



Annual Report 2022-2023

APRIL 2023

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 Air Force charity in New Zealand that supports military families when someone is killed, injured or becomes ill, whether in New Zealand or overseas.

Over the last twelve years we've spent in excess of \$160,000 and dedicated 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 May 2021 Annual General Meeting, the following three founding trustees stood down:

- Air Marshal (Rtd) Sir Bruce Ferguson KNZM, OBE, AFC, JP
- Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) John Hamilton CNZM, MVO
- Doug Walters

The new trust board acknowledges the outstanding service these trustees provided in growing the Trust from its initial foundation to its well-established position today.

The new trust board is:

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

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

- Ms Denise Liddell (Treasurer)
- 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).

Patron

Since standing down as Chair of the Trust in 2021, AM (Rtd) Sir Bruce Ferguson KNZM, OBE, AFC, JP has graciously agreed to serve as our Patron. The trustees greatly appreciate his continued support.

Support Provided

Overall, demands on the Trust had reduced in the period March 2021 to March 2022. We suspect that this may have been a result of the distraction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the period March 2022 to March 2023 though there was a noticeable uplift in support requests made on behalf of affected individuals by friends and colleagues. As a consequence, in the latest period the Trust provided the following financial support services to members of the wider Air Force family:

| Type of Support | No of cases | Total expenditure |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Grants for Accommodation / Travel ¹ | 3 | \$8,150 |
| Grants for Funerals/Memorials | 2 | \$10,000 |
| Health/Medical Support ² | 4 | \$25,385 |
| Welfare Support ³ | 1 | \$225 |
| Counselling | 1 | \$535 |
| Other | 1 | \$80 |
| TOTAL | 12 | \$42,375 |

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

Prior to this reporting period, the Trust commissioned a seat for the Memorial Garden at RNZAF Base Ohakea. This garden is continually developing as a place to remember Air Force colleagues we have lost. The trustees acknowledge the work of W/O (Rtd) 'Mac' McCormick who designed and constructed the seat.

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

² Includes unfunded treatment, temporary home health care and mobility support.

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



Figure 1: Memorial Seat Plaque



Figure 2: Memorial Seat

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. These include such things as sponsored runs, mopedathon (an annual moped endurance race at RNZAF Base Ohakea) and the 2022 MWT Calendar.

The most significant fundraising activity during this period was an RNZAF experience auction, managed by RNZAF Base Auckland, which raised over \$100,000 for the Trust. The Trustees extend their heartiest thanks to the Base Commander of RNZAF Auckland, his team of volunteers and the very generous corporate/individual donors.

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

Financial Statement

A summary of the financial statement for the period 31 Jul 2021 to 31 July 2022 is attached at Annex A. It shows that the Trust is in a sound financial position. Despite demand for our services being relatively low during this financial period, expenditure was some \$8,000 more than the previous financial year - most of this was related to fundraising costs.

At the recommendation of the Trust accountant, the trustees will consider investment options to ensure a sound return on accrued funds so that we remain well placed to support our people into the future.

Future Projects

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

First, supported 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, we are working 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 remember those we've lost. This memorial garden will be designed to complement the existing Settlers Memorial and will be developed in consultation with local Iwi to ensure their role as guardians of the land is honoured.

Third, we have partnered with Air Force charities in the UK, US, Australia and Canada to participate in a *World Rides* fundraising activity. This initiative of the Royal Air Force Association will see teams from all countries conducting cycle challenges to raise funds for their parent organisations. Because the events will be conducted concurrently in June, the height of the NZ winter, we are exploring indoor options.

Finally, with a strengthening financial position, we are keen to explore options for scholarships for RNZAF members and their children, to support further education when it might otherwise be unavailable.



Website: www.missingwingmantrust.org.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/missingwingman

Twitter: www.twitter.com/missingwingman

Email: missingwingmantrust@gmail.com

ANNEX A:
Financial Statement Summary
31 Jul 21 to 31 Jul 22

| | Actual FY21/22 | Actual FY 20/21 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Operating Receipts | | |
| Donations, fundraising, etc | 112,360 | 39,555 |
| Interest | 338 | 149 |
| Total Operating Receipts | 112,698 | 39,704 |
| Operating Payments | | |
| Payments related to public fundraising | 27,830 | 3,797 |
| Grants and Donations paid | 725 | 16,408 |
| Other operating payments | 508 | 551 |
| Total Operating Payments | 29,063 | 20,756 |
| Operating Surplus or Deficit | 83,635 | 18,948 |
| Bank Accounts & Cash at beginning of FY | 315,114 | 296,166 |
| Bank Accounts & Cash at end of FY | 398,749 | 315,114 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Bank Accounts & Cash | 83,635 | 18,948 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Everyday Account | 131,360 | 91,170 |
| Savings Account | 265,525 | 222,080 |
| Taxation | 1,864 | 1,864 |