

Welcome to issue 31 of the Network for Women in Forestry (NWIF) newsletter. If you would like to subscribe to receive the newsletter directly please email sonya@blackburnegroup.co.nz. **This newsletter is for you, Women in Forestry, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content.**

The IRD – Do You Owe Them Money?

The IRD are becoming aggressive about debt collection and are chasing non-payment of tax, particularly income tax, GST and PAYE. Aiding this process is the May 2014 Budget announcement of increased funding to the IRD for the collection of outstanding tax and returns.

Recent amendments to legislation will now allow IRD to bankrupt taxpayers particularly in situations where the taxpayer has taken excessive drawings or lived an extravagant lifestyle.

There have been a number of recent tax cases where taxpayers have been prosecuted for non-payment of PAYE and GST. If you are an employer the PAYE you deduct on behalf of your employees is held on trust for those employees and is required to be paid to the IRD. The IRD take a very dim view of the non-payment of PAYE.

While the IRD are responsible for recovering the maximum amount of debt in the most efficient manner, they must also ensure any debt recovery does not place a person in serious hardship and in some circumstances the IRD can write tax debt off (if hardship conditions apply).

If you have tax arrears that you are having difficulty repaying then contact your accountant who can discuss the various options available to you. If you don't have a repayment plan in place for your IRD debt, you will continue to be charged penalties, so prompt action will save you money.

This is a newsletter for you - the Women in forestry. Please email us and let us know what you want to see and read about in the next newsletter.

Accounting Systems In The Clouds

Accounting package suppliers are offering cloud solutions in all flavours. For a long time MYOB dominated small business accounting in New Zealand and Australia. Today it is competing with Xero, Reckon, and intuit, the four of which are the main accounting software players in the New Zealand market. Australia has all these and its own Saasu.

The most common of the four software options are MYOB and Xero, with recent commentary in the public domain reporting that *"Xero is a long way in front in terms of sheer performance. It also beats competitors with mature apps for mobile phones and tablets. Business people on the move can do everything on Xero, perhaps saving more complicated reporting for when they are in front of a PC"*.

MYOB has a wider range of products. Xero is one-size-fits-all or more accurately three-sizes-fit-all. MYOB has products for different tiers of business and with differing levels of cloud integration.

If you want something a little more specialist, say inventory control, you'd need to buy a third-party add-on product to use with Xero. MYOB covers inventory in its own range.

Before deciding whether a cloud accounting system is right for you and your business, consider 3 key questions:

1. How good is your internet connection speed?
2. Do you have the time to get training in and administer a cloud accounting system and keep it up to date?
3. Is your time better spent working on/in other areas of your business?

If you're not interested in accounting and want to keep life simple, it may be best to leave the decision about which software to use to your accountant.

Foresters To Meet Up In The Hawkes Bay

Forestry professionals are gathering in Hawkes Bay early July 2014 to attend the NZ Institute of Forestry's annual conference. *"Tackling Challenges and Delivering Value"*.

The conference focuses on a number of Hawkes Bay's challenges says Committee Chair, Bob Pocknall however it will have a national perspective and examine ways to deliver value despite changing times.

Key speakers will include; Jo Goodhew (associate Minister of Primary Industries), Chris Hipkins (Labour Party Forestry spokesperson), Fenton Wilson (Chair Hawkes Bay Regional Council) and the Managing Director of Pan Pac Forest Products Ltd.

The conference covers:

Operating within the Law – a Health & Safety and Environmental perspective

Hawkes Bay Land Use challenges – steep land forestry

Shaping a Better Industry – trends in safety, culture, productivity

Harvest Volumes and Logistics – up-scale of activity and infrastructure development

Markets – economics, the China trade, carbon

Value of our Forests – forest description, tree genetics, supply chain and high end wood products.

During the awards dinner the forestry profession recognise its achievers including new Fellows, Forester of the Year, and rewards the Kirk Horn (the highest honor available). Additionally, the NZIF Foundation awards several scholarships.

The conference is of interest to all within the forestry sector including; forest owners, forest and land managers, regulators, marketers, technicians, and support services.

Two planned field trips will showcase some of the excellent examples of innovative forestry development within Hawkes Bay.

Within the Hawkes Bay forestry sector there is a range of enterprises including forest properties on most land types, forest processing plants (including a large scale sawmill and pulp mill complex), and infrastructure support networks servicing the industry.

Further details of the July 7th to 9th event can be found on www.nzif.org.nz or by emailing admin@nzif.org.nz.

Source: Scoop Independent News/Business, 16 Jun 14

ACC

Workers and Employers will pay \$387 million less in ACC Levies in 2014/15. The savings affect the Earners Account (paid by the workers) and the Work Account (paid by the employers), as demonstrated in the following:

Year	Work Account Average Levy (per \$100 of liable earnings, excluding GST)	Earners Account Levy (per \$100 of liable earnings, excluding GST)
2014/15	\$0.95	\$1.26
2013/14	\$1.15	\$1.48

The Health and Safety in Employment Levy is changing to a flat rate of \$0.08 per \$100 of liable earnings.

Motor Vehicle Account Levies, incorporated into car registration and petrol prices will remain the same.

UPCOMING FICA EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
25 June	Industry Forum	Palmerston North
27 Aug	Field Trip/Workshop - Yarder Tower Inspectors	TBA
24 Sep	Logging Costing for Profitability Workshop	Taupo
22 Oct	Logging Costing for Profitability Workshop	Nelson
7-8 Nov	FICA AGM & Conference	Napier