



Shane Carmichael.

### AIRAH FUTURE LEADER AWARD

Shane Carmichael, NSW/ACT State manager of Air Change Australia, has won the AIRAH Award for Future Leader, presented recently at the Institute's Annual Awards dinner at Luna Park Sydney.

AIRAH - the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Airconditioning and Heating - is Australia's peak organisation for property-related professionals specialising in HVAC (heating, cooling and air-conditioning).

In its submission to AIRAH's awards program, Air Change stated that it considered Carmichael had made a significant personal contribution to the standing of the company and the HVAC industry by increasing the knowledge and acceptability of innovative packaged heat exchange equipment in mainstream HVAC applications. Carmichael joined Air Change as a graduate engineer in March, 2005, and has since stamped his mark on the company and the industry as a whole.

**Air Change Australia**

[www.air-change.com](http://www.air-change.com)

### DID YOU KNOW?

The 106-year-old Regatta Hotel in Brisbane has been in the international press recently.

The BBC and Lonely Planet have listed the Toowong public bar as the only Australian inclusion in the world's "top 10 weird bars and restaurants" thanks to the pub's "loo with a view", featuring one-way vision glass.

### FRAUD IN THE WORKPLACE

The median fraud loss for organisations in Asia is about \$300,000 - significantly higher than the global median loss of \$160,000, according to a survey of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs) who investigated cases between January 2008 and December 2009.

Corruption was the most commonly reported scheme, appearing in more than half of the Asia-Pacific fraud cases in the study. Survey respondents also estimate that the typical organisation loses 5 percent of its annual revenue to fraud, which is consistent with the study's worldwide estimate.

Asset misappropriation is the most common type of occupational fraud, occurring in 80 percent of all cases. Financial statement fraud was the most expensive category, causing a median loss of \$4.3 million.

#### ACFE

[www.ACFE.com](http://www.ACFE.com)

### CAPS TACKLES ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Australia's largest home-grown compressed air company is ramping up its specialised assistance and reporting service for companies required to meet Federal Government energy consumption and emissions savings targets in the manufacturing sector.

Quentin St. Baker, who has recently joined Compressed Air and Power Solutions Australia (CAPS) as its efficiency expert, says compressed air is often perceived as a 'free' energy source and, as a result, efficiencies in compressed air systems have been given little attention.

St. Baker says a changing regulatory environment presents new challenges and opportunities for energy-dependent companies, as participation in EEO (Energy Efficiency Opportunities) is mandatory for certain corporations and significant fines over \$100,000 may apply for non-compliance.

"CAPS will work with businesses to identify opportunities for significant, tangible and ongoing energy reductions," St. Baker says.

#### CAPS

[www.capsaust.com.au](http://www.capsaust.com.au)

#### EEO

[www.energyefficiencyopportunities.gov.au](http://www.energyefficiencyopportunities.gov.au)

### NABERS: INDUSTRY COMMENT SOUGHT

Australian buildings are becoming more energy efficient; therefore, the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), which oversees the NABERS program, has opened up discussion about the feasibility of extending the program's traditional five-star rating scale.

NABERS is a performance-based rating scheme for buildings, which uses actual operational data to create ratings. This ensures that buildings are compared by their actual impact on the environment, rather than their modelled 'design performance'; there is often a discrepancy between the two values.

DECCW acting built environment manager Mark Davis says a position paper canvassing industry views on extending the NABERS Energy for Offices rating scale to six or even seven stars been released.

"When the NABERS Energy rating scale was created 10 years ago, we thought five stars was the best any building could possibly be. It was an aspirational target," Davis says.

"A decade on, technology and management practices in the property sector have improved greatly, helped by the reliability of NABERS as a measure.

"Today, approximately 5 percent of buildings are achieving five star ratings and some developments are already targeting beyond five stars.

"As a result, DECCW is seeking industry and stakeholder input into the evolution of the NABERS Energy tool.

"To uphold the NABERS philosophy of providing aspirational targets, the time has come to consider introducing a sixth, or even a seventh, star," Davis says.

DECCW administers the national NABERS environmental performance benchmarking tools on behalf of all other Australian governments.

Davis says the new goals are being driven by both the industry and the NABERS national steering committee to ensure that NABERS continues to offer tools that drive and measure innovation.

Any change will be implemented across the three types of NABERS Energy ratings for offices: base building, tenancy and whole building ratings.

To cater for future building technologies and the zero emission building, while limiting the impact on the tool's existing markets, the position paper canvasses three options:

- recalibrating the current five star rating scale
- extend to six stars in early 2011, introducing the seventh star in the future as needed
- extend to seven stars in early 2011.

NABERS is seeking industry input on the proposed changes. Submissions will be accepted until 18 February 2011. A decision is planned early this year.

Copies of the position paper are available at the NABERS website (see below) or by contacting DECCW on (02) 9995 5000.

#### NABERS

[www.nabers.com.au](http://www.nabers.com.au)