

2019

Annual Report



IRHACE
NEW ZEALAND





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A word about COVID-19

As we write this Annual Report for 2019, midway through 2020, we can't ignore the developments of COVID-19 in recent months. The immediate and knock on effects have altered and will continue to affect our lives forever. Unfortunately we don't know where or when this horrific situation will end, as so much continues to unfold. As this global pandemic continues to build momentum, 2020 will be markedly different to 2019, in every way.

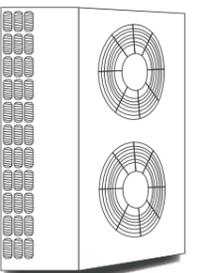


Our organisation

The main aims of the Institute of Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers (IRHACE) are to promote the economic well-being and quality of life of our members, and of the Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration industries (our industry). IRHACE are also committed to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of every New Zealander, through:

- » representing and promoting the industry interests of our members
- » advancing and promoting (including the use of standards) the technology used by and activities of those in our industry
- » supporting training and education in the industry
- » promoting a high level of skill, qualifications and continuing professional development
- » promoting the development of practice guides and other industry Standards as the Council thinks is appropriate for and relevant to our industry that members shall follow
- » providing a forum for our members, associates and affiliates to discuss and share their knowledge and experience
- » providing a forum where our members, associates and affiliates and members of the public can settle their disputes.

With 522 members at the end of 2019, IRHACE over the year saw stable membership numbers.



A word from the President

It's been over a year since my term began. Thanks to COVID-19 and resource issues at the IRHACE Centre in December, it's been a lot to handle. Thankfully, with the support of IRHACE Councillors and the CCCANZ Board, I've been able to see a lot of it through. Some of the highlights of 2019 included:

- » Licensing/Credentials and the Refrigerant License Regime (RLR)
- » Product Stewardship Scheme
- » COVID-19 (which, technically began cropping up in late November 2019).

While COVID-19 is less of a highlight and more of an ongoing obstacle, we're working as a team to tackle everything in an appropriate manner.

There's still a lot more to be done. We need all the help you can give us. At the moment, we're on a recruitment drive for councillors and volunteers – just to name a few.

Our industry, like others, will be facing new challenges due to COVID-19 disruptions. We all must work together and evolve in order to carry on and excel.

Some of the advances I can proudly say we've made in the past year are:

- » Strong representation by members for Industry Credentials (RLR)
- » Strong representation for the Proposed Product Stewardship Scheme
- » Facilitating/creating inclusiveness and collaboration of our three entities and future planning of further visibility on joint projects
- » A vastly improved presence on social media – Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.
- » Reviewing our financial viability post-COVID-19 lockdown
- » Continuous growth and support for our members
- » Completion (late 2020) of Seismic Courses tailored for industry, Fundamentals and Advanced versions.

However, there continue to be challenging times ahead. But with the help of the IRHACE Council, CCCANZ and RLTB, I'm sure we will get through this just fine!



Ashwin Patel

IRHACE President – Ashwin Patel

A word from the General Manager

As I reflect on 2019, oddly the last five months of 2020 seem like a lifetime within itself. COVID, whilst not applicable to 2019 per se, somewhat renders it irrelevant. You know the rest, and frighteningly COVID and all that means for NZ and the world, is still unfolding before our eyes.

Being realistic, in 2019 and at present, our industry is committed to a better future for our members – no matter what is thrown at us. We understand the various pressures our membership are under, and have been for some time. In 2019, attracting and retaining staff remained a key issue with dilemmas such as whether or not to take on additional apprentices, assuming head contractors remained viable, the parlous state of those retentions and changes to legislation, among others. Trade was tough but predictable in 2019.

That brings us to the long awaited Refrigerant License Regime. The HVAC&R industry sat in a bizarre holding pattern in 2019, as we waited for government to get their act together and make some decisions. We were waiting for that next consultation document late last May. MBIE promised more and weeks turned into months until finally in December MBIE pushed the button and we received notification of the targeted consultation. Our members were amazing, you rallied over the holiday period, 'had your say' by email, Facebook, and phone, to ensure that your points were put forward. The regime will be a reality in 2022, its content is still a matter of negotiation.

I've missed connecting with members as frequently as I had hoped to this year. Thanks to the pandemic, our conference was cancelled and the AGM delayed. Due to the virus, many of our connections had to primarily happen on online or by email – it felt less personal. I always welcome a phone call or meeting members at events such as Regional trade nights and other events.

Regardless of the year or economic situation, our industry is integral in supporting every primary sector in NZ (perhaps with the exception of forestry), and most other tenets of our lives. We should be proud of that. HVAC&R are a small but significant industry. We have great people and a strong future.

