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A night to shine

The stand-out projects, people and products of the Australian HVAC&R industry took centre stage at the black-tie AIRAH Awards presentation dinner held at Melbourne's Central Pier last month.

Widely recognised as Australia's premier HVAC&R accolades, the AIRAH Awards celebrate the industry's exemplar projects, high achievers and ground-breaking research.

Winners were announced across 11 categories and included flagship projects such as the International Convention Centre in Sydney, the RN Robertson Building at the Australian National University in Canberra, and the Bend Motorsport Park in Tailem Bend, South Australia.

The AIRAH Awards also recognise individuals, from the most promising students who are just starting their careers to industry doyens who have contributed tirelessly over many years. As in the project categories, it was encouraging to see the winners coming

from right across the country: from Brisbane to Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Wollongong.

"The overwhelming feeling at this year's AIRAH Awards presentation dinner was that the future of our industry is bright," says AIRAH CEO Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH. "We're going through a time of transformative change – and massive opportunity. It's great to see our leading companies and individuals tackling the challenge to create a more sustainable built environment and raising the bar for everyone."

This year the judges were especially impressed with the calibre of entries and the closeness of the competition. Congratulations to all the finalists, and especially the winners in each category.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR – Higher Education or Research

Winner: Clayton McDowell, Stud.AIRAH,
Sustainable Buildings Research Centre,
University of Wollongong

With a Master of Engineering Practice already under his belt, and a PhD under way, McDowell has shown exceptional promise, focus and leadership. He was unable to accept his award on the night as he was still in Dubai as part of the Desert Rose team that represented the University of Wollongong in the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018 competition. ■

STUDENT OF THE YEAR – Trade

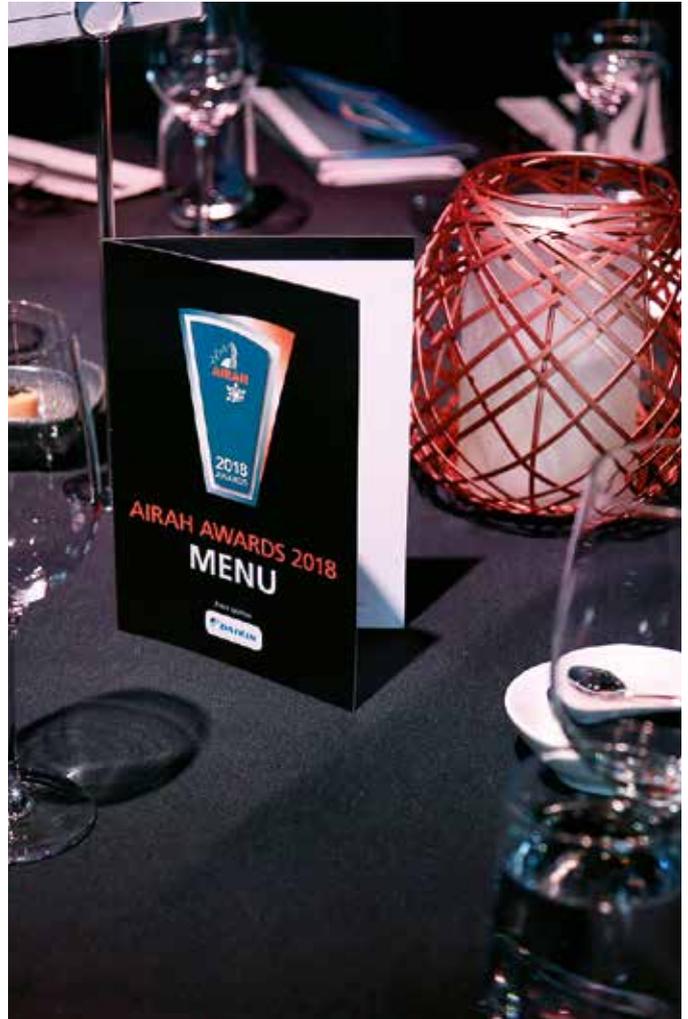
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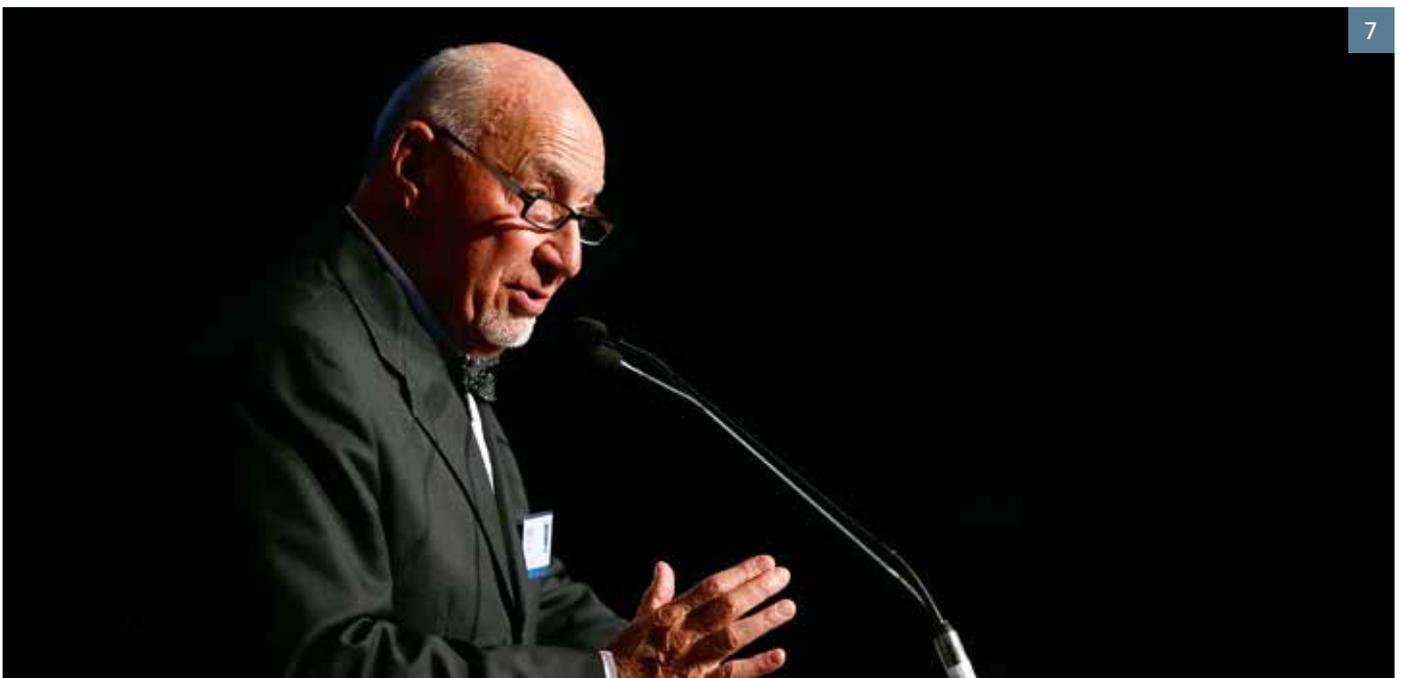
Dual winners: Patrick Brennan, Stud.AIRAH,
TAFE Queensland Skillstech, Acacia Ridge, Brisbane;
and Anthony Consterdine, M.AIRAH,
South Metropolitan TAFE, Perth

