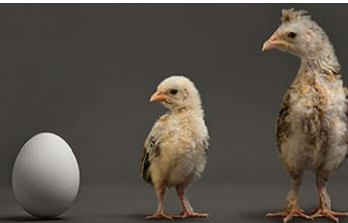




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From Lance's desk!

It's March again, scarcely believable but that is what my diary says...

There are many things for those in business to do by 31 March, please see separate article on Page 2 in this newsletter. All businesses need to consider all points in this list (including farmers).

Tax changes so far are minimal and just the usual. The few confirmed changes are set out below. We are still waiting to see what is to happen with the proposed changes to depreciation of buildings, Brightline tests, interest deductibility and residential ring-fenced losses. The old rules definitely apply for the 2024 tax year and we will let you know once we know what the new rules will be and what their likely impact will be. What I can tell you is that it is very unlikely all the complicators added by the previous Government will be removed completely or quickly.

As an office, I am very pleased to say that the last 6 months have been significantly better than the previous 2 ½ years. We are currently working at maximum capacity to complete the 2023 round of financials and tax returns before final due date of 31 March 2024. We believe we have all in hand but if you have any doubts about your reports please contact the office as soon as possible.

So then, for the 2024 year reporting and tax requirement, we currently believe we are in great shape. Our staffing ratios are finally getting back to the desired level and that will mean that we will be able to continue to improve our service delivery to

you. As 2024 unfolds, we do anticipate getting more up to date which will benefit absolutely everyone; clients, bankers, team members and my sanity. Workflow and scheduling are getting an overhaul. Please see the article about Workflow Scheduling on Page 3 in this newsletter. Our Associate Chartered Accountants, Maria Livingstone and Amanda Hutchings will be increasing their client involvement throughout 2024 and 2025 to assist me further.

As the month draws to a close, we wish everyone a very enjoyable Easter break and encourage you to remember that the Easter message is so much more than hot cross buns and Easter eggs. Please take care out there and feel free to give us a call if you have any concerns at all.

Best wishes,

Lance

Office Closures

Our office will be closed for the **Easter Weekend** from 5pm Thursday **28th March 2024** and reopening 8.30am Tuesday **2nd April 2024**.

Our office will also be closed on **Anzac Day** being Thursday **25th April 2024**.

We wish all of our clients a safe and enjoyable break over the upcoming long weekends.



ANZAC DAY
Let's We Forget



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

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End of Year Tax Planning

For 31 March Balance Date Clients



Now is a convenient time to remind you of a few tasks that are required on or before 31 March as part of your tax compliance responsibilities.

Things that need to be considered and actioned on or before 31 March:

- A review of all your Debtors. Please ensure you write off any bad debts dated 31 March or earlier from your ledger before year end.
- Issue all credit notes to customers if applicable so these adjustments are taken up in the correct financial year.
- Ensure all expenses are incurred before year end (invoices issued by supplier) so that a deduction is allowed in that financial year.

Things that need to be actioned on 31 March:

- Ensure stock counts in your accounting system are accurate. That is trading stock is valued at cost price. Also write off any obsolete stock.
- Determine the Work in Progress, valued at cost price. Work In Progress is work that has been performed but not yet invoiced (materials and labour should be included).
- Determine any raw materials on hand. Raw material is unprocessed material used to produce goods not yet used.
- Record cash/ banking received but not yet deposited.
- Confirm Petty Cash and Till Floats.
- Count your livestock (if applicable).

Law Changes



Trust Tax Rate

The Coalition Government has proceeded with the previous government's legislation that increases the Trust Tax rate to 39% from **1 April 2024**. Whilst this is unfortunate, it is not entirely unexpected once the personal tax rate went to 39% (for income over \$180,000 on 1 October 2021).

What does this mean?

Not much will change immediately. Your 2024 year income is still taxed at last year's rates. For next year's Trust income most clients again potentially not much will change as there will still be opportunities to reorganise your affairs so that your top tax rate is 33%. This change is targeting the top 3-4% of income earners in the country. Again, there are planning opportunities to be had to minimise the impact of this tax rate change. We will discuss this with all affected clients during 2024, as the need arises.

Minimum Wage Increase

The Government have announced that the minimum wage is to increase from **1 April 2024** by 45 cents per hour.

