



A model of James Harrison's ice-making machine.

A brief history of AIRAH

Throughout 2020 Ecolibrium will be regaling you with tales from the Institute's storied history. In our first instalment we chart the important dates, momentous moments and major milestones.

1919 Victorian Institute of Refrigeration formed to commemorate James Harrison, the inventor and pioneer of the refrigeration process in Australia.

President – William French, Chief Engineer, Government Cool Stores, Melbourne.

1920 Victorian Institute of Refrigeration incorporated by Guarantee.

President – James Stroud, Chief Engineer, Carlton & United Breweries, Melbourne.

1929 Institute of Refrigerating Engineers NSW formed in Sydney.

President – A.N. Campbell, Chief Engineer, Tooth & Co. Ltd. Irving St Brewery.

1935 Society of Refrigeration Engineers (NSW) formed in Sydney by Eric Ebeling, "Ginger" McCullagh and Jack Turbill.

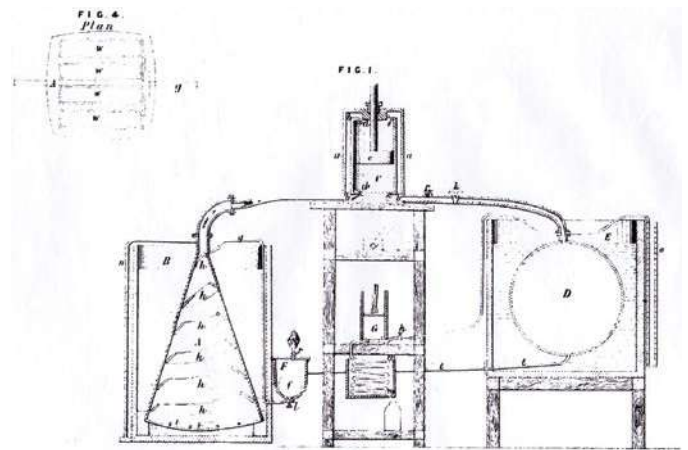
Victorian Institute of Refrigeration changes name to Australian Institute of Refrigeration.

1938 First Australasian Congress of Refrigeration and Dairying held at the RAS Showground, Sydney.

1941 After a meeting in Albury comprising delegates from the three groups (Institute of Refrigerating Engineers NSW; Society of Refrigeration Engineers (NSW); Australian Institute of Refrigeration), a decision is made to form the Australian Institute of Refrigeration, with headquarters in Melbourne.

Federal President – E. R. Gordon.

- 1942–44** West Australian, South Australia and Queensland divisions formed.
- 1947** First issue of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration's official journal, *The Refrigeration Journal*, published in Melbourne, with George Boulton as Editor.
- 1956** "Centenary of Refrigeration" celebrated in all states on the initiative of the Victorian division.
- 1957** James Harrison Scholarship initiated in Victoria.
- 1958** First Australian Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Exhibition and Convention held at RAS Showground, Sydney. Guest lecturers, Prof. Rudolph Plank of Germany, and George Taubeneck of the US become first Honorary Members of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration. Membership of A.I.R. reaches 1,000.
- 1959** Australian Institute of Refrigeration acknowledges growth of air conditioning industry and agrees to change name to Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating (Inc.).
- 1960** AIRAH Journal name changes to *Refrigeration, Air Conditioning & Heating*.
- 1962** AIRAH becomes an Associate member of ASHRAE.
- 1968** New headquarters established at National Science Centre, Melbourne.
- 1969** Tasmania division formed. Membership totals 1,763.
- 1972** James Harrison Medal introduced. This medal commemorates outstanding work by individuals within the science and/or practice of refrigeration, air conditioning and heating in Australia.
- 1978** AIRAH signs MoU with the Society of Air Conditioning Heating Sanitary Engineers (SHASE) Japan.
- 1979** WH Ahern Award introduced. This award is presented to the author of the best paper published by an AIRAH member in the AIRAH Journal during the year.
- 1981** Excellence Award introduced. The Excellence Award acknowledges projects or aspects of projects that embody excellence in relation to invention, innovation, design, operation, maintenance or energy conservation. Aesthetics, environmental and community benefits were also considered.
- Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory divisions formed.
- 1983–86** Fiji chapter and Papua New Guinea chapters formed.
- 1988** Gold Coast and North Queensland chapters formed.



