

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 July 2026 – 30 September 2026

SHARE PRICE

\$0.66

WARRANT PRICE

\$0.00

MLN NAV

\$0.81

DISCOUNT¹

18.2%

as at 30 September 2026

A word from the Manager

Marlin's gross performance return for the third quarter (Q3) was +4.0%, while the adjusted NAV return was +3.3%. This compared with our global benchmark, the S&P Large Mid Cap/S&P Small Cap NZD (50% hedged to NZD), which was -1.1%.

It was encouraging to see Marlin outperform during what was a more subdued and volatile quarter in global markets. We significantly repositioned the portfolio over the last nine months, adding several new high-conviction positions; broadening sector and geographic diversification; and expanding the global investment team to support the wider portfolio. While it is still early, stronger performance over the last quarter gives us confidence in the outlook for the repositioned portfolio going forward.

Market drivers

The headline 1.9% gain in the Global MSCI World Index in the third quarter masked turbulence beneath the surface. Global markets were supported by strong performances of large cap US tech companies including Meta (+29% in local currency), Microsoft (+38%) and Nvidia (+14%), while US small cap stocks and markets in Europe, the UK, Australia and Emerging Markets declined during the quarter.

AI-related stocks fell sharply in July, with the SOX semiconductor index down 21%, before recovering partially in August and September as demand for AI compute proved resilient and industry guidance improved. Investors are now separating companies where heavy AI investment is driving revenue growth, such as Microsoft and Meta, from those where the returns remain less visible. We remain selective, focusing on business quality and the sustainability of earnings.

During the quarter, investors had to absorb sharply rising interest rates, escalating conflict in the Middle East, and a slump in the AI trade all at once. US Treasury yields reached 20-year highs on rising government debt concerns and persistent inflation, weighing on interest-rate-sensitive sectors such as housing-related cyclicals, utilities and REITs. Brent crude again surpassed US\$100 a barrel on renewed Middle East tensions.

Portfolio company and performance update

A defining feature of markets in recent quarters has been exceptionally narrow leadership, with a small group of AI-related stocks (semiconductors in particular) driving a disproportionate share of global returns. Together with a broader weakness in quality stocks and sectors like healthcare (as money flowed from blue chips to more speculative areas of the market), this weighed on our relative performance. This quarter's recovery in quality stocks and derating of crowded positions is consistent with the broadening we have been positioning for.

Meta (+29%) was one of our top contributors to performance following the September launch of Muse, Meta's personal AI assistant. The stock surged, as investors saw evidence of a consumer AI product that could justify Meta's large AI spending. While consumer monetisation is not yet clear, we believe that Muse has the potential to open substantial new markets for Meta beyond its core advertising business.

Software stocks had an encouraging recovery as earnings results and industry announcements supported our view that incumbent software platforms such as **Salesforce** (+47%), **Microsoft** (+38%) have a critical

role to play in the adoption of AI in enterprises. Microsoft is also benefiting from strong AI-related cloud growth while unchanged capital-spending guidance provided encouraging evidence of improving returns on AI investment.

Our healthcare names also saw a recovery in the quarter led by **Dexcom** (+28%) and **Danaher** (+17%). Dexcom rebounded as revenue and profit margins came in ahead of expectations as it continues to gain market share in the continuous glucose monitor market. Danaher was buoyed by the continued recovery in spending by its pharmaceutical and biotech customers.

Our interest-rate sensitive names underperformed this quarter as mortgage rates in the US passed through the psychological 7% level. These high rates are slowing the building of new homes, impacting portfolio companies such as **Martin Marietta** (-5%); reducing existing home sales volumes and home renovation spend, impacting **Floor and Décor** (-23%); and lower mortgage refinancing volumes impacting **Equifax** (-13%).

Portfolio changes

As discussed in prior monthly updates, since taking over as portfolio manager in July the team and I have undertaken a detailed review of the portfolio. As a result of this work, and examination of other opportunities in the market, we have recently made several changes to the construction of the portfolio. We have added several new high-quality businesses, many in the consumer, financial services and industrials sectors, areas where the portfolio has historically had lower exposure. We also exited a number of holdings where the investment thesis had played out, or where we found a better opportunity.

We have also expanded the team to allow us to cover more ground globally as we look for new investments and monitor an enlarged portfolio.

The Marlin portfolio now holds 36 stocks, up from 31, and is spread across a wider range of sectors and regions. The changes increase diversification while keeping the portfolio concentrated in our highest-conviction ideas. The portfolio remains invested in competitively advantaged growth businesses that we expect to perform well over the long term.

Every new portfolio addition must meet the same rigorous quality standards that have guided our investment process for over 25 years. Many of the new additions to the portfolio are leaders in their industries and in our view, amongst the highest-quality companies globally, including:

S&P Global, one of the world's most important financial infrastructure businesses, providing credit ratings, market data, indices and analytics that underpin global capital markets.

American Express, the world's leading premium credit card network, serving an affluent customer base with exceptional brand loyalty. Its closed-loop model, where it issues cards and operates the network, gives it access to rich spending data and supports strong pricing power.

Broadcom Inc., a global technology leader whose products sit at the heart of modern digital infrastructure. It holds leading positions in networking chips, custom AI processors and data centre connectivity, making it a critical supplier to many of the world's largest technology companies.

