

# PERRIAM & PARTNERS

Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

## BEHIND THE BEANS

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### TAX TIME FOLKS! 2026 QUESTIONNAIRES

This year's questionnaires will be available on our website on 1 April 2026.



- Business Questionnaire
- Rental Questionnaire
- Personal Questionnaire (required for every personal tax return)
- WFFTC Questionnaire
- Livestock Questionnaire
- Trust Questionnaire

The more effort you put into completing your questionnaires → the more detail we have → the less we have to revert back to you for queries → the less time needed on preparing your accounts = cheaper fees!

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE:** Inland Revenue require us to hold a signed questionnaire for EACH applicable tax return we prepare.

Don't forget your stocktake! If you require assistance with completing your questionnaire please get in touch with us.

### COMPETITION

We are spicing things up and offering you the chance to win **\$500** in clean (not laundered, of course) cash!



What do you have to do? Just email [reception@perriams.co.nz](mailto:reception@perriams.co.nz) with one question and only one!

This will be pitched by you as follows:

What's the one burning question you've always wanted to ask your accountant but never got around to asking?

We're open to any question so let's have it. The winning question will be selected by a panel of experts who specialise in this area. 😊

If you're the lucky winner, the **\$500** prize is tax-free unless, of course, you are somehow in the business of asking these questions.

### OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!



We're excited to share the launch of our newly rebranded website. Our brand now has a fresh, modern look, and the website has been redesigned to make it easier to explore our services and for you to seek out advice.

With faster performance, simpler navigation, and quick access to the information you need, our updated site will help you focus on what matters most, your business and your financial goals.

Take a look and let us know what you think! 👁️

### ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

Another financial year down and almost out. Perhaps "down" is the key word here as for many of you it will have been a tough year. Economic conditions have not played the part we had all hoped for. Here's hoping for a better financial year ahead.



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**THE DAILY PRICE TAG OF PRISON**

Ever wondered what it costs to keep a sentenced inmate in a New Zealand Prison each year? The answer, as recently revealed by the NZ Herald is \$201,480 or \$552 a day.

That’s good old hard earned taxpayer dollars, not sure what the alternative is though!

**AI AND THE ROBOTS**



AI is already helping with everyday tasks like data entry and basic bookkeeping, but how far away is it from replacing people? While machines are great at processing numbers, they can’t understand your business, offer tailored advice, or build relationships.

The takeaway is, AI won’t replace your accountant, but it helps us work smarter, so we can focus more on helping you.

**INLAND REVENUE TEXT MESSAGE REMINDER**

We have been made aware that some clients have received text messages from Inland Revenue regarding their Employer Monthly Schedule (EMP) due date.

These messages have been confirmed as legitimate and are simply a friendly reminder from Inland Revenue.

If you receive a similar text, there is cause for concern. If you receive a message relating to any other type of tax and are unsure, please feel free to contact us.

**AI BOOM CREATING SHORTAGE OF KEY ELEMENTS FOR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY**

New Zealand consumers are being warned laptops, smartphones and even fridges are going to cost more as the price of key components jump up by 400%.

Since the AI boom, manufacturers have pivoted away from making hardware like RAM and hard drives for general consumers instead focusing on creating more lucrative equipment for AI and data centres.

It has created a shortage of key elements for phones, computers, cars and dishwashers, prompting supply chain problems and driving up prices.

According to experts, there are no signs of those prices slowing down for years.

In other words, if you need a new laptop or smartphone, do it now before the hikes continue.



Source: RNZ

With current fuel prices, you may want to buy online!

**CRYPTO NEWS**

Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers are entities that facilitate the buying and selling of cryptocurrency transactions. Therefore, Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers (RCASP) will be required to collect and report information to Inland Revenue from 1 April 2026. This information we have advised will be shared with other tax authorities around the world, which will in turn share their information with Inland Revenue.

A reminder, any gain resulting from investing in cryptocurrency, when realised, is not a capital gain but rather is taxable.