IRHACE must rally through this new dynamic environment. We need to continue to collaborate, remain optimistic and support members as our new world post-COVID unfolds.



Christine Johnston

IRHACE General Manager – Christine Johnston



IRHACE National Council

The faces of IRHACE



Aswhin Patel
President
2019-2021



Karl Burke
Immediate Past President
2017-2019



Mark Meyer
Elected Councillor



Dave Nicholls
Elected Councillor



Dave Noyer
Elected Councillor



Paul Shaw
Elected Councillor



Tony King
Elected Councillor

Position	Name	Appointed	Term ends
President	Aswhin Patel	AGM 2019	AGM 2021
Past President	Karl Burke (President 2017 – 2019)	AGM 2017	AGM 2021
Elected Councillor	Mark Meyer	AGM 2016	AGM 2021
Elected Councillor	Dave Nicholls	AGM 2015	AGM 2021
Elected Councillor	Dave Noyer	AGM 2015	AGM 2021
Elected Councillor	Paul Shaw	AGM 2015	AGM 2021
Elected Councillor	Tony King	AGM 2018	AGM 2021

Additional council appointments will be elected at the 2019 AGM.

Council meetings

Council activities in 2019 have consisted of six board meetings, plus the AGM on 23 May 2019.

In addition, Councillors and other members represent IRHACE at events and on various government committees. Read more about these on subsequent pages.



Our activities in 2019

IRHACE TRUSTEESHIPS

Refrigerant License Trust Board

Whilst 2019 was a period of consolidation for Refrigerant Licence Trust Board (RLTB), several important initiatives provided a solid foundation for 2020 activity. The organisation saw unprecedented growth, particularly with Approved Filler Face-to-Face Training. The sector strongly supported industry compliance along with lifting the standard of those training. Course activity is listed below but we also mention:

- » Course content was reviewed and updated for Approved Filler (Face-to-Face) and Online
- » Course content updated for Flammable Awareness Courses
- » Both Approved Filler and Flammable Awareness Courses now support Unit Standards
- » The EEECA Heat Pump Good Practice Guide was reviewed by IRHACE and the training collateral for this course subsequently updated
- » RLNZ signed a contract with Real Alternatives an EU funded organisation, to bring CO2 and Flammables training to NZ. This will be introduced in Q4 2020
- » RLNZ became a Compliance Certifier for Worksafe under the HSWA Act with Deirdre Johns being retained to undertake this important work on RLNZ's behalf.

ACTIVITIES FOR RLTB IN 2019		
Course name	Completions	Increase (Decrease)
Approved Fillers Courses (Face-to-Face)	590	54%
Approved Fillers Courses (Online)	229	(27%)
Flammables Courses (Face-to-Face)	125	300%
Flammables Courses (Online)	11	(43%)
Ammonia Operators Course (In conjunction with AIRAH)	9	(25%)
Ammonia Operators Courses (In conjunction with AIRAH)	11	1

The Refrigerant License Trust Board Performance Report for 2019 is enclosed with the communication to which this report is attached.

Refrigerant Recovery Trust

IRHACE are the sole shareholder of the Trust for the Destruction of Synthetic Refrigerants and their operating company Recovery New Zealand and are committed to supporting the good work Recovery do.

Recovery New Zealand facilitates and manages refrigerant gas disposal, playing a vital role in the protection of New Zealand's fragile ozone layer and our environment, so that future generations may enjoy what we do now. Operating a national refrigerant gas cylinder collection service, Recovery aim to maximise the recovery, reclamation and safe destruction of contaminated, surplus and unwanted synthetic greenhouse gas refrigerants and, in doing so minimise emissions into our atmosphere.

IRHACE along with CCCANZ and RLNZ throughout 2019, collaborated with Recovery and other industry organisations to develop a Product Stewardship Scheme which is a cradle to grave methodology for the management of High GWP Refrigerants. These organisations working with consultancy 3R, government, under the auspices of the Waste Minimisation Fund will advise their further commitment in late 2020 to a potential scheme.

The Trust for the Destruction of Synthetic Refrigerants and the Recovery Operating Company Limited's financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2018 are included with the communication to which this report is attached.



Membership and Branch activities in 2019



IRHACE National Council and Regional Branches had a very busy year in 2019. Engagement with the government remained a key feature, as did training and fellowships, but there were other highlights too! Of note, 2019 was less the “Year of Submissions” compared to 2018. However the submissions made were probably more directly attributable to the future of our industry.

