

May 2026 Newsletter



“It’s nice to meet You”



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Have you got a will and is it current?

Interesting fact

Only 50% of adults have a will. Some of us worry about the cost. However making a will is usually inexpensive. The more expensive part is often the administration after your death. These costs are paid from your estate and vary.

When someone dies with a will, the estate generally only needs a probate application to the High Court. New Zealand recently updated the probate threshold from \$15,000 to \$40,000. This change came into effect in Sept 2025. Smaller estates can now be distributed without High Court Approval.

This saves families time and money. The new rule applies to non-real estate assets only.

What happens if I die without a Will?

Dying without a will can significantly increase the cost and stress for your loved ones, as it requires an intestacy application that is far more complex and costly than a probate application. If you **don't have a will** or yours is outdated, now is the time to review and update it to protect your family and ensure your wishes are carried out.



Insurance Proposed Changes 2026

From 1 July 2026 Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) levies are changing, the new framework reshapes how levies are calculated and applied. The levy will be applied more broadly for commercial property to the 'sum insured', no longer the indemnity value, motor vehicle levies are hit with significant increase, and homeowners will see some relief.

What this means for you?

- Review your current building and contents insurance - ensure valuations are up to date based on replacement cost.
- Assess your fleet insurance and plan for the new per-vehicle levy.

Talk to your insurance broker early - they will help you review your cover and guide you through the changes.



“I’m thrilled to take on the Practice Manager role and excited for what’s ahead with such a great team.”

- **Tracey Lilburn** New Practice Manager



Help support Nova's Journey: Living with Rare Ichthyosis

Help us support this family by making a donation to her Give-a-little page by

scanning the QR code.

Nova is a bright, happy, and spirited three-year-old who brings so much joy to everyone around her. She is boisterous, funny, and full of life, while living with a rare genetic skin condition called Autosomal Recessive Congenital Ichthyosis (ARCI).

Her care is intensive, requiring specialised skincare every three hours during the day, and sometimes once or twice overnight depending on her comfort levels. Nova cannot regulate her temperature and is at high risk of overheating, while also being vulnerable to skin infections. She travels to Starship Hospital every two months for ongoing care under her dermatologist and ENT specialists.



Kiwisaver and IRD Changes from 1 April 2026

From 1 April 2026, a number of payroll-related changes came into effect that may slightly affect employee wages and employer payroll costs.

Key changes include:

- **KiwiSaver contributions** The default KiwiSaver contribution rate has increased from **3% to 3.5%** for both employees and employers. A temporary reduced rate is available, but employees must apply and provide their IRD approval letter to their employer.
- **KiwiSaver for 16–17-year-olds** Employers are now required to make KiwiSaver contributions for employees aged **16 and 17** who are contributing.
- **ACC Earners' Levy** The earners' levy has increased from **1.67% to 1.75%**, which may result in a small decrease in take home pay.
- **Minimum wage increase** The minimum wage has risen from **\$23.50 to \$23.95** per hour. This may also impact salaried employees' maximum working hours.

We're here to help—if you'd like us to check your payroll calculations, talk through how these changes affect you, or prepare updated wage calculations, please reach out to our payroll team at payrolls@blackburnegroup.co.nz or call 0508 376 0092 Ext 816 for Katya

Me on my way to pretend to be a nice, friendly and sociable person at work ...



KiwiSaver
Poua he Oranga

Disclaimer

This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms only. The publication should not be relied upon to provide specific information without also obtaining appropriate professional advice after detailed examination of your particular situation.