BIG-NAME programs such as Quicken and MYOB have a firm grip on the market, but there is another financial management program worth considering, not only because it is easy to use and represents excellent value for money, but because it is developed in Australia.

Business Breeze has a no-nonsense approach to payroll management, business activity statement calculation, group certificates and profit-and-loss analysis.

All functions can be called up from the main interface windows, the idea being that a minimum number of clicks be used to get anything done.

The interface is basic and may lack the razzle-dazzle of some of its competitors, but it is very efficient and easy to use quickly.

The program doesn't use the checks-and-balances approach of double-entry book-keeping – which is a bit of a double-edged sword because some may prefer that.

Double-entry book-keeping is easier to use when correcting major miscalculations, but it adds a lot of work to keeping accounts and may not be very to small businesses.

Double-handling data is something Business Breeze strives to avoid.

The program uses very simple templates for basic tasks such as address book, invoicing, employees and other reports, and can be modified to suit individual instances.

Entries that need to be edited can be changed manually rather than having to be cancelled and re-entered.

Business Breeze, does not include tax schedules as a part of the program, and although this could be seen as a deficiency it has its advantages.

Certainly, not having all payroll tax tables in the software means you do have to input the data but, given the program is targeted at small business, the workload isn't too severe.

This is data you need to input just once a year or so and it gives you, as an employer, greater knowledge of what you are paying your employees.

Updating tax data is also something that works for you when looking at using Business Breeze in the long term because it means you don't have to update or upgrade the software every year. Instead you enter the tax data that has changed and is relevant to your business.

In other words a little extra manual work each year is compensated by not having to pay for regular upgrades.

Business Breeze doesn't allow the export of accounts data to an Excel spreadsheet, which makes for problems when it comes to transferring data to other formats and accounting programs.
This may be a problem if giving your accountant digital data in a specific format is a priority, but the program does make it easy to generate the sorts of reports you'd need if you were preparing to do your tax. These can be printed out, or saved data can be emailed to your accountant in a Filemaker text format.

Essentially, Business Breeze delivers a no-nonsense approach that is flexible and has some clever automated features. It automatically generates GST reports, taking account of G1 to G20 categories.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**System requirements:** Intel-compatible 386 or greater, 20MD hard drive space, Windows 95 or later

**Contact:** www.manac.com.au <http://www.manac.com.au> (07) 3720 5555

**PRICE:** $330

**VERDICT**

**PROS:** Cheap, full of functions and cleverly designed. Doesn't need yearly updates.

**CONS:** It isn't widely known, so you may find your accounts prefer something else, although this is worth persevering with.

**Rating:** 3.5/5

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