

Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund

Monthly Performance Update

Portfolio Performance

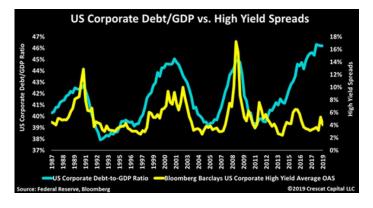
Fund performance was 0.65% in September. By number of pairs, we had a majority contribute positively (17 of 29). The one negative pair of note during the month was long Challenger (CGF) / short AMP & IOOF (IFL), with IFL experiencing a rally after news that the Federal Court ruled in favour of IFL in a case brought by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. On the positive side we had a solid contribution from a telco pair, as well as two energy pairs. Long Oil Search (OSH) / short Woodside (WPL) was positive after the PNG Government made a supportive announcement regarding the future development of Papua LNG (an important expansion project involving Oil Search, Total and Exxon).

Market Observations

Share markets recovered in September with dovish stimulus measures from both the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, as well as trade optimism, overshadowing weakness in lead economic indicators. All the major share market regions posted gains, with Japan and South Korea the strongest (+5% and 4% respectively), the UK +3% and Europe +4%, and the United States +2%. Markets also breathed a sigh of relief from a fading in oil prices after spiking 20% mid-month following attacks on key Saudi Arabian oil processing facilities.

Australia was a similar story to offshore, albeit more muted, with a gain of +1.3% (S&P/ASX 200 Index). Of interest during September was a swing in performance toward recent laggard sectors such as Banks (+4.9%) and Energy (+3.9%), and on the other side profit taking in those sectors that have performed strongly year to date (e.g. Healthcare -3.2% and Information Technology -0.9%). A sell-off in bond markets (i.e. yields higher) also triggered profit taking in the REITS sector (-2.8%).

The chart below caught our attention in September. It shows the continued increase in debt levels of US corporates, which (measured as a share of GDP) now sits above prior peak levels. The rise of corporate debt over the past decade has been understandable in what has been a prolonged period of economic expansion and rising corporate profits. Further, the backdrop of low interest rate policies and QE supressing government bond yields, has meant that debt service costs have remained low (and thus a reason why the yellow line, the corporate bond spread, a measure of risk premium for credit markets, remains subdued). We wonder what the end game is for cheap debt, and how much further indebtedness can rise before risk appetite changes.



As at 30 September 2019

Fund statistics		
Fund NAV A\$M	Month End	\$355.2
Gross exposure A\$M	Month End	\$1,665.9
Fund leverage (x NAV)	Month End*	4.7
Average fund leverage (x NAV)	Since inception	4.3
Fund volatility (annualised)	Month	8.4%
Fund volatility (annualised)	Rolling 12 months	12.5%
Positive months %	Rolling 6 months	67%
Positive months %	Since inception	64%
Sharpe Ratio (basis RBA Cash)	Month	0.8
Sharpe Ratio (basis RBA Cash)	Rolling 12 months	(0.7)
Long exposure	Month End	50.5%
Short exposure	Month End	-49.5%
Fund performance (composite)	Since inception \$1.00	\$11.62

^{*}Gearing calculated subject to variations in accruals

Significant Pairs

Top spreads for the month						
Long	TPG Telecom (TPM)	Short	Telstra (TLS)			
Long	Oil Search (OSH)	Short	Woodside Petroleum (WPL)			

Bottom spread for the month						
Long	Challenger (CGF)	Short	IOOF (IFL) / AMP (AMP)			

Performance	
1 month	0.65%
3 months	4.92%
Fiscal YTD	4.92%
12 months	-7.53%
Since inception (compound p.a.)	14.90%







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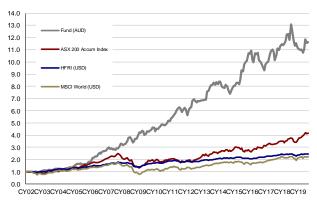
As at 30 September 2019