Membership Activities in 2019		
Month	Event	About
February	ROVE announced by Ministry of Education	Just when we thought we knew what was ahead of us, the government turned the tables on us with the consultation for Reform of Vocational Education. With a very short lead in period, for such a transformational initiative, a cross industry team worked on “having our say”.
March	Submission	Reform of Vocational Education (ROVE)
April	MOTAT Science Fair	A Sunday event, the MOTAT science fair once again gave the industry an opportunity to interact with youth and to teach them more about Refrigeration. The Cool Squad brand was launched to further reinforce our relevance to young people.
May	HVAC&R Industry Conference and Trade Exhibition	Held in early May at the ASB Events Centre in Auckland, the trade exhibition showcased the best of what industry had to offer. This biannual event also was comprised of an informative conference programme. A highlight was the increased numbers attending both the activities and the trade show – a good sign of the health of this industry.
	HVAC&R Industry Apprentice of the Year Competition	Formerly known as the “Wallie Askew Workskills Competition”, 2019 marked the 21st year of this event. More information can be found later in the document.
	HVAC&R Industry Dinner and Awards Night	The following awards were presented at the HVAC&R Industry Conference Awards Dinner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Presidents Meritorious Service Award, Rob Morgan » McAlpine Award – Chris Farmer » Immediate Past President Award – Karl Burke » Branch Chair Award – Paul Shaw (Auckland/ Northland) » Branch Service Award – Craig Levein (Wellington)

Membership Activities in 2019

Month	Event	About
June	RLR for Ensuring effective regulation of H&S risks associated with toxic or flammable refrigerant gases – MBIE.	This long-awaited determination was finally made public. We’ve all discussed its shortcomings since. But on a positive note, we’ll have a mandatory Refrigerant License Regime (RLR) for CO2 and Flammables. Worksafe committed significant budget to get this underway.
	World Refrigeration Day	The inaugural World Refrigeration Day was held on 26 June and will be every year. NZ have the benefit of being the first place in the world to host the day and are often the coldest! Internationally the events were huge, and in NZ a number of the suppliers and members got behind the event.
November	Worksafe Engagement Event	Following on from a successful tour in 2018, Rob Morgan, Malcolm Miller and Christine Johnston hosted the project team from Worksafe. They’re charged with developing our impending Refrigerant License. Like the prior event, a selection of sites and refrigerant types was covered including subcritical supermarkets, to large ammonia installations.
December	Targeted Submission on Refrigerant License Regime	Was issued for consultation. The timing was a challenge, being the six weeks over Christmas. But membership rallied, engaging through email, Facebook, regional events and surveys. We did all we could to get the information out there and allow membership to “have their say”. The submission was made in mid-January 2020.

Branch activities in 2019

The committed teams in the branches work hard to represent their industry and engage with their membership. A small summary of Branch events in 2019 included:

Month	Branch	Event
March	Otago/ Southland	Eccles Tour
	Canterbury / Westland	Annual Golf Tournament and Branch AGM
April	Wellington , Auckland, Waikato/ BOP& Christchurch	Apprentice of the Year Regional Competitions held
	Auckland	Branch Annual General Meeting
June	Canterbury / Westland	Electrical Service Technician Refresher Course
August	Otago / Southland	Grundfos Technical Course
October	Otago / Southland	Passive Fire Seminar
	Wellington	Branch Trade Night and Technical Meeting regarding High GWP Refrigerants
November	Wellington	Christmas Event
	Canterbury/ Westland	Christmas Event
	Auckland	Branch Trade Night, and Have your Say, Refrigerant License Targeted Consultation Meeting
December	Wellington	Christmas Function

21st Annual HVAC&R Apprentice of the Year Competition

The HVAC&R Apprentice of the Year Competition was previously known as the “Wallie Askew Workskills Competition”. The event was held at the HVAC&R Annual Conference in May and was renamed in 2019 for its currency. Regional selection events were held in March and April, prior to the conference.

This event is an outstanding opportunity for young apprentices to showcase their skills in the trade to industry veterans and past competitors alike. It’s noticeable that contestants grow and develop markedly throughout the course of the regional and national competitions. The winner and finalists are afforded an outstanding foundation, phenomenal prizes donated by our generous sponsors, as well as kudos in the industry as the contestants head into their careers in HVAC&R.

