



What is Forensic Accounting? It is the provision of accounting advice in the legal arena, often regarding the losses suffered by a party to a dispute.



Richard Ivey of WHK Wellington

It is a specialised discipline requiring knowledge of expert evidence rules, an ability to communicate clearly in reports and in discussion with legal personnel, and the strength to withstand the pressure of intense cross examination from barristers.

The WHK Wellington Office team, headed by Richard Ivey and Peter Tremain, have a wealth of specialist experience in forensic accounting.

Their service has developed from assessments of agricultural loss, to a wide ranging forensic accounting practice covering all industries and occupations.

The team have analysed and reported on legal disputes in fields ranging from abattoirs and baristas to yachtmen and zookeeping.

The team's specialist skills gained from 20 years experience in the field, has seen them complete assessments on matters across Australia and internationally.

Work has occasionally involved celebrities such as an Olympic basketballer, an NRL player, an aging rock star, and an exotic dancer. However, most jobs relate to "ordinary" employees, or small to medium-sized businesses.

Forensic accounting generally requires quantification of losses suffered by persons and businesses affected by incidents such as:

- Medical negligence
- Breach of contract
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Fires
- Spray damage
- Family law disputes
- Land & environment matters

If you require a comprehensive and professional economic assessment of a legal dispute, please contact Richard Ivey or Peter Tremain at WHK Wellington on (02) 6845 1611.



Incorporating WHK Financial Planning, WHK Super and WHK Darcy Kennedy Audit Services.

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When it comes to properly managing the cash flow of your business, the best way to move from where you are now to where you want to be is to be very clear in your mind about the benefits you will enjoy from taking control of your cash flow.

These include:

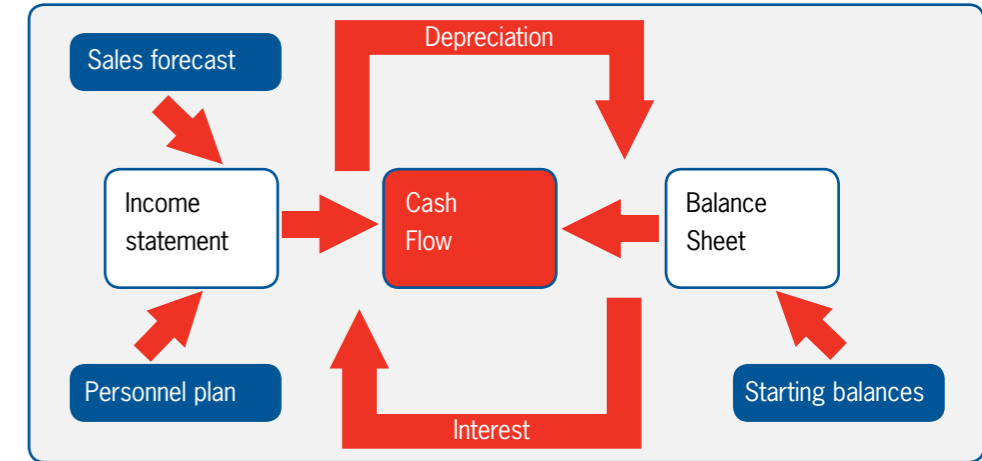
- Increasing the likelihood of your business never running out of cash;
- Eliminating the constant worry associated with not knowing either your current cash balance or what you can expect it to be in the near future;
- Improved relationships with your vendors because you will be able to pay your bills on time; and
- The ability to see cash flow problems long before they happen.

In short, you can free yourself to focus your unique talents and abilities on growing your business rather than fighting constant cash flow fires.

Here are 6 cash flow rules you can implement immediately that will transform the way you manage your business from this point forward and help you create the kind of financially viable successful business you deserve.

## 1. Cash is King

Running out of cash is the definition of failure in business. Recognise that cash is what keeps your business alive. Manage it with the care and attention it deserves. Business can be very unforgiving if you don't. No cash = no business.



## 2. Know your Cash Balance

What is your cash balance right now? It's absolutely critical you know exactly what your cash balance is at any given point in time. Even the most intelligent and experienced person will fail if they are making business decisions using inaccurate or incomplete cash balances. This is the reason why business failures are not limited to amateurs or people new to the business world.

## 3. Either you do the work or have someone else do it.

To make sure you have an accurate cash balance on your books, either do the work yourself or have someone else do it. The work must be done. It's like mowing the lawns. You can't just ignore it.

## 4. Don't manage from your bank balance

Your bank balance and your cash balance are two different animals. Rarely will the two ever be the same. Don't confuse them. It's futile and frustrating to manage your cash flow using the bank balance. You reconcile your bank balance, you don't manage from it.

## 5. Cash Flow Projections

What do you expect your cash balance to be six months from now? This one question gets to the heart of whether you are managing your business or your business is managing you. Cash flow projections are the key to making wise and profitable business decisions. In fact, it's impossible to run your business properly without them.

## 6. Eliminate Your Cash Flow Worries

When you have your cash flow under control, you are free from worry, doubt and concern. You will have the information you need to make sure that everything you do each day in your business is clearly focused on making improvements.

