

RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The importance of Continuing Professional Development

Advisory Note published 26 April.

NZRAB submission to MBIE on occupational regulation in the building and construction sector (including the Review of the Registered Architects Act)

Submission published 21 April.

NZRAB Annual Report for 2021/22 tabled in Parliament

Published 12 April.

NZRAB signs trilateral recognition agreement with Australia and the United Kingdom

Agreement signed 16 March.

Tēnā koutou

It is hard to believe that it is June and we are rapidly approaching the shortest day of the year - although many of you will have felt that with the weather that we have been experiencing this week!

It has been a busy few months in particular and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you.

Board appointments

In April the Board farewelled Kimberly Browne and Murali Bhaskar. Kimberly has served on the Board since 2016 and Murali 2019, and they have both made significant contributions to the work of the Board, NZRAB and the profession over that time. Kimberly will continue as an Assessor.

We were pleased to welcome new lay appointees David Ivory and Craig O'Connell to the Board in April. They have made a strong contribution in quick order.



Craig O'Connell is a Lay member of the Board with an extensive business consulting and governance background. He has experience in the construction sector in both Regulatory and Membership organisations and has many years consulting to, setting up, managing, and governing Regulatory bodies. In his experience, the effectiveness of a Regulatory body is dependent on taking the sector with you along with open and regular dialogue with all stakeholders.



Dr David Ivory has a background in commerce/law, governance, and education. He works as a Commissioner alongside the Christchurch City Council. He chairs both national and regional boards in the education sector. He is a Trustee of the Rata Foundation and Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, and a Director of several companies. David also undertakes work in the regulatory space, as a member of both the Medical Council of New Zealand and Te Kaunihera Manapou (Paramedic Council).

We have known for some time that this year would see Board membership change as terms of appointment come to an end. We have established, with the assistance of an external governance expert, a detailed induction programme for new appointees and have a range of mitigations in place to do what we can to ensure continuity and smooth transitions.

MBIE runs the appointments process on behalf of the Minister and will shortly notify the vacancy of the Chair, to fill the role which is due to expire in the near future. Under our Act a person continues to serve until replaced by a new appointee. MBIE are managing this with some urgency. Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects have been invited to nominate suitable candidates for consideration for up to three Member roles.

UK recognition agreement

On 15 March the United Kingdom Architects Registration Board (ARB), Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA), and NZRAB signed a tripartite mutual recognition agreement.

The agreement builds on the close links between our countries and will support greater mobility and collaboration amongst architects.

The agreement was formally launched at the British Consulate General in Sydney on 9 May.



Bill Dobbie, New Zealand Consul-General to Australia; **Gina Jones**, NZRAB Chair; **Arjuna Nadaraja**, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; **Alan Kershaw**, ARB Chair; **Dougal McKechnie**, NZRAB Chief Executive; **Kathlyn Loseby**, AACA Chief Executive; **Keith Drew**, AACA President; and host **Louise Cantillon**, United Kingdom Consul General and Trade Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand.

While in Sydney we took the opportunity to hold a series of meetings with our USA, UK and Australian counterparts. Gina Jones NZRAB Chair and Michael Melville Chair of our Registration Panel and Lead Convenor joined me. We were very generously hosted by the AACA, and they put on an incredible programme of meetings, visits to two Schools of Architecture, and site visits to a number of architectural highlights including the Opera House, the Quay Precinct and Tower, and the new extension of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

It really was a superb opportunity to discuss areas of mutual and common interest, and share our perspectives and insights. For me personally it was my first overseas work trip for many years and found it immensely enjoyable and thought provoking.

Continuing Profession Development

The Board recently published an advisory note highlighting the importance of continuing professional development (CPD).

This follows two recent decisions of the District Court which serve as reminders of the importance of CPD in maintaining the minimum standards necessary for ongoing registration.

The architect had been in practice for several decades and their CPD efforts had been minimal.

They were assessed by an evaluation panel as part of the ongoing competence review process. The panel's conclusion was that the architect had not "taken reasonable steps to maintain the currency of [their] architectural knowledge". The Board followed the panel's recommendation and suspended the architect's registration. They appealed to the Court against the Board's decision.

This was the first ever appeal under the Registered Architects Act 2005.

In the course of the hearing the Judge observed that the architect had a "rather disdainful attitude to the requirement for [them] to undertake CPD", and that "[their] words and actions (or lack of action) seem to exhibit a resistance to the whole idea of CPD".

The architect tried to support their case for ongoing registration by drawing on the experience and skills gained over the course of a long career, rather than demonstrating how they had maintained the currency of their architectural knowledge and skills over the past five years. Their view was that they "had not found anything to learn from other architects" in recent years and saw "no value in attending [CPD] events".

However, the Judge found the material the architect had presented in support of their work was not in keeping with the "practices and standards generally accepted in [their] profession as assessed by the Board and its members".

The appeal was dismissed, and the Board was awarded costs.

The close connection between the ongoing registration process and the maintenance of high professional standards was demonstrated just over two months later, when the District Court issued a

second decision involving the same architect. This was an appeal from a disciplinary hearing of the Board that found the architect had breached the Code of Minimum Standards of Ethical Conduct for Architects. They had failed to put in place adequate terms of appointment, and had not exercised due care and diligence when preparing their drawings or interacting with the local authority (this conduct occurred prior to their suspension). The Court upheld the Board's decision.

These disciplinary findings reinforce the purpose of CPD and the ongoing registration process.

KEY FORTHCOMING DATES

20 July

Interim NZRAB Board meeting

10 August

Full NZRAB Board meeting

11 August

Annual Assessor Training Day
Wellington

7 September

Pathway 1 Round 3 applications due

26-28 September

Wellington School of Architecture
Accreditation Review Panel site visit

These cases illustrate that, even in the later stages of an architect's career, there will be developments in technology, legislation and ethical practices that must be absorbed into one's practice. The risks to the public, and to the architect's own reputation, are too great to adopt the attitude that CPD is a waste of time.

Pathway 1 Round 2 deferral

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen resourcing issues the Board has decided to defer the Pathway 1 Round 2 intake. Applications are due on 22 June. The proposal is to move any applications already received or about to be submitted, into the current Round 3 intake.

If you have already submitted an application, we will be in touch with you to confirm arrangements and we will respond directly to any intended applicants as advised.

The timeline for the Round 3 intake is that applications are due 7 September with professional conversations scheduled to take place during October.

We regret having to make this decision, but it has been necessitated by events out of our control.

If there is anything you wish to reach out to me about, please feel free to do so. My email is dougal@nzrab.org.nz and telephone number is 027 371-4067.

Ngā mihi



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dougal McKechnie".

Dougal McKechnie
Chief Executive