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16 December 2014

Welcome to the third and final newsletter from the NZRAB for 2014.

From the Registration Board's perspective, late 2014 has been a really interesting time.

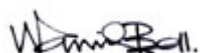
We've seen a substantial surge in the number of Australian architects becoming registered in New Zealand, as they are entitled to under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act which is a government to government arrangement.

At the same time, Kiwis in general are returning to New Zealand in large numbers and New Zealand's net inward migration is very high. The economic slow-down in Australia and the prospect of work in Christchurch are all in play.

As a result, just recently the total number of architects registered in New Zealand has increased more than expected. On 30 June 2013, we had 1,671 Registered Architects, on 30 June 2014 we had 1,722 and as I write this we have 1,751. What the long term trends will be remains to be seen.

Meantime, the NZRAB is working to make sure its activities are based on sound principles and robust policies. The latest in this regard is the review of the architect's code of ethics. This is all about the criteria against which architects can be held to account and what a profession means. In the New Year when we go to consultation, I urge all architects to give this careful thought.

On behalf of the NZRAB, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Chair



NZRAB News

Ethics Review

The NZRAB is reviewing the architects' code of ethics. A working party has been looking at this intensively and the discussions have been fascinating. Some of the questions being considered are as follows:

- Should there be a clause forbidding an architect from attempting to supplant another architect from his or her client?
- How should the code delineate between unethical "pinching" of another architect's ideas and the fact that all creative work comes within a shared cultural context?
- Does the present requirement that "a Registered Architect must not maliciously or

unfairly criticise or attempt to discredit another Registered Architect's work" stifle legitimate debate?

- Should the code include a requirement that architects only do work that they are competent to do?
- Should keeping one's skills and knowledge up to date be an ethical obligation?
- Should it be mandatory that terms of engagement are in writing?
- What additional ethical obligations, if any, does an architect have if he or she owns or manages a practice?
- Should the code have a view on whether or not an architect has PI insurance?
- What are an architect's ethical obligations to a client during a project?
- In this day and age, how realistic is requiring professional courtesy between architects as they compete commercially?

As you can see, these are really interesting questions. Once we have a formal draft we'll undertake a series of consultations on whatever is proposed.

Survey re state of the profession

The NZRAB has been thinking about whether there's a need for an increased emphasis on technical and management competence in qualifications recognised for initial registration. To start discussion, architects were recently invited to give their thoughts in response to the following questions:

- Should there be an increased emphasis on technical and management competence in architectural qualifications recognised for initial registration?
- Do graduates need to be better trained to take project leadership roles?
- Do architects in general need to become more professional?

The replies received make interesting reading. There's a mix of views, but a consistent theme is that the role of architects has contracted in recent years in a way that is of concern, and one of the answers has to be regaining technical mastery.

Respondents also acknowledged that for getting the required span of experience for registration has become more difficult for graduates seeking registration. This is because more graduates now work in large firms where there's increasing specialisation. Indeed, the NZRAB's Registration Committee has asked that a special plea be made to practice managers in Auckland to give their graduates greater involvement in procurement, ie contract negotiation and management. Our registration assessors have identified this as an issue for some applicants from Auckland.

Separately the NZIA is working on these issues also, so this is an area where there is a collective professional concern.

New Complaints Procedures

The drafting of rules that will allow the NZRAB to streamline its complaints and discipline procedures is now well advanced. There's been extensive work underway in recent weeks involving Parliamentary Counsel, the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment, and the NZRAB. As a result, hopefully, new regulations will be submitted to the Minister in the New Year. The reform should mean that our procedures are far less time consuming and decisions are made by those that have seen or heard the evidence.

Canada

In February next year, we expect to sign a APEC Architect Mutual Recognition Arrangement with Canada. This will entitle New Zealand's APEC Architect to a fast track procedure for registration in Canada, and vice versa. So if you do business in Canada this will be worth considering. The first step is becoming a New Zealand APEC Architect, the main requirement being seven years' experience at a senior level. There's more information about this at <https://www.nzrab.org.nz/c/APEC-Architects>.

New Architects

Since the last newsletter, a significant number of new architects have been assessed and as a result added to the New Zealand Architects Register. So, welcome to the profession: Robert Letherby, Bernard Needham, Duane Kolkrabs, Irene Tsui, Malcolm Hewin, Jackie Sue, Rajan Hira, David Tsao, Jessica Knight, Christoph Buch, Vance Bentley, Anne Carrington, Glen Cornwell, Campbell Craig, Rose Fox, Glen Frost, Ilona Haghshenas-Lari, Julian Harris, Henri Sayes, Milti Stefadouros, Jarod Parker, Greg Lee, Tom Locke, Edwin Ipsen, Chris Hitchcock, Brendan Scott-Woods, Elizabeth Honey, Peter Toy, Kelvin Peck, AJ Sutton, Mark Taucher, Ben Hudson, Marcus Stufkens, Pip Strawbridge, Marie Breustedt, Sarah Rutledge, James Norman, Sam Curtis, Andrew Banks, Andre Bishop and Patrick Thompson.

In addition two former New Zealand architects, Thomas Gill and Peta Drayton, have re-registered.

Also, as indicated earlier, there's been a large number of Australian architects taking up registration here. They are: Amber Hodder, Tristan Coakley, Ivano Gastaldon, Moana-Nui-A-Kiva Davis, Oliver Ingram, Ga-Jen Kong, Koos de Keijzer, Craig Chatman, Philip Snowdon, David Randerson, David Fung, Sophie Ross, Felicity Brenchley, Mark Jolly, Terry Bail, Eid Goh, Kristen Neri, Craig Smart, Eugene Marchese, Peter Marmont and Sally Young.

New Assessors

Twelve architects have become new Registration Assessors, these being the architects who carry out both initial and continuing registration assessments. They are: Dave Pugh, Peter Keys, Megan Rule, Paul Clarke, Hamish Davies, Damian McKeown, Peter Sisam, Rosalie Stanley, Stephen Thurman, Lauren Wong, Brita Corbett and Dennis Chippindale. This takes the total that do this work to 55.

Lost architects

In May/June every year, we issue invoices to architects for their annual certificates of registration. There are always a handful of architects that we cannot trace, typically because they have gone overseas. This year we cannot find **Adrian McNaught**, last known address in Auckland, and **Geoffrey Meyer**, last known address in Wellington. If you know where they are, please advise us or tell them to contact the NZRAB.

Christmas break

The office here will be closed on 24 December and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2015.

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