

WELCOME

Welcome to the latest issue of TRSS News, which includes an update on the Scheme's investment performance and the indicative returns for each of its four investment funds.

The board members and staff of the Trustee and the scheme administrator, Mercer, would also like to take this opportunity to wish all scheme members and their families a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

If there is anything you would like to see covered in future newsletters, please let us know by calling the helpline 0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224) or email teachersretire@mercer.com.

INVESTMENTS

Recent months have been positive for global investment markets, with all major asset classes gaining ground. Backed by positive economic sentiment, global equity markets showed no real weakness, apart from taking a short breather in August. Global bonds also performed reasonably well during the period, countering the potential headwinds of improving global economic sentiment and indications of a tightening in global monetary policy.

Political news continued to dominate headlines, with tensions between North Korea and the US commanding most attention. Investors are also continuing to keep their eyes on central banks, as hints of official interest rate increases in the near-term surfaced.

Domestically, apart from the New Zealand dollar weakening against all the major currencies, the general election had no real impact on local investment markets. The NZX50 reached record levels during October, while the Reserve Bank of New Zealand appears likely to hold the Official Cash Rate at 1.75% for some time yet.

SCHEME RETURNS

The following table shows the indicative returns for each of the Scheme's funds for the month ending 31 October 2017 and the 12 months to that date, along with a comparison with last Scheme year returns.

Indicative returns after tax and expenses			
	Scheme year-to-date 4 months to 31 October 2017	12 months to 31 October 2017	12 months to 30 June 2017
Cash Fund	0.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Stable Fund	2.3%	5.4%	3.9%
Balanced Fund	4.9%	10.7%	8.1%
Growth Fund	6.6%	15.6%	11.1%

Christmas holidays

Mercer, the Scheme's administration manager, will be closed from close of business on Friday 22nd December, reopening after the holiday break on 3rd January. The help desk will be open throughout the holiday period, apart from on public holidays.

Did you know?

The scheme's website is 'mobile enabled', which means that when you access the scheme website it will be displayed in the format best for the device you are using. That could be an iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, Android, etc. A traditional website, that's not mobile enabled, when accessed using a smart phone is very difficult to read unless you zoom in several times and then you have to scroll left to right to see all the content on the page. With a mobile enabled website, the navigation and content is reorganized so that it fits the browser window for the device used, and the pages are made "lighter" so they download quickly.

Is it time to review your investment option(s)?

The start of a new calendar year can be a good time to review your super. One of the key factors affecting your benefit from the scheme is your investment strategy.

Ask yourself if your current strategy is still appropriate for your personal circumstances and whether you are willing to ride out low or possibly negative returns in the shorter term in exchange for potentially higher longer-term returns.

The scheme gives you the flexibility:

- To change the investment fund(s) for some or all of your future contributions at any time.
- To transfer all or part of your existing account balances from one investment fund to another at any time.

There is no charge for changing your investment strategy for future contributions but a fee (currently \$40.00) applies to the second or subsequent change for the investment of your existing account balance(s) during a financial year.

Changes can be made online on **www.teachersretire.org.nz** or by completing and returning an Investment Alteration Request form available from the Documents & forms page of **www.teachersretire.org.nz** (you don't need to sign in) or by calling **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)**.

To see whether you are on track financially for the retirement lifestyle you aspire to, go to Planning for retirement on the Sorted website.

To find out more about anything mentioned in this newsletter

Call: **0508 4 TEACH (0508 4 83224)** Email: **teachersretire@mercero.com**

Visit: **www.trss.superfacts.co.nz**