

# Bell Australian Small Companies Fund (Class A)

## Monthly Summary

Period ending 31 August 2026

|                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Portfolio Managers</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| Tim Johnston<br>James Nguyen<br>Scott Hudson                                                                                                               |
| <b>Fund Inception</b>                                                                                                                                      |
| 23 June 2026                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Investment Objective</b>                                                                                                                                |
| The investment return objective of the Fund is to outperform the benchmark over the medium to long term periods after fees and expenses (but before taxes) |
| <b>Investment Benchmark</b>                                                                                                                                |
| S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index                                                                                                                |
| <b>Investment Style</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| Quality with a valuation overlay – bottom up, fundamental                                                                                                  |
| <b>Investment universe</b>                                                                                                                                 |
| Primarily Australian listed equities, with limited New Zealand exposure. Primarily outside S&P/ASX 100 Index*                                              |
| <b>Investment horizon</b>                                                                                                                                  |
| At least 5 – 7 years                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Currency exposure</b>                                                                                                                                   |
| AUD                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>APIR Code</b>                                                                                                                                           |
| PIM8252AU                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Management fees &amp; costs**</b>                                                                                                                       |
| Management fee:<br>1.10% p.a. of NAV.<br>Performance fee:<br>20% of outperformance of the Benchmark                                                        |
| <b>Buy/sell spread</b>                                                                                                                                     |
| 0.30% on entry and exit                                                                                                                                    |

\* The Fund may also invest in small companies listed in New Zealand and up to 10% of NAV on other international exchanges.

\*\* For further information please refer to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement available at [www.bellasset.com.au](http://www.bellasset.com.au)

### Performance (%)

|               | 1 month | Since Inception |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|
| Fund          | 5.4     | -0.5            |
| Benchmark     | 5.2     | -1.7            |
| <b>Excess</b> | 0.2     | -1.2            |

Benchmark is the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index. Performance is based on Fund Unit Class daily unit prices. There may be differences in the excess returns due to rounding. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

### Fund statistics

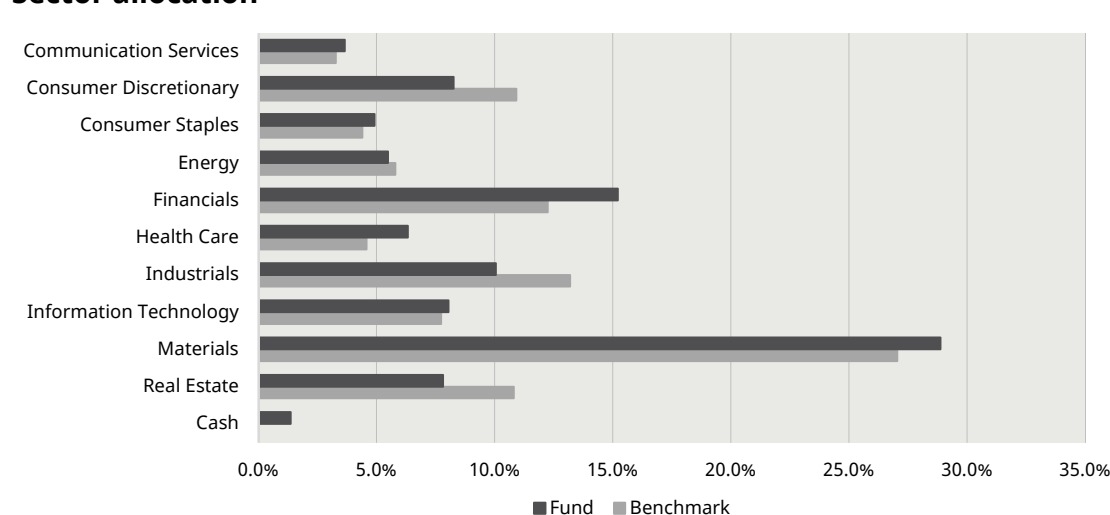
|                      | Fund   | Benchmark |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Fund AUM (\$m)       | \$15.7 | -         |
| Number of Stocks     | 47     | 208       |
| Beta                 | 1.06   | 1.00      |
| Active Share         | 78.2%  | -         |
| Return on Equity     | 15.2%  | 11.0%     |
| Free Cash Flow Yield | 4.5%   | 3.3%      |

Fund Statistics calculated using FactSet, Bloomberg and UBS Quant Answers. Beta is calculated using a forward-looking measure in the risk model.

### Top 5 holdings

| Company                | Sector                 | Weight (%) |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Vault Minerals Limited | Materials              | 4.7%       |
| AUB Group Limited      | Financials             | 4.4%       |
| Aussie Broadband Ltd.  | Communication Services | 3.7%       |
| NexGen Energy Ltd.     | Energy                 | 3.4%       |
| Capstone Copper Corp.  | Materials              | 3.0%       |

### Sector allocation



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### About Bell

Bell Asset Management is a specialist multi-investment team manager, bringing together dedicated, expert investment teams across Global and Australian Equities.

