

ARBS Foundation

Chair's Annual Report

October 2025

It is my pleasure to present my first annual report as Chair of the ARBS Foundation.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by Ian Hopkins. Ian was instrumental, during his time as Chair of ARBS Exhibition, in establishing the Foundation. For more than a decade he guided the Foundation with dedication and vision. His decision to step down in May this year marks the end of an era, and his wise counsel will be greatly missed.

Another inaugural director, Ashak Nathwani AM, also retired during the year. Ashak's expertise and commitment were invaluable, and the Board expresses its sincere appreciation for his service.

I am equally pleased to welcome four new directors to the Board:

- Professor Jason Monty
- Pam Rogers
- Chris Wright
- Mikaila Ganado

Each brings outstanding experience and knowledge to the Foundation. I am confident that together we will make significant contributions to our mission.

The Foundation was established by ARBS Exhibition to provide a structured and enduring means of returning profits from the biennial exhibition to the HVAC&R industry. As a wholly owned subsidiary, the Foundation is charged with assessing the merit and appropriateness of funding applications and

ensuring that resources are directed to initiatives of real value to the industry.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded grants totalling more than half a million dollars. Slightly less than half of this has been invested in developing and delivering training programs, with the balance directed towards research projects that advance industry knowledge.

Grant Highlights 2024/25

Over the past 12 months, the Foundation has been proud to support a diverse range of initiatives:

- ✓ Ongoing support for the STEaM course for secondary school students, delivered by AKON Education Services in conjunction with Engineers Australia.
- ✓ Funding for AIRAH to review and update its application manual DA17 for cooling towers.
- ✓ Collaboration with Refrigerants Australia to support a longitudinal study on refrigerant leakage across 60 technology types.
- ✓ Support for Kirby Australia to deliver two additional CO₂ apprentice scholarship courses, enabling approximately 50 apprentices to gain valuable specialist skills.
- ✓ Financial assistance through CIBSE to help migrant engineers upgrade their qualifications and improve employment prospects.
- ✓ Funding for AIRAH to advance a project on the safe use of flammable refrigerants in stationary refrigeration and air conditioning systems.
- ✓ Funding DELTA Q to research the impact of embodied carbon in the building services and building design sector.

These projects reflect the Foundation's ongoing commitment to both skills development and research, ensuring that the industry remains safe, sustainable, and forward-looking.

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow directors for the constructive and engaged manner in which they have approached our opportunities to have impact in the name of ARBS Exhibitions. Your commitment ensures the Foundation continues to fulfil its purpose with integrity and impact.

I look forward to building on this success in 2025/26 and beyond.



Dr Simon Bradwell

Chair