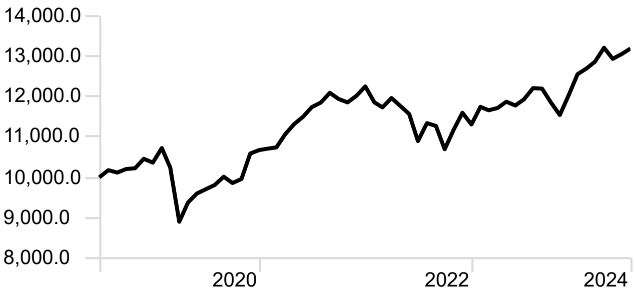
Cornerstone Balanced Growth Managed Portfolio - Core Model

The portfolio returned -0.15%^ in the June quarter. Our global equity exposure weighed on benchmark-relative performance over the period, while the direct Australian equity portfolio delivered both positive absolute and excess returns. In terms of fixed income, both the Russell Investments International Bond Fund – $A Hedged and the Russell Investments Australian Bond Fund outperformed their respective benchmarks; though absolute returns were slightly negative for the quarter. Australian private credit manager Metrics Credit and the Russell Investments Australian Floating Rate Fund continued to perform well.

Growth of $10,000

Time Period: 1/07/2019 to 30/06/2024



Performance Review

As of Date: 30/06/2024

	Return
1 Month	1.04
3 Months	-0.15
1 Year	10.53
2 Years	10.02
3 Years	3.96
5 Years	5.70
YTD	5.06
Since Inception	5.82

Inception date: 17/06/2019

^This performance is net of management fees for both the Managed Portfolio and the underlying managers' fees and costs. It does not take into account any third party platform fees charged to individual investors or transaction costs (including buy/sell spreads and brokerage fees). It assumes income is reinvested without any tax deduction. It is for RIML's preferred model portfolio of holdings. A holding in the preferred model portfolio may be restricted or replaced with another similar asset in the Managed Portfolio on different platforms if the preferred holding is not available. Different platforms may also charge different management fees for the Managed Portfolio. This can result in variances in performance of the Managed Portfolio between platforms. An individual investor's performance will differ, according to the investor's actual exposures to Managed Portfolio holdings and other factors (including transaction timing, transaction costs, actual underlying manager fees and costs and whether income is paid in cash). Platforms will have their own methodology for calculating performance, at both a platform level and an individual investor level. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Please contact your platform or adviser for details of your performance or current holdings in the Managed Portfolio.

Portfolio objective

To provide returns over the medium to long term, with moderate to high volatility, consistent with a diversified mix of predominantly growth oriented assets and some defensive assets.

Portfolio strategy

The Portfolio typically invests in a diversified investment mix with exposure to growth investments of around 70% and defensive investments of around 30% over the long term, however the allocations will be actively managed within the allowable ranges depending on market conditions.

Main market highlights

Global share markets made only modest gains in the June quarter. Much of the gains continued to be driven by central bank activity. In the US, the Federal Reserve (Fed) left its benchmark fed funds rate on hold at a target range of between 5.25% and 5.50% throughout the period. Speaking after the Bank's June gathering, Chairman Jerome Powell said that while inflation has eased considerably from its peak, it nonetheless remains too high, and that policymakers do not yet have the confidence to begin lowering interest rates. However, he did reaffirm his belief that current monetary policy is sufficiently restrictive to achieve the Bank's inflation goal. Encouragingly, the latest inflation figures showed an easing in consumer prices between April and May. At the time of writing, the market was fully priced for a first Fed rate cut in November. Elsewhere, the European Central Bank cut interest rates in June; the Bank lowering its main refinancing rate by 0.25% (to 4.25%). However, the Bank gave no indication of the timing of its next move. Meantime, both the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan left their respective benchmark policy rates unchanged over the period. Australian shares underperformed their global counterparts; the local market falling on expectations domestic interest rates will remain higher for longer amid stubbornly high inflation.

Both global and domestic bonds were weaker for the quarter, albeit modestly.

