



Annual Report 2025-2026

September 2026

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 specifically supports Air Force families when someone is killed, wounded, injured or becomes ill, whether in New Zealand or overseas.

Over the last sixteen years we've spent over \$250,000 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, representing current aviators, former aviators, and others with familial ties to the RNZAF.

The trust board remains unchanged since the 2024/2025 report:

- WGCdr (Rtd) Ron Thacker MNZM (Chair)
- Mr Steve Gregory
- Ms Judy Bailey ONZM
- WGCdr (Rtd) Tim Costley MP
- F/S (Rtd) Geoff Polglase
- AIRCDRE 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).

Message from our Patron

Another successful year for the Missing Wingman Trust is now behind us. And the Trust has continued to mature and expand its reach amongst our wider RNZAF community. When the Trust was originally created, we had our vision (dreams) of what we hoped that the Trust would be, and who it would serve. There was also concern as to whether it would be accepted at all within our community. Was it a charity, with the attendant possibly negative connotations, or a welcome force for good, filling a gap in our social support mechanisms of which we were all aware?

With the vision and perseverance of individuals such as Tim Costley and our current Chair, and several others who know who they are, the Trust became a reality and, quite frankly, has exceeded my early expectations by a large margin. Today the Trust is healthy and active, and is an accepted part of the RNZAFs commitment to our members and families. May I congratulate all who are involved in the Trust, and especially those who selflessly give of their time and expertise to benefit others.

Air Marshal (Rtd) Sir Bruce Ferguson, KNZM, OBE, AFC, JP

Services Provided

During the 12 months covered by 2025/2026, the trustees have approved grants totaling over \$47,000 in support of 9 cases.

Type of Support	No of cases	Total expenditure
Grants for Accommodation / Travel ¹	1	2,000.00
Grants for Palliative Care	-	
Health/Medical Support ²	4	38,242.50
Welfare Support ³	3	5,468.00
Educational/Recreational Support ⁴	-	
Invictus Support ⁵	-	
Other	1	1,500.00
TOTAL		\$47,210.50

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.

⁴ Support for children of previous cases.

⁵ Grants to offset costs associated with travel and incidentals for four RNZAF aviators attending the Invictus Games.

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 (often through 'Give-a-Little'). We would ask supporters to consider making a bequest to the Missing Wingman Trust in their wills – this will be a great way to support the wider Air Force family.

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

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

We continue to review our merchandise stock and have recently introduced Missing Wingman Trust challenge coins, and restocked branded cuff links and lapel pins. Supporters of the Trust might consider adding some of our merchandise to their collections.

MWT Glendinning Scholarship

We have now formally established the Missing Wingman Trust Glendinning scholarship, based on seed funding from the estate of the late SQNLDR (Rtd) 'Scotty' Glendinning. The scholarship provides up to \$10,000 each year (as either a single or multiple grants) to support tertiary academic or trade training. Details on the scholarship criteria and means of application can be found on our web site: www.missingwingmantrust.org.nz.

The trustees extend their grateful thanks to the Glendinning family for this generous support to the Trust's aim to 'support our Air Force family'.

Financial Management

As approved at last year's Annual General Meeting, on the recommendation of the Trust accountant, the trustees have amended our financial reporting period to end on 31 May each year. As a result, the Financial Report for this period covers the 10 months to 31 May 2026. A summary of the financial statement is attached at Annex A. It shows that the Trust is in a sound financial position.

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.

Mt Stewart Memorial Reserve Project

During this period we secured support from Beca to develop design concepts for the proposed infrastructure at the Mt Stewart memorial reserve near RNZAF Base Ohakea. Beca is a New Zealand-owned, international company that provides critical contractor support to the RNZAF. Steve Marshall, the architect assigned to this project, has developed a stunning stylised ‘hangar’ viewing structure that will look out over the reserve. The trustees have now approved further development to turn this concept into construction plans. With these in hand, we will be able to determine construction costs and then seek corporate sponsorship to help us turn the plan into reality.



In the next period we anticipate assisting the Manawatu District Council with further native planting in the reserve, tapping into our team of volunteers from RNZAF Base Ohakea.

www.missingwingmantrust.org.nz

missingwingmantrust@gmail.com

ANNEX A:
Financial Statement Summary
10 Months ended 31 May 2026

Statement of Cash Received and Cash Paid

Missing Wingman Trust (RNZAF)
For the 10 months ended 31 May 2026

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	AUG 2025-MAY 2026	AUG 2024-MAY 2025
Operating Activities			
Cash Received			
Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising			
Coca Cola Donations		-	1,385
Give A Little Donations		5,425	5,872
One-Off Donations		5,587	16,543
Regular Donations		9,415	10,532
Total Donations, koha, bequests and other fundraising		20,427	34,331
Sale of goods or services (commercial activities)			
Calendars		5,690	559
Fundraising Income		80	758
Gin Sales		2,374	18,652
Merchandise & Other Sales		3,192	1,240
Total Sale of goods or services (commercial activities)		11,336	21,209
Interest or dividends received			
Interest Income		371	3,901
Total Interest or dividends received		371	3,901
Total Cash Received		32,133	59,440
Cash Paid			
Costs related to sale of goods or services (commercial activities)			
Cost of Goods Sold		-	(23,000)
Merchandise		(1,319)	(1,960)
Total Costs related to sale of goods or services (commercial activities)		(1,319)	(24,960)
Other costs related to delivery of entity objectives			
General Expenses		(1,080)	-
Subscriptions		(51)	(51)
Xero Accounting Software		(361)	(361)
Total Other costs related to delivery of entity objectives		(1,492)	(412)
Grants and donations paid			
Grants & Donations to Airforce Families		(37,726)	(24,620)
Total Grants and donations paid		(37,726)	(24,620)
Total Cash Paid		(40,536)	(49,992)
Cash surplus or (deficit) from operating activities		(8,403)	9,449
Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Accounts and Cash		(8,403)	9,449

	NOTES	AUG 2025-MAY 2026	AUG 2024-MAY 2025
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		434,479	430,116
Net change in cash for period	1	(8,403)	9,449
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		426,076	439,565