NTA and Monthly Update – August 2020

Company at a Glance

ASX Code	ALF
Fund Size	AU$203.6
Fund Strategy	Variable Beta
Share Price	$0.93
Shares on Issue	192.1m
Net Exposure	-1.1%

Net Tangible Asset (NTA) Backing

	July 20	Aug 20
NTA Before Tax	**$1.14**	**$1.15**
NTA After Tax*	$1.13	$1.14
NTA After Tax & DTA/CTL**	$1.04	$1.05

Gross Portfolio Structure

	July 20	Aug 20
Long Exposure	65.1%	53.6%
Short Exposure	-69.4%	-54.6%
Gross Exposure	134.5%	108.2%
Cash	104.4%	101.1%

*The After-Tax NTA includes a $0.09 per share deferred tax asset, which is net of tax liabilities accrued in FY21. **Deferred Tax Asset (DTA) is comprised of prior years' tax losses. Current Tax Liability (CTL) is tax payable on profits generated in FY21.

Month in Review

The Australian share market responded positively to reporting season with the ASX200 index finishing August 2.2% higher, this however lagged the S&P 500, which surged 7% over the month. The difference is driven by Australia being overweight banks and materials and underweight tech stocks. This enthusiasm failed to carry into September, where we have seen a volatile beginning to the month.

The portfolio delivered 1.4% net of fees, which was a solid outcome given the defensive portfolio settings that have been maintained. We carried broadly neutral overall market exposure, balancing long positions with short positions. Strong contributions came from financials and mining in August.

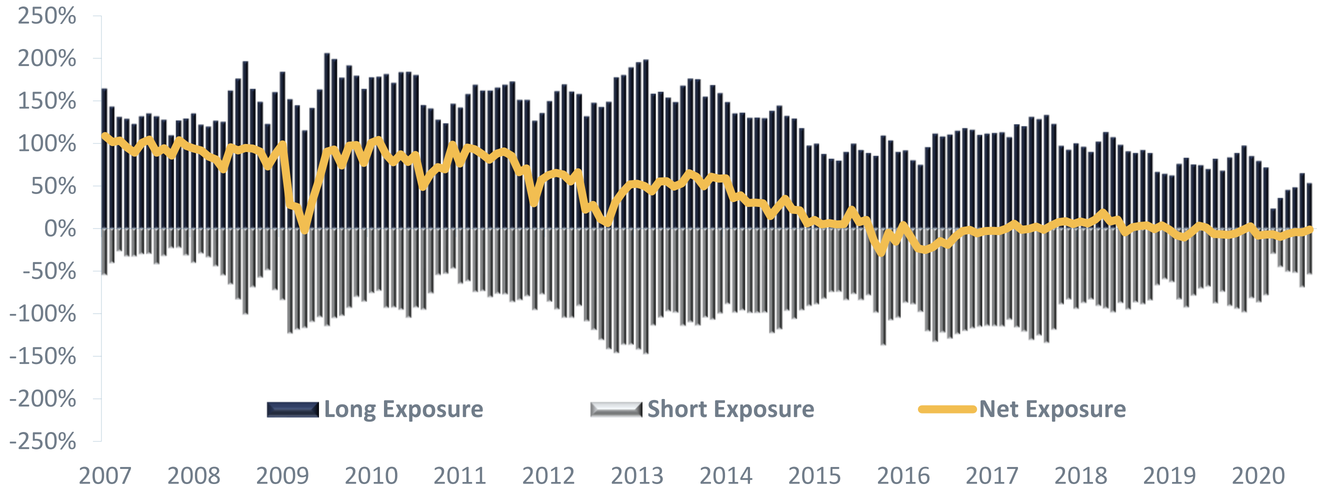
Financials had a solid reporting season. Core positions in Goodman Group, Charter Hall and QBE all rallied strongly into and out of results. We have pared back exposure in these positions into the strength, but all remain core holdings for the Fund. Positive performance in Financials was partially offset by some weakness in Infrastructure. We have held a position in Transurban, which we expect to benefit from an improving COVID situation in Victoria. While this timeline was delayed, we still see value in Transurban as asset concessions are long-dated (~25 years) and short term volume reductions have an immaterial impact on the value of these assets.

