

Xero whitewashing long hours previously spent bookkeeping!

Brook and Scott Gibson's painting and decorating business in Goonellabah started as many Australian businesses do – as a micro business manned by a sole trader and operating from the kitchen table.

Gaining a reputation for great work, the business blossomed. Brooke and Scott employed staff and formalised procedures to take on more jobs. With growth, they upgraded the kitchen table for an office and stepped up their accounting procedures.

SCOTT GIBSON
PAINTING CONTRACTOR
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When Brooke became hands-on with the business she adeptly accounted for everything using a manual spreadsheet system, which worked pretty well. There was only one drawback; with Scott processing all the customer paperwork like quotes and invoices and Brook organising the BAS and payroll, they felt they were still flying blind when it came to reconciling income and outgoings.

Cash flow was still an unknown quantity, so when [Christopher Atkinson](#) and [Jamie Doyle](#) suggested an alternative, Brooke and Scott were keen to know more.

"At the time I was manually processing the pays and superannuation for 10 staff on a weekly basis," says Brooke. "It was getting more complex and I was keeping up, but it was a struggle."

"We didn't know where we were up to with cash. We would get to the quarter end and ask why we only had so much left over."

As their payroll and bills increased as the business grew, Chris and Jamie suggested trying [Xero](#) to find out what was coming in and going out of the business. Brooke now feels that using Xero makes them more aware of their expenditure so they can spend and allow for fluctuations in their sales pipeline.

"We are just on top of things and Xero is such a time saver," says Brooke. "I'm only in the office one day a week so we took advantage of Collins Hume's Xero package to set things up properly."

"We started with some basic training where Jamie showed me how to do payroll. He set up the Xero data file from scratch and reconciled it with our bank accounts from the start of this financial year. We have been customising it by making rules which Xero recognises each time I use it."

Brooke, never having done any accounting, is in love with [Xero](#).

"When Jamie showed me how to process our monthly BAS through Xero, I was blown away at how easy it was. I used to spend a whole day doing BAS manually – now it only takes 1 or 2 hours."

"Doing our payroll is just as easy. We set up Xero to email the payslips to our employees which takes minutes as I'm not prone to errors by double-handling the data manually or getting distracted."

Brook also relies on Xero to pro-rate payslips for anomalies like half weeks worked. And she's about to set up Xero for paying superannuation.

"There are always other things to do in and out of the office, so Xero frees me up to get on with those. Jamie is always at the end of the phone or email if I have any questions about using it."

Brooke has already noticed the huge time-savings around invoicing clients, chasing debtors, paying employees and automating bank transactions – an estimated reduction from 10 to three hours per week spent bookkeeping.

"Changing to Xero was a natural conversation for us to have with Collins Hume," says Brooke. "Scott's parents were originally clients so Scott grew up with Collins Hume. We always have good conversations about our business with them – Chris and Jamie are always interested in what's going on."

"Using [Xero](#) is so good. I feel so much better with what I can do and being in control."

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