



It has been a whirlwind finish as we reach the end of March - a significant date for Chartered Accountants with the end of financial year.

Many of you have had some fantastic opportunities that you have embraced over the last year and I continue to tell those living in other regions that Canterbury is the place to be! It has certainly kept Aaron and I entertained and we look forward to supporting you in this coming season as well.

Thank you if you stopped in and saw us at the Mayfield and Methven A & P Shows. We had two fantastic days and we valued connecting with you outside of the office.

Aaron and I have been in partnership at Rural Business Accountants two years now. This was a fantastic opportunity for us both and it means great things for Aaron for two key reasons

(1) He can head out to the boondocks or travel the world without having to take out the laptop each time he has signal, knowing the day-to-day business is taken care of, and

(2) His time is freed up to focus on bringing value behind the farm gate beyond tax planning.

If there is something keeping you awake at night or if you need a stronger support team around you, please reach out - we are here, working for you.

We wish you a warm, settled winter.
Rhea, Aaron & the team at Rural Business Accountants.

Minimum wage increase – 1 April 2026

From 1 April 2026, adult minimum wage increases from NZD\$23.50 to NZD\$23.95 per hour, and starting out and training minimum wage increases from NZD\$18.80 to NZD\$19.16 per hour.

All rates are before tax and before any lawful deductions (such as PAYE, student loan repayments, or child support).

If you have not yet spoken with your accountant or payroll provider, it's a good idea to do this now. You can also take this opportunity to check that your employment records, processes, and systems are up to date.

For more information, click here [**Employment New Zealand**](#)



Changes to Kiwisaver from 1 April 2026

The default KiwiSaver contribution rates for employers and employees will rise to 3.5% (from 3%).

Kiwisaver changes allowing those working on farm to buy their first home

At the beginning of March, the Government announced it will be removing the barriers that prevent many farm and other rural workers from using their KiwiSaver accounts to buy their first home or a farm property due to the clause of having to live in the property for six months after its purchase.

From the middle of this year, that will no longer be the case; Finance Minister Nicola Willis says, “we’re making a technical change to the KiwiSaver Act to ensure workers in service tenancies [such as farm workers] aren’t denied the opportunity to put a foot on the property ladder.”

Legislation giving effect to the changes will be introduced to Parliament in the middle of the year.

Click to read more at [Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz)

Meet the team!

Introducing our new star administrator, Katherine McDonnell.

Katherine joined the Rural Business Accountants team in December 2025 and came with 30 years' experience in a variety of administration fields.

Often the unsung hero of the office, but always smiling, Katherine enjoys the challenges of a busy practice and values meeting our clients and assisting them with their needs.

When not at work she enjoys shows (especially musicals!), loves her garden & overseas travel adventures.

Give a warm welcome to Katherine when you're stopping in at reception!



Are you moving farms this winter?

It's always a good reminder to ensure that the healthy homes standards at your farm housing are being met, be that through your responsibility as a landlord, or exercising your rights as a tenant.

The healthy homes standards are the New Zealand minimum standards for heating, insulation, ventilation, moisture ingress and drainage, and draught stopping in rental properties.

Make sure your housing is ticking all the boxes, click to read more at [**Tenancy Services New Zealand**](#)



Get to Know Us

 www.rbal.co.nz

 [email us](#)

 **03 - 308 9194**



New End of Year Questionnaires

As end of year approaches for you, please take the time to print off the end of year questionnaire – this is important as not only does it authorise us to prepare your annual accounts, but it gives us the necessary information we need to do them, without us interrupting your day, sending multiple emails for information requests.

Click to select from [**New 2026 Client Questionnaires**](#)

Reminder of Investment Boost

Whilst claiming the Investment Boost is our problem, not yours, it is worth reminding you that this **Investment Boost** does not have a cut-off date (as yet!).

This is where you can claim a 20 percent deduction on any New Zealand new, depreciable assets bought or constructed after 22 May 2025.

There are some exceptions so feel free to reach out to the team if a particular scenario or 'investment' applies.

UPCOMING DATES & KEY CALENDAR DATES

1 April - Changes to Minimum Wage and Kiwisaver Employer Contribution

3 April - Office closed for Good Friday

6 April - Office closed for Easter Monday

13 - 15 April - SIDE Dairy Conference, Lincoln University