

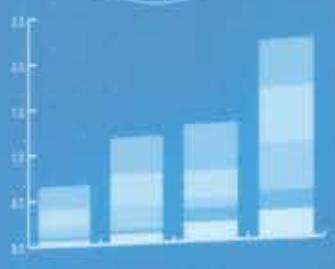
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People power

The human side of big data.



CAPITAL INDIVIDUAL

James de Salis, Affil.AIRAH, is a mechanical engineer at Laros Technologies, a high-performance building supply company in Canberra.

Responsibilities

Working for a small company that does a wide range of things means I have a lot of varying responsibilities. I handle a lot of project management work, sales and quoting, logistics, and technical support, design, and even some hands-on implementation and installation work on particularly complex or difficult projects.

Specialty

I manage the HVAC-related parts of our company, specifically focusing on the design, specification and sometimes installation of energy-recovery ventilation systems. I also manage some of the sales work in this area by organising the importation of our high-performance units and accessories from Germany and Sweden.

Passions

I'm passionate about buildings and projects that don't just meet minimum requirements but look to exceed this and have the best performance outcomes possible. I'm especially excited to be bringing the principles of Passivhaus over from Europe. Passivhaus is the highest performance standard in the world –



James de Salis. Affil.AIRAH

equivalent to around 10 energy star – but it also focuses on testable outcomes like measuring building airtightness, among many other things.

Challenges

Working with people who are resistant to change and require convincing that there can be a better way of doing things. That, and the way the construction industry is built around cost-cutting and

buildings being “good enough”. It's also sometimes very challenging to coordinate between many stakeholders, clients, other professionals, builders and contractors, while also making sure all the longer timelines around custom-imported systems fit in with my projects.

Professional development

I have done several courses in various software packages and I also consult the vast AIRAH knowledge base when designing and modelling. Engineers Australia offers a lot of interesting courses and talks, and there is also a lot of new Passivhaus-oriented presentations and conferences starting up around the country.

Inspiring words

“The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten” – Benjamin Franklin

Favourite destination

I love the South Coast of NSW for a relaxing time off but if you ever get a chance to go on safari in the Okavango Delta you have to do it.

Future plans

More and more people are beginning to realise that it is possible to build higher quality buildings without breaking the bank, and I hope to stay in this industry to keep helping them achieve this with their projects. That and finally finishing off my never-ending house renovations so I can build an electric car! ■

SWINGS AND MORE SWINGS

AIRAH's ACT division recently held its inaugural golf day.

On a cold overcast morning, 48 AIRAH members, friends and colleagues recently played in the inaugural ACT Golf Day at Gungahlin Lakes Golf Course.

“Cool temperatures and threatening clouds couldn't stop participants having a wonderful time on the course,”



says AIRAH ACT/NSW membership services officer Mel Sibraa.

“Just as the golf round ended, the skies opened up. Luckily enough the players were dry inside with a drink and a beautiful barbecue lunch.

“Everyone had a great time, and by all accounts would love to see another golf day make its way to Canberra in the future.” ■

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