NZAS RETIREMENT FUND
Your Super. Your Future.

INSIGHTS

November 2026

Message from the Trustee

This edition covers:

- the latest Investment Insights video
- how compounding can grow your super
- what happened in investment markets during the quarter ended 30 September 2026
- the Fund's investment performance for the quarter ended 30 September 2026
- details of a change to the Fund's investment management strategy
- details on the August retirement sessions hosted by NZAS
- a farewell to our Chair, Tim McGuinness

If you need support over the holiday period, please read the service update below and note the key cut-off dates.

Missed the last newsletter? Find it **here**.

We're here to help

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at **nzasrf@mercer.com** or call the Helpline on **0508 266 787** (or +61 3 8306 0964 if calling from overseas).

Regards,

NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Board

Latest Investment Insights video is out

Having trouble viewing this video? Please try another browser.

This video was filmed in mid-October 2026 and the information discussed is relevant at the time of recording.

In the latest video (filmed in mid-October 2026), Robert Kavanagh, Head of Portfolio Management, Marsh New Zealand, shared insights from Marsh's global network of investment experts, covering:

- how investment markets were performing
- the rise of government debt around the world and in New Zealand, and what the results of the (then) upcoming New Zealand election might mean for returns
- what investors should keep an eye on next and what might move the markets in the coming months

Compounding and how it can grow your super

Compounding is one of the quietest ways your super may grow over time.

How compounding works

Your super is usually invested in a mix of assets such as shares, property, cash, and fixed interest. These investments can move up or down in value, and the gains or losses over a period are called investment returns.

Compounding happens when positive investment returns earned stay in your super and then earn positive returns of their own. In other words, growth comes not only from your and your employer's contributions, but also from what your money has already earned while it remains invested.

Why time matters

At first, the effect of compounding may seem small. But over time, compounded returns can build on each other and potentially make a meaningful difference to your balance. That's part of why super is often described as a long-term investment for retirement.

You don't need to be an expert investor to benefit from this. Small, regular contributions may also play an important role over time. And because time gives your money more opportunity to stay invested, starting earlier can make a difference.

While returns can go up and down and growth is not guaranteed, understanding the basics can help you feel more informed about how super works.

Market update

For quarter ended 30 September 2026

The third quarter of 2026 saw New Zealand and global shares rise modestly overall, led by consumer discretionary stocks (shares in companies selling non-essential goods and services) and energy stocks. However, financials (shares in banks, insurers and asset managers), bonds, listed property, and infrastructure investments all declined.

New Zealand's economy showed signs of recovery, but concerns remained around inflation, unemployment, higher interest rates, and global uncertainty.

READ MORE HERE

Investment returns

The table below shows investment returns (after tax and investment-related costs) for each of the Fund's four investment options for the stated periods, each ended 30 September 2026.

	Cash	Conservative	Balanced	Growth
Fund year to date (3 months)	0.47%	- 0.94%	- 0.76%	- 0.04%
3 years (p.a.)	3.0%	6.4%	9.6%	12.8%
5 years (p.a.)	2.9%	2.9%	4.1%	5.5%
10 years (p.a.)	2.0%	3.9%	6.0%	8.3%

You can find the **latest earning rates** and general information about **how financial markets are performing** on the Fund website.

Investment strategy change

As part of its ongoing monitoring of the Fund's investments, the Trustee has decided to replace the Fund's holdings in the Mercer NZ Fixed Interest Fund, the Mercer NZ Cash Fund and the Harbour Australasian Equity Fund.

These holdings are being transitioned to the Harbour NZ Core Fixed Interest Fund, the Amova Wholesale NZ Cash Fund, and the Salt Core NZ Shares Fund.

Why have these changes been made?

The changes to the New Zealand fixed interest and cash investments were not related to investment performance. They were made after Macquarie, the underlying investment manager used by Mercer, made material changes to their New Zealand investment approach and team, including changes to key investment personnel.

