

Spring 2014



Director Darren Diprose is about as close as we can get to an Elvis lookalike. Here he is posing with our prize-winning display for the local "Aroha Cruise-In" held recently

Diprose Miller On The Grow!!

A real "mixed bag" in this edition of The Abacus, including some thoughts from our "Senior" director on turning 60, the announcement of an exciting growth opportunity for the firm, a new Associate, a plea for help from clients with signing documents and, on a more relaxed note, some of the more light-hearted moments we've had over the last few months.

All this and more in the action-packed pages ahead!

"Is the Spring coming?" He said. "What is it like?"

"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine."

Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*



The Official Newsletter of **Diprose Miller Limited** Chartered Accountants
 Te Aroha: Phone 07 884 8055 Morrinsville: Phone 07 889 1018
 Fax 07 884 8010 Fax 07 889 1026

www.diprosemiller.co.nz



Get the advice that counts!

EDITORIAL



Just when life appears to be a little “ho-hum” something happens that jolts us back to reality and gives us a new challenge. Such was the case for the firm when we were offered the opportunity to purchase part of Roger Wilson’s Morrinsville accounting practice.

You will read more about this under our “**Breaking News**” section, but suffice to say we are grateful to Roger for this opportunity. We will need to work very hard to maintain our high standards with our existing clients and also prove to Roger’s clients that we are capable of adding value to their businesses.

I’ve always thought that the life of a sole practitioner would be a tough one. We’ve been told for many years that accountants that undertake predominantly “compliance” work will soon be relics of the past. The government had intentions to make the tax system easier for taxpayers so that the involvement of accountants would be minimised. Those in the farming sector that employ staff know that they have not been successful, as will any others who have dealt with the Inland Revenue lately.

continued on next page

Best in Show !!

Take a look at the trophy the Te Aroha office won for the best business display at the recent Aroha Cruise-In (we’ve shown the display on the cover page).

For the next year we get to hold on to this amazing trophy which was made by local identity and craftsman Adrian Worsley.

If you call in at the office you’ll be able to check it out in person. The photo definitely doesn’t do it justice!



Get the advice that counts!



EDITORIAL (continued)



The sole practitioner can't just wander down the corridor and discuss technical matters with his/her colleagues and believe me, we do spend a lot of time discussing issues with directors and senior staff. We need to get things right as the accounting and tax environment is an unforgiving place to operate these days!

Talking about getting things right, can someone explain to me why it has taken so long for the dairy industry to get a proper fix on this season's payout? Our dairy industry boasts many highly paid people and while there have been hints for months about 2014/15, it's taken too long for the real answer to become apparent. The industry keeps talking about last season and the high returns. That news is now consigned to last week's fish and chip paper! Doesn't seem to be much talk about the value of the dollar. Maybe not even a sliding currency is going to save us from a sub-\$6 payout.

Anyway, I wish you all the best for what's left of the Spring and for the early Summer. I'm about to sit down and watch Bathurst, so by the time you read this, van Gisbergen will have won and I will have snared \$30 from the office sweepstake!

Cheers, KB

We Need Email Addresses

We have the email addresses recorded for the bulk of our client base, but there are a few "holes" that we'd like to fill. In addition, we're not always sure whether the email address we are holding is current, unless we communicate with you via email regularly.

Please send us a quick email from your current address asking us to check and confirm that this is the address held on your client file. Often email is the quickest and most reliable method of communication between ourselves and our clients.



mail@diprosemiller.co.nz

Get the advice that counts!

Breaking News !!

Diprose Miller Continues to Grow !!



Diprose Miller Ltd



As part of the continued development of our business we are pleased to announce the merger of RWPartners with our practice. The Morrinsville office will now expand to a staff of 20 and will operate from two offices on the main street while systems are amalgamated. Directors Tony Brown and Nigel McWilliam have been working closely with Roger Wilson over the past few weeks to ensure a smooth transition of RWPartners clients and staff. The effective date for the merger will be 1st November 2014.

"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning"

Benjamin Franklin

We'd like to thank Roger for the opportunity to merge his Morrinsville client base with Diprose Miller Ltd and assure his clients that they will continue to receive the best local service and advice. Roger will join KPMG and continue his consultancy and advisory work based in Hamilton.

We are looking forward to increasing our Diprose Miller "footprint" in Morrinsville and providing a wider range of accounting and related financial services with our expanding base of professional staff.



The golden rule for every business man is this:
"Put yourself in your customer's place."

happy morning quotes

The Morrinsville office has certainly come a long way since starting up in 2005 and we are pleased with our firm's rapid progress in our growing local district.