Since 2003, our Global Equities team has managed portfolios across all market cycles, guided by the philosophy that high-quality companies drive superior long-term returns. In 2026, we expanded our capabilities with the launch of a dedicated Australian Small Companies team — experienced Portfolio Managers focused on uncovering quality growth in Australia's small-cap universe.

### Contact us

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### Fund Commentary

#### Market update

Market dynamics in August were dominated by the local reporting season. With earnings forecasts revised lower in the preceding months, overall outcomes were better than these lowered expectations. Better outcomes and undemanding valuations combined to see the market move approx. 5% higher. We also saw a wave of takeover activity during the month, with industry players and private equity moving to take advantage of the opportunities in the market.

In our view, the key takeaway was that small-cap earnings appear at or close to a cyclical low. Higher commodity prices are driving higher earnings in resources and volume growth will follow. This underpins investment spending across resources, adding to the momentum in A.I. and energy A.I. infrastructure investment and supporting broader economic growth. The weakest near-term outlook remains in the consumer discretionary space, but those pressures are well understood and should ease as the interest rate cycle turns. Investors are starting to recognise both the opportunity and the discounted valuations on offer.

#### Performance

The Bell Australian Small Companies Fund (Class A) returned 5.4% (net) for the month, compared to the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index return of 5.2%, outperforming the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 0.2%.

The key contributors to the Fund's performance include:

- Fleet Partners rallied by 48% after receiving multiple takeover offers during the month. We have subsequently exited the position at a premium to the highest takeover offer.
- Capstone Copper was up by 10% over the month following a good quarterly production update. The company has invested in improving the reliability of its operations and this is now translating into outcomes. We continue to see upside in the stock as it is trading at a much lower valuation multiple than other diversified copper producers.
- Dicker Data delivered an excellent 1H26 result, beating market expectations for revenue growth, gross margins and operating costs. The company has started to benefit from AI-related spending, lifting confidence in the medium-term outlook and the stock re-rated by 15% as a result.

The key detractors to the Fund's performance include:

- Iress underperformed on marginally weaker top line growth. We are supportive of the turnaround strategy of the new executive team and believe our investment thesis remains intact.
- Aussie Broadband de-rated during the month despite meeting FY26 guidance and providing FY27 guidance ahead of consensus expectations. The disappointment stemmed from the subscriber additions achieved in the June quarter, raising questions on the pace of future growth and competitive intensity in the market.
- Generation Development Group gave up the gains seen in July. This was driven by higher-than-expected operating expense growth in FY27 as the company is investing to accelerate growth. We have added to the position on this weakness.

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### Portfolio activity

We initiated a position in EBOS Group. EBOS is a diversified distributor of healthcare and animal care products across Australia, NZ and SE Asia. The company is exposed to structural growth in demand, underpinned by the aging population and ongoing product innovation. After losing the supply contract for Chemist Warehouse, EBOS was substantially de-rated. Earnings are now re-based and have returned to growth and the company has finished a major reinvestment phase to support the growth outlook. We believe that the company is trading at an attractive entry point, on 15.5x earnings with a 5.6% dividend yield.

We added to our position in the Gold sector during the month, moving to a slightly overweight position in aggregate. This included initiating a position in Catalyst Metals, which has been a relative laggard in the recent rally and is trading at a heavy discount to its peer group. This position was funded in part by a reduction in the position in Ora Banda Mining after a period of strong outperformance.

As noted earlier, we added to Generation Development Group following its share price decline. We believe that the market is overlooking the fact that the incremental cost being added to the business is being done so to take advantage of the strong demand environment the company is experiencing.

We exited Fleet Partners and Temple & Webster during the month.

- Fleet Partners was exited following value realisation after multiple takeover offers drove the share price up 48% during the month.
- Temple & Webster announced a partial shift in the company strategy, moving to target an older customer cohort. In our assessment, this increases the risk and duration of value realisation.

We also reduced our position in Universal Store Holdings following a period of strong performance.

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### Target Market Summary

This product is intended for use as a minor or satellite component within a portfolio for a consumer who is seeking capital growth and has a very high risk and return profile for that portion of their investment portfolio. It is likely to be consistent with the financial situation and needs of a consumer with a 5-year minimum investment timeframe and who is unlikely to need to withdraw their money on less than one month's notice.

### Important information

The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited ABN 45 003 278 831, AFSL 235150 is the responsible entity and issuer of units for the Bell Australian Small Companies Fund (the Fund). Bell Asset Management Limited (BAM) ABN 84 092 278 647, AFSL 231091 is the investment manager for the Fund. This report has been prepared and issued by BAM for information purposes only and does not take into consideration the investment objectives, financial circumstances or needs of any particular recipient and it contains general information only. You should consider the product disclosure statement (PDS), prior to making any investment decisions. The PDS and target market determination (TMD) can be obtained for free by calling 1300 133 451 or visiting our website [www.bellasset.com.au](http://www.bellasset.com.au). If you require financial advice that takes into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs, you should consult your licensed or authorised financial adviser. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of any assumption contained in this report and none of Trust Co, BAM and its directors, employees or agents accepts any liability for any loss arising, including from negligence, from the use of this document. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of expected future performance. Total returns shown for the Fund have been calculated using exit prices after taking into account all ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for taxation.

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