

HVAC&R

Nation

AN AIRAH PUBLICATION

ARBS wrap

Our best
on show

**Skills
WORKSHOP**

HVAC&R
Optimisation –
Variable
head-pressure
control



WHEN THE WORST HAPPENS

**PREVENTING AND DEALING
WITH HVAC&R WORKPLACE TRAGEDIES.**

OUR BEST ON SHOW



ARBS exhibitors took things to another level in 2016.

Who said face-to-face communication was dead? The ARBS 2016 exhibition in Melbourne proved that regardless of the influence of social media and the internet, nothing beats the opportunity to network with peers and colleagues from around the country and across the world. **Sean McGowan** reports.

It promised to be a big one, and ARBS 2016 didn't disappoint.

As Australia's only international air conditioning, refrigeration and building services trade exhibition, ARBS 2016 broke all records for both attendance numbers and exhibitors.

Across three jam-packed days at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, more than 8,700 industry members took in the sights and sounds of our industry on show – representing an overall increase of nearly 12 per cent on ARBS 2014.

On the first day alone, almost 3,000 people filed into ARBS 2016 to find that a record 323 exhibitors had filled the cavernous exhibition space with the latest products, cutting-edge technologies and ground-breaking services.

Immediately noticeable on entry was the effort some of the big brands had made to showcase their products in large, bright and welcoming exhibition spaces.

"I thought that, particularly this year, the quality of the ARBS exhibition was excellent," says ebm-papst's general manager Simon Bradwell, M.AIRAH. "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."

And as has become customary at ARBS, there was plenty of food and drink on offer for current and prospective customers.

Indeed, the number of baristas on the ARBS exhibition floor making coffee had some wondering if Melbourne's famous laneway cafes had closed for the week!

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Beyond the big players, hundreds of no-less-important smaller companies had taken significant effort with their exhibition spaces to present their products and services to the thousands of attendees.

Hours could be filled among the rows of exhibitors, who were only too willing to share information and explain how they were making a positive impact on our industry.

Away from the crowds, the increasingly popular ARBS Seminar program was well attended, with a number of highly anticipated panels and guest speakers presenting across a wide range of topics.

Opening the seminar program on day one of ARBS 2016 was a breakfast panel discussion on the emerging WELL Building Standard.

Moderated by Norman Disney & Young's Tony Arnel, this session set the tone for those presentations that followed – ranging from updates on Australian Standards to natural refrigerants, fan technology, and the phase-down of HFCs in Australia.

There really was something for everyone.

GAME ON

Day one of ARBS 2016 also saw the commencement of the 2016 WorldSkills Australia National Refrigeration Competition, supported by the Australian Government and Heatcraft Australia.

With fellow industry professionals looking on, it was game on for the nation's top 10 refrigeration apprentices, who were given just 18 hours to demonstrate their skill and knowledge by completing four key tasks.

The culmination of close to a year of hard work and dedication, the journey of each competing apprentice began at the WorldSkills Australia Regional Competitions held across the country, before a year of training led them to ARBS for a shot at the national title.

Completed across the three days of ARBS 2016, each apprentice was vying for a chance to represent Australia as a Skilleroo at the 44th WorldSkills Competition to be held in Abu Dhabi next year.

"We feel it's important to support the industry we're a part of," says director of sales at Heatcraft Michael Ryan. "It's important to encourage young people to achieve greatness, but also to realise that they're part of something much greater than what they do. The stronger our industry is at the grass-roots level, the stronger it will be longer term and more relevant to the country."

Competitors were judged on the installation of a refrigeration system, the commissioning of an air conditioning system, refrigeration fault-finding and electrical fault-finding, with tools down called at 11.30am on the final day of the exhibition.

After three intense days, the gold medal was awarded to Nathan McHugh, representing the Brisbane Region and TAFE Queensland SkillsTech (you can read HVAC&R Nation's exclusive interview with McHugh on page 26).

