New horizons
Exploring the essential future skills for HVAC&R professionals.
New year, new extremes

Environmental records continued to fall earlier this year as temperatures continued to rise, writes Mark Vender.

January 2020 was the warmest January on record for the globe.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) notes that this January was only 0.03°C warmer overall than January 2016 – the hottest year on record so far. However, some parts of the world experienced more pronounced conditions.

Europe was about 0.2°C warmer than the previous record, set in 2007, and 3.1°C warmer than the average January in the period 1981–2010. Average temperatures were especially high over large parts of north-eastern Europe, in some areas more than 6°C above the 1981–2010 January average.

Temperatures in the village of Sunndalsora in western Norway rose as high as 19°C, more than 25°C above the monthly average. In Sweden, meanwhile, the town of Orebro saw its warmest January day since records began in 1858.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which measures both land and sea temperatures, it was the warmest January since NOAA records began in 1880. The global temperature was 1.14°C above the 20th-century average.

In Australia, lasting memories will be of the fires rather than the heat. But it was still a hot January. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, it was the third-warmest January on record, 1.45°C above average. It was the second-warmest January on record for Queensland, third-warmest for New South Wales, and sixth-warmest for the Northern Territory.

In early February we received news that Antarctica had registered its warmest temperature since records began in the early 1960s. The new top of 18.3°C, logged at an Argentinian research station, was 0.8°C higher than the previous record of 17.5°C, set in March 2015.

A vote for excellence

Nominations are open for the AIRAH Awards 2020 – do you know someone who makes the grade?

The AIRAH Awards recognise excellence and achievement in Australia’s HVAC&R sector. They are a chance to applaud leading projects, people and products, and provide our industry with the inspiration to keep raising the bar.

AIRAH is now receiving nominations for this year’s awards. The AIRAH Awards 2020 will be an extra special event coinciding with AIRAH’s 100th anniversary and the Outlook 2020 International HVAC&R Conference in Sydney from November 8–10. The awards gala will be the culmination of this landmark event, taking place on the evening of November 10.

Nominations can be made across 13 categories for the greatest achievements from 2018–2019.

Would you like to know more

For more information about the AIRAH Awards, including a video of last year’s awards ceremony, go to www.airah.org.au/awards

Nixon Chau, M.AIRAH, is a business development executive at ActronAir, based in Melbourne.

Speciality
I specialise in sales and equipment selection for commercial tenders and D&C projects. But I’m actually a “jack of all trades”.

My HVAC career started with sweeping the floors at Totaline Carrier, I then spent six years selling refrigeration spare parts, two years distributing fan blowers and now selling package units and ducted units.

I’ve clocked up 10-plus years’ experience in HVAC and have never looked backed.

Passions
When I learnt “your air conditioner is not blowing cold air, it’s actually removing heat,” I was immediately hooked and developed this curiosity and passion about a product I once thought was just another household appliance.

The science behind it all is very interesting to me. The basic principles of refrigeration will remain the same for some time, but the electronic technology is evolving rapidly. I can see gradual improvements in how we control our environment.

This is very exciting to me, and I have become obsessed with innovative smart technology such as touch-screen controls platforms, new software and home automation devices.

Challenges
Melbourne weather and psychrometrics.

Inspiring words
“We are part of this universe, we are in this universe, but perhaps more important than both of those facts are that the universe is in us.” – Neil deGrasse Tyson

Favourite destination
Japan, Vietnam and Australia. I have travelled to Japan many times; I’m obsessed with their culture. Vietnam is where my parents come from and Australia is home.