



Summary by Julie Russell, ICNZB Executive Committee Member

I was very lucky to attend last month's Xero Partner Advisory Summit on behalf of the President and representing ICNZB.

The event was attended by the top 150 Advisory Partners in New Zealand, as well as XPAC members, which gave ICNZB a great opportunity to network and mingle with the some of Xero's top performing firms.

The afternoon's key note speaker was Professor Paul Spoonley, the country's top Demographer, who gave us a fascinating insight into the demographics of our country over the next 30 years. An aging population, where working into your 70s will be the norm; a diminishing younger working population, with women having to make the choice between children or a career effecting the birth rate; and our current system of taxes paying for an increasing elderly care burden becoming unsustainable, all painted a rapidly changing future for our work force, employers, and ultimately our social burden. With increased immigration, our workplaces will look very different in the next quarter-century, something as employers and also business owners we will need to adapt to very quickly. Prof Spoonley's latest paper on the recently released 2023 Census has more detail if you want to read more!

We then heard from Xero a little about how AI might look to that workforce in 10 year's time, with AI assistants doing many of the jobs that can be automated in the office, highlighting again that 'being human', the personal touch, and building relationships with our clients will become so much more important than it is already.

The evening was finished off with a wonderful meal and lots of re-connecting with old familiar faces, new 'Xero's', and fellow bookies. Thank you Xero for a great Summit.