

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF AIRAH

JULY 2016 · VOLUME 15.6

RRP \$14.95

# Ecolibrium

**The skin  
we're in**

**Optimising building facades.**



PRINT POST APPROVAL NUMBER PP352532/0001

# Fans of HVAC&R

Australia's HVAC&R community gathered recently at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to take part in the all-encompassing industry jamboree known as ARBS, reports Ecolibrium staff writer **Boon Mark Souphanh**.



ARBS was the place for fans of big fans.

Held every two years, ARBS is Australia's only international trade exhibition for the air conditioning, refrigeration and building services industry. Providing the industry's manufacturers a chance to strut their stuff and showcase their latest kit, the event has well and truly embedded itself as one of the marquee events on the HVAC&R calendar.

However, those who have attended ARBS will know that it's more than just your average "trade show" – its scope extends far beyond this limited description.

Away from all the gear, attendees also had the opportunity to take part in an extensive seminar program, lap up the glamour of the ARBS Awards gala, and check out the country's best apprentices in action at the National Refrigeration Worldskills. There was plenty to see and do.

## RECORD BREAKER

Perhaps representing the health and growth of the industry, ARBS 2016 broke all previous records for attendance, and



recorded a new high of 323 exhibitors – up from 274 in 2014.

Visitor numbers were up 12 per cent from 2014 to almost 9,000.

"The 2016 exhibition has once again raised the performance bar and we look forward to returning to Sydney in 2018 for our first exhibition in the newly redeveloped centre," says ARBS chairman Ian Hopkins, M.AIRAH. "We are confident 2018 will build on the very solid foundations from this 2016 and previous exhibitions."

## AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

The ARBS Industry Award winners for 2016 were unveiled at a gala dinner at Crown Palladium. Hosted by actor and funnyman Shane Jacobson, the *Kenny* star ensured the laughs – and drinks – continued to flow throughout the evening.

The awards attracted nominees from across all sectors. A panel of industry experts evaluated the nominations based on various criteria such as leadership, sustainability, performance and innovation.



The glitzy ARBS Award gala.

It was a great night for AIRAH, with three members picking up honours – including Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH, who was inducted into the ARBS Hall of Fame.

The head of the CSIRO's energy efficiency research, White has more than 20 years of research experience in energy end-use efficiency and electricity industry demand-side management. He is a world authority on solar air conditioning, and chairs AIRAH's Solar Heating and Cooling special technical group (STG).

Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH, from BUENO took out the Young Achiever award for his work in disrupting the standard service and maintenance models for building automation and mechanical systems.

"I'm lucky to have built such a great team around me to get us into this position to have the opportunity to win the award," says Wurfel, an AIRAH Future Leader Award finalist in 2015.

Frank Seeley, Affil.AIRAH, accepted the ARBS Product/Service Excellence Award for the Braemar 7 Star equivalent ducted gas heater, on behalf of Seeley International.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELITE PERFORMANCE

**ARBS Awards were presented in four categories, and there were three nominations to the ARBS Hall of Fame.**

**The ARBS Young Achiever Award 2016**  
Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH, BUENO

**The ARBS Product/Service Excellence Award 2016**  
Braemar 7 Star equivalent ducted gas heater – Seeley International

**The ARBS Project Excellence Award 2016**  
Westpac St George HQ Refurbishment – Norman Disney Young and Westpac Corporation

**The Outstanding Industry Education/Training Award 2016**  
Diploma of Engineering Technology in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning – TAFE NSW Sydney Institute (Sydney TAFE)



**Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH**

**The ARBS Hall of Fame 2016 (all nominations receive the award)**  
Neil Marshall – nominated by AMCA  
Garry Mundy – nominated by AREMA  
Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH – nominated by AIRAH

## THE DISRUPTION DISCUSSION

The ARBS Seminar Program has become an integral part of the overall exhibition experience.

One of the more popular seminars at ARBS 2016 was led by NDY's head of controls and integration Jonathan Clarke, M.AIRAH. The session explored how digital disruption is impacting the building industry in general and HVAC&R in particular.

