

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF AIRAH

JULY 2017 · VOLUME 16.6

RRP \$14.95

Ecolibrium

The Innovation issue

Eight trends shaping
our industry's future.



PROOF IN THE PERFORMANCE

Joe Scholtz, M.AIRAH, is a director at QED Environmental Services, based in Perth.



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Responsibilities

As a director at QED my main role is ensuring QED is providing technically accurate and consistent testing and risk-assessment consulting across the business. This is mainly in the areas of indoor air quality, building rating schemes such as NABERS IE and the WELL building standard, hazardous materials and asbestos, and chemical registers.

I get to do some of the more challenging projects, and testing and trialling some of our new service offerings.

A big part is also distilling the technical needs of our clients.

Passions

I love buildings that work well, that make you feel welcome, and even at home.

What is exciting me at the moment is that finally the benefits of healthy indoor environments are really gaining traction in the industry. And after providing 20 years of compliance testing, we are being asked to go to the next level: to provide feedback to owners of cutting-edge buildings

regarding the quality of the indoor environment to enhance performance, as opposed to just satisfy legal requirements.

I also love playing music, something I believe transcends race, religion, class and beliefs, climate change or not.

Finest professional hour

Hard to say, but I think it has been the decision to leave a large government institution in an engineering role 15 years ago, to be a part-owner in a smaller consultancy that has kept growing every year. I had a lot of sleepless nights over that decision, but I feel QED has come of age now, from a great foundation to now being able to effect real change in the industry.

Important lessons

Never lose personal communication with your clients, and always make sure you listen to your client's needs, and not just for what you can provide.

Whom do you most admire?

It changes all the time! It was Doc Watson recently for his flat-style finger-picking guitar, but now its Brain Cox, for making those awesome documentaries about the universe and backing that up by coming to Australia with Stargazing Live. Science can actually be fun!

Dream sabbatical

Being asked to investigate the indoor environment of the best performing buildings around the globe, starting in Germany.

Personal motto

To try and live as a net-positive person, or what is the reason to be here?

Greatest personal achievement

I have to say to still be recording original music, with a business and wonderful family in tow ... without going crazy!

I love buildings that work well, that make you feel welcome, and even at home

Favourite book

Tortilla Flats by John Steinbeck.

I must have a secret want to wander, live day to day by your wits, without the earthly trappings we all have now.

Favourite film

Deliverance – the duelling banjos song always inspires.

Favourite website

I'm always on BoM looking at the weather.

Describe yourself

Pretty easy-going, except when I see there is an imbalance in a calculation or assessment. I have to keep working at it until it fits.

Define success

At work; when my efforts have resulted in a positive change, even more so when there is objection to change.

In life; to be the best role model I can be for my daughter and son, while still being the person my partner married.

What does AIRAH membership mean to you?

Being kept up to date with some of the world-leading initiatives in our industry. It also good to read articles from others in a different, yet related, line of work. ■

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