National finalists and placings were:

Place	Apprentice	Employer	Branch
1	George Bailey	George Refrigeration	Wellington
2	Trevor Duff	Thermal Solutions	Auckland / Northland
3	Nik Lloyd-Smith	Cool Ray	Auckland /Northland
4	Jason Meyer	Excel Refrigeration	Waikato / BOP
5	Andrew Hanson	White Refrigeration	Auckland/ Northland
6	Te Rerenga Wetere	PowerChill	Waikato / BOP
Keith Stewart Award	Awarded to the youngest finalist in the HVAC&R Industry Apprentice of the Year Competition		Te Rerenga Wetere

Current Projects in 2020

IRHACE Council started 2020 with lofty expectations for the year. That was somewhat interrupted with lockdown, along with a change in focus and means of communication. The Industry Conference was cancelled and AGM delayed as the Council remain committed to a face-to-face event in both cases. COVID-19 certainly made things harder, as I’m sure you will agree.

There are however a number of valuable initiatives in hand, achieving a good outcome for the Refrigerant License Regime being one.

More on the initiatives for 2020 on next page.



Council Initiatives in 2019		
Initiative	Detail	Month
Advocacy	This is something industry can do with more success than any business in their own right. Building and maintaining relationships with Government can be a challenge but is very important and rewarding in our industry’s quest for change.	Ongoing through 2020
Submissions	This is an election year and less consultations are being undertaken by Government. That said, some departments are more focused on progressing initiatives than others and we may see some relevant to industry in coming months.	Ongoing through 2020
Refrigerant License Regime (RLR)	This is progressing and as mentioned previously, will become a reality in 2022. The RLR does have its shortcomings but is in development and will be mandatory for the most volatile and toxic refrigerants. The need to integrate training across all refrigerants is a key focus for a small team of Subject Matter Experts and they continue to advocate for that.	May/ June 2020 and ongoing
Refrigerant License Training	Refrigerant License NZ seized the downtime that lockdown provided to work on several important projects. Later in 2020 courses will be introduced in » Fundamentals of and Advanced Seismic Restraints » Fundamentals of CO2 handling. These national courses are relevant to the changing market and providing a good foundation for our technicians.	Q3 and Q4 2020
National Events	In light of the cancellation of the HVAC&R Conference to be held in June IRHACE have plans to engage with members at a regional level.	August to October 2020
Enhanced Member Benefits	The Council are always keen to provide enhanced benefits. These are outlined later in this document.	Ongoing
Membership Engagement and Recruitment	The Council understand the importance of providing relevance to members – that’s a broad brush. However, we’re continuously reviewing contact with members. We’re committed to surveying members and getting a clear picture on how to best serve them. New member enquiries occur regularly. The motivation to join can be anything from wanting to remain informed or networking, through to needing an association membership.	Ongoing
Branch Activity	The Branches continue to forge ahead to support their membership. Some of that involvement may become more online-based, but the odd Zoom catchup can be fun! We continue to recommend that you head along to the next event planned in your region. Branches want nothing more than your presence and support.	Ongoing

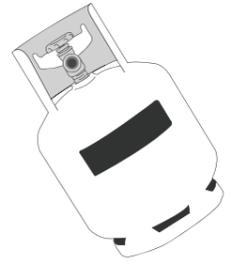
Benefits of being part of IRHACE

The Councillors and the team at the IRHACE Centre work hard to add value to your membership. They have started to survey members to ensure they get it right (or closer certainly).

As mentioned previously it's a broad brush. Members' reason for joining and belonging are wide and varied. We acknowledge what is a benefit for one may not be a benefit to another. In 2020 as mentioned above, enhancing benefits is a key focus to ensure membership engagement.

Benefits in 2019 included:

- » Complimentary annual subscription to IRHACE Journal
- » E-newsletter communications
- » Enhanced social media content – Facebook in particular
- » Member surveys on targeted subject matter
- » Branch member events such as trade nights, technical toolboxes and social events
- » Annual HVAC&R Industry Conference
- » Biannual HVAC&R Industry Trade Exhibition
- » Advocacy and the ability for IRHACE to “have their say” with both Government and the wider built environment
- » Discounted entry to member events including HVAC&R conference
- » Industry specific publications such as the Hygiene Guide and AIRAH Technical Handbook
- » Valuable affiliations with sister entities in Australia (AIRAH), Britain (IOR), United States ASHRAE) and Internationally (IIR)
- » Use of the IIR Fredoc Database for members
- » Access to the N3 Discount Card (Now renamed Boost)
- » A dedicated support office and resource to provide strong representation and the time to hear your views.



Strategic relationships

IRHACE continues to maintain strong national affiliations and memorandums of understanding to ensure a strong presence and voice. These entities within NZ include:



Our international affiliations include



Membership policy

There were no changes to IRHACE membership policy in 2019.



Get in touch



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