



Annual Review 2023

For the year ended 30 June 2023



* This Annual Review is an extract of the full Performance Report and Financial statements – to view the full MG Charitable Trust Annual Report visit www.mggroup.co.nz/mgtrust.

MG Charitable Trust

Overview

The MG Charitable Trust (MG Trust) was established in 2019 and launched in 2021 thanks to the generosity of Market Gardeners Ltd (MG).

Status: Charitable Trust

Charitable registration number: CC58378 (Charities Commission Registration Number), 50076869 (Charitable Trust Register Incorporation Number (Companies Office)).

The MG Trust is a registered charitable trust which is run independently from MG but is closely supported by the Co-operative. It focuses on providing funding to projects and initiatives which have a positive impact on the horticulture industry. The Trustees are particularly interested in initiatives in the areas of education and industry profile/legacy.

“Market Gardeners Limited has been part of the fabric of the New Zealand horticulture industry since 1923 and remains committed to supporting projects, programmes, organisations and individuals which assist the industry in which we operate.”

– Bruce Irvine, MG Board Chair.

The key objectives of the MG Trust are to: **Governance and management**

- Advance the education of people within the horticulture industry.
- Support projects which help benefit the horticulture industry.
- Advance the development of the horticulture industry through research and innovation.
- Support programmes and organisations that promote the benefits of fresh produce and advocate for the industry more generally.
- Enhance the profile and preserve the heritage of the horticulture industry.
- Relieve poverty, and improve health, by programmes and initiatives to educate people about the benefits of consuming fresh produce and activities to encourage consumption.

The Trustees meet twice a year to assess applications for contestable funding and, as necessary, to assess applications for the education fund.

In addition to the general funding rounds, the Trust has a Grower Education Fund which aligns with the Trust's objective to advance the education of people within the horticultural industry.

Trust Structure

The Settlor of the MG Trust is Market Gardeners Limited. The MG Trust is a registered charitable trust which is run independently from MG but is closely supported by MG.

The MG Trust is chaired by grower John Clarke, with a further three grower-trustees (Trudi Webb, Robin Oakley and Catherine Lewis) and one Independent Trustee (Alastair Hercus). Together, they bring many years of experience in the horticulture sector and offer a broad range of professional skills to support the objectives of the MG Trust. Administration, accounting, communication and marketing support is provided to MG Trust by members of the MG management team. There is no charge for this support.

Funding

Initial seed funding of \$178,000 was provided to the MG Trust by the MG Group, with ongoing funding coming from annual distributions generated by shares held by the MG Trust, interest on funds held in the bank, together with donations (from MG and its associated entities, shareholders and contacts) from time to time. In time, it is intended the Trust will seek to encourage donors to provide donations.

Chair's report

As I look back over the past two years, I'm really pleased with the contribution the MG Charitable Trust (MG Trust) has made to support the horticulture industry.



MG Charitable Trust Chair
John Clarke

Since launching in 2021, the Trustees have successfully completed four contestable funding rounds, providing one-off grants to 20 organisations connected to the horticulture industry, and helped fund educational opportunities for seven individuals.

Among the initiatives funded through the MG Trust this year was a series of post-Cyclone Gabrielle field walks which were planned and coordinated by New Zealand Apples and Pears Inc (NZAPI). The Trustees were keen to support growers who were impacted and held an online meeting as soon as the cyclone hit to discuss potential options. Therefore, we were pleased when an application came through from NZAPI requesting the MG Trust fund a new education and support programme which supported a large number of growers impacted by the devastating cyclone. The field days bring together experts from across the Hawke's Bay and Gisborne region to create an opportunity for growers to learn together how to overcome challenges. They are also a forum for growers to share their experiences and work together on solutions so they can all make good decisions for future seasons. The first of four events was held in July, attracting 120 people who shared experiences, ideas, and enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other.



↑ MG Charitable Trust Board

Left to right: Trudi Webb, John Clarke, Robin Oakley, Catherine Lewis and Alastair Hercus.

Contestable Funding Rounds

Funding Round
NOVEMBER 2022 & JUNE 2023

<p>NZAPI Post-cyclone grower field walks programme</p> <p>\$25,000</p>		<p>Onions NZ Produce a business case for the Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence</p> <p>\$15,000</p>	
	<p>Summerfruit NZ Funding towards the development of an online growers portal</p> <p>\$10,000</p>		<p>NZ Avocado Industry conference registration and costs for the World Avocado Conference</p> <p>\$5,400</p>
<p>Te Koromiko School Tools and materials for a seeds of learning programme</p> <p>\$3,000</p>		<p>Women in Horticulture Series of regional workshops</p> <p>\$4,000</p>	
	<p>Women in Kiwifruit Establish a mentoring programme for women in the industry</p> <p>\$2,000</p>		<p>Katikati Horticulture Trust Digital tech for the new Katikati horticulture learning centre</p> <p>\$5,400</p>



↑ Scott Fresh

MG Trust Education Fund

The education fund again included subsidising two growers, Sam Hobbs (Darling Fruits) and Andrew Derbridge (Scott Fresh), to attend the Rabobank Farm Managers Programme.

This year the Trustees were also pleased to expand this part of the Trust to include a fully funded place on the Rabobank Executive Management Programme, with a place awarded to Ben Scott (Scott Fresh). Funding was also provided to Kazi Talaska (Onions NZ) to attend the World Avocado Conference.

The feedback from growers attending the Rabobank courses has been overwhelmingly positive and something Trustees intend on supporting in the future.



“The farm managers course was incredible and it was an amazing experience. I feel very privileged to have been funded by the trust in order to attend.” – Sam Hobbs, Darling Fruits

Looking ahead

The Trustees have taken time to reflect on the work undertaken to date and are immensely proud to be able support such a broad range of organisations and individuals.

They have also spent time reviewing the MG Trust and refining their funding strategy. As such, they have narrowed their focus, with a greater emphasis now put on areas where the funding can make the most impact in the horticulture industry, including:

- Supporting applications with a focus on education.
- Providing educational opportunities for individuals or groups which are directly linked to the industry, or for people about to enter the industry, with less weight put towards funding junior school programmes.
- Supporting applications for projects which aim to enhance the profile of the horticulture industry.

As funding grows in the coming years, the MG Trust will increase its positive influence and the Trustees look forward to providing new opportunities to support the horticulture industry in New Zealand.

John Clarke
MG Trust Chair

MG Charitable Trust Financial Information for the 12 months ended 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

How was it funded? and what did it cost?

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<i>Donations received from Market Gardeners Limited</i>	6,000	178,000
<i>Interest, dividends and other investment revenue</i>	439,477	296,936
Total Revenue	445,477	474,936
EXPENSES		
<i>Grants and donations made</i>	97,289	106,200
Surplus for the year	348,188	368,736

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

What the entity owns? and What the entity owes?"

	2023 \$	2022 \$
TOTAL ASSETS	2,768,058	2,393,080
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,051,123	2,024,334
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	716,935	368,746

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

How the entity has received and use cash

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Net cash flows from operating activities	942	174,512
Net cash flows from investing and financing activities	-	10
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH	942	174,522
Opening cash	174,522	-
CLOSING CASH	175,464	174,522