Dynamic positioning: Managing positions over the next 12-18 months

Looking ahead, we expect higher levels of volatility to continue, with active management to play an important role in navigating through it. We expect to increase growth asset exposure on major market reversals and decrease growth asset exposure on market rallies. This is a very important time to remain flexible as there are competing forces related to inflation and growth.

We retain the same themes as recent months, i.e. a preference for less expensive equity markets versus US equities and peer-relative overweights to global small caps and the value factor.

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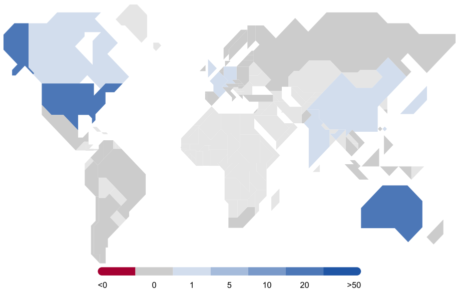
Country Exposure

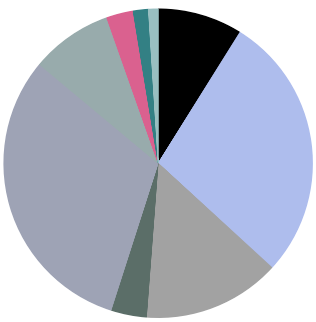
Portfolio Date: 30/06/2024



	%
Australia	44.0
United States	30.5
Japan	3.9
United Kingdom	2.8
China	2.3
Canada	1.8
Taiwan	1.6
Switzerland	1.5
France	1.4
India	1.4

Asset Allocation

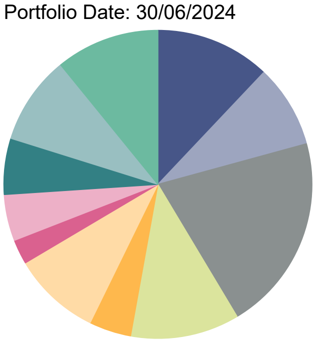
Portfolio Date: 30/06/2024



	%
Cash	8.9
Domestic Equity	27.9
Domestic Fixed Interest	14.4
Domestic Listed Property	3.7
International Equity	31.1
International Fixed Interest	8.5
International Listed Property	2.8
Other	1.6
Unlisted Property	1.0
Total	**100.0**

Sector Allocation

Portfolio Date: 30/06/2024



	%
Basic Materials	12.1
Consumer Cyclical	8.7
Financial Services	20.7
Real Estate	11.4
Consumer Defensive	4.4
Healthcare	9.2
Utilities	2.6
Communication Services	4.9
Energy	5.9
Industrials	9.3
Technology	10.9
Total	**100.0**

Main portfolio highlights

The direct Australian equity portfolio outperformed its benchmark, benefiting in part from an overweight exposure and positive stock selection within financials. This included an overweight to Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and an underweight to QBE Insurance. An underweight to the poor-performing real estate space also added value; though the portfolio did benefit from an overweight to industrial property giant Goodman Group. Stock selection within the healthcare sector added further value over the period; notably an overweight to New Zealand's Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, which climbed almost 20% for the quarter. In contrast, stock selection within the energy space detracted from overall performance. This included an overweight to Ampol and a nil exposure to Whitehaven Coal, which rose on the back of higher coal prices.
In terms of global equity managers, Japan equity specialist Nissay Asset Management underperformed its benchmark, driven in part by overweights to pharmaceutical company Nippon Shinyaku Co., travel agency H.I.S. Co. and Nagoya Railroad Co. Brandywine and European growth manager Joh Berenberg, Gossler & Co. KG also underperformed. In contrast, value manager Sanders outperformed its benchmark over the period, benefiting from a material overweight to Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Overweights to Google parent Alphabet and Dutch bank ING Groep N.V. added further value. Emerging markets specialist Redwheel (formerly RWC Partners) also performed well.

In May, we trimmed some exposure to Australian real estate investment trusts (A-REITs) via Vanguard's Australian Property Fund in favour of global real estate investment trusts (G-REITs), which we increased via Vanguard's International Property Securities Fund. A-REITs had performed very well, due largely to the performance of the market's biggest constituent, industrial property giant Goodman Group. Moreover, A-REITs had outperformed both G-REITs and Australian equities in that time. We believe G-REITs demonstrate a more compelling opportunity across our 'cycle, valuation and sentiment' process, which we consider when making dynamic asset allocation decisions.

