The McCutchan Trust was established following the death of Ailsa McCutchan in 2008. Ailsa McCutchan trained as a nurse after serving as a corporal in charge of a Link trainer in the Air Force during World War II. She then taught nursing as a tutor sister in varying places before completing her post-graduate diploma studies in 1951. She completed her midwifery training in 1959 and was then appointed as Waikato’s deputy matron-in-chief in 1960. Eight years later she became matron-in-chief of the Waikato Hospital Board. She continued in the position until the mid-1970s. Miss McCutchan led a very active retirement and was keenly involved in a variety of groups and interests. In her will, Miss McCutchan left a significant bequest to the Nursing Education and Research Foundation (NERF) for the benefit of professional nursing.

Miss McCutchan’s will noted that the scholarships to be awarded by the Trust are intended to “advance professional nursing so that nursing in general will benefit, rather than promoting the interests of the awardee or donee.” The scholarships or grants have a diverse range of intended recipients – individuals; a group of nurses; and/or “a school of learning for the purposes of training nurses”. The purpose of the scholarships and grants can be diverse as well, with the intent of them being directed towards: gaining higher qualifications; facilitating nursing research; providing resource material; enabling seminars to take place; and completing and/or publishing any thesis or study.

Application forms for scholarships administered under the McCutchan Trust can be found here: http://www.nzno.org.nz/services/scholarships/articletype/categoryview/categoryid/36/nerf