

\$2.517

FULL YEAR DIVIDEND

**9.8cps** 

\$1.935

5.06%

## > INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

During the quarter Chrysos Corporation Ltd (ASX: C79) and Guzman Y Gomez Ltd (ASX: GYG) were added to the portfolio.

Chrysos is a company specialising in advanced assay technology for the mining industry and its product PhotonAssay Technology is displacing incumbent fire assay practices in the gold industry.

GYG is a prominent player in the QSR sector, known for its high-quality Mexican cuisine and innovative approach. Our investment thesis centres on GYGs market leadership in Australia, its store expansion programme and its strategic expansion into the US market.

## \$10,000 investment in FSI under management of EC Pohl & Co



	3 mo	1 yr	3 yr p.a.	5 yr p.a.	10 yr p.a.	Since Inception
Portfolio^	-1.7%	29.0%	5.5%	12.4%	12.5%	12.5%
Bloomberg Bank Bill Index	1.1%	4.4%	2.4%	1.6%	1.9%	3.9%
ASX All Ordinaries	-1.7%	8.3%	1.9%	3.6%	4.1%	4.2%
ASX All Ord Accumulation	-1.2%	12.5%	6.1%	7.6%	8.3%	8.4%

^ Source: EC Pohl & Co Pty Ltd Gross performance before impact of fees, taxes and charges. Past performance no predictor of future returns

### MARKET COMMENT

Global equities saw varied performances across different regions. While the US and certain European sectors showed resilience, other areas, particularly in Asia, faced challenges. Central banks' policies and political events significantly impacted market sentiments and investor behaviour. Importantly, this year's returns have been largely driven by the equity market re-rating, where the US trades at a forward P/E of 21.0x, while Australia is at 16.8x, and Japanese and European equities are trading in line with their long-term averages. These rising valuations highlight the importance of an active approach to finding value.

In the US, share gains in Q2 were led by the information technology and communication services sectors. Ongoing enthusiasm around AI continued to boost related companies amid strong earnings and outlook statements, while weaker sectors included materials and industrials. The likely timing and extent of interest rate cuts remained a key focus for markets,

with worries the US economy may be overheating, and strong economic data was greeted negatively by the market. The S&P 500 posted +3.9%, while the Nasdaq posted +8.3% over the quarter.

In Europe, Eurozone shares declined in Q2 due to uncertainty from France's parliamentary election announcement and reduced expectations for significant interest rate cuts. The IT sector, particularly semiconductor stocks, saw gains. The European Central Bank cut interest rates by 25 bps in early June, but persistent inflation might constrain further cuts. In the UK, equities rose, and the FTSE 100 reached new highs. Despite slowing growth and favourable inflation trends, the Bank of England kept base rates at 5.25%. The FTSE increased by +2.7%, the CAC by -8.9%, and the DAX by -1.4%.

In Australia, equities were under pressure by quarterend, with financials performing strongly. Economic data presented a mixed picture in Q2, where inflation surged in May to 4.0% year-on-year, well above expectations. This was followed by a higher April monthly figure suggesting the quarter will be above the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) inflation forecast, putting pressure on them to raise rates in August. The RBA kept the cash rate steady at 4.35% in June, and the commentary shifted in a hawkish direction. The housing market has remained resilient, rising in June, with tight supply underpinning price growth.

The ASX All Ordinaries posted -1.7% for the quarter, ASX 200 -1.6%, and the Small Ordinaries -4.8%, respectively. The AUD appreciated during the quarter, posting +2.4% against the US Dollar (66.7 US cents), +2.2% against the Pound (52.7 pence), and +3.2% against the Euro (62.3 cents).

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Long-term capital growth and income

#### STRATEGY

High-conviction portfolio of quality Australian listed equities from a research driven, bottom-up investment philosophy

#### **DIRECTORS**

Dominic M McGann Non-Executive Chairman

Angela Obree Non-Executive

## COMPANY SECRETARY



# > INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

- High quality growth companies outperform over the longer-term
- Investments should outperform the risk-free rate
- The price one pays determines the ultimate long-term return

## > A QUALITY FRANCHISE

The "Pillars of a Quality Franchise" is an integrated framework developed by the Investment Manager to assess the investments. Through in-depth, detailed analysis, companies are measured under each pillar ensuring they meet the criteria for investment and exhibit the requisite sustainable growth prospects to be incorporated in the portfolio.



#### SECTOR BREAKDOWN

GICS Sector	FSI %
Financials	32.1%
Health Care	17.9%
Consumer Discretionary	17.4%
Information Technology	11.9%
Materials	8.6%
Communication Services s	8.0%
Industrials	2.3%
Cash	1.9%
Consumer Staples	0.0%
Energy	0.0%
Utilities	0.0%

#### TOP 10 HOLDINGS

Company	Weight
GQG Partners	9.6%
CSL Limited	7.3%
HUB24 Ltd	6.9%
Block	6.0%
ResMed Inc	5.6%
James Hardie Industries	4.7%
Xero Ltd	4.6%
IDP Education Ltd	4.4%
Domino Pizza Enterprises	4.1%
Rio Tinto Limited	3.9%

## > OTHER INFO

Dividend Reinvestment Plan	Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) is an optional way of reinvesting dividends to acquire additional shares. When new shares are issued under the DRP, they are free of brokerage, commission, stamp duty and other costs.
Fees	Management fee of NIL. Performance fee of 15% of the annual outperformance over the Bloomberg Bank Bill Index.
MER*	0.0%

\* Calculated in accordance with ASX defined terms as at 30 June 2024

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#### Flagship Investments

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