The Silver Medal was awarded to Hayden McColl, representing the South-West Queensland Region and TAFE Queensland SkillsTech; while the Bronze Medal was awarded to Matthew Cleave, representing the Sydney West Region and TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute.

As well as going on to represent Australia in Abu Dhabi, McHugh also won a trip to attend the Chillventa Exhibition held in Nuremberg, Germany later this year.

PODIUM FINISH

After a record opening day, day two of ARBS 2016 culminated in the bi-annual ARBS Industry Awards, which recognises the achievements of those in Australia's air conditioning, refrigeration and building services industries.

Hosted by popular actor and funny-man Shane Jacobson of *Kenny* fame, the awards were held for the first time at Crown Palladium to accommodate the hundreds in attendance.

Now well entrenched in our industry, the awards attracted nominees from across all sectors of the industry. A panel of industry experts was given the heady task of evaluating the nominations based on various criteria including leadership, sustainability, performance and innovation.

This year's award winners included:

The ARBS Young Achiever Award 2016:

Leon Wurfel, M.AIRAH, managing director of 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



WorldSkills warriors. Australia's best refrigeration apprentices battled it out across three days.

The Outstanding Industry Education/Training Award 2016:

Diploma of Engineering Technology in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning – TAFE NSW Sydney Institute (Sydney TAFE)

The bi-annual ARBS Industry Awards also represents an opportunity to recognise the achievements of leaders in the industry via the ARBS Hall of Fame, with nominations coming from key industry bodies.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees were Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH, (nominated by AIRAH), Neil Marshall (nominated by AMCA) and Garry Mundy of AIRAH company member ActronAir (nominated by AREMA).

LOOK OUT SYDNEY

After an absence from Sydney due to the redevelopment of Sydney's Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour, ARBS finally returns to the Harbour City in 2018 for its first exhibition in the newly developed space.

If it's true that absence makes the heart grow fonder, then ARBS 2018 will surely be the biggest and best yet.

"We are confident 2018 will build on the very solid foundations from this 2016 and previous exhibitions," says ARBS chairman Ian Hopkins, M.AIRAH. ■



The AIRAH stand was abuzz throughout ARBS.



For fans of big fans.



ebm-papst was awarded the "Best Large Custom Stand".



Glitz and glam at the ARBS Awards Gala.



Mark "Tubby" Taylor spruiks his favourite AC company.



2016 broke records for exhibitor numbers.



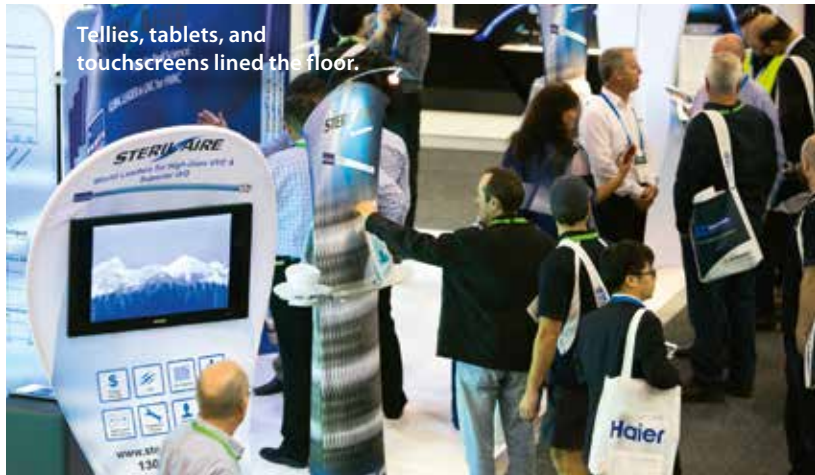
The ARBS seminar program had something for everyone.



Building new networks.



Exhibitors parade their latest kit.



Tellies, tablets, and touchscreens lined the floor.



More than your average "trade show".