

Seneca Australian Small Companies Fund

APIR Code : NPW8333AU
ISIN Code : AU60NPW83339

Description

A portfolio of 20-50 sufficiently liquid, small and mid-cap ASX-listed companies, with a preference for high quality, profitable and growth focused businesses.

The fund is long-only, will not utilise any derivatives or leverage and will be able to hold up to 50% cash at the discretion of the manager.

Trustee & Investment Manager

Trustee

Newport Private Wealth Pty Ltd
ACN 166 931 960 | AFSL 45182

Investment Manager

Seneca Financial Solutions Pty Ltd
ACN 610 665 711 | AFSL 492686

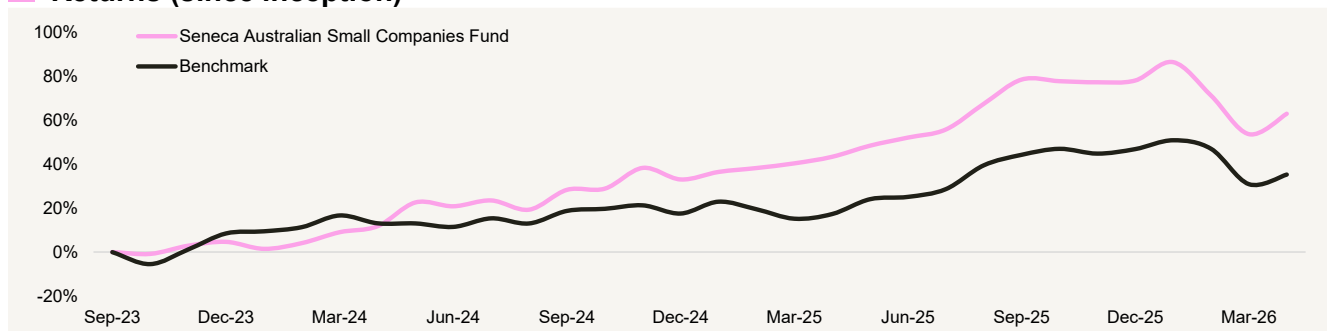
Portfolio Details

Portfolio Managers	Luke Laretive, Ben Richards
Inception Date	4 October 2023
Management Fee	0.00% p.a
Performance Fee	20%
Hurdle Rate	RBA Cash
High Watermark	Yes
Benchmark	S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index TR
Minimum Investment	\$100,000
Liquidity	Monthly
Time Horizon	At least 5 years
Authorised Investments	ASX-listed securities
Number of Companies	20 to 50
Cash Allocation	0 to 50%
Investor Eligibility	Wholesale Investors Only

Performance

	1m	3m	6m	1y	2y ann.	Incep. ann.	Incep. cum.
Australian Small Companies Fund	6.06%	-12.61%	-8.34%	13.69%	20.79%	20.86%	63.05%
Benchmark	3.33%	-10.35%	-7.98%	15.32%	9.37%	12.44%	35.34%
Excess return	2.72%	-2.26%	-0.37%	-1.64%	11.41%	8.42%	27.71%

Returns (since inception)

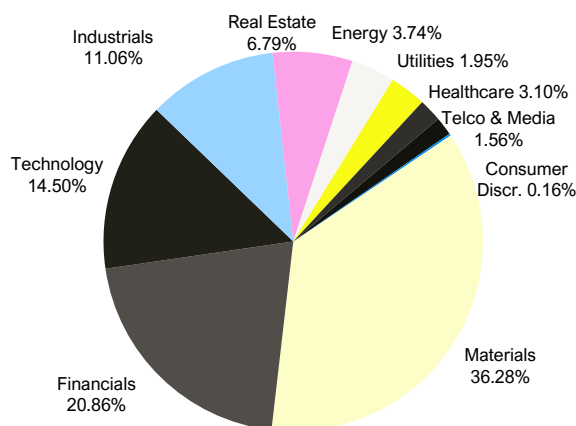


Please refer to important disclaimers on the final page

Top 5 Holdings (alphabetical)

ANTIPA MINERALS LIMITED	AZY	Materials
AUSTRALIAN FINANCE GROUP	AFG	Financials
HMC CAPITAL LIMITED	HMC	Real Estate
VENUS METALS CORPORATION	VMC	Materials
XRF SCIENTIFIC LIMITED	XRF	Industrials

Sector Allocation (excl. cash)



Portfolio Commentary

The Seneca Australian Small Companies Fund returned 6.06% in April, outperforming the benchmark return by +2.72%. Since inception, the Fund has returned 20.86% p.a., outperforming the benchmark by +8.42% p.a.

Market conditions improved during April following an approximately 7% decline in oil prices, as markets began to contemplate an end to the conflict in Iran and the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Contributors and Detractors

Long-held overweight positions in Antipa Minerals (AZY), Australian Finance Group (AFG), HMC Capital (HMC) and XRF Scientific (XRF) all contributed positively to outperformance during April.

Buy now, pay later company Zip Co (ZIP) rallied more than 50% during April after reporting 42% EBITDA growth in its 3Q26 update and upgrading full-year earnings guidance. We initiated a position in ZIP following the sharp sell-off after its previous earnings result, when the company disclosed a modest increase in bad debts. Our thesis, built on a strong understanding of Zip’s ability to manage bad debts, viewed the market’s reaction as excessive, particularly given the short-duration nature of ZIP’s loan book. Encouragingly, ZIP now expects bad debts to decline in the June quarter.

Altair Minerals (ALR), one of two exploration companies in the portfolio, rose sharply after announcing the commencement of a 30,000-metre inaugural drilling campaign along strike from G Mining Ventures and G2 Goldfields, both of which have delineated tier-one, multi-million-ounce gold deposits adjacent to Altair’s project area. In a flurry of corporate activity during April, G Mining Ventures acquired G2 Goldfields at a 72% premium before Endeavour Mining, West Africa’s largest gold miner, acquired a strategic 9.9% stake in Altair at a premium to market prices.

After month end, we published a [Livewire article](#) outlining a

range of latent opportunities within the portfolio that we believe the market may be overlooking, including Altair.

Outlook

Australian small and mid-cap companies continue to trade materially below their historical valuation averages. We were again exceptionally active during April, repositioning the portfolio to capture the diverse range of emerging opportunities we are uncovering.

Seneca

Past performance is no indicator of future performance. Long term performance returns show the potential volatility of returns over time. The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. You may not get back the amount originally invested. Fluctuation may be particularly marked in the case of a higher volatility fund and the value of an investment may fall suddenly and substantially.

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