For Australasian equities, the Trustee Directors decided to change the investment manager due to performance concerns.

The Fund's current underlying investment manager structure is available on the Fund website, **here**.

Thank you for joining the education sessions

In August, NZAS hosted a series of education sessions for employees, led by Marsh (previously Mercer) Financial Advisers. The sessions covered practical topics to help attendees better understand retirement planning and how the Fund works.

The Trustee Board would like to thank NZAS for facilitating the sessions and supporting member education. We appreciate everyone who attended and took the time to get involved.

If you missed the sessions, the presentation slides from the **Retirement Readiness** and **Introduction to the Fund** presentations are available for you to review on the **Fund website**. They are designed to provide clear, general information only — so you can feel more informed, without needing to be an expert.

Holiday support hours

During the holiday period, from 12:00pm on Thursday 24 December 2026 until 8:00am on Tuesday 5 January 2027 (NZT), there will be no administration support. This will impact processes such as withdrawal payments, regular member contributions updates and processing of other forms. These services will be affected not only during the holiday period but also leading up to it. If you have any withdrawal requests that require action during this holiday period, please ensure that they are sent to **nzasrf@mercer.com** no later than Monday 14 December 2026.

The Helpline will remain available throughout the holiday period, except on the national public holidays (25 and 28 December, 1 and 4 January). Hours are 9:00am to 7:00pm, Monday to Friday and you can contact them on **0508 266 787** (or +61 3 8306 0964 if calling from overseas).

New to the Fund? Start here

If you're new to the Fund, the New Member Starter Kit is your go-to guide, with key documents, fact sheets, and simple steps to access and manage your online account.

Reviewing it early helps you understand your benefits and get started with confidence.

ACCESS THE NEW MEMBER STARTER KIT

Have you seen the latest annual report?

The Fund's annual report and your annual confirmation (i.e. your member statement) for the year ended 30 June 2026 were distributed in September.

The **annual report** included a review of the Fund's investment performance for the year, a summary of the fees and charges paid and other useful information about the Fund. You can view the annual report **here**.

Your **annual confirmation** included your account balances and an estimate of your benefit entitlements as at 30 June 2026, as well as showing the contributions made by you and NZAS during the year and the investment returns allocated to your accounts.

A fond farewell to Tim McGuinness

As this is Tim's final newsletter as Chair, we want to thank him for the exceptional contribution he has made to the Fund.

Since joining the Trustee Board in 2015, Tim has played a significant role in shaping the Fund and supporting its members. His leadership, insight, and steady guidance have been greatly valued.

We have also greatly appreciated the care and commitment Tim has shown to the wider Tiwai community, along with the collaborative spirit he has brought to the Trustee Board throughout his time with us.

Tim will complete his tenure on 31 December 2026. We will announce the new Chair in due course.

Your Trustee Directors

You're welcome to contact any of your Trustee Directors if you have any questions about the Fund. Their details are **online** or you can call them on their direct lines:

Site-Based Trustee Directors

Andrew	03 218 5989
Greg	027 292 8146
Karen	03 218 5689
Paula	03 218 5571
Tom	027 774 4536

Offsite Trustee Directors

Rochelle	021 605 692
Kyle	+61 (0) 477 362 101
Tim	027 453 5565 (until 31 December 2026)

Do you have any questions about the Fund? You can contact the Helpline on **0508 266 787** (Australia 03 8306 0964, and international +61 3 8306 0964) between 9am and 7pm Monday to Friday, except for national public holidays.

General disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is not intended to be financial advice or to take the place of a financial adviser. The information in this newsletter is for general information only, and has been prepared on behalf of NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Limited (the issuer of the Fund) without taking account of your personal objectives, circumstances or needs. More information about the Fund can be found in the Fund's most recent Product Disclosure Statement, a copy of which is available at **www.nzasretirementfund.com**. Past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide for future performance.

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