You also have the information you need to measure your progress based on the amount of cash you generate (and keep) for yourself and your business, as your ultimate financial measurement.

For advice on how to manage your cash flow don't hesitate to contact your WHK Business Adviser.



# Future Star

## Annabelle Forsyth - WHK Orange



The quality and knowledge of our staff is our greatest asset and Annabelle Forsyth, who is a valued member of the WHK Orange team is an example of the excellent calibre of our staff.

Annabelle is currently a cadet and combines a can-do attitude at work with studying for a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) degree.

Her outstanding academic performance in 2008 was acknowledged in April when she received notification of her inclusion on the Dean's List.

Annabelle gained a distinction or high distinction in 4 subjects in the semester - a rare achievement.

She also received the Lexis Nexis Law prize for obtaining the highest mark in Law110 (Bathurst campus).

This is in addition to Annabelle's Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New South Wales (1990) majoring in Microbiology and being a busy mother to three children!

Congratulations Annabelle!

# Staff profile

## Tracee Rushton

WHK (Wellington)



Birth date: Yes, there was one.

First Joined WHK: First joined Richard Ivey Consulting Pty Ltd in June 1989, before the name change to Ivey ATP. Had a break and returned to Ivey ATP in July 2006 before the merge with WHK.

Role at WHK: Office Manager.

First Job: My first job as a teenager was leading trail rides at a riding school in the Snowy Mountains.

Describe yourself in one word: Pedantic; Stubborn; Committed.

What is your favourite movie of all time? Da Vinci Code and Pulp Fiction.

What is your favourite tv show? "Bones" - I also enjoyed the book "Grave Secrets" based on the life of Kathy Reichs, which inspired the TV show.

If you could have a partner on It Takes Two - who would it be? There is no way I'd appear on It Takes Two regardless of who the partner was, I'm more the shy, retiring type.

Do you have any pets? We have horses, cats, dogs, birds, rats, rabbits, and chickens. We could repopulate the Ark if the need arises.

Where would your dream holiday location be? I'd love to spend time with the Vienna Riding School.

If you could be doing another job - what would it be? I'd like to be doing something in workplace training or re-assimilation to the workplace for injured workers under OHS or WorkCover conditions.

Which tv character are you most like? Cornelia Francis, host of The Weakest Link - "You are the weakest link, you may go."

I can't stand it when.... Things aren't put back where they belong.

If you could invite 5 people to dinner (either dead or alive) who would you invite? This year it would have to be: Paul Keating (the recession we had to have), Kevin Rudd (throw enough money at it and it might go away), Robin Hood, Bill Gates and Marie Antoinette (let them eat cake).

What do you do outside the office? I play with horses, breaking and training. I also spend a lot of time transporting and strapping for 3 junior riders of my own to One Day Events and showjumping comps.

# Fuel Tax Credits

We receive a number of questions regarding eligibility to claim fuel tax credits. To be eligible you must:

- Use eligible fuels in eligible fuel activities;
- Use a vehicle greater than 4.5 tonne GVM on a public road (diesel vehicles acquired before 1 July 2006 can equal 4.5 tonne); and;
- Your vehicle must meet the environmental criteria.

### Eligible fuel activities:

You can claim fuel tax credits for fuel you use in:

- vehicles with a gross vehicle mass (GVM) greater than 4.5 tonne travelling on a public road (vehicles you acquired before 1 July 2006 can equal 4.5 tonne GVM)
- specified activities eligible since 1 July 2006 in agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, marine and rail transport, nursing and medical, electricity generation, and
- all other activities, machinery, plant or equipment eligible from 1 July 2008 that were not previously eligible (such as a wide range of construction, manufacturing, wholesale/retail, property management and landscaping activities).

### Some activities and fuels are not eligible, including:

- fuels you use in light vehicles with a GVM of 4.5 tonne or less travelling on a public road (for example, a car or small van)
- fuel you acquired but have not used because it has been lost, stolen or disposed of
- aviation fuels

- alternative fuels, such as: liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, ethanol or biodiesel.

### Environmental criteria

If you use a heavy diesel vehicle on a public road and your vehicle is manufactured before 1 January 1996, you must meet at least one environmental criterion to claim fuel tax credits. If you use farm vehicles mainly on an agricultural property to carry on a primary production business, you do not have to meet any of these criteria.

To meet the environmental criteria you only need to answer 'yes' to any one of the following questions about your diesel vehicle:

- Do you service your vehicle in line with a maintenance schedule endorsed by the Transport Secretary?
- Have you registered your vehicle in an audited maintenance program accredited by the Transport Secretary?
- Has your vehicle passed the 'DT80' test (that is, the Australian Transport Council's in-service emission standard for diesel)?
- Is your vehicle retrofitted with an engine manufactured after 1 January 1996 which meets the Australian emissions standards applying after that date?

### More information

The ATO has an online eligibility tool you can use to assess if you are eligible for fuel tax credits <http://calculators.ato.gov.au/scripts/net/FTC/Welcome.aspx>.

Please refer to the ATO website for a checklist which takes you through registering, checking your eligibility and claiming the fuel tax credits.