Get the advice that counts!

Advice from Abacus

Employers Beware !!

You may have heard that Health & Safety in NZ is getting the biggest shake-up it has had in 20 years. With the proposed regime almost upon us, now is the time to check your compliance. Penalties for failing to comply will be up to \$500k for businesses and \$100k for directors (who will now be personally liable). Penalties for reckless conduct can be anywhere up to \$3m and jail time! Be aware that no insurance policy will cover these fines. This is serious stuff!

Most employers and business owners are aware of their Health & Safety responsibilities, but most have not yet developed or implemented a robust system. Why? Because it's all too hard! Unless you have time to search through the legislation, guidelines and regulations, you will have put the job of creating a system for your business into the "too hard basket" and will "touch wood" that nothing happens in the meantime.

Many employers will need to ask for help from safety professionals to create a workplace system that complies with the new regulations and keeps them up to date with any changes. Yet another aspect of business for which we require an independent consultant!

There are five high priority areas you can work on now to make a start on your Health & Safety system.

1. Create a **policy** for workplace safety and make this available to staff.
2. Identify and record **workplace hazards** and how you are controlling these.
3. Document and report any work-related **accidents**.
4. Document and record workplace **safety training** provided to staff.
5. Write up **emergency procedures** for your workplace.

Many thanks to **Angie Williams**, director of **OSHBox**, for assistance in the preparation of this material

We're thinking of running a workshop(s) in November for employers to bring you up to date with the new regulations. We'll do this in conjunction with experienced Health & Safety professionals. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Angela Millward** on extension 816 to **register your interest**.

Get the advice that counts!

Congratulations !!

A New Associate!



We're very pleased to announce that, in July, **Jeremy Skedgwell** was appointed as an Associate of Diprose Miller Ltd. Jeremy's based in our Morrinsville office and has been with the firm for a few years now. Jeremy is spearheading our Xero involvement and has a diverse skill set that allows him to work with a number of products that provide important assessments of clients' businesses.

His banking and finance background provided an excellent platform for him to make his recent transition to Chartered Accountant. His new position reflects his level of involvement with clients and his growing value to the firm. ***Congratulations Jeremy!***

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value"

Albert Einstein

A Small Request

We are experiencing an increase in the number of clients that are calling in to our offices and asking our directors to **sign documents** on behalf of our trustee companies.

The constitution of these trustee companies requires that such documents be signed by **two** of the directors. It is often difficult, especially at this time of the year, to locate two directors who are available if clients don't let us know in advance.

Of course, these documents generally need to be reviewed before signing and we need to allow time for this to be done.

If you have documents for signing by our directors, please **contact us before you visit the office** and we will do our best to make sure that the necessary work can be done as quickly as possible.



Get the advice that counts !

Useful Stuff to Think About

Beneficiaries' Rights

With the pending amendments to the Trustee Act 1956, we recently attended a webinar to discuss the likely obligations that trustees will have to provide information to beneficiaries.

We'll keep you posted, but the obligations that trustees have to beneficiaries are many, particularly with regard to making information available if requested. Although trustees are unlikely to be required to disclose to beneficiaries the reasons for their decisions, documents such as financial statements and current account balances cannot be withheld.



The Risks of Office Work !!

Last year ACC received more than **8,000** claims relating to people injuring themselves in and around the office. They had 47 claims for paper cuts, 31 coffee-related claims (you'd have to wonder) and 8 claims relating to vending machines!

"The chief danger in life is that you may take too many precautions"

Alfred Adler

Making Tax Payments "On Time"

We've summarised below the IRD's new "rules" for when tax payments are considered to be made on time (to avoid late payment penalties and interest). Please contact us if you have any queries.

1. Cheque payments **posted** to IRD must be **physically received** on or before the due date. IRD makes no allowance for postal delays.
2. Cheque payments that are **physically delivered** to an Inland Revenue office must be delivered before the **close of business** on the due date.
3. **Cash and EFTPOS** (non-cheque) payments must be made at a Westpac branch. Cash payments cannot be made at Inland Revenue offices.
4. If the due date falls on a weekend or public holiday, payments must be "received" on the next working day.

Get the advice that counts!

Staff Happenings

Riding to Conquer Cancer

Our director **Jeanette Clubb** is preparing for a 200km cycle ride in support of the Cancer Society in November. She is undertaking this challenge together with two of her sisters and her nephew. The challenge involves cycling the 200km course over two days.

Anyone interested in sponsoring Jeanette on her ride can find the sponsors' donation forms in our reception areas in both the Te Aroha and Morrinsville offices.