So, if you have realised a loss, you might just have a legitimate tax-deductible loss.

**YOUR KIWISAVER**

Don’t get lazy as you and/or your fund choice might just be missing out on some returns. Dedicate some time to it each month and you may find that the retirement option might be straight forward!



InvestNow’s Autumn 2026 publication covers five effective ways to make sure your KiwiSaver portfolio is working as hard as possible for you. Here is what they said:

Check your fund type aligns with your goals. A crucial factor to consider is you KiwiSaver funds



balance of growth assets (like shares and property) versus income assets (like bonds and cash).

The following table illustrates how, over a long period, funds with different risk profiles can deliver different results. Remember, however, past performance is not a guarantee of future results, and the performance in any one year can deviate materially for all fund types.

Fund Type	Approx. growth assets	Long term average annual return
Aggressive	95%	8.3% p.a.
Growth	75%	7.1% p.a.
Balance	50%	5.9% p.a.
Conservative	25%	4.5% p.a.
Defensive	5%	3.1% p.a.

## SMALL BUSINESS STRESS

According to new research from Xero, Nearly half of Kiwi small business owners have considered giving up in the past year because of stress. 75% felt the current financial year had been more stressful than previously.



Of those surveyed for Xero's Emotional Tax Return report, 48% of respondents blamed rising costs for increased stress and 30% cited unpredictable demand.

Xero New Zealand country manager Bridget Snelling said the results reinforced the controlling realities of running a small business.

"Running a small business is hard work, and business owners often have to make significant sacrifices—missing a child's swimming sports, working all hours and not getting enough sleep," Snelling said.

"This is what we call an emotional tax—the hidden personal costs small business owners have to pay every year."

Snelling said stress doesn't stay at work for business owners, and often the end of the financial year amplifies the issue.

Almost half (42%) of business owners said they found the period more stressful than the rest of the year. More than a third (34%) of respondents said they needed to chase paperwork, while 31% worried about making mistakes. More than half (54%) said they had been surprised by a tax outcome, with the majority of these being negative.

Another impact of stress is on productivity, with business owners losing an average of five hours of productive work every week—equating to roughly 30 working days lost per year.

Respondents to the survey also highlighted the physical burden, with 55% sharing that they have got less sleep since starting their business, and a further 12% admitting to losing five or more hours a night.

### Question:

So why publish an article about a whole lot of small business owners wanting to pack it all in?



### Answer:

That's where Perriams can help. We're here to support you through both the good and not so good times. If something is causing concern, we encourage you to get in touch and talk it through with us so we can help you find clarity and solutions.

## ACC LEVY CHANGES FROM 1 APRIL 2026

### 1. No Claims Discount is ending

The No Claims Discount is being removed as it hasn't delivered the expected health and safety improvements and has been subsidised by other businesses.



What's changing:

- Levy invoices will no longer include a 10% discount or a 10% loading based on claims history.
- Employers will see this change in the provisional invoice they receive in 2026.
- Self-employed people will see this change in the invoice they receive in 2027, unless they cease being self-employed earlier.

### 2. Experience Rating becomes self-funding

Experience rating will become self-funding, meaning businesses outside the programme will no longer contribute to the discounts within it.



What's changing:

- All businesses in the programme will pay an additional Experience Rating (ER) Programme rate, currently 7.2%, on top of their Work Account levy.
- This will appear as a single Work Levy (ER) and is separate from any Experience Rating loading or discount for a businesses' claim performance.
- Employers will see this change in the provisional invoice they receive in 2026.
- Inland Revenue's levy calculator has been updated to include the ER programme rate for impacted customers.

### 3. Interest on new instalment plans

Interest will apply to all new or rolled-over levy instalment plans, including three and six-month plans that were previously interest free. This change intended to improve fairness for businesses who pay their levy invoice in full and on time.

