

This Newsletter is an official ARBV communication with Architects

ARBV ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES AWARD 2006

After two successful years, this Award is available again and architects and their clients are invited to participate.

The closing date for 2006 nominations is 30 June.

Client evaluation forms will be mailed to all architects in May. They will also be available on the Board's website at that time or alternatively may be photocopied.

As there have been some changes to the form, please ensure you use the 2006 version.

To be eligible, an architect must have two, and no more than three separate nominations for projects completed within the last two years.

Members of the ARBV and its judging panel and their families are not eligible for this Award.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – CPD

For registration purposes, **CPD** is not compulsory in Victoria.

The *Architects Regulations 2004* deal with the professional expectations of architects. In

particular, Regulation 6 of the Professional Conduct Regulations states:

“An architect must perform his or her work as an architect in a competent manner and to a professional standard”

This regulation focuses attention on the need for continuing professional development, as explained in the ARBV Guidelines to the Professional Conduct Regulations which state that architects are expected to maintain competence and professional standards through regular attention to or participation in continuing professional development.

While this is an expectation by the Board, it does not mandate CPD.

The joint AACA/RAIA policy on CPD is an agreement to foster regular professional development and provides guidelines for those States or Territories where CPD is mandated, such as NSW. Each State and Territory has its own legislative or regulatory provisions for professional standards for architects.

The RAIA website states the following:
RAIA members are required by the RAIA Code of Professional Conduct to provide professional services conscientiously and competently and are obliged to improve their professional knowledge and competence through participation in continuing education activities.

The ARBV recognises that the great majority of architects pursue regular professional development and encourages all architects to continue with professional development appropriate to their circumstances

BOARD MEMBERS 2006

Current membership of the Board is:

Andrew Hutson Chairperson, architecture schools representative.

Jenifer Nicholls Deputy Chairperson, elected architect

Roger Frith, senior government architect

Pippy Watson community representative

Janet Kaylock community representative

Gary Crutchley allied industries representative

Jose Alfano, elected architect

Bernie Everett building industry representative.

The RAlA position is vacant and new nominations are awaiting Ministerial approval.

A second building industry position is also vacant.

APE DATES FOR 2006

	Part 1 Logbooks due	Part 2 National written paper	Part 3 Interviews (Dates may vary)
Round 1	8 March	5 April	5 May 8 May 12 May 15 May
Round 2	7 June	5 July	4 August 7 August 11 August 14 August 18 August
Round 3	6 September	4 October	1 November 3 November 6 November 10 November 13 November 17 November

APE LOGBOOKS

All Logbooks must now be accompanied by a Statutory Declaration that the logbook is a true and accurate record of your own work. A form is on the ARBV website.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

If you have a qualification other than from Australia or New Zealand, it is important to check with AACA about review of the qualification. There is information about this on the AACA web site at www.aaca.org.au.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The ARBV has in recent years identified the need for alternative methods of handling complaints against architects; but has previously been constrained by limited scope in the provisions of the Architects Act.

Amendments incorporated in the Act which came into force in June 2005 now allow the Board the option of referring complaints to mediation. This will potentially facilitate a more accessible, satisfactory and 'user-friendly' outcome for all parties.

Seeking to resolve disputes by mediation is a worthwhile initiative to improve the ability of the profession to meet community expectations and serve the public interest.

To ensure the success of the mediation process, the Board has developed policy and guidelines for its implementation and is establishing a panel of appropriately qualified mediators. This panel may include architects.

Expressions of interest are invited from architects and other building industry professionals who are accredited mediators to be included on a panel.

Please contact the Registrar for further information.

COMPLAINTS AND TRIBUNAL INQUIRIES

Procedures for complaints and Tribunal inquiries continue. Resulting from the Productivity Commission review the Act, we have had an opportunity to review and rejuvenate procedures for disciplinary inquiries under the Architects Act.

Two main outcomes are:

Separating the Tribunal inquiry from complaint investigation by the Board (Board members are no longer members of Tribunals); and a Tribunal panel, must have in its membership of three, an architect and two non –architects representing consumer interests and legal experience or knowledge.

A 'standing panel' for formation of Tribunals has been approved by the Minister for Planning. The groups in this panel reflect the requirements for Tribunal membership.

Outcomes of Inquiries are reported on our website and in the August newsletter.

HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS?

The Regulations require architects to notify the Board within 14 days of a change of address.

You can fax us on 9417 4711 or email on registrar@arbv.vic.gov.au with the details

If we don't have your current address, the annual fee reminder may go astray and you may miss renewal of registration.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

WorkSafe Guidance Note for 'Designing Safer Buildings and Structures'.

New duties for designers of workplace buildings and structures under Section 28 of the Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004 come into effect on July 1 2006.

Full information including the Guide to Section 28 of the OH & S Act 2004 is available from the work safe website at:
www.workcover.vic.gov.au/vwa/home.nsf/pages/safedesign.

WORKING WITH YOUR ARCHITECT

This useful brochure is available with current ARBV contact details. Orders for additional copies may be made using the order form on the last page of this Newsletter.

TO CONTACT THE BOARD

email: registrar@arbv.vic.gov.au
Level 7, 372 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Phone: (03) 9417 4444
Fax: (03) 9417 4711
Website: www.arbv.vic.gov.au

PI INSURANCE 2006

The Board congratulates the profession on its very high compliance with insurance requirements in 2005. Fewer than 100 practising architects were non-compliant at the beginning of this year.

Proof of insurance cover will be required in 2006 on registration or renewal of registration.

To register as a practising architect each year, two things must be in place no later than 1 July:

- Payment of the annual fee
- Proof of PI insurance cover for 12 months

If your insurance arrangements have not changed, and depending on the date of renewal for your insurance, you may be providing the same Certificate of Currency as last year.

If you are employed and covered by your employer's insurance, please provide the relevant Certificate of Currency. Please provide details of your employer on the annual fee form.

Your employer's insurance does not cover you for any work done outside that employment. If you are insured in your own right please provide your Certificate of Currency.

PI insurance is required regardless of the amount of work undertaken. It is wise to check premiums with a range of insurers.

Last year, being the first year of ARBV management of insurance, extensions were possible for providing proof of PI cover. No such extensions will be available in 2006. The deadline is 30 June, along with annual fees.

ANNUAL FEES 2006

The invoice for annual fees will be mailed to all architects, approved Companies and Partnerships by mid May this year, for payment no later than 30 June.

A copy of the completed form should be returned, with record of payment and insurance compliance. In accordance with the Architects Act, failure to renew registration and failure to provide proof of insurance cover means suspension from the Register.

FAX ARBV 03 9417 4711

Postal Address:

**Level 7,
372 Albert Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

ORDER FORM

Information brochure **WORKING WITH YOUR ARCHITECT**

Please supply to

Name or firm (PLEASE PRINT)

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.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please complete as appropriate.

Copies

25 at \$10.00

50 at \$15.00

100 at \$20.00

200 at \$30.00

Payment (includes postage and handling)

Cheque enclosed

or

Visa

Card number / / /

Expiry date.....

Signature.....