

## **AIE Sydney – Chairman’s Report 2008/09**

2008/09 was another extremely active year for the Sydney Branch and technical meetings and symposia have been well attended. It has been a year plagued with changing policy and economic instability making it an exciting year to be in the Energy industry.

We hosted two half-day symposia during the year - "Energy in NSW 2008 - Supply and Demand-side Prospects" in July 2008 and " Energy Industry Carbon Challenges: What’s Ahead? - Compliance, Adaptation, Forecasts, Innovation" in May 2009. Both symposia featured insightful speakers and the events were each attended by around 70 people across the energy industry. I would like to thank our sponsors for these event who were the NSW Department of Water and Energy for the former and The Nour Group for both.

During the year, we have continued efforts to attract a diverse range of energy professionals to our meetings, and this has resulted in steadily increasing attendance. We are very pleased to see a growing number of students and young energy professionals also attend and participate in these presentations, and we acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the Young Energy Professionals (YEP) group by Energetics, AGL, Energy Australia and PB.

2009 was another year of growth for YEPs with the program expanding membership, increasing sponsorship and organising over 12 planned events during 2008/09. The events ranged from workshops and seminars including International Climate Change Policy, Emerging Technologies and Renewables in NSW. The program was helped by the excellent participation of Sali Torgoman, Manuela Crank, Anthony Parrington, Deborah Marsh, Susie Wood, David Lucas, Allan Burrows, Nic Florin, Stuart Donaldson, James Giblin.

Unfortunately we have a few retirees this year that I would like you to join with me in acknowledging each these individuals contribution;

Steven Nethery who is the current chair for YEP in Sydney will be standing down. The great success of YEP over the last few years is testament to Steven’s dedication to creating what is now a well known brand that allows our young professionals an avenue to develop and network with their peers. We have seen a marked increase in attendance at YEP events, the development of a website, a brand and a sponsorship initiative under Steven’s direction.

I am pleased to announce that the Young Energy Professional has a new leadership team. David Lukas has been elected as the YEP Chair. David has a strong background in energy law and has recently started Goanna Capital. David has organised great events for YEP thus far and has been an integral component of YEP for some time. Luke O’Callaghan has been elected as the Vice Chair. Luke is working for Middletons on energy law and will bring a lot to the program. Simon Douse (PB) and David Nealle (Moxy) will also be representing YEP within the AIE structure.

**David Hemming** (currently Honorary Secretary and former Chairman of Sydney Branch Committee)

David joined the committee in 1990, served as chair for 1995 to 1996, and has served as secretary from 2001 to 2009.

David until recently was the Manager, Sustainable Energy for the NSW Department of Water and Energy. In this position he has been heavily involved in the development of the NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme, which commenced on 1 January 2003, and latterly the NSW Energy Savings Scheme. .

David has been involved in the energy sector for over 30 years in Australia and in the United Kingdom, and been involved with the NSW energy portfolio since 1986. David I believe will be spending more time at their central coast retreat now that he has escaped the NSW bureaucracy – and on the golf course!

**Martin Thomas** (currently member of Sydney Branch Committee)

Martin is a past Chairman of the Australian Institute of Energy and joined the committee in 2003.

Martin Thomas has a career in energy consulting, concluding as a Principal of Sinclair Knight Merz. Later he was founding MD of the CRC for Renewable Energy. He has been Deputy Chairman of Australian Inland Energy and a former Director of the Tyree Group. He is now Chairman of Dulhunty Power Limited and Alecto Energy Plc and Advisor to ZBB Energy.

He has also been the chairman the Institution of Engineers, Australia; a past Vice President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and past Deputy Chairman of the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Roundtable. He is a Member of the Order of Australia and the recipient of an Australian Centenary Medal.

Martin I believe enjoys sailing when he can get on someone's boat. His wife – Tricia - deserves thanks for putting up with lending Martin to so many AIE (and other) meetings, functions and events.

**Richard Hunwick** (currently member and former Chairman of Sydney Branch Committee)

Richard joined the committee in 1996, and served as chair from 1999 to 2002.

First via Ecogen Pty Ltd from 1987, then Hunwick Consultants Pty Ltd since 1994, Richard has advised utilities, government ministers, departments and corporations on energy economics, policy, strategies and technology. He has also taken on the development role with some success, focussing on energy from waste fuels in particular coal washery tailings, and renewable energy sources, all driven by a broader but always practical interest in the subject of electricity sources and uses over the longer term. Richard – as well as being one of the country's most forward thinking energy experts, is a lover of fine wine and food.

The Sydney Branch also expresses its gratitude to Austrian Energy & Environment (Australia) Pty Ltd, Parsons Brinkerhoff and the NSW Department of Water and Energy for the use of their meeting rooms during the year for our committee meetings, and to CSIRO at Lindfield, PB, Blake Dawson, the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, for the use of their facilities for our technical presentations and other functions. The support of these organisations is crucial for us to continue to provide our members with an interesting and challenging program during the year.

Finally we also thank the speakers for their time and efforts in making presentations to our members and to the hosts of special meetings held, without all of whom the Committee would be unable to provide such an interesting and diverse range of activities. . The Secretary in his report will detail the diversity of these presentations.

Craig Chambers (Chairman)