Type of Wage	Old Rate/Hour	New Rate/Hour
Adult (16 and over)	\$22.70	\$23.15
Starting-out & Training	\$18.16	\$18.52
Under 16 years	There is no minimum rate legislated	

Continued on Page 3

Law Changes continued

Family Tax and Best Start Credits (Effective 1 April 2024)

- **Family tax credit rates** increase for the eldest child from \$7,121 to \$7,524 and the subsequent child rate increases from \$5,802 to \$6,130.
- **Best Start tax credit** increases from \$3,632 to \$3,838.
- **Minimum Family tax credit threshold** increases from \$34,216 to \$35,204.

2024 Workflow Scheduling

We will soon be preparing our 2024 year workflow schedule. Once this has been finalised, we will let you know when your work is expected to be completed. If for some reason you wish for your work to be at a specific time or if your work is urgent, please let us know and we will try our best to accommodate your request.

We continue to look to balance the work load of our Accounting Specialist Team for the 2024 year work and part of our planning will require some shuffling of responsibilities internally. We are confident with our decisions that our service delivery will continue to improve and to meet your expectation, however please do let us know if you have any concerns.

For those clients that maintain a paper copy of financial records, we expect your 2025 annual folders will be ready for collection after the Easter break. We continue to see a transition towards electronic record keeping. If this is something of interest then we ask that you contact your Accounting Specialist to assist you with this.

Key Tax Dates



Date	Taxes payable
8 April 2024	Terminal Tax – 2023 Year
8 April 2024	FBT - Income Year return and payment
22 April 2024	PAYE – Period ended 31 March 2024
7 May 2024	2023 Provisional Tax - 3 rd Instalment
7 May 2024	GST - Period ended 31 March 2024
20 May 2024	PAYE – Period ended 30 April 2024
20 June 2024	PAYE – Period ended 31 May 2024
30 June 2024– Suggest 10 June 2024	KiwiSaver minimum contribution of \$1,042.86 for maximum tax credits of \$521.43

Terminal Tax notices (Payable 8 April 2024) – We will print and release these notices in the last week of March 2024.

Provisional Tax notices (Payable 7 May 2024) – We will print and release these notices in the last week of April 2024.

Provisional Tax review – Prior to the 3rd instalment of Provisional Tax falling due, we are able to undertake a review of your last 12 months of trading to consider if your tax payment can, or should be adjusted either upwards or downwards so it is more in line with what we expect the actual tax to be, especially if there is significant changes to the 2024 trading year. Once the GST Return is completed for the February/March 2024 period we can obtain the appropriate information from your GST records.

If you are scheduled for a Provisional Tax review, you will receive an invitation in early April. If you would like a review done and you do not receive an invite, then please contact us with urgency prior to the **15th April 2024**.

Continued on Page 4

Key Tax Dates continued

Kiwisaver - To be eligible for the full member tax credit of \$521.43 you have to contribute at least \$1,042.86 a year. The Government will contribute 50 cents for every dollar of member contribution annually. If you have not yet contributed the minimum amount, we suggest that you arrange a voluntary contribution prior to the beginning of June 2024 to ensure time for your credits to be transferred to your KiwiSaver fund by the due date of **30 June 2024**. Payments can be made in two ways; either directly to your scheme provider or to the IRD by choosing the "Pay tax" option and including your IRD number, the tax type "KSS", and recording the period "0" (zero) or by any other means of paying taxes.

News in and around the office...

Welcome – Surina

We welcome **Surina** to the Accounting Team.

Surina has recently relocated from South Africa and joins our team with over 17 years experience in the accounting industry; both in public practice and in the corporate industry.

In her free time Surina enjoys spending time with her family and loves exploring new places and many outdoor activities.

Surina's normal working hours are Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm and then Friday to 2:00pm.



Welcome – Diane

We welcome **Diane** to the Special Services Team.

Diane, a born and bred Aucklander, recently relocated to Tauranga with her husband. In her free time Diane enjoys catching up with family and friends along with swimming, reading and getting out in the great outdoors.

Diane's normal working hours are Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm and then Friday to 2:00pm.



ACC CoverPlus Extra (CPX)



ACC will soon release the ACC CPX policy renewals which will renew automatically.

It is important that you check the policy details to ensure you have the correct level of cover as well as being on the correct levy rate for the work that you perform.

It is also important that you arrange payment of the levy on time and in full. Failing to make payment or failing to enter into an instalment arrangement will cease the policy. Ceasing the policy will mean you default back to the standard CoverPlus policy which may not be in your best interests. To elect back into CPX we have to go through the application process again.

If you have any questions in relation to ACC please contact your Accounting Specialist who can assist you further.