The **Consumer** group delivered a negative return in August. The key detractors were our position in TWE and a basket of short positions in discretionary retail stocks. As widely covered in the press, Australian wine companies have been targeted with a threat of tariffs as political tensions between China and Australia increase. While this was a risk for any company exporting to China, our channel checks suggested non-commoditised products such as premium wine were at a lower risk. This subsequently proved to be incorrect and was especially disappointing given the stock rallied strongly post its earnings result on the back of an improved sales trajectory into China. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we saw several discretionary retail stocks trading at valuations that didn't reflect the underlying risk in the economy. We gave up some performance in August as the market capitalised the short-term benefit these retailers received from July Super withdrawals. Looking forward however, as stimulus measures reduce and job layoffs accelerate in a post-Jobkeeper environment, we expect these short positions to deliver good returns. This has been the case in early August.

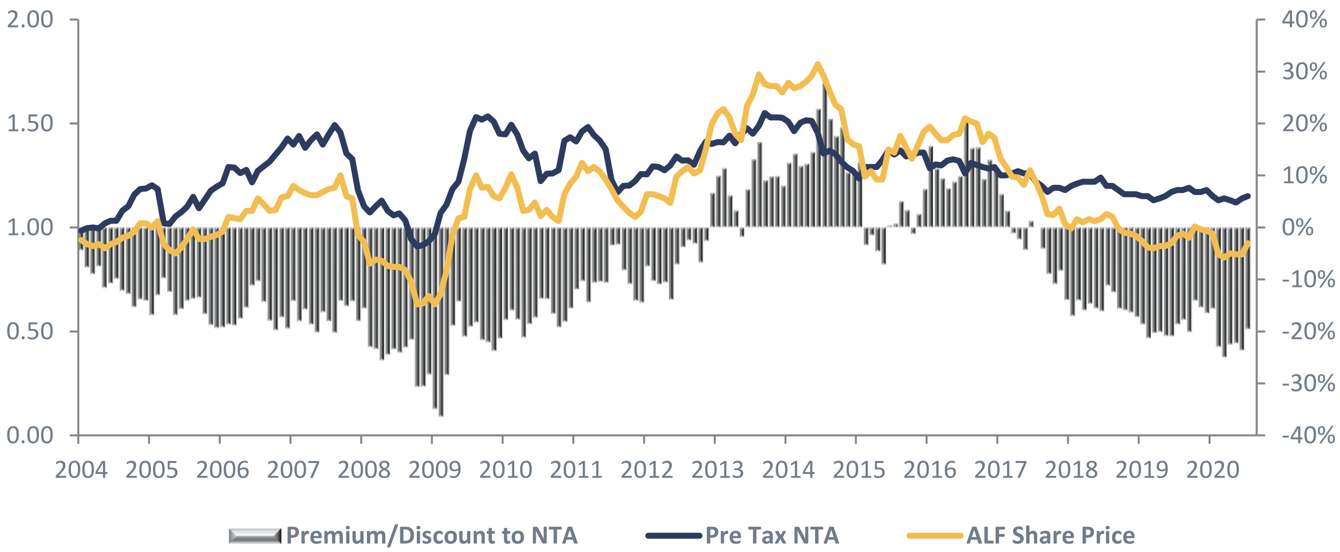
Commodities continued their recovery in August with the exception of coal. Gold remained relatively flat, despite breaking new highs at the beginning of the month. Oil, on the other hand, was up 6% following concerns over supply disruption on the back of the Beirut port explosion as well as tropical storm Laura. Outperformers during the month were Iluka Resources (board approval for MAC demerger) and Whitehaven Coal (higher net debt and weaker production guidance). Santos and Senex Energy once again outperformed Woodside Petroleum, given their clearer paths to growth realisation. Post reporting season, we have been adding to our gold exposure and remain broadly neutral across energy and base/bulks.

