



Annual Review 2026

For the year ended 30 June 2026

* 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 Group).

Status:

Charitable Trust

Charitable registration:

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, innovation/research, and industry profile/legacy.

The Trustees have an emphasis on areas where 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.

The Trustees meet once a year to assess applications for contestable funding and again to assess applications for the education fund.

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.

Governance and Management

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’ 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 the MG Trust by members of the MG Executive 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.

MG Charitable Trust Chair’s report



MG Charitable Trust Chair
John Clarke

The MG Charitable Trust has had another successful year supporting the horticulture industry, with education continuing to be a key focus of our funding.

During the year, the Trust distributed \$83,100 through the Education Fund and contestable funding, taking the total allocated since funding began in 2021 to \$471,489. This represents a meaningful investment in people, capability and initiatives across horticulture, with funding reaching individuals and organisations throughout the industry. As the Trust’s funding base grows over time, so too will its ability to extend that impact and support opportunities that contribute to the future of the sector.

The Education Fund continues to help people within the industry access high-quality professional development opportunities that may otherwise be difficult to undertake. The value of this support extends beyond the individual, with participants bringing new skills, knowledge and perspectives back into their businesses and the wider horticulture sector.



↑ MG Charitable Trust Board
Left to right: Trudi Webb, John Clarke, Robin Oakley, Catherine Lewis and Alastair Hercus.



\$471,489

allocated by the
MG Charitable Trust to date

“As the Trust’s funding base grows over time, so too will its ability to extend that impact and support opportunities that contribute to the future of the sector.”

The MG Trust has also committed to longer-term support for the Agribusiness in Schools programme after its team presented to the Trustees during the year and shared the breadth of the work being undertaken. The programme reaches secondary school students throughout New Zealand as they consider their future study and career options. MG Trust’s support helps ensure horticulture is well represented within the programme, giving students greater exposure to the opportunities available in the industry.

During the year, the Trustees also reviewed the Trust’s application and assessment process. The application form

and supporting information have been refined to provide clearer guidance around eligibility and assessment, while the decision-making process now allows Trustees to seek further information where required. The aim is to make applying as straightforward as possible while continuing to attract proposals that align closely with the Trust’s objectives.

The Trustees were particularly pleased to support the Agribusiness in Schools programme for a second year. This initiative has national reach and engages with young New Zealanders who are making decisions about their future.



“The support provided an excellent opportunity to develop skills that are highly relevant to the future of horticulture.”

Micaela Reyes, Woodhaven Gardens

Contestable Funding Round

November 2025

The Trustees approved \$43,500 of contestable funding during the year. One project, which had been allocated \$15,000, did not proceed, with that funding retained for future rounds.

Agribusiness in Schools



\$20,000

\$20,000, with a further \$20,000 allocation for 2027 contingent on the programme continuing and delivering as planned.

Tomatoes NZ & Vegetables NZ

\$15,000

A \$15,000 grant was also approved for a TomatoesNZ and Vegetables New Zealand project focused on improving eRNA detection validation and an integrated surveillance network. The project subsequently did not proceed and the funding has been returned to the pool for future allocation.

Horticulture Executive Services



\$3,500

Pukekohe Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence – \$3,500 towards Vegetables Big Day Out 2026.

United Fresh Women in Horticulture



\$5,000

Towards a WIH Workshop

MG Trust Education Fund

The Education Fund provided grants totalling \$54,600 covering approximately 80% of the course costs to six recipients during the year, supporting participation in programmes aimed at developing the leadership, commercial and governance capability of people within horticulture.

Looking ahead

We are pleased to report that Jasmine Franklin will join the Trust as a Trustee from 21 November 2026. Jasmine and her husband Luke operate Franklin Farm, a sixth-generation family growing business based at Waimauku near Helensville. The Franklin family are long-standing MG Group grower-shareholders, and Jasmine brings practical growing and business experience alongside her current role as MG’s Associate Director.

Jasmine also has first-hand experience of the Trust’s education support, having previously received funding to attend both the Rabobank Farm Managers Programme and Mayfield Governance Programme. This provides a valuable perspective as we continue developing the Trust and its support for people across the industry.

This will be my final Annual Chair Review, with my last meeting being the November 2026 contestable funding round. I am proud of what the Trust has achieved and the impact it is already having across horticulture. I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and the MG Group team for their support, and I look forward to seeing the Trust continue to grow its funding and contribution to the industry in the years ahead.

John Clarke
MG Charitable Trust Chair

THE 2026 RECIPIENTS WERE:

Rabobank Executive Development Programme

Donald Heckler
Cam Lewis

Rabobank Farm Managers Programme

Micaela Reyes
Taurion Colquhoun

Mayfield Governance Programme

Robert Humphries

Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme

Kazi Talaska

MG Charitable Trust Financial Information
for the 12 months ended 30 June 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE <i>How was it funded? and what did it cost?</i>	2026 \$	2025 \$
<i>Donations received from Market Gardeners Limited</i>	4,000	4,000
<i>Interest, dividends and other investment revenue</i>	581,321	545,521
TOTAL REVENUE	585,321	549,521
Expenses		
<i>Grants and donations made</i>	83,100	82,000
<i>Other expenses</i>	-	1,029
Total Expense	83,100	83,029
Surplus for the year	502,221	466,492

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION <i>What the entity owns? and What the entity owes?</i>	2026 \$	2025 \$
TOTAL ASSETS	4,073,084	3,590,863
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,102,175	2,122,175
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	1,970,909	1,468,688

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS <i>How the entity has received and use cash?</i>	2026 \$	2025 \$
NET CASH FLOWS (USED IN) / FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(5,085)	4,546
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
NET (DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH	(5,085)	4,546
Opening cash	109,567	105,021
Closing cash	104,482	109,567

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