

OCTOBER 2025 - PORTFOLIO UPDATE

The Australian market (XKOAI) rose +0.4% in October, driven mainly by resources on easing trade concerns and a better global growth outlook. US markets continued to march higher; S&P500 +2.3% and NASDAQ +4.7%. NASDAQ is now +23% this calendar year, contrasting with +12% for the Australian market. China (MSCI) fell -3.9% whilst the UK (FTSE) rose +3.9% and Germany (DAX) +0.3%. Japan (Nikkei 225) spiked an astonishing +17% and is now up over +30% for the year.

Government 10-yr bond yields in both the US and Australia barely moved. A stronger than expected inflation reading late in the month erased hopes of a near-term interest rate cut from the RBA. Expectations for the next cut have been pushed out to mid-2026 with some predicting there will be no more easings this cycle. The Australian dollar retreated -1.1%.

Domestically, small caps again outperformed larger stocks. Emerging companies, however, fell -0.4%. This contrasts with the +20% gains in this segment over the last two months, indicating that the market attitude to risk may be waning.

The Ex-20 benchmark return was +0.1%. The Quest portfolio outperformed, returning +0.6%.

Domestically, resource stocks were buoyed by strong rebounds in heavily shorted lithium miners and supported by firmer metals prices, Materials +4% was the best sector, followed by Energy +4% and Financials +2%. Gold stocks were up as much as +13% before the mid-month peak and ended down -0.4% at month's end. They are, however, still up +69% over the last 12 months. The worst sectors were Technology -7% and Consumer Discretionary -7%.

Amongst commodities, oil was again weaker with WTIS down -2% whilst copper +6%, iron ore +2%, thermal coal +2% and coking coal +2% all rose.

Lithium miner Pilbara Minerals +31% was our best performer, along with Clarity Pharmaceuticals +28%. Ventia Services +12% continued to be well supported given its defensive earnings profile as was gold miner Vault Minerals +11% and minerals testing business ALS +9%. Our longstanding holding in insurance broker AUB Group +13% also contributed, jumping on news of an unsolicited takeover offer.

Sentiment toward tech stocks further soured, with our worst performers in this group: EROAD -26%, Wisetech -23%, Zip Co -12%, Xero -8%, and Seek -5%.

The tail end of the year typically sees stock markets well supported. Despite this, we remain cautious and have been trimming portfolio risk. Further profits were taken in Qoria, Resmed, EROAD, Maas Group and we exited Block Inc. New positions were established in CPU and Dexus. Cash ended the month at 10%.

PORTFOLIO FEATURES

Inception	5 January 2017
Benchmark	S&P/ASX300 ex 20 Index
No. of holdings	20 - 40
Typical cash weight	3 - 10%
Investment horizon	3 - 5 years
Portfolio Managers	Troy Cairns/ Swapan Pandya
How to invest	Mason Stevens Platform Xplore Wealth Platform MyNorth Platform

RESEARCH RATINGS

Lonsec	*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
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DRIVERS OF PERFORMANCE

POSITIVE

Ventia Services, Pilbara Minerals, AUB Group, ALS Limited, Qoria, Clarity Pharmaceuticals, Challenger

NEGATIVE

Wistech, EROAD Limited, Zip Co., Integral Diagnostics, Seek

CURRENT PORTFOLIO

Total holdings	37
Non-benchmark holdings	1
Tracking error	4.74%
Active share	76.6%
Earnings growth (1yr fwd)*	20% pa
ROE	13.7%
Beta	0.86
P/E (1yr fwd)*	31x
Dividend yield (1yr fwd)	2.6%

Source: Bloomberg (*outliers excluded)

PERFORMANCE*							
To 31 October 2025	1month	3months	6months	1yr	3yrs (p.a)	5yrs (p.a)	Inception (p.a)
Quest Ex-20 Aust Equities	+0.6%	+5.5%	+16.7%	+10.3%	+11.3%	+9.3%	+12.5%
ASX300 Acc. ex ASX20 index	+0.1%	+5.1%	+15.1%	+16.9%	+13.3%	+11.1%	+9.3%
Value added	+0.5%	+0.4%	+1.6%	-6.6%	-2.0%	-1.8%	+3.2%

*Returns after fees based on the Mason Steven SMA model portfolio. Holdings and therefore returns may vary slightly, given small trading variations between SMA platforms. Performance fees, where applicable, are deducted six monthly following the June and Dec periods. Individual returns will differ for investors, depending on when the initial investment was established and the timing of any additional investments or redemptions. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.



