Seneca

Seneca Australian Shares Fund

APIR Code : NPW6890AU
ISIN Code : AU60NPW68900

Description

The Seneca Australian Shares Fund is a relative return fund that aims to outperform the S&P/ASX 200 Acc Index.

We will construct a portfolio of 20-40 Australian shares with a focus on high quality businesses trading at fair valuations. Our preference is for growth companies with strong balance sheets, sustainable competitive advantage and large, growing addressable markets.

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

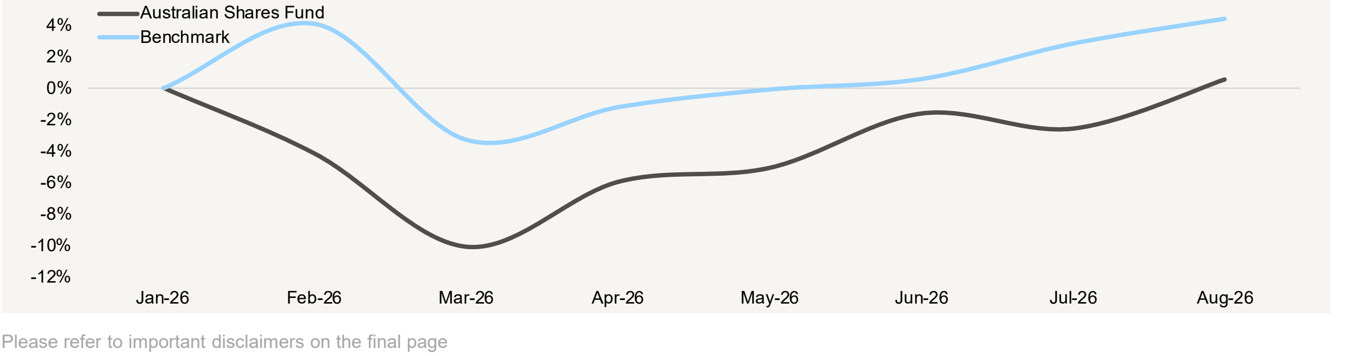
Portfolio Details

Portfolio Managers	Luke Laretive, Ben Richards
Inception Date	31 January 2026
Management Fee	0.75% p.a
Performance Fee	Nil
Benchmark	S&P/ASX 200 Index TR
Minimum Investment	$50,000
Liquidity	Monthly
Time Horizon	At least 5 years
Authorised Investments	ASX-listed securities
Number of Companies	20 to 40
Cash Allocation	0 to 50%
Investor Eligibility	Wholesale Investors Only

Performance

	1m	3m	6m	1y	2y ann.	Incep. ann.	Incep. cum.
Australian Shares Fund	3.20%	5.91%	4.94%	-	-	0.54%	0.54%
Benchmark	1.54%	4.54%	0.32%	-	-	4.45%	4.45%
Excess return	1.66%	1.37%	4.61%	-	-	-3.91%	-3.91%

Returns (since inception)



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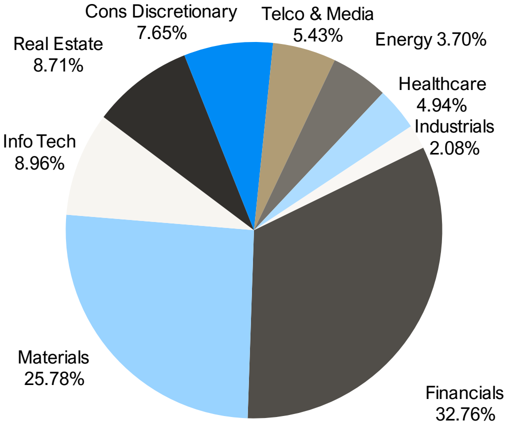
Top 5 Holdings (alphabetical)

ANZ GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED	ANZ	Financials
BHP GROUP LIMITED	BHP	Materials
HMC CAPITAL LIMITED	HMC	Financials
REGAL PARTNERS LIMITED	RPL	Financials
WESTGOLD RESOURCES LIMITED	WGX	Materials

Sector Allocation



Portfolio Commentary

The Seneca Australian Shares Fund returned +3.20% in August after fees, compared with the benchmark return of 1.54%. Australian equities moved higher through reporting season, although performance beneath the headline index was highly dispersed.

Australian equities moved higher through August, with resources outperforming financials as stronger commodity markets supported the miners. Gold equities were particularly strong, while reporting season was broadly resilient despite elevated interest rates and a softer domestic consumer.

Small caps also materially outperformed large caps, which was supportive given the Fund's overweight exposure to small and mid-cap companies relative to the ASX20, where we continue to see fuller valuations and a lower growth outlook. Against this backdrop, bottom-up stock selection and a number of company-specific catalysts also contributed positively to Fund performance.

Contributors and Detractors

HMC rallied ~16% following its FY26 result as investors focused on improving earnings quality, with recurring funds management revenue up 22% and fee-generating AUM up 15% to $16.9bn. The bigger catalyst was the outlook: HMC guided to >30% recurring funds management revenue growth in FY27, alongside a 25% increase in the dividend to 15cps, reinforcing confidence that earnings growth is reaccelerating after a difficult period. We see various green shoots emerging as our thesis begins to play out.

The gold price rallied 10% during the month, spurred on by the US treasury doubling its buybacks of long-dated government bonds, reigniting the debasement trade. The Fund's gold holdings were among the strongest contributors during August. Vault Minerals (VAU) traded strongly following a takeover offer from Genesis Minerals (GMD). Westgold Resources (WGX) also performed strongly, supported by the higher gold price and an impressive FY26 result, which included record production, underlying EBITDA of $1.1 billion and strong cash generation.

Resources exposure more broadly added value. BHP (BHP) gained approximately 10% during August after delivering record iron ore production, around 2Mt of copper production and a strong FY26 financial result, with underlying EBITDA increasing 27%. Stanmore Resources (SMR) also contributed as improving metallurgical coal pricing and a stronger first-half operating performance supported sentiment toward the stock.

Outside resources, REA Group (REA) contributed following another solid result that demonstrated the strength of its core Australian franchise. Core NPAT increased 15%, EBITDA rose 12% and free cash flow increased 17%, despite relatively subdued property listing volumes.

During the month, the fund took profits in Viva Energy (VEA), following a period of elevated refining margins amidst the Middle East conflict, and Neuren Pharmaceuticals (NEU), which rallied on the back of an EU drug approval. We used the proceeds to initiate two new positions, which we expect to add to over time.

Outlook

With reporting season now largely complete, we continue to actively manage the portfolio towards areas where we see the best combination of growth, valuation and company-specific catalysts. The broadening in market leadership remains constructive for the Fund, particularly given our overweight exposure to small and mid-cap companies, where we continue to see more attractive opportunities.

We continue to favour businesses with identifiable earnings growth and strong balance sheets, alongside selective exposure to commodities where fundamentals remain supportive. The recent acceleration in corporate activity is also highlighting the strategic value embedded across parts of the Australian market. We believe the combination of valuation dispersion and company-specific catalysts provides a supportive backdrop for active stock selection.

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