

# INSIGHTS

## MARCH 2023



### Message from the Trustee

This edition of Insights includes tips to help you plan for retirement, a summary of the latest insurance account review (including information on new premium rates) and notice of a new Responsible Investment Policy.

If you haven't logged into your account in a while (**[the website guide can help](#)**), we encourage you to login and check your personal contact details are still up-to-date. Later this year we will be preparing the annual report and member statement so correct details will ensure these documents reach you in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about this newsletter, the Fund, or your account please contact us at [nzasrf@mercero.com](mailto:nzasrf@mercero.com) or **give us a call** on **0508 266 787** (or +61 3 8306 0964 if calling from overseas).

We wish you and your families a great and safe year ahead.

Regards,

NZAS Retirement Fund Trustee Board

### New responsible investment policy released

The Trustee Board actively considers Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors when deciding whether to initiate or retain an investment in an underlying investment fund. It has recently developed a Responsible Investment Policy (available on the Fund website) which outlines:

- how it assesses and engages with underlying fund managers in the ESG investing context; and
- the specific investments which it aims to avoid.

The Trustee Board recognises that responsible investment is an area that is constantly evolving. It aims to keep abreast of product and market developments through its interactions with its underlying fund managers and will review the Responsible Investment Policy annually as part of the regular review of the Fund's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives.

[Download a copy](#)

### Investment market update

#### Final quarter of 2022

After negative returns in August and September across most asset classes, the last quarter of 2022 showed early promise with positive performance in developed market equities, emerging market debt and high yield bonds. During Q4, investor sentiment generally improved on better than expected US earnings data and an expected slowdown in policy tightening, despite inflation readings and US labour market growth refusing to budge.

[Read more](#)

## Your online account and how to make a will

### Your account

Please take some time to log in at the [Fund website](#) and check if your contact details are accurate. This will ensure that you can promptly receive important Fund documents.

[Log in](#)

### Importance of having a will

The early part of the year is a good time to make sure that all your personal and financial affairs are in order. Read more about the importance of having a will and how to make one on Sorted:

[How to make a will](#)



### Enjoying retirement as a retirement account holder

Allan Youngman was a Maintenance Crew Leader and is now a retirement account holder in the Fund. He retired from the job approximately four months ago and is now cherishing time off with his family. In his spare time he also enjoys hunting, motor bikes and jet boating.

[Read more](#)

## Planning for retirement

### What are your retirement goals?

The concept of retirement means different things to different people. Whether it is the opportunity to travel, spend time with family, start a new project, or dabble in a mixture of all of the above, retirement is a time to enjoy and be free of financial stress. It can be a major life transition and we need to be honest about what our goals are and what trade-offs we are willing to live with. Even if retirement seems a while away, it is good to have a plan. Here are some tips to help you plan for retirement.

[Read more](#)



## Investment option returns to 31 January 2023

The following table shows investment returns (after tax and investment-related costs) for each of the Fund's four investment options for the stated periods, each ended 31 January 2023:

	Cash	Conservative	Balanced	Growth
7 months (to 31 January 2023)	1.46%	2.08%	3.31%	5.15%
3 years (p.a.)	0.9%	0.7%	1.7%	3.1%
5 years (p.a.)	1.1%	2.3%	3.6%	5.1%
10 years (p.a.)	1.6%	4.2%	6.3%	8.7%

You can find the [latest earning rates](#) and general information about [how financial markets are performing](#) on the Fund website.



## Financial tools for 2023

Budgeting helps you plan for the unexpected. By saving for retirement and building an emergency savings buffer, it can give you peace of mind for the future. Here are some tools to help with budgeting for today and planning for the future.

[Learn more](#)

## Insurance account review and new premium rates

As part of the formal review of the Insurance Account carried out every three years, the Trustee Board recently considered the premiums payable by members of the Fund. As a result, it approved a recommendation by the Fund's Actuary to maintain the current reserve in the Insurance Account and update the premium rates from 31 March 2023.

The Trustee Board also considered whether now was the right time to reassess outsourcing Death and Total Disability insurance cover, which would involve comparing available insurance options from various providers and reflecting on whether outsourcing some part of the insurance arrangements would benefit the Fund. A review was conducted three years ago and at that time, the Trustee concluded that there would be no benefit to the Fund from such an outsourcing (especially as it would be impracticable for the Trustee to externally insure the Ill-health benefit).

The Trustee Board has decided that the future of the smelter should be known before reconsidering the potential outsourcing of any of the Fund's insurance arrangements.

When considering the Fund's insurance premium rates, the Actuary recommended that the premium rates be updated. This will result in a reduction of premiums at older ages and an increase in premiums at younger ages. The Actuary believes that the new premium rate structure better reflects the Fund's future potential insurance risks and its claims experience across the three different types of insurance offered, being Death, Total and Permanent Disablement and Ill-health. The revised premium rates will apply from 31 March 2023 and will be available in the updated Other Material Information Document on the [documents webpage](#).

The next valuation is due as at 30 June 2025. However, the Trustee Board will undertake an earlier review if the Fund's financial accounts show either a substantial increase or a substantial reduction in the Insurance Account balance.

## 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

Paula 03 218 5571

Andrew 03 218 5989

Allan 03 218 5811

Karen 03 218 5689

### Offsite Trustee Directors

Tim 0274 535 565

Stephanie +61 407 718 161

Bruce 027 284 0481

Grant 022 071 3117

**Any questions about the Fund?** You can contact the Helpline on [0508 266 787](tel:0508266787) (Australia 03 8687 1849, and international +61 3 8687 1849) 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](http://www.nzasretirementfund.com). Past performance cannot be relied upon as a guide for future performance.

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