Donations can also be made on Jeanette's behalf at conquercancer.org.nz. Watch for a ride update & photos in the next edition of the Abacus!



Abacus is Growing !

Welcome to Jenny Caird

A growing demand for our payroll and ACC services has resulted in Abacus Administration Ltd employing Jenny Caird. Jenny's a local girl who grew up on the family dairy farm in Elstow. She has a strong work history in the rural sector, most recently with PGG Wrightson as a livestock administrator.

Jenny and husband David own a dairy farm in Manawaru. When not working, she enjoys gardening and travel.

Jenny will be working every day from 8am to 1pm processing client payroll requirements and dealing with related administration work.



Get the advice that counts !

Staff Happenings!

Glitz & Glam @ the RSA

Diprose Miller held its annual “Mid Winter Christmas Function” at the Te Aroha RSA in July. The theme for the evening was “Glamour” and most of the crowd got into the spirit of things. As you can see from the photos below it was an interesting evening, with directors, staff and partners all getting to know each other better.

Julie Luxton, Erica Rigter, Ang Young, Ang Millward & Megan Farac get the conga line started



Jocelyn & Phillip Legg, Darren Diprose, Lynmarie Gray & Ang McWilliam enjoy the atmosphere



The Glam Girls (Ang McWilliam, Robyn de Boer, Kylee Elgar & Gail Brown)



“Disco Nige” gets the party going !!

Get the advice that counts!

Keeping You Up to Date

<http://www.ird.govt.nz/unclaimed-money/>

Inland Revenue provide a service for the true owners of unclaimed money that has been left untouched for six or more years in organisations such as finance institutions and insurance companies.

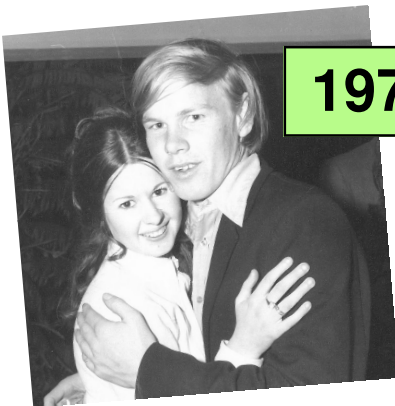
The website address above contains a (long) list of names and amounts that can be recovered with appropriate identification. Remember that the amounts do not represent income tax refunds.



For He's A Jolly Good Fellow (who's 60)

Long-serving director **Keith Miller** celebrated his 60th birthday last week. To recognise this momentous occasion, the office closed a little earlier than usual and everyone headed down to the Grand Tavern for some fellowship and reminiscing.

Despite being "under the weather" with a nasty cold, Keith managed a pretty good speech, cut the fabulous cake (made by Jude Borrie) and made the observation that over his adult life he had probably spent more time with his co-workers than his family!



1973



2014

Keith managed to spread his birthday celebrations over a week or two. Those who know him well will not be surprised to hear that this included a race meeting or two. While he's happy to be 60, he's reminding us that he's still got at least 5 more years before he's on the government payroll!

Get the advice that counts!

Getting into Xero ??

Training is the Key

We strongly recommend that clients who are planning to use Xero as their primary accounting system undertake structured training in the correct use of the software.

We are finding that clients without structured training are struggling with the correct processing of transactions, particularly when it comes to aspects of invoicing, receipting and payments.



A number of training options are available, including individual sessions, group workshops and webinar events. Contact our office to find out about the best option for you.

STAFF EXTENSION PHONE LIST

Te Aroha

Angela Millward	816	Judith Borrie	804
Angela Young	819	Julie Luxton	818
Ann-Marie Sutherland	807	Kate Williams	837
Anthony Gray	805	Kathy Reily	866
Barbara Jenkins	862	Keri Allen	815
Debbie King	832	Kerry Jacobs	830
Deborah Young	831	Kylee Elgar	839
Diane Cooper	899	Matt Ward	895
Ellie O'Donoghue	868	Megan Farac	800
Eric Russell	820	Michelle Way	858
Erica Rigter	823	Murray Whittaker	829
Erin Morgan	817	Phillip Legg	821
Gail Brown	802	Robyn de Boer	827
Heather Neems	0	Sharon Coombe	859
Jenny Caird	814	Wendy Gwynne	803
Joann O'Donoghue	813	Yvonne Avery	856

Morrinsville

April Dornan	707
Euan Lock	711
Jeremy Skedgwell	706
Kassie Thomas	705
Nikki Brown	709
Sandra Green	710
Sharon Lawson	700
Tonya Whitten	702



**TOLL-FREE
0800 888 055**