



Annual Report 2023-2024

July 2024

Missing Wingman Trust

Authored by: R. Thacker (Chair)

Annual Report of the Trust



About the Trust

The Missing Wingman Trust (RNZAF) is a New Zealand registered charity (CC54763) that was formed in 2010 to support the Royal New Zealand Air Force family (military and civilian). It is the only charity in New Zealand that supports Air Force families when someone is killed, wounded, injured or becomes ill, whether in New Zealand or overseas.

Over the last twelve years we've spent some \$200,000 and hundreds of hours supporting our Air Force families: paying medical expenses, repairing homes, providing scholarships, and providing support in times of grief.

“Supporting our Air Force family and remembering those we’ve lost”

The Trust is governed by a board of trustees. At the 2024 Annual General Meeting the trustees approved an expansion of trustee numbers to seven and approved the appointment of W/O Gavin Hey as a trustee. Gavin brings considerable experience to the role and, as a serving SNCO, increases the representation of serving RNZAF personnel.

The new trust board is:

- WGCDR (Rtd) Ron Thacker MNZM (Chair)
- Mr Steve Gregory
- Ms Judy Bailey ONZM
- WGCDR (Rtd) Tim Costley MP
- F/S (Rtd) Geoff Polglase
- GPCAPT Susie Barns
- W/O Gavin Hey

The Trust continues to benefit from the voluntary support of the following people, for which the Trustees are immensely grateful:

- Ms Denise Liddell (Treasurer)
- FLTLT Craig Harnett (Merchandise Manager)

- Mr Mark Sinclair (Solicitor), Jacobs Florentine
- Mr Tim Foss (Accountant), Thompson & Partners Ltd

The Trust also continues to be supported by groups of volunteers at each of the RNZAF Bases, within Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (Trentham) and within Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force (Wellington).

Services Provided

During the last 12 months the trustees have approved grants totaling \$34,000 in support of nineteen cases.

Type of Support	No of cases	Total expenditure
Grants for Accommodation / Travel ¹	10	\$20,070
Grants for Funerals/Memorials	2	\$2,684
Health/Medical Support ²	5	\$3,163
Welfare Support ³	1	\$5,000
Counselling	0	0
Other	1	\$3,197
TOTAL	19	\$34,114

During the period our teams of volunteers on each of our bases stood ready to provide practical assistance.

Fund Raising

Our main form of fund raising is through donations. These are accrued through periodic automatic payments by trust supporters, through donations gathered at functions/events (e.g. formal dinners or Mess functions), and through one-off donations by groups or organisations.

Additional fund raising occurs through initiatives at RNZAF Base level (e.g. sponsored runs, Military Working Dogs Calendar).

The trust did not undertake any major fundraising activities during the last 12 months but intends to do so in the next period.

¹ Typically for family members supporting an injured or ill relative outside their home region.

² Includes unfunded treatment and mobility support.

³ Such things as temporary childcare, lawn mowing, yard maintenance.

Our thanks are extended to the many people who supported the Trust financially during this period.

Financial Statement

The Trust accountant has completed the Financial Report for the period 31 June 2023 to 31 June 2024. A summary of the financial statement is attached at Annex A. It shows that the Trust is in a sound financial position.

Financial Management

During this reporting period the Trust invested in Xero accounting software. This allows more robust financial tracking and reporting. It also makes the issuance of tax receipts easier. Supporters who intend to seek tax receipts for donations are asked to provide their email address to the Trust (missingwingmantrust@gmail.com) – this will allow us to automate receipt production and promulgation.

Future Projects

The Trust has four major lines of effort identified for the next period.

First, as recommended by the Trust accountant, we intend to develop a more structured strategy for managing our resources. Our aim is to develop investment options to ensure a sound return on accrued funds so that we remain well placed to support our people into the future – to reduce our reliance on constant fund-raising (although this will remain an important strand of our strategy).

Second, in parallel with the first line of effort, the trustees are exploring a potential opportunity to invest in an Early Childcare Centre at Ohakea. Under the draft proposal the trust would provide funding to establish a facility adjacent to RNZAF Base Ohakea which could be operated by a contractor to provide early child education and/or before and after-school care. The concept would provide support to Air Force families in the area while also providing a revenue stream for the trust. There is significant financial risk involved with this proposal so the trustees will consult widely before making any decisions.

Third, we will be exploring opportunities to provide educational scholarships for the children in families which have received trust support as a result of death or debilitation.

Fourth, we continue to work collaboratively with the Manawatu District Council to develop the Whakaari/Mt Stewart reserve near RNZAF Base Ohakea as a memorial site for those lost in RNZAF service. This initiative supports the second aim of the Trust – to

During this period a number of native plants were planted by a team of volunteers from Ohakea, supported by the Manawatu District Council (the cover photo shows MDC mayor, Helen Worboys, assisting with the planting). Additionally, landscaping work was completed to lay out the four pathways that will provide the foundation for the development. These pathways represent a missing wingman formation, with the second path leading to a planned memorial. A volunteer team from Ohakea will conduct further planting of native species in the next month.

ANNEX A:
Financial Statement Summary
31 Jun 23 to 31 Jun 24

Statement of Resources and Commitments

	2024	2023
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Bank and cash/(bank overdraft)	430,116	431,114
Total Bank Accounts and Cash	430,116	431,114
	2024	2023
Money Held on Behalf of Others		
Description	-	-
Description	-	-
Total Money Held on Behalf of Others	-	-
	2024	2023
Other Resources		
Current		
Other Current Assets		
Income Tax	1,864	1,864
Total Other Current Assets	1,864	1,864
Total Current	1,864	1,864
Total Other Resources	1,864	1,864
	2024	2023
Equity		
Current year earnings	(999)	34,229
Equity/Members funds	1	1
Retained earnings/Accumulated funds	432,977	398,748
Total Equity	431,980	432,978

Notes to the Performance Report

2024 2023

1. Analysis of Receipts

Receipts from providing goods or services

Calendars	7,619	220
Coca Cola Donations	3,611	2,753
Fundraising Income	50	13,269
Give A Little Donations	4,031	5,324
Merchandise & Other Sales	643	43,060
One-Off Donations	3,049	16,967
Regular Donations	14,033	14,120
Total Receipts from providing goods or services	33,036	95,713

Interest, dividends and other investment receipts

Interest Income	6,002	3,854
Total Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	6,002	3,854

2024 2023

2. Analysis of Payments

Payments relating to providing goods or services

Cost of Goods Sold	2,733	-
General Expenses	-	97
Grants & Donations to Airforce Families	34,114	65,241
Merchandise	2,455	-
Subscriptions	482	-
Xero Accounting Software	252	-
Total Payments relating to providing goods or services	40,036	65,338

2024 2023

2024 2023

3. Capital Receipts & Payments

Other Liabilities

Income Tax	(1,864)	(1,864)
Total Other Liabilities	(1,864)	(1,864)

Equity

Opening Balance	432,978	398,749
Current year earnings	(999)	34,229
Total Equity	431,980	432,978

4. Bank accounts and cash

Westpac 00 Account	94,677	100,906
Westpac 01 Account	335,439	330,208
Total Bank accounts and cash	430,116	431,114