

04/10/2023

The fund is 67% invested, it holds 16 long equity investments.

There was no meaningful activity in the fund during the quarter.

Through the quarter, we did spend time thinking through two events; the fires in Maui, Hawaii that occurred on August 8th 2023 and MSC's offer for HHLA announced on September 13th 2023. These events did not directly impact the fund, regardless they are relevant.

Maui, Hawaii Fires

The fires that occurred in Maui caused widespread damage to the town of Lahaina. At least 97 people died and it is reported there were 2,200 damaged or destroyed structures. The cost of rebuilding the physical damage is reported to be in excess of USD5B.

The fund has 18% of its capital invested in five listed US electric utilities. The largest individual investment in this idea is 5% of the fund's capital, the smallest is 2%. The fund does not have an investment in Hawaiian Electric Industries.

Given the long-term framework we are viewing this investment through, it is highly likely that at a point in time the fund will hold an electric utility investment that is under very significant duress as a result of a fire that it is associated with. This duress could be terminal for equity holders of the business, regardless of fault.

Our thinking has shifted a bit regarding the fund's positioning around this investment idea. Our preference is increasingly toward more investments and smaller individual position sizes. We have recently progressed in this direction.

Increased fire risk awareness and shifting community expectations are enabling electric utilities to be increasingly pro-active regarding measures to reduce fire risk. Also, the regulatory construct around these businesses is being more widely acknowledged as unsustainable. These shifts are constructive regarding both the operation of these businesses and our investment thesis.

MSC's takeover offer for HHLA

On September 13, 2023, MSC announced an offer to buy 49.9% of Hamburger Hafen and Logistic (HHLA) – effectively seeking to take out all the minorities and reducing the City of Hamburg's interest to 50.1%. MSC is the largest global shipping operator with broader interests including terminal ownership.

HHLA handles around half of the containers (TEUs) imported and exported via maritime shipping ports in Germany through its terminals in Hamburg. The other half of German containers are handled by Eurokai (via its 50% ownership of Eurogate) through terminals in Hamburg, Bremerhaven and Wilhelmshaven. Last year, Eurokai handled 7.3 million TEUs through its German operations, 1.1m TEUs through its terminal in La Spezia, Italy, and 11.8m across its total terminal network. Eurokai is the fund's largest single investment.

We think we may look back at MSC's offer for HHLA and view it as an important event regarding this investment. If nothing more, the comparative valuation of the offer for HHLA is favorable to Eurokai's share price.

MSC's offer for HHLA seems a logical trigger for a reassessment of the merit of merging HHLA's German terminals with Eurokai's. In May 2020, it was reported that Eurokai and HHLA initiated "co-operation talks", with the intent of exploring various structures that would enable their terminals to operate more efficiently. The talks were supported by the cities of Hamburg and Bremen, having regionally competitive port operations are in German national interests. It was subsequently reported that a merger was being explored, combining Eurokai's German port interests with HHLA's. The talks were suspended in July 2022 as a result of the "unforeseeable impact of the current geopolitical situation".

We expect there are operational benefits from merging Eurokai's and HHLA's German terminals. Furthermore, a key issue facing both companies over the next decade is increased automation of their terminals. This will be complex and capital intensive. There are some scale and ultimately operating advantages that would be realised approaching these tasks as a merged entity. We are also attracted to Eurokai's opportunity to manage their German terminals as a network. We think this opportunity would be furthered if a merger eventuates.

Miles, Nigel & Toby

	То	Number of Days						
	%	no/.	Owned					
Tenet - Electric Utilities (US)	18	5	1,285					
Eurokai	12	1	2,304 1,607 1,578					
STO SE	7	1						
Ponsse OYJ	6	1						
Qube Holdings Ltd	5	1	1,300					
Rotork Plc	3	1	796					
Nihon Kohden Corp	3	1	646					
Intel Corp	3	1	570					
Tower Limited	3	1	1,338					
Asics Corp	3	1	1,961					
Topps Tiles	2	1	2,497					
Ferguson Plc	1	1	367					
Gross long	67	16						
Gross short								
Gross invested position	67	16						
Derivatives (annual cost)	3	3						
Notes: Totals may not add due to rounding. Data as at 30th September 2023								

	Long (%)	Short (%)	Currency (%)		
Australia	5	0	44		
United States *	22	0	20		
UK/Europe*	31	0	27		
Japan	6	0	6		
New Zealand	3	0	3		
Total	67	0	100		
Derivatives (annual cost)	3				

Notes: Data as at 30^{th} September 2023.