Clarke asked the panel how digital disruption has affected their clients' requirements from a tenant, building owner, and technology provider's perspective.

"The answers were enlightening, and open up a whole range of possibilities, opportunities and challenges," Clarke says. "Digital disruption is the amount of change that is necessary to adapt to new digital technologies that are emerging. As the rate of digital development increases, so too does the need to address the disruption in the architecture, engineering and construction industries."

To read more about digital disruption, check out the article on p. 14.



Seminar panellists discuss HVAC&R's hot topics.



ARBS 2016 drew a record 323 exhibitors.



It was a case of "size matters" for many exhibitors this year.

## 10 THINGS WE LEARNT AT ARBS 2016

- 1 Interest is at an all-time high for exhibitors, with a record 323 exhibitors taking part across the three days – up from 274 in 2014.
- 2 AIRAH members continue to move the HVAC&R industry forward, with three ARBS Awards honours going to Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH; Frank Seeley, Affil.AIRAH; and Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH.
- 3 People are ready to jump on the PRIME bus. The AIRAH board has approved a funding proposal to establish a secretariat for PRIME, the blueprint to transition Australia's HVAC&R industry to a low-emissions future.
- 4 ARBS, alongside AMCA and AREMA, continues to support the industry at trade level by awarding five TAFE students and their teachers Industry Educational Trade Scholarships.
- 5 Apprentices are passionate about their trade, as showcased by the high standard of competition at the WorldSkills Refrigeration Nationals held in conjunction with ARBS 2016.
- 6 The WELL Building Standard is here to stay and can co-exist alongside the other ratings tools available.
- 7 "Connectivity" is a key driving force behind digital disruption. The need to be connected will provide challenges for the building industry for years to come.
- 8 Companies are adopting and driving PC, phone and tablet connectivity with their equipment, as showcased by the likes of Heatcraft, Panasonic, Carel and many more.
- 9 Close to 9,000 people visited the exhibition across the three days. This represented an overall increase of 12 per cent from 2014.
- 10 ARBS 2018 will return to Sydney at a redeveloped centre. The last ARBS to be held outside of Melbourne was in 2010.



AIRAH's temporary ARBS abode.



Mark "Tubby" Taylor pressed the flesh on behalf of his favourite air.

## WHAT THE EXHIBITORS HAD TO SAY . . .

### AIR CHANGE

“At Air Change we focus on designing and manufacturing innovative equipment to suit the changing needs of our industry, and without a doubt our new products were the main attraction at our ARBS stand this year. On display we had our Low Dewpoint Dehumidifier (LD-ACDHUM), In Ceiling Energy Recovery Ventilator for high-rise apartment applications with smart control, and our custom Fan Coil Industries AHU.

“ARBS is the perfect opportunity to release new products to a broad range of engineers, contractors and end-users. This particular event was well supported by both local and interstate visitors, and was well worth the effort and planning.

As well as being able to showcase our products to visitors we are able to obtain feedback regarding not just our company, but the industry as a whole. It’s also a great way to keep up with the latest industry news.”  
 – Air Change general manager Shane Carmichael, M.AIRAH.

### ebm-papst

“The quality of the ARBS exhibition was excellent. A lot of exhibitors really thought about what they were exhibiting – their new products and innovations – more than in any year that I’ve seen before.

The numbers that came through the door were again record-breaking and high, and that was good for the industry. It showed that the industry is strong and innovative.

For us, we gained lots of new business leads, and we had an opportunity to really show what we are doing in a broad sense, in a really open and successful way. We don’t get that opportunity anywhere else in Australia and New Zealand, and we took full advantage of the opportunity that was given to us.

The opportunity to do presentations and seminars again was really good. Considering that we were doing the last seminar on the last day, I was very surprised about the numbers that turned up for it. And, I was equally chuffed that of the 60 or 70 people that turned up, I knew only three.

All in all, it was a commercially and intellectually really successful show for us.” – ebm-papst managing director Simon Bradwell, M.AIRAH.



Adroit skills were on show at WorldSkills.



ARBS hall of famer Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH (right), is all smiles



Young Achiever Award winner Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH (centre), with friends.



All kinds of new tech drove visitors to stands.