Apostle Dundas Global Equity Fund – Class C

APOSTLE

Australian PDS and New Zealand Clients – ARSN 093 116 771 APIR ETL0438AU

Monthly Report **– September 2025**

Investment Objective

- The target is to exceed the MSCI All Country World ex Australia Index by 2.5% p.a. after all fees and expenses on a rolling 5-year basis.
- Long term dividend growth and capital appreciation.
- To achieve lower volatility than the benchmark.

Investment Firm

Established in 2010, Dundas Global Investors ("Dundas") is an independent Investment Management firm based in Edinburgh that manages a single investment strategy, global equities.

Dundas can best be categorised as Quality Growth, with a focus on companies with strong and sustainable returns on equity and a growing dividend stream.

Key Advantages

- Pro-active management of both components of total return (capital and dividends)
- Fee minimisation and alignment of incentives
- Lower cost base
- Enhanced research that capitalises on technology

Investment Style

Dundas invests for capital and income growth. The team uses fundamental, bottom-up research to find companies capable of real long-term wealth generation that will lead to sustainable capital and dividend growth. While dividends are an important part of the investment proposition, Dundas places greater emphasis on future income streams as opposed to current payout ratios. The resulting portfolio is globally diversified, has an average holding period of more than five years, with satisfactory upside and good downside capture statistics.

Characteristics

Unit Price (NAV)	AUD$2.4979
Fund Size (AUD)	AUD$2,713.79M
Tax Losses Available (As at last distribution period)	AUD$215.36M
Portfolio Inception Date	August 2012
Inception Date - Class C	June 2015
Companies in Portfolio	Targeting 50-65 holdings
Sub-Investment Manager	Dundas Global Investors
Management Fee	0.90% p.a. (inc. GST and RITC)
Buy/Sell Spread	15/15 (bps)
Portfolio Management Team	Alan McFarlane – Chair David Keir – Managing Partner James Curry – Partner Gavin Harvie – Partner Andrew Brown – Partner
Responsible Entity	K2 Asset Management Ltd
Custodian/Registry	State Street Australia Limited

Source: Dundas Global Investors as at 30/09/25

Performance

Return (%)	1 mth	3 mth	1 yr	3 yr (p.a.)	5 yr (p.a.)	7 yr (p.a.)	10 yr (p.a.)	Incep (p.a.)
Total (gross)	0.59	0.59	9.54	15.95	11.40	11.95	12.64	11.50
Total (net)	0.51	0.36	8.56	14.91	10.41	10.95	11.64	10.51
Relative (gross)*	-1.86	-6.05	-13.76	-6.19	-3.99	-0.82	-0.01	-0.40
Relative (net)**	-1.94	-6.28	-14.73	-7.22	-4.99	-1.82	-1.01	-1.39

Source: State Street Performance & Analytics Australia. Fund performance calculated using exit prices and shown on a total return basis (net dividends reinvested). Performance inception date is 4th June 2015. *Relative (gross) calculated as the difference between the Fund's gross (of fees) return and that of the Solactive GBS Global Markets ex Australia Large & Mid Cap AUD Index **Relative (Net) calculated as the difference between the Fund's net (of fees) return and that of the Solactive GBS Global Markets ex Australia Large & Mid Cap AUD Index. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Portfolio Characteristics

No of Holdings	51
Dividend Yield	1.30
Turnover* (last 12 months)	19.84%
Price/Earnings	29.92
Price/Cash Flow	22.04
Price/Book Value	7.74x
Beta (ex-ante)	0.81
Average market capitalisation	$273.94bn
Median market capitalisation	$100.78bn
Tracking error (1 year)	5.50

*Turnover calculated as ((Purchases + Sales)/2) / average assets during the period. Source: Dundas Global Investors and Apostle Funds Management as at 30/09/25

Market Cap Exposure (% weight by capital)

Range	Fund
>US$ 500bn	14.96
US$ 100 - 500bn	43.52
US$ 50 - 100bn	7.03
US$ 10 - 50bn	31.54
US$ 2 - 10bn	0.74

