

NTA and Monthly Update - December 2017

Company at a Gl	anc <u>e</u>		Ν	let Tangible	e As <u>set (N</u>	NTA) Bac	king	
ASX Code			WGF				lov 17	Dec 17
ASX Code Options	WGFO			TA Before Tax			\$1.06	\$1.06
Fund Size	AU\$85.0m			TA After Tax		•	\$1.06	\$1.06
Fund Strategy	Glol	oal Market Ne		Fross Portfol	io Structu			04 50/
Share Price Shares on Issue				ong Exposure hort Exposure			38.4% 73.4%	81.5% -78.5%
Option Price		0.3 c		iross Exposure			61.8%	160.0%
				ash		8	35.0%	96.9%
Performance	1 Mth	3 Mths	6 Mths	Fin. YTD	1 Yr	2 Yrs (pa	a)	S.I.
Portfolio (net return)	0.0%	-2.7%	-3.5%	-3.5%	-2.7%	-	-	-2.7%
RBA Cash Rate	0.1%	0.4%	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	_		1.5%
Outperformance	-0.1%	-3.1%	-4.3%	-4.3%	-4.2%	-		-4.2%
Sector Exposures			F	Regional Ex	oosures ((Net)		
Utilities								
Telecommunication Services								
Information Technology					Asia ex	Japan		
Materials Industrials					North Ar	merica		_
Health Care						le East		
Real Estate				LONG				
Financials				SHORT		Other		
Energy						Japan		
Consumer Staples					Au	stralia 4		
Consumer Discretionary					Europe	ex UK		
-2	20% -10%	0% 10%	20%	-40.0	% -20.0%	0.0%	20.0%	40.0%
Regional Exposur	LONG		(Contributor	s/Detrac	tors		
Regional Exposul	01033	/				ontributo	rs	
				BHP Billiton Limited			0.3%	
			_	PPL Corporation			0.3%	
			-					
				Innogy SE Top 3 Detractor			0.2%	
				ΔII	ergan plc	betractors	-0.2	2%
					ncore plc		-0.2	
Europe ex UK	Australia	Japan	-		+b221+d			10/

Other

Middle East

North America

South32 Ltd.

-0.1%

Month in Review

Equity markets around the world finished the year as they began, rallying on the promise of lower taxes for US corporates and strong economic data across developed and emerging markets. This synchronised growth around the world has been an especially powerful tailwind for the commodities sector, leading to strong demand for bulk commodities and base metals.

After a strong start in December, the short book detracted from returns late in the month to leave the Fund flat in the period. Solid performance in the Utilities and Telecommunications sectors was offset by weaker results in the Healthcare portfolio.

Mining was the best performing sector globally, as positive economic data lifted the prices of all commodities. Nickel rose 15% and Coal 30%, supporting a key position Teck Resources. We have neutralised the Fund's modest net long exposure in this part of the portfolio as the sector looks overbought in the short term. The oil price continues to benefit from large draws in crude inventory, signalling ongoing demand strength. The Fund is balanced in the energy sector given the strong rally in recent months and with full valuations creating vulnerability to any bad news.

A key short position in Innogy was amongst the best performers after the company released a profit warning, pre-empting weaker UK retail profits and a higher than expected spend on technology. Another core short in PPL Corporation continued to pay off, with investors seemingly spooked by this US company's exposure to the UK transmission and distribution markets.

Having underperformed for much of 2017, the media and telecom sectors rallied strongly in December. Companies in these industries tend to derive a large share of their earnings in the US and will be major beneficiaries of tax reform. Key contributors in this part of the portfolio included a short position in Finnish telco Elisa – which is struggling against increased competition in the mobile market, and an investment in Chinese video game publisher NetEase, which is benefitting from excitement around the popularity of some new titles. We initiated a new position in BitAuto, the number two auto classified website in China, which is trading on a P/E multiple of 7 despite double digit earnings growth for the foreseeable future.

Short exposures in the domestic healthcare sector detracted from returns in the month, with continued strength in this part of the market defying already stretched valuations for key local names. A further downgrade to forecast earnings for Allergan saw shares in that company fall again in December. We retain our conviction that management of this high-quality pharma company can execute successfully on their strategy, leaving the company attractively valued at current levels.

Results were mixed in the financials portfolio, where solid contributions from positions in diversified financials were offset by weaker performance in the insurance sector. An investment in consumer finance business Synchrony continues to perform well, with the company enjoying a privileged position supplying store credit cards to major global retailers such as Amazon and Wal-Mart.

In the consumer sector, an investment in gaming company Melco Resorts was a key contributor. We expect to see continued growth in earnings from its Macau properties in 2018. A short position in Hennes & Mauritz also performed well, with competition from online retailers posing ongoing challenges for this bricks and mortar retail business.

We have initiated a number of new positions in the industrials sector, where our strategy is to take advantage of the strong momentum across the industrial economy while selectively shorting companies that face structural challenges. The Fund holds two core investments in the aerospace sector: French company Safran S.A – which manufactures aircraft and rocket engines; and the US based Hexcel Corporation which is a leading producer of carbon fibre and resin systems. Core shorts include Rolls-Royce, and elevator manufacturer Kone.

Disclaimer: This document is issued by Watermark Funds Management Pty Ltd (ABN 98 106 302 505, AFSL 250897) in relation to the Watermark Global Leaders Fund Ltd. The information provided is general information only. It does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice or an offer or solicitation to subscribe for units or shares in any fund of which the Manager is the contracted Investment Manager. The information in this document has been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Watermark Funds Management receives management and performance fees from the Watermark Fund.