### Check out what your new levy might be

- Use the ACC Levy Calculator to estimate upcoming business levies.
- Log into MyACC for Business to check that policy details are correct.

## 7 NOVEMBER 2026—ELECTION DAY

The 7th is often recognized as a key tax date and is a number very dear to the hearts ♥ of many accountants. There is an old saying: there are only two certainties in life—death and taxes. The latter is due on 7 April every year, when that terminal tax notice arrives. However, on 7 November, New Zealand goes to the polls. Between now and then, we will be promised all sorts of tax cuts, cost-of-living relief, tougher laws, bans on social media for certain ages, etc., etc.

These will all be short-term promises pitched by the political parties—a sugar rush for voters. More than perhaps any other time in recent memory, you need to set aside the lure of short-term gains. It’s long-term thinking that we should be voting for. In fact, we *have* to vote with New Zealand’s challenges in mind, which are significant and require massive investment in infrastructure. These challenges will never be resolved if we simply play along and accept the short-term promises on offer.



## ACCOUNTANT’S OFFICE 2030

We asked AI to provide us with a humorous look at what an accountant’s office might look like on 31 March 2030, here’s what it provided us with:



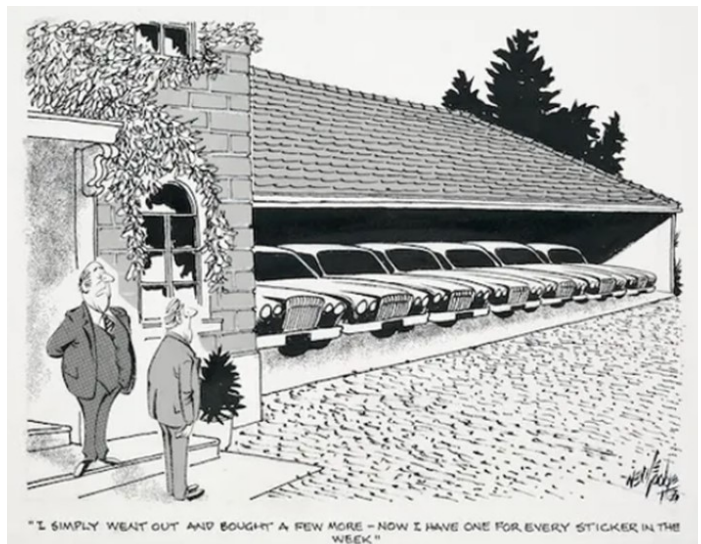
## CARLESS DAYS

*Cartoon from 1979—Neville Sidney Lodge, Evening Post (Wellington, N.Z.)*

So it was back in 1970 when Bill Burch the “Minister of No Energy” at the time announced the carless days scheme. Many at the time said it was a disaster. It was great as a publicity stunt to encourage people to save petrol, but the saving was fractional.

What about the people at the time that travelled miles (as it was back then), to get an exemption form?

Watch this space as we see what 2026 brings to combat the potential fuel shortages...



## MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Over past 12 months, the team at Perriams have put together their top 10 of most frequently asked questions from you, our clients. Those questions are below and whilst it’s another 9 months until Christmas we have provided you with answers to these. We hope that you get some value out of these.

- When will I get a reminder to pay my tax?
- I have paid my GST/PAYE etc. to Inland Revenue but I can’t see the payment. Where is it?
- How long does it take to get my refund from Inland Revenue?
- I paid my Provisional Tax, but Inland Revenue refunded it, why?
- Why is my tax payable on 7 February and not 7 April?
- Why do I have late payment penalties and interest for only being a few days late with paying and/or filing?
- Why do I have to pay ACC levies?
- What is Dividend Withholding Tax (DWT) and why do we have to pay it on a dividend?
- Why have we got Provisional Tax to pay this year?
- Do I have to tell Inland Revenue about rental income? All the money just went to the mortgage.

The answers are published on our website under “updates”. This is a chance to check out our new brand. 😊