

# TREASURERS' NEWSLETTER

December 2019 - Issue 219

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## Welcome

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year.

It is hard to believe that we are only a couple of weeks away from Christmas. The team at National Office would like to wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year. We hope you enjoy good weather and time with family and friends.

## Consolidation Update

Thank you to all who attended the roadshows on the financial consolidation. Glen and I have travelled the length and breadth of the country, putting on 27 roadshows in total. We have had over 500 people attend, which is amazing. Thank you for the wonderful support and feedback we have received. We have both greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you and hopefully put your minds at rest about what we will require over the next year.

A copy of the Powerpoint Presentation is available on your local Presbytery website. Alternatively, please [click here](#) for a video of the presentation made at Timaru.

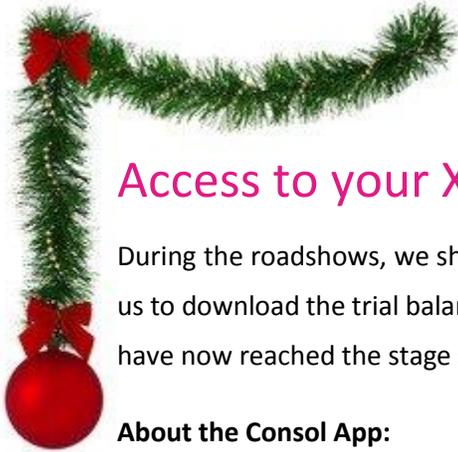
As discussed at the roadshows, National Office and the presbyteries are working in collaboration to support treasurers to meet the changing compliance requirements of their role. We are doing this by establishing a Treasurer Support role in each presbytery. These will be the people you contact to assist in

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any area of your treasurer's role - be it setting up your parish on Xero, assistance with the collection of the year-end trial balances, or assisting with obtaining the Bank Confirmation Certificate.

We have the implementation of these roles well underway in six of the seven presbyteries, and those appointed will be contacting you in the New Year to introduce themselves and touch base.



## Access to your Xero Account

During the roadshows, we shared about the development of a Xero Consolidation App which will enable us to download the trial balance from any parish automatically. We are delighted to let you know that we have now reached the stage of development where we are ready to connect it to parishes.

### About the Consol App:

The Consol App has been developed by one of our consolidation team, after testing several other consolidation applications (Apps) available in the Xero App Marketplace. These Consolidation Apps were tested to see if they were suitable for our consolidation and in all cases, they fell short. Either they couldn't handle more than 20 entities (we have close to 200 on Xero already), or their functionality couldn't cope with what we required. Further, these Apps are provided on a subscription basis which can amount to a considerable amount of ongoing cost. Before developing our App, we had to get approval from Xero, and about two months ago we received the green light.

All the Consol App does is enable us to download a parish's trial balance from their Xero file. **The Consol App cannot make any changes to your data, and it is not downloading any transactional data** which a number of the other Apps do. The benefit of the Consol App is that it replaces potentially 400 hours or more of manual inputting with a process that takes a few minutes. It will also be significantly more



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accurate than any manual process. If the Consul App is connected to a parish's Xero file, the Treasurer will not need to do anything in regards to sending us financial information for the consolidation. We are very appreciative of Xero's support with the development of our App.

### **What's needed to get the App working?**

Very little. We can connect the Consul App to your parish in a matter of minutes if we have access to your Xero file. To enable us to continue development and testing over the summer, we intend commencing connections from Monday, 16 December. As time is of the essence with the consolidation project, using the summer months to progress this area is crucial, and will assist us in achieving our target dates.

If you don't want us to connect the Consul App or you want to know more about this process, please contact Glen Williams at [Glen@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:Glen@presbyterian.org.nz) or 027 4968849. As explained at the roadshows, our number one goal is to ensure the consolidation process is as unobtrusive on Treasurers and parishes as possible. Our Consul App goes a long way to make our goal a reality, so we would greatly appreciate your support in enabling this to happen.

Thanks again to all of you who took the time and in some cases travelled considerable distances to attend the roadshows. The implementation of our Consul App is one tangible outcome from the work we have already done in the consolidation project.

## **Officer Details for Charities Services**

As we highlighted at the roadshows, there is a wide variance regarding how parishes are recording their officers on the Charities Services website when completing their annual return. Please [click here](#) for a link to the information Charities Services provides on this. There is particular confusion around the treatment of ministers and whether they should be included. We are following this up with the Book of Order and will update you soon. We have also approached Charities Services for clarification around particular areas as they relate specifically to parishes, and will provide an update early in the New Year.



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## Christmas hours and housekeeping

The National Office Christmas hours are:

Closing: 5 pm Friday 20 December 2019

Re-opening: 9 am Monday 13 January 2020

In an emergency – please contact Sandra Kennerley on 021 566 224.

Direct Debits:

We will be processing Direct Debit payments on 27 December 2019. Please ensure sufficient funds are available to cover this.

Have a wonderful holiday!

