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Newsletter 2015/1

Dear

Welcome to the first NZRAB newsletter for 2015.

One of the things all professions wrestle with is what being a member of a profession means. I think one of the key defining characteristics of a profession is that its members are bound by a higher duty of care to their clients and the public than required just under the law.



This takes place in a context where the users of the service and the public do not have the same level of knowledge as the professional provider, and therefore have to trust the professional.

That higher duty of care is typically expressed in a code of ethics.

The **code of ethics** that binds New Zealand architects is currently under review. A working party has been developing proposals for improvement, and soon we will bring them to the profession to get your feedback.

Our code of ethics is important – it is one of the things that define what we are as architects. Also, we are all accountable to it.

So, when a draft is circulated, please give what's proposed serious thought. This is something we need to get right.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Warwick Bell'.

Warwick Bell  
Chair

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## NZRAB News

### Collaboration Publication

The NZRAB has been a joint sponsor of a recently released publication entitled **Improving Collaboration Between Architects and Engineers**. It came out of lessons learnt from the Canterbury and more recent earthquakes that architects and engineers need to collaborate better in the early stages of building projects.

As the publication says: "An architect designing a building and then saying to an engineer: 'Now make it work', isn't good enough, and risks mediocrity or worse." Thus a change in professional thinking is required, so that both architects and engineers better understand how they need to work together from the beginning to maximise the contribution that both professions bring to the design process.

### Fast track to registration in Canada

Australia, New Zealand and Canada have signed an **APEC Architect Mutual Recognition Arrangement** that allows senior Australian and New Zealand architects to access a cross-border fast-track registration procedure into Canada. The same also applies to senior Canadian architects

seeking registration in New Zealand or Australia. If you are interested in this for yourself, you first need to **apply** to become a New Zealand APEC Architect. There's a requirement for being an APEC Architect that one have at least seven years' experience as an architect in a senior role.

### New APEC Architect

As a follow up, another architect has been added to the New Zealand section of the **APEC Architect Register**. He is Ngata Tapsell, who is a New Zealand Registered Architect based in Singapore. Congratulations Ngata.

### New Rules

For some time, the NZRAB has been working on new minimum standards for initial and continuing registration and new and simpler discipline procedures. Regulations to deliver these reforms have been prepared, and in recent days a request has been sent to the Minister for Building and Housing asking for their implementation.

### Board Changes

Meantime, the Minister has recently decided to make the membership of the **NZRAB Board** smaller, reducing the number of Board members from eight to six. The terms of three Board members came to an end, these being Sir Hugh Williams, Helen Tonkin and Anna-Marie Chin. The NZRAB thanks them for their extensive efforts. One new Board member has been appointed – Arrowtown Architect Louise Wright.

### Recognised Degrees for Initial Registration

Most, though not all, architects have a five year tertiary qualification in architecture. As part of the NZRAB's initial registration procedures the NZRAB maintains a **listing** of degrees recognised for this purpose. The New Zealand degrees so recognised are quality assured every five years. This is done by a panel visiting the tertiary institution that provides the degree and conducting a three-day inspection of what's taught and the way it's taught.

For many years, this has been administered by the NZIA, with latterly Registration Assessor Denise Civil doing the coordination work. Denise has decided to step back from the role. Following that, the decision has been made that it makes more sense for the NZRAB to administer this. Registration Assessor Judith Taylor has kindly agreed to take the work on. Thanks Denise for all your excellent work over the years and welcome Judith to what is a most important part of the NZRAB's work.

### CPD for Grads

People who are working towards registration can now do and record CPD. The aim is to encourage graduates and others to extend their skills and knowledge, and give them a taste of the way architects keep up to date.

This is available for persons who either hold a qualification recognised for registration as an architect, or have had a NZRAB equivalency assessment as a first step towards registration, or are participants in the NZIA Graduate Development Programme.

If you or any of your colleagues or friends is working towards registration and want to do this, **more information and also an application form** are available.

### Competence Reviews

All architects have to be reviewed every five years to make sure they are still competent. This year, 151 architects are having their **five-year competence reviews**. This procedure takes place in the early part of the year and needs to be completed by 1 July when new annual certificates of registration are required.

That's our news to date. If you have any issues or concerns, do get in touch at 04 471 1336 or **info@nzrab.org.nz**.

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