The fund is the primary vehicle for the investment of our capital. Its current traits are:

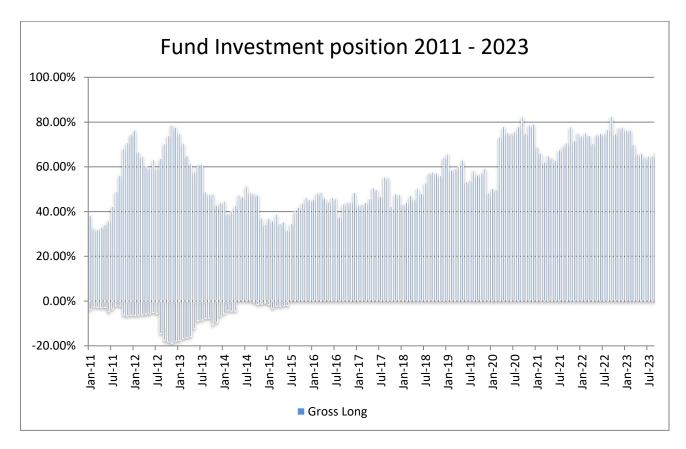
- Highly stock specific investments that are concentrated in our few key ideas;
- The key ideas generally relate to companies that are not well known or popular investments;
- The fund currently has a significant USD and Euro exposure as a result of individual equity investments in these geographies;
- Managed with consideration of tax for Australian investors.
- A meaningful short exposure to the Yen.

Returns (to 30/09/2023)	Fund
Since inception* (annualised)	9.1%
Since inception* (cumulative)	222.6%
Rolling 5 year (annualised)	8.3%
Rolling 3 year (annualised)	17.2%
Rolling 1 year	17.5%
Standard deviation	10.4%

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2010				0.0	(0.8)	(0.8)	1.1	(0.3)	0.6	2.1	0.5	(0.2)	2.2%
2011	0.3	1.8	1.1	(1.9)	1.0	(0.7)	(2.0)	(0.3)	(2.2)	0.8	(1.2)	0.3	(3.1)%
2012	0.8	0.0	5.6	1.6	(0.4)	(2.6)	(3.1)	0.5	1.9	1.3	(2.5)	6.9	10.1%
2013	9.9	2.7	(0.4)	4.5	8.6	1.7	2.0	1.4	0.5	1.4	4.0	1.1	44.0%
2014	(0.5)	(8.0)	(1.5)	0.1	1.3	0.0	2.0	(0.4)	4.2	2.5	11.1	3.0	22.4%
2015	1.0	1.6	(0.0)	0.3	0.5	(2.6)	0.5	(1.4)	(1.2)	0.3	0.6	(3.1)	(3.7)%
2016	(1.8)	1.8	(0.8)	1.7	4.1	(0.8)	(1.6)	(0.2)	1.3	(0.2)	4.5	2.5	10.8%
2017	(5.2)	(0.6)	1.2	1.3	1.8	0.4	(1.6)	1.2	3.0	0.6	2.7	0.1	4.9%
2018	1.3	(1.7)	(0.5)	1.3	(0.2)	(1.2)	5.0	1.5	(4.3)	(1.6)	(0.5)	(3.1)	(4.2)%
2019	2.2	3.9	0.5	2.1	(3.6)	1.6	(0.4)	(1.6)	1.2	0.5	1.4	(0.0)	7.8%
2020	1.9	(7.5)	(9.7)	0.4	4.1	0.1	(0.9)	3.0	(0.7)	1.7	7.6	2.0	0.8%
2021	2.8	1.7	4.4	0.4	3.9	0.7	0.1	(0.4)	0.7	(0.4)	0.9	1.5	17.4%
2022	1.7	(5.4)	1.4	16.0	(0.9)	(2.4)	0.4	0.8	(5.7)	9.2	5.4	(0.3)	19.9%
2023	0.1	1.8	1.9	4.2	(1.4)	(1.3)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(1.7)				2.4%

^{*} Inception date: 15/04/2010. Past Performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance and no guarantee of future returns is implied.

The fund's daily unit price and distribution details can be downloaded via this link.



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