Calendar year performance													
%change cal yr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	CYTD
2019	-3.49%	-0.82%	-0.84%	0.54%	-2.52%	3.00%	6.92%	-2.51%	0.65%				0.52%
2018	1.51%	-0.58%	0.83%	1.96%	4.75%	0.08%	-3.64%	10.59%	-3.85%	-7.05%	-3.07%	2.09%	2.51%
2017	4.95%	2.07%	0.29%	5.84%	2.86%	1.20%	-1.42%	-6.70%	3.88%	5.29%	-1.14%	2.90%	21.12%
2016	-0.29%	2.37%	-6.73%	-2.30%	7.58%	-1.04%	1.46%	-5.90%	-1.06%	-1.76%	-2.24%	-3.23%	-13.07%
2015	2.66%	0.05%	3.59%	0.03%	-1.91%	4.86%	8.85%	-0.69%	5.71%	2.54%	0.65%	6.22%	37.11%
2014	-2.32%	2.50%	0.16%	-4.97%	-0.80%	-0.44%	3.04%	-1.56%	-3.59%	-4.33%	3.12%	2.83%	-6.63%
2013	0.46%	-0.28%	0.69%	0.01%	9.49%	1.10%	3.52%	2.27%	0.83%	1.88%	-1.80%	2.68%	22.48%
2012	-2.04%	-8.43%	6.35%	4.22%	1.19%	8.47%	1.57%	-1.61%	-2.00%	1.69%	-0.41%	0.89%	9.20%
2011	-0.59%	4.39%	1.85%	2.34%	3.09%	4.12%	2.12%	1.91%	-1.25%	-5.06%	3.09%	3.27%	20.60%
2010	0.25%	-6.16%	4.77%	-1.10%	3.24%	2.84%	2.90%	-0.96%	-0.98%	1.23%	2.87%	3.65%	12.71%
2009	5.69%	7.88%	-1.72%	4.26%	-1.24%	-7.16%	2.24%	5.61%	-1.14%	2.65%	1.71%	3.57%	23.64%
2008	-2.10%	-2.82%	3.40%	1.06%	7.07%	7.36%	1.16%	-3.57%	-8.98%	3.78%	5.78%	0.49%	11.95%
2007	0.55%	5.42%	3.62%	-3.12%	0.92%	-2.90%	1.70%	-3.72%	5.63%	-0.22%	4.41%	9.04%	22.51%
2006	1.24%	4.76%	10.16%	2.90%	2.58%	0.95%	5.57%	7.67%	-2.62%	5.22%	2.01%	1.35%	49.91%
2005	6.29%	7.29%	5.01%	-0.49%	-0.27%	1.81%	-2.87%	-1.51%	4.10%	-2.33%	2.88%	8.73%	31.64%
2004	0.19%	0.16%	0.49%	-3.41%	0.78%	2.60%	4.36%	-0.80%	3.22%	1.42%	-0.29%	1.61%	10.59%
2003	2.34%	6.21%	-0.44%	0.61%	0.82%	3.00%	-1.93%	-0.99%	2.01%	4.85%	3.78%	-1.27%	20.33%

Note: The returns highlighted in bold are net returns of the Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund (pretax) *Composite pro forma CY08.

The returns not bolded are "pro forma" net returns of the Bennelong Securities Long Short Equity Fund (Managed Account) (pretax) Jan 03 to Jun 08

Performance Since Inception



Note: Composite Index comprising Bennelong Securities Long Short Equity Fund
(Managed Account) Feb 02 to Jun 08 & Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund from
Jul 08

Fund Summary				
Strategy	Market Neutral, Pairs	Domicile	Australia	
Manager	Bennelong Long Short Equity Management Pty Ltd	AUM	A\$671.6m	
Status	Soft-close	Currency	AUD	
Inception Date	February 2002			

The Fund is managed by Bennelong Long Short Equity Management Pty Limited, a Bennelong Funds Management boutique.

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