- 1989** AIRAH Industry Directory first produced. This publication continues (now known as *HVAC&R Search Compendium*) to the present.
- Illawarra chapter formed.
- First AIRAH Handbook (A5) published.
- 1990** Last of the state-based AIRAH national conferences held. As of 1991 all conferences have been coordinated out of the federal head office while still being rotated around the states.
- AIRAH celebrates 70th anniversary.
- Global CFC phase-down begins.
- First two-day technical education program developed and delivered. The course covers Legionella.
- James Harrison Bridge in Geelong opens on September 21. Work commenced in 1987.
- 1991** Ammonia Refrigeration six-day training course developed and delivered.
- 1992** Education committee formed.
- AIRAH becomes member of IIR.
- ASNZ 1668 training course developed and delivered – Smoke Prevention and Mechanical Ventilation.
- 1993** AIRAH office moves to 52 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne.
- Official opening is September 3, the 100th anniversary of James Harrison's passing. The new office is named James Harrison House.
- Fellow grade introduced.
- 1994** 50th Anniversary of AIRAH's Qld division.
- 1995** Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Expo organised by AIRAH reaches 5,000 attendees for the first time.
- Geelong chapter formed.
- AIRAH's Diamond jubilee.
- 75th anniversary time capsule sealed and buried.

- 1996** Inaugural five-day Ammonia Training course run at the Ammonia Refrigeration Training Centre (ARTC), Werribee (Vic).
- 1997** AIRAH council approves reduction in AIRAH board councillors from 37 to 11.
50 years of the Journal.
First version of DA19 manual released.
- 1998** First ARBS Exhibition.
- 1999** AIRAH acts as the secretariat and event organiser for the IIR 20th. International Congress of Refrigeration in Sydney.
Board appoints Jennifer Pelvin as the CEO.
- 2000** AIRAH 2000+ Conference held in conjunction with ARBS. This was the last of the annual conferences.
Clive Broadbent, L.AIRAH, awarded an OAM.
AIRAH office in West Melbourne sold; AIRAH relocates in May to Level 7, 1 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.
Melbourne Aquarium Legionnaire's outbreak.
- 2001** National Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Council (NRAC) formed; ARC tick certification released.
- 2002** AIRAH Journal moves in-house and rebranded as *Ecolibrium*.
AIRAH members vote on the proposed name change to the "Institute of Environmental Engineering". Overwhelming response to remain known as AIRAH.
AIRAH board approves the restructure of the divisional committees – volunteers to focus on events for members while national office has responsibility for finances.
Introduction of special interest conferences.
- 2003** AIRAH involved in R410a training.
- 2004** Water Treatment Victoria Code of Practice and Training Program developed and released.
AIRAH and Institute of Hospital Engineers Australia (IHEA) signs MOU for strategic partnership.
- 2005** AIRAH office moves to bigger premise on Level 3, 1 Elizabeth Street Melbourne (Level 7 office sold).
- 2006** Graduate Certificate Air Conditioning Code Compliance released.
Phil Pryor named new CEO.
- 2007** AIRAH has role in ARC licence RPL certifications – ARC assessment program.
HVAC&R Nation magazine established.

- 2008** AIRAH board altered to include five members with one discretionary member.
July – Ecolibrium has major redesign; loses "Eco man" logo.
Ian Scott appointed General Manager.
- 2010** AIRAH's 90th anniversary.
AIRAH's 90th Anniversary Conference held.
Phil Wilkinson, F.AIRAH, appointed CEO.
AIRAH expands training into online courses.
- 2011** AIRAH in conjunction with IBPSA hold the International Building Simulation Conference in Sydney.
- 2013** The Future of HVAC Conference first held.
- 2016** Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH, named new CEO.
Graduate Training Program (now Professional Diploma in Building Services – HVAC&R) pilot program held.
AIRAH's first female President, Ania Hampton, M.AIRAH, appointed.
Women of AIRAH formed.
- 2017** Inaugural Buildings Physics Forum held.
- 2018** HVAC&R News site and e-newsletter launched.
AIRAH signs MoU with the Indian Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE).
AIRAH on Air Podcasting series launched.
- 2019** AIRAH Express student e-news launched.
Innovation Hub for Affordable Heating and Cooling (i-Hub) launched.
Inaugural Big Data and Analytics held.
AIRAH signs MoU with Institute of Refrigeration (IoR – UK).
Institute launches the AIRAH Registered Professional Engineer (ARPEng) program.



Would you like to know more?

For more information on AIRAH's centenary, go to www.airah100.org.au