. The Chair thanked Emily Mitchell
- Linda Koschier has agreed to take secretary role. Nominated Renate Egan, Seconded Oliver Woldring

The Chair noted that there was interest from one member who did not nominate. That the individual will be approached to see what level of involvement they might be interested in to understand the operation of the APVI.

The executive team was discussed and will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Other Business

Formal motion to congratulate the conference organisers, a great success

Meeting closed at 6:10