The **TMT/Healthcare** portfolio had a flat month in August during the peak of the reporting season. While we were on the right side of most of the reports, our positions in Telstra and Wisetech offset the profits elsewhere in the portfolio. In the case of Telstra, the market over-reacted to a negligible and one-off adjustment in the profit outlook due to the effect of COVID19 on FY21. Telstra's key attractiveness at this point is its defensive characteristics in a post-Jobkeeper world as well as the fact that its dividend is well underpinned by cash flows (management is only paying out 2/3s of cash flows). Our position in CSL came under pressure as the market focuses on the potential near-term disruption to its plasma collection operations in the USA, without regard for the fact that this is likely to be a temporary disruption more than compensated for by increased donations in a higher-unemployment US economy in 2021.

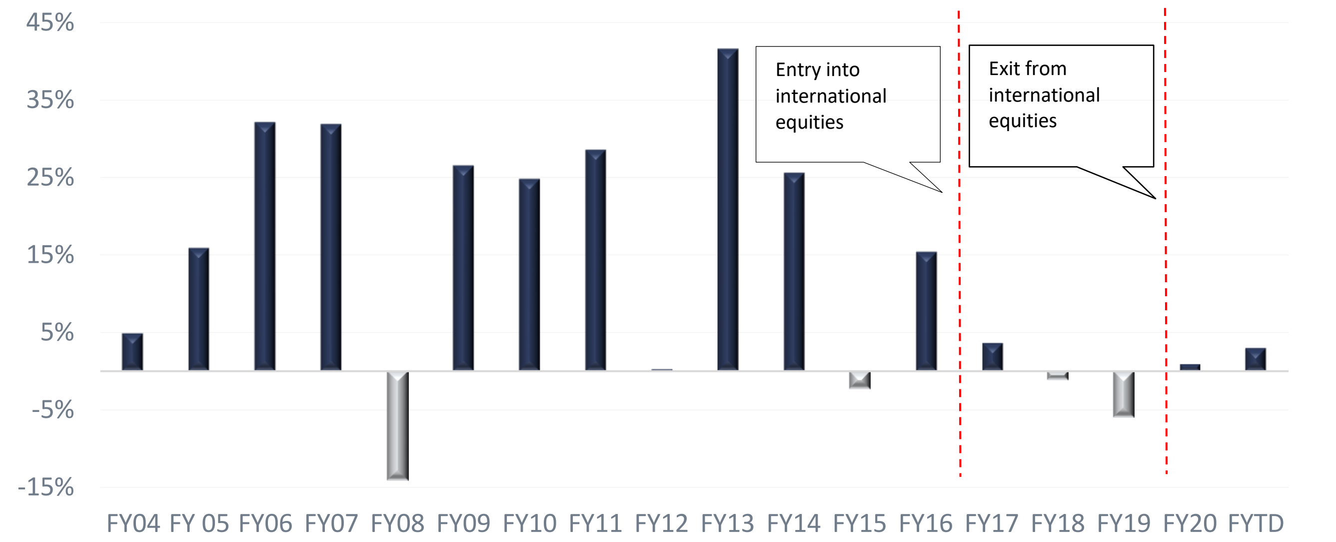
Net Equity Exposure



Premium/Discount to NTA History



Gross Portfolio Return

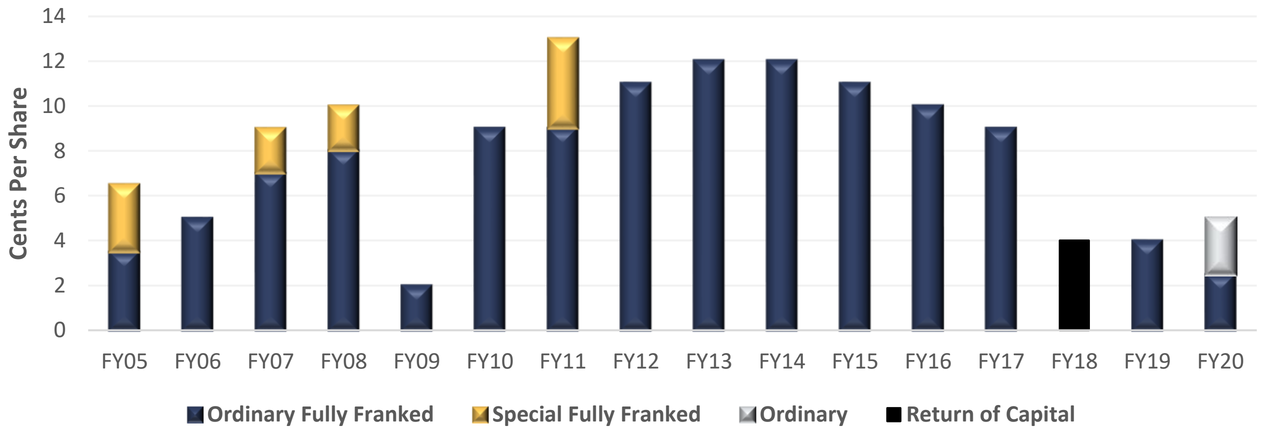


Monthly Net Performance (%)

Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	FYTD
FY04								0.4	1.4	0.2	0.0	2.3	**4.3**
FY05	1.1	-0.3	4.6	2.8	4.4	2.4	0.3	1.3	-0.9	-6.1	-0.4	4.8	**14.3**
FY06	2.0	2.7	4.8	-3.0	3.9	3.7	1.5	2.0	6.4	2.9	-2.1	1.4	**29.0**
