

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Because of the restrictions placed on us by the Covid pandemic the past 12 months have been difficult for the community as well as the Foundation. The 2020 ARBS Exhibition scheduled for May was postponed and rescheduled for February 2021 in Melbourne. However the continuing Covid shutdowns in Victoria coupled with the high likelihood of international travel continuing to be heavily restricted through the first half of 2021 led to the Exhibitions Board's decision to push the event out to 2022.

The 2022 event will be held in Melbourne over the period 16-18 August.

ARBS Exhibitions previously committed to make an annual financial grant to the Foundation to support its programs. In light of the loss of income from the 2020 Exhibition, the payment for this financial year 2020/21 was held off. Nevertheless, the Foundation was able to continue to receive and deal with requests for funding for a range of projects.

All funding requests were considered on their merit. Some received funding support others did not.

Since its inception, the Foundation has made grants totalling \$399,207. In this past financial year, the total was \$102,106.

Those new projects funded during the year were: –

- The third year of the AMCA/AREMA trade scholarship program.
- CIBSE to develop and introduce building services training modules for delivery to staff of head contractors.

- Team Catalyst to undertake a further stage of the project looking at relative energy efficiency of different air conditioning systems in a generic building. The high quality report has been released and well received.
- As a test case, one sole trader was approved to study three modules of those available for NABERS accreditation to advise on the rating of offices.
- Subsequently funding of further 8 sole traders to undertake NABERS courses has been approved

Four submissions received from a range of organisations were not approved. The reasons why they were not approved varied. They were either not value for money; not clear enough in their scope; were proposing to research subjects that are well studied already or had a private commercial outcome.

Due to the loss of income for the 2021 financial year and the likelihood that funds won't be available from Exhibitions until late in the second half of the 2022 financial year, the Foundation Board will need to be circumspect in approving projects. We will need to work with the currently available funds through the next 16 months

The composition of the board of directors was kept under review. I am very aware over time the board needs to have gender balance which reflects community expectations while ensuring the skills brought to it are appropriate. To this end several people have been interviewed. In my opinion the Foundation would be wise to hold off making new appointments until we return to a financial position which will allow us to be more active supporting industry initiatives.

Finally, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of the directors for the constructive way they have approached all matters brought before the board.

Ian Hopkins
Chairman