



TAX CALENDAR

9 May 2011

GST Return and payment due.

Provisional tax instalments due for people and organisations with a March balance date.

Business Quote

It is not the employer who pays the wages. Employers only handle the money.

It is the customer who pays the wages.

Henry Ford

From Brent and the Team

Brent Dickins

Hamish Pryde

Kylie Cooper

Barbara McConaghty

Tracey Turner

Deanna Rackham

Rebekah Stokes

Jude Dickins

Lois Bond

Caren Bailey

Kathy Curtis

Dean White

BRENT'S COMMENTS...

New business leaders emerge during changing and uncertain economic times. The challenge for each of us is to be leaders within our own businesses and communities in order to champion change and business growth.

I recently presented this Leadership Challenge to a group of business owners attending the "Her Business" Business Planning Workshop. While we all manage our businesses on a day-to-day basis, it is by taking an "above the line" leadership approach to our decisions and actions that affects change and achieves the results, and ultimately success, that we each envisage for our businesses.

A recent regional initiative I applaud is the Innovate Manawatu competition. We have partnered with BCC to bring you a seminar explaining Research & Development, the funding available, and how innovation can strengthen your business and improve your bottom line. Register for this free seminar on our website. We look forward to seeing you there.

Brent.



UPDATING EMPLOYEE FILES

We are aware that many employers may not have correctly documented employment agreements. Amendments to the Employment Relations Act 2000 requires employers to keep copies of every individual employment agreement and certain compulsory information.



Given the potential for penalties for not observing this requirement, as well as the increasing compliance role of Labour Inspectors, we believe it is time that employers improved their employment administration.

The best place to start is to make sure you maintain a comprehensive personal file for each employee. Our Employee Personal File Checklist, (available under Free Reports on our website home page), provides you with a useful guide for building such a file. Be sure to create a 'soft' copy (saved in your computer) file as well as a paper copy. That way you will be more likely to have natural disaster-proof records.

We are here to support you. If you need any assistance with Employment Contracts, wages queries or even complete payroll preparation, remember that we are experienced in this area. Call us or send us an email and will get this sorted for you.

The information contained in this general nature and should be used as a guide only. Before acting on this information, please consult us regarding your personal situation.

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS

The business world is rapidly changing with new technologies and applications constantly being released that challenge our current perceptions of how we operate our businesses now and in the future. Consider how much has changed for supermarkets since the very first scanning of the barcode on a pack of Wrigley chewing gum in 1974. Other technologies that have influenced and changed the face of business since the 1990's is the World Wide Web and the internet that has resulted in the rise of near instant communications by electronic mail (email).



Today computers are smaller, faster and have larger memories than Apple's first desktop PC computer in 1976 which had just 128kb (kilobytes) of memory. In comparison, Apple's latest iPad Tablet starts at 16 gigabytes of memory which is an astonishing 133,333% more memory. Businesses have greater capacity for storage of data, faster access and retrieval of electronic information than before.

The 'brick' handheld telephone changed voice communications in the early 1980's. In 2010 the world wide mobile telephone subscriptions topped 4.6 billion making people more contactable than ever. New mobile technologies like Apple's Smart Phone, GPS tracking units, handheld Eftpos units offer businesses greater capabilities for managing operations out of the office. The development of new cloud-based software applications such as Xero Accounting Software also take advantage of the capabilities of the Web allowing businesses to access information from anywhere, at anytime as well as reducing capital costs in hardware.

Business owners are encouraged to keep pace with the latest trends and look for the opportunities that new technologies and applications could bring into the business. Improvements in business processes using new technologies help to save time, increase productivity and ultimately profitability.

KIWISAVER...

The KiwiSaver Superannuation Scheme was introduced under a Labour Government nearly four years ago and has grown rapidly into the third most favoured investment behind term deposits and rental properties. Performance of the 34 schemes available varies dramatically, making it even more important that investors are in good quality, well-managed, top-performing funds.

The difference in returns for the last twelve months has varied 15% from the best to the worst investments.

How is your investment performing for you? Do not leave it to chance; instead call a fully qualified Financial Planner for advice on the best scheme for you. Now that you have accumulated a tidy nest egg that call could make thousands of dollars difference to your retirement plans!

To discuss your investment or make an appointment, phone Alison or Maryann on (06) 355 4422 or email info@pismanawatu.co.nz.



Professional Investment Services (NZ) Ltd

INTRODUCING DEAN...

Dean White recently joined our team in a part time junior accounting role to gain valuable experience as he completes his Business Studies Degree at Massey



University. Dean had been working at a local petrol station prior to joining us. Dean is also playing senior cricket and is training with the Old Boy's Marist Colts rugby team.

NEXT SEMINAR

We have partnered with the Bio Commerce Centre for our next seminar topic – **Business Growth – Why Innovate?**



Learn how you can grow your business, increase your market share and secure your market position through innovation.

The seminar will be held at 5.15pm on **Wednesday, 4 May 2011** at the BNZ Business Centre. Register online at www.coombesmith.co.nz.

Qualifying applications for Funding Grants may receive up to 50% reimbursement of research and development costs. So, don't delay, register today!



P 06 357 6006 F 06 358 4716
168 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North 4440
www.coombesmith.co.nz