INVESTMENT PROFILE

The Quest Ex-20 Portfolio is a Separately Managed Account (SMA), actively managed by Quest Asset Partners. The Portfolio comprises between 20 and 40 securities and aims to outperform the S&P/ASX 300 index excluding the 20 largest companies. The Portfolio will have significant exposure to mid and small-capitalised stocks benefiting from our proven investment process and experience with smaller companies.

The assessment of business quality is fundamental to the Quest investment process. We aim to identify companies that can deliver good returns on invested capital and sustain those returns through time. Quest has a long track record of investment performance leveraging this process.

The portfolio will typically have a bias to companies with growth characteristics (revenue, earnings and return on equity) and can be expected to have significant exposure to companies not in the benchmark. Both these exposures will vary through time as opportunities arise.

Portfolio risk is actively managed with a focus on capital preservation.

The X20 Unit Trust is also available. It is managed in the same way and can be expected to have the same portfolio holdings as the Ex-20 SMA. The X20 PDS can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS*

LARGE CAP	
Northern Star ALS	Computershare Origin
MID CAP	
AUB Group SEEK	Challenger Ventia
SMALL CAP	
HomeCo Daily Needs REIT Propel Funerals	Integral Diagnostics Immutep

*Not Complete

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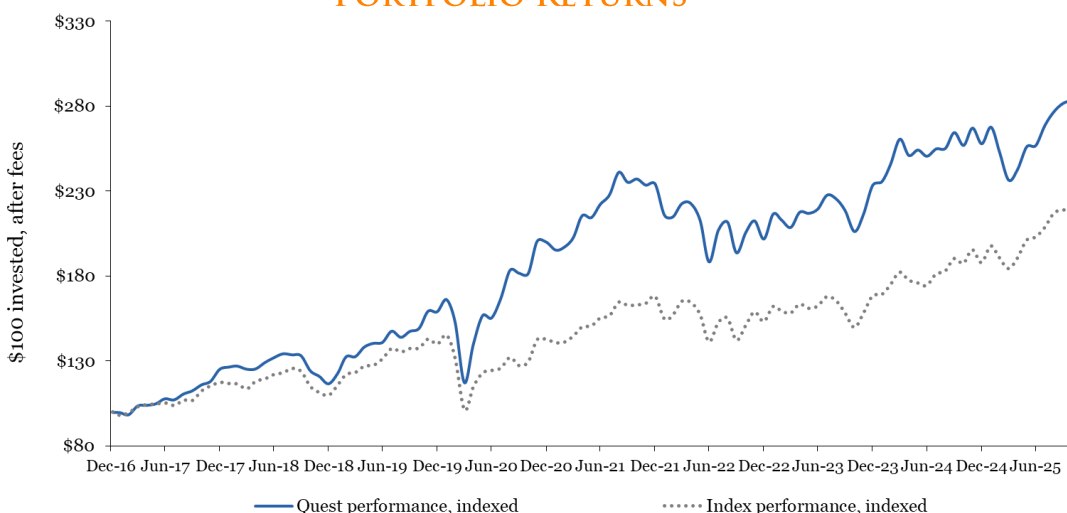
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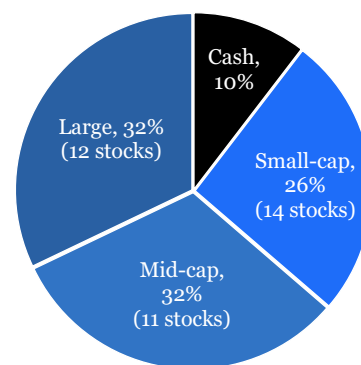
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PORTFOLIO RETURNS



PORTFOLIO 31 OCT 2025



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