Brennan was selected in the Queensland team to compete in Sydney at the Worldskills National Championships where he won gold. He has recently gained selection in the Australian Worldskills squad (the Skillaroos) where he has a chance to compete at international level in Kazan, Russia, 2019.

Consterdine is currently studying the Certificate IV in Commissioning and Diploma of Engineering – Advanced Trade.

“Anthony was the stand-out student,” says lecturer Jean-Michel L’Aiguille. “He is mild-mannered and courteous, and is always willing to assist other students. Anthony is a true proponent of lifelong learning.” ■







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AIRAH FUTURE LEADER AWARD

Sponsor: A.G. Coombs

Winner: Massimo Fiorentini, Affil. AIRAH,
Sustainable Buildings Research Centre,
University of Wollongong

“Massimo has shown outstanding leadership in both academia and scholarship, and industry/technological innovations,” says Dr Georgios Kokogiannakis, M.AIRAH, senior lecturer at the University of Wollongong. Fiorentini led the development of the award-winning control systems for the Team UOW Illawarra Flame house Solar Decathlon entry, and has delivered innovations in the form of new control and automation systems for air conditioning, mixed-mode and natural ventilation systems, and BMS fault-detection and automation. ■

BEST HVAC RETROFIT OR UPGRADE

Winner: Norman Disney & Young, A Tetra Tech Company
– RN Robertson Building at the
Australian National University

A three-storey concrete-framed structure, originally completed in 1972, was given a new lease of life through this adaptive re-use project.

“With careful planning, design team engagement and user group consultation, a building many people had written

off and marked for demolition was revitalised and regenerated to provide a home for the various schools for another 40-plus years,” says NDY. ■

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION

Sponsor: Standards Australia

Winner: A.G. Coombs and AECOM
– International Convention Centre, Sydney

This project delivered mechanical and HVAC systems that set a new benchmark for the Australian industry in terms of innovation, scale, quality and performance.