FY07	-3.2	4.3	1.7	7.2	2.8	2.5	3.1	-1.6	3.5	1.1	2.7	2.0	**29.2**
FY08	-1.0	3.4	3.3	1.0	-0.3	-1.9	-11.5	-8.4	1.4	4.4	1.5	-7.2	**-15.5**
FY09	-1.3	5.1	-5.4	-16.3	-6.6	3.0	2.2	2.9	16.0	6.7	7.9	7.0	**18.7**
FY10	9.2	12.4	6.5	-0.7	0.8	0.1	-3.5	2.2	4.2	-2.1	-7.1	-2.3	**19.9**
FY11	2.8	-3.9	2.3	0.0	2.7	12.0	2.0	1.9	3.6	1.7	-1.8	-1.8	**22.9**
FY12	-4.1	-6.8	-8.4	6.5	-1.5	0.9	4.9	4.7	3.3	1.2	-2.4	0.7	**-2.3**
FY13	3.7	3.6	0.3	-1.3	6.5	3.4	3.4	1.6	3.0	2.7	0.5	2.2	**33.9**
FY14	3.8	3.5	2.8	4.0	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	4.0	-1.4	2.6	1.2	0.3	**21.6**
FY15	-3.6	-2.4	1.4	-1.3	-2.5	-1.1	-1.2	1.0	3.0	0.8	-0.5	3.1	**-3.4**
FY16	3.8	3.0	1.5	-1.6	0.4	2.0	0.0	-2.1	1.4	-0.4	1.9	1.0	**11.2**
FY17	-0.3	-0.6	3.9	-0.5	-0.9	-0.2	-0.7	-0.1	0.1	1.2	0.7	-0.5	**2.0**
FY18	0.3	-1.8	-0.4	-3.1	1.3	0.1	-0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.0	-0.6	**-2.3**
FY19	2.6	-1.6	0.2	-2.0	-2.9	-1.4	0.5	0.7	-1.0	-2.3	-0.8	0.7	**-7.2**
FY20	2.1	1.0	0.1	1.3	0.0	-0.4	1.3	-1.2	-3.3	1.2	-0.9	-1.5	**-0.5**
FY21	1.3	1.4											**2.8**

Dividend History

The Board is committed to paying fully franked dividends to shareholders, provided the Company has sufficient profit reserves and franking credits and it is within prudent business practices.



This document was authorised for release by Justin Braitling, Chairman