¹ Share price discount to NAV (including warrant price on a pro-rated basis and using the net asset value per share, after expenses, fees and tax, to four decimal places).

The quarter's result is encouraging, and we are pleased with how the portfolio has responded. We made these changes to build a more resilient portfolio without altering what has made our approach successful over the long term. We believe the changes leave the portfolio better balanced, better resourced and well placed to deliver for our clients over the long term.



Ashley Gardyne
Senior Portfolio Manager
Fisher Funds Management Ltd
15 October 2026



PERFORMANCE

as at 30 September 2026

	3 Months	3 Years (annualised)	5 Years (annualised)
--	----------	-------------------------	-------------------------

Company Performance

Total Shareholder Return	(12.4%)	(2.8%)	(8.4%)
Adjusted NAV Return	+3.3%	+5.7%	(0.4%)

Portfolio Performance

Gross Performance Return	+4.0%	+8.6%	+1.8%
Benchmark Index ¹	(1.1%)	+20.6%	+11.5%

¹ Benchmark index : S&P Large Mid Cap/S&P Small Cap Index (hedged 50% to NZD)

Non-GAAP Financial Information

Marlin uses non-GAAP measures, including adjusted net asset value, adjusted NAV return, gross performance return and total shareholder return. The rationale for using such non-GAAP measures is as follows:

- » adjusted net asset value – the underlying value of the investment portfolio adjusted for capital allocation decisions after expenses, fees and tax,
- » adjusted NAV return – the percentage change in the adjusted NAV value,
- » gross performance return – the Manager's portfolio performance in terms of stock selection and currency hedging before expenses, fees and tax, and
- » total shareholder return – the return combines the share price performance, the warrant price performance, the net value of converting any warrants into shares, and the dividends paid to shareholders. It assumes all dividends are reinvested in the company's dividend reinvestment plan, and that shareholders exercise their warrants, (if they were in the money), at warrant expiry date.

All references to adjusted net asset value, adjusted NAV return, gross performance return and total shareholder return in this newsletter are to such non-GAAP measures. The calculations applied to non-GAAP measures are described in the Marlin Non-GAAP Financial Information Policy. A copy of the policy is available at marlin.co.nz/about-marlin/marlin-policies.

COMPANY NEWS

Dividend Paid 25 September 2026

A dividend of 1.62 cents per share was paid to Marlin shareholders on 25 September 2026, under the quarterly distribution policy. Interest in Marlin's dividend reinvestment plan (DRP) remains high with 36% of shareholders participating in the plan. Shares issued to DRP participants are at a 3% discount to market price. If you would like to participate in the DRP, please contact our share registrar, Computershare on 09 488 8777.

SIGNIFICANT RETURNS IMPACTING THE PORTFOLIO DURING THE QUARTER IN LOCAL CURRENCY

SALESFORCE	MICROSOFT	META PLATFORMS	DEXCOM	FLOOR & DÉCOR
+47%	+38%	+29%	+28%	-23%

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS SUMMARY

as at 30 September 2026

	Company	% Holding
Canada	Constellation Software	1.6%
China	Tencent Holdings	3.9%
France	Hermes International	2.4%
	Schneider Electric SE	1.6%
Japan	Keyence Corp	2.7%
United States	Alphabet	4.0%
	Amazon.Com	5.7%
	American Express Co	2.5%
	Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.	2.3%
	ASML Holding NV	1.6%
	Boston Scientific	2.5%
	Broadcom Limited	2.6%
	Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc	1.4%
	Danaher Corporation	3.1%
	Dexcom Inc	2.6%
	Edwards Lifesciences Corp.	2.0%
	Equifax Inc	1.8%
	Ferguson Enterprises Inc	2.6%
	Floor & Décor Holdings	2.5%
	HDFC Bank Limited	0.9%
	Intuitive Surgical Inc	3.5%
	Martin Mariette Materials Inc	2.0%
	Mastercard	4.9%
	MercadoLibre Inc	3.3%
	Meta Platforms Inc	5.0%
	Microsoft	5.6%
	Netflix	2.9%
	Nu Holdings Limited	1.3%
	Nvidia Corp	4.6%
	Old Dominion Freight Line Inc	2.0%
	S&P Global Inc	2.9%
	salesforce.com	1.4%
	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co	2.0%
	Tradeweb Markets Inc	1.9%
	Tyler Technologies Inc	1.4%
	Uber Technologies Inc	3.0%
	Equity Total	98.0%
	New Zealand dollar cash	0.6%
	Total foreign cash	2.8%
	Cash Total	3.4%
	Forward Foreign Exchange	-1.4%
	TOTAL	100.0%

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter has been prepared as at the date noted on the front page. The information has been prepared as a general summary of the matters covered only, and it is by necessity brief. The information and opinions are based upon sources which are believed to be reliable, but Marlin Global Limited and its officers and directors make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness. The newsletter is not intended to constitute professional or investment advice and should not be relied upon in making any investment decisions. Professional financial advice from a financial adviser should be taken before making an investment. To the extent that the newsletter contains data relating to the historical performance of Marlin Global Limited or its portfolio companies, please note that fund performance can and will vary and that future results may have no correlation with results historically achieved.