“Collectively, the sophistication and scale of the systems at ICC Sydney represent a significant step forward for mechanical and HVAC services in Australia,” says A.G. Coombs strategic director Bryon Price, F.AIRAH. ■

EXCELLENCE IN REFRIGERATION

Winner: Glacem Cooling – The Bend Motorsport Park

The Bend Motorsport Park in South Australia demonstrates a significant advance in refrigeration technology, incorporating thermal energy storage with a newly developed phase change material as well as unique R744 (CO₂) systems.

The R744-only system has been integrated with indirect cooling technology – the result of extensive R&D carried out by Glaciem in conjunction with the Barbara Hardy Institute at UniSA. ■

WR AHERN AWARD

Winner: Hongsen Zhang, M.AIRAH, and Dr Paul Bannister, F.AIRAH – “A calibrated simulation case study for an office building in Canberra”.

This Ecolibrium Forum paper assesses the impacts of building energy codes on Australian building performance. It compares the energy efficiency requirements of the Building Code of Australia with corresponding US and Chinese codes, and subsequently recommends revisions to the Australian code. ■

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Winner: Simon Bradwell, M.AIRAH, ebm-papst A&NZ

Over a 10-year period, Bradwell has been a champion of diversity and equality at ebm-papst. The company’s leadership team is now 50 per cent female, and its inclusive workforce boasts 12 different cultural heritages, including international migrants and refugees. In recognition of these efforts, ebm-papst has won national corporate social responsibility awards for the past three years. ■

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Winner: Trafalgar Fire Containment – Firebox

“Our customers told us that firestopping was too difficult, too messy, and too complicated,” says Trafalgar’s Kate Emmerick. “Firestopping was the last consideration in the building – it costs too much and was often done incorrectly, resulting in failed compliance inspections requiring expensive and time-consuming rectification works.

“The Firebox family was developed to be simple, quick, cost-effective, and most importantly flexible for site needs.” ■

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Sponsor: Heatcraft

Winner: A.G. Coombs and AECOM – International Convention Centre, Sydney

The new \$1.5 billion ICC represents one of the largest ever urban renewal projects in Australia. It replaces the Sydney Exhibition and Convention Centre that was built in 1988.

The ICC is the first Australian facility of its kind registered with the US Green Building Council for LEED, achieving Gold Certification in July 2017. It also achieved a 6 Star Green Star Communities (v1) rating from the GBCA. ■

JAMES HARRISON MEDAL

Winner: Alan Obrart, F.AIRAH

Obrart’s CV references a who’s who of the Australian HVAC&R industry. An office bearer for Engineers Australia since 1978, he is also an erstwhile president of AIRAH, the

current vice-president of the Society of Building Services Engineers, and has held councillor positions with RACCA and AMCA. When most people would be looking to retire, he took on the role of adjunct senior lecturer and co-ordinator for Sydney University’s Graduate Building Services program to provide better learning outcomes for young (and not so young) engineers and architects. On top of all that he has started and run a string of successful companies. An enormous presence in our industry, Obrart is a hugely deserving recipient of AIRAH’s highest honour. ■

LIST OF PLATES

1. Student of the Year – Trade co-winner Patrick Brennan, Stud. AIRAH
2. Student of the Year – Trade co-winner Anthony Consterdine, M.AIRAH
3. Future Leader Massimo Fiorentini, Affil.AIRAH, with A.G. Coombs’ Bryon Price, F.AIRAH.
4. AIRAH staffers Honeylet Knoll and Liisa Hill.
5. Darren Kelly from NDY, a Tetra Tech Company, winner of Best HVAC Retrofit or Upgrade.
6. Russell Telford from A.G.Coombs and Martin Howland from AECOM – joint winners of the Excellence in Innovation award.
7. James Harrison Medal recipient Alan Obrart, F.AIRAH.
8. W.R. Ahern Award winner Hongsen Zhang, M.AIRAH.
9. Ebm-papst’s Martina Heine and Simon Bradwell, M.AIRAH, winner of the Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion award.
10. Julian Hudson, M.AIRAH, from Glaciem Cooling, winner of the Excellence in Refrigeration award.
11. Laurence Vickery from Trafalgar Fire Containment, winner of Product of the Year award.
12. Russell Telford from A.G.Coombs and Martin Howland from AECOM – joint winners of the Excellence in Sustainability award.
13. Your hardworking AIRAH staff.

Images: David Callow Photography.

Thanks to our event sponsor

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For more information about the AIRAH Awards 2018, go to www.airah.org.au/awards