

Get on top of it.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE **go figure**™ TEAM

March 2011



From the horse's mouth...

When I sat down to think about what I wanted to say in this month's newsletter a couple of weeks ago, I thought I wanted to create a "we're all

in this together, let's be kind to each other and support each other to move on from last year's tough times" kind-of-feel to it.

Little did I realise that I'd be writing this just days after Christchurch's terrible earthquake and that my sentiment would be even more appropriate than ever.

Like pretty much everyone in New Zealand, I've been both awed by the scale of the devastation and humbled by the enormous sense of helplessness I'm feeling by not being able to be there and shovel rubble with the rest of Christchurch.

Of course, as business owners comfortably placed well outside the wreckage, there is actually quite a bit we can all be doing.

The first, and most obvious, is to donate what we can in terms of money to the Red Cross and other organisations who are coordinating the recovery efforts.

Another not so obvious way we can provide help, is to support those in business in Christchurch. For starters, pay your bills. If you have any suppliers based in Christchurch, then they're going to need cash flow now more than ever. Prioritise their invoices and help start the economy moving again. Check in with any clients and/or suppliers and see if there's anything you can do to ease their burden – can you offer them extra capacity in skills or equipment?

As this newsletter went to print, TradeMe, together with concerned Wellington businesses were developing a platform that connects emergency business advisors in Christchurch to businesses around New Zealand with resources and capability to help out the stricken businesses. Check out the story at right for more information.

So, in summary, we're all in this together. Be kind to each other and support each other for a happier remainder of 2011.

Lisa

Cracked buildings, cracked businesses: *How we can help.*

One of the most common sentiments expressed amongst our clients and colleagues is a sense of helplessness - we all desperately want to support Christchurch in more than simply monetary ways (although that is important). We want to help physically shoulder their burden, too.

A group of Wellington businesspeople have been working around the clock since the quake to create an interactive forum that connects Christchurch businesses in need with others around the country who may have the space, staff, equipment, services and other essentials to help them get back on their feet.

As this went to print, TradeMe was developing this site, and should be live by the time it hits your letterbox - visit www.trademe.co.nz for more information, or contact us, and we'll point you in the right direction.

We wholeheartedly support such a site - and will be signing Go Figure up to help.

It's not just Christchurch's economy that the quake will affect - it will hurt us here in Wellington too. Remember, we're all in this together and together we can overcome.



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NUMBERS THAT WORK FOR YOU





Get your head in the cloud...

Everybody's banging on about 'the cloud' and for a nice change, they aren't complaining about Wellington's weather. We're talking about the Internet cloud and what that means for businesses.

There are thousands of cloud-based Internet services out there, but the ones that we really like around here are the ones that provide 'software as a service'. Software as a service (or SaaS for geeks) is software deployed online and paid for via subscription or on a pay-as-you-go model.

These cloud-based services are great; there are no upfront capital expenditure costs, you can start using them straight away and because it is all done online, they can be accessed from anywhere with an Internet connection.

Of course, some cloud services are a lot better than others and at Go Figure, we definitely have our favourites. One of our most recent Internet crushes would have to be WorkflowMAX. An easy to use time management solution, WorkflowMAX takes away the hassle of organising what needs to be done, so you can spend more time actually doing it.

With timesheets, job tracking, project management and loads of other tools, WorkflowMAX keeps all your ducks in a row and even allows for collaborative working. This means you, your workmates and the client can be all over the same job at the same time.

The best bit is, because it's all hosted online, you can access WorkflowMAX from any Internet connection. And, if you want to check it on your phone? Well, there's an app for that, too.

Another cloud service popular amongst the Go Figurines is

Xero. As many of you already know, we love Xero. There's a reason they say it's "the world's easiest accounting system," and that's because it actually is!

Since 2006, Xero have been delivering online accounting, bank reconciliation, invoicing and much more, through their website, helping businesses from around the world manage their accounts.

Every single one of us at Go Figure is a Xero Certified Advisor, which means we can help you setup and manage your Xero accounts, so you can make the most of its genius. We reckon Xero makes everyone's life a lot easier, and it can save you money as well. With dedicated bookkeeper and accountant logins, you're saving paying for us to drive to your office and check your books.

That's got to make it worthwhile! For more info, visit www.workflowmax.com and www.xero.com

It's our shout. Have some XERO on us.

You've probably worked out that we're a bunch of Xero fanatics here at Go Figure. So we've decided to shout some of our clients a taste of it.

If you sign up for Xero in March as a new user or transfer from some dinosaur software you get the March subscription free.

Now that's an incentive to pull finger and get a Xero Hero of your own!

Call us today on 04 499 8460!



A couple of Go Figure moments...

"Sorry. That kebab you ate at 3am is not a business expense."



"The cheque is in the post."