We also added some equity protection to the portfolio via a put spread with a November 2024 expiry toward the end of May. This will provide some downside protection if equity markets – namely the US S&P 500 Index – experience volatility during the second half of the year due to either macroeconomic or geopolitical events.

Finally, in June, we took the opportunity to increase our US Treasury exposure in response to rising government bond yields. In particular, we increased exposure to the two-year part of the yield curve. Our decision to add to the shorter end of the yield curve was driven by the relatively higher yields on offer when compared to the longer end. In addition, bonds at the shorter end of the yield curve tend to be less sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Overall, the managed portfolio is aligned with its long-term asset allocation as we wait patiently for opportunities.

Long-term investing: Positioning for 5 years and beyond

The portfolio has a long-term asset allocation of 76% to return generating assets (including high yield debt and other extended fixed income). Growth asset valuations have increased year to date but are below pre-pandemic levels. Long-term, forward-looking return expectations for US shares and high-yield debt have moderated. The economic outlook creates uncertainty in the near term, however in the long term, growth assets are still preferred due to superior returns relative to defensive assets.

Defensive assets such as fixed income and cash have an allocation of 24% in the portfolio. A tilt toward credit further enhances the long-term return potential, but also increases the risk of losses. Credit spreads have narrowed and are near their long-term averages. Government bonds are cheap across some markets and are now offering much higher yields than at the beginning of 2022.

Strategically, the portfolio has positions in cheaper and higher momentum securities as per our researched beliefs.

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Detailed Asset Allocation

Portfolio Date: 30/06/2024

	Portfolio Weighting %
Russell Inv Multi-Asset Growth Strat A	32.25
Vanguard All-World ex-US Shares ETF	6.82
Vanguard US Total Market Shares ETF	5.76
Russell Inv Australian Government Bd ETF	5.00
iShares Core Cash ETF	4.68
Vanguard MSCI Intl (Hdg) ETF	4.32
Vanguard Global Aggregate Bd Hdg ETF	3.75
Vanguard MSCI Australian Small Coms ETF	2.91
Vanguard Global Value Equity Active ETF	2.23
Vanguard Australian Property Secs ETF	2.22
Vanguard International Prpty Secs IdxHdg	2.20
iShares S&P Small-Cap ETF	1.60
Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets Shrs ETF	1.47
Russell Global Opportunities A	1.38
Vanguard Global Infrastructure Index Hgd	1.05
Russell Inv Australian Select CorpBd ETF	0.96
Vanguard Australian Shares ETF	0.14
BHP Group Ltd	2.26
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	2.07
CSL Ltd	1.33
National Australia Bank Ltd	1.20
Westpac Banking Corp	1.04
ANZ Group Holdings Ltd	0.85
Goodman Group	0.81
Wesfarmers Ltd	0.80
Macquarie Group Ltd	0.77
Rio Tinto Ltd	0.65
Telstra Group Ltd	0.63
Woolworths Group Ltd	0.61
WiseTech Global Ltd	0.53
Woodside Energy Group Ltd	0.53
Transurban Group	0.51
Aristocrat Leisure Ltd	0.51
Fortescue Ltd	0.47
Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd	0.39
Suncorp Group Ltd	0.39
Origin Energy Ltd	0.37
James Hardie Industries PLC	0.37
Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Corp Ltd	0.35
Medibank Private Ltd	0.35
Cleanaway Waste Management Ltd	0.34
Newmont Corp Chess Depository Interest	0.33
Incitec Pivot Ltd	0.31
Seven Group Holdings Ltd	0.30
Ansell Ltd	0.29
Santos Ltd	0.29
Ampol Ltd	0.27

Allocations may not equal 100% due to rounding. In order to manage a fund/portfolio to its investment objectives, Russell Investments retains the discretion to change the underlying investments at any time, without notice to investors. Please refer to the relevant Product Disclosure Statement for more information.

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For more information please visit our website:

russellinvestments.com.au/cornerstone or contact your Invest Blue representative:1300 346 837

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