Source: Dundas Global Investors as at 30/09/25

Top Ten Holdings by Capital (% weight)

Stock	Fund	Active Weight*
Microsoft	4.36	0.02
WR Berkley	4.11	4.08
Amphenol	3.46	3.29
TSMC	3.36	3.36
Alphabet	3.31	1.88
Essilorluxottica	3.20	3.09
American Express	2.90	2.69
Visa	2.81	2.14
Abbott Laboratories	2.70	2.44
Brown & Brown	2.70	2.70
TOTAL	32.88	25.67

*Active Weight relative to the Index. Source: Dundas Global Investors and Apostle Funds Management as at 30/09/25

Regional Allocation (%)

Country	Fund	Active Weight*
United States	57.39	-5.66
France	11.89	9.76
Switzerland	4.70	2.55
Sweden	3.73	2.85
Taiwan	3.36	0.96
Denmark	3.20	2.77
United Kingdom	2.58	-0.73
Hong Kong	2.41	1.40
Singapore	2.21	1.75
Netherlands	2.20	1.10
Germany	1.80	-0.30
Japan	1.72	-3.82
India	0.61	-1.25
Other Countries	0.00	0.00

*Active Weight relative to the Index. Source: Dundas Global Investors and Apostle Funds Management as at 30/09/25

Sector Exposure (%)

Sector	Fund	Active Weight*
Information Technology	28.48	0.32
Financials	23.76	7.10
Health Care	21.80	13.11
Industrials	8.77	-1.99
Consumer Discretionary	5.56	-5.00
Materials	3.79	0.53
Consumer Staples	3.31	-2.00
Communication Services	2.31	-6.66
Energy	0.00	-3.33
Real Estate	0.00	-1.69
Utilities	0.00	-2.60
Cash	2.21	2.21

*Active Weight relative to the Index. Source: Dundas Global Investors and Apostle Funds Management as at 30/09/25

Performance and Portfolio Comment

Market overview

In September 2025, global equities surged, led by US and Chinese tech gains amid renewed bets on Fed rate cuts and robust corporate earnings. Europe and emerging markets outperformed relative to the US, while volatility simmered underneath strong sentiment.

US equities delivered another strong month, with the S&P 500 posting its fifth-straight monthly gain, while Nasdaq posted a sixth-straight monthly gain. However, gains were concentrated in large-cap stocks, as the equal-weight S&P 500 lagged the cap-weighted index. Treasuries were mostly firmer with the curve flattening; the dollar index was flat, gold was up for the third month, hitting fresh record highs. WTI crude was down 2.6%, a second-straight monthly decline. Market momentum was underpinned by renewed expectations of Fed easing after its rate cut in September and optimism around artificial intelligence and mega cap tech names. That said, some caution lingered: valuations were considered elevated, and the underlying economic weakness, inflation signals and tariff uncertainties remain risks.

European equity markets mostly rose in September. Policy dynamics remained supportive, as European central banks appear to be close to ending their easing cycles. The ECB left policy unchanged for the second meeting despite dovish inflation forecasts showing inflation below its 2% target in 2027. The Euro reached a four-year high against the dollar, though analysts cautioned of excessive dollar bearishness. Geopolitically, the EU advanced plans for a drone wall in eastern Europe amid Russian incursions and moved toward a €140B loan to Ukraine using frozen Russian assets. The UK's fiscal challenges were in the spotlight, with a weaker growth outlook and high borrowing costs (long-term borrowing costs surged to the highest level since 1998) ahead of the Budget on 26 November.

Asian equity benchmarks rose for a sixth consecutive month, driven by an AI-related surge that pushed Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan to record highs, while Greater China markets also reached multi-year peaks. The US Federal Reserve's rate cut improved global investor sentiment, and China's technology stocks benefited from optimism around AI monetisation and domestic chip development. However, US policy shifts—such as a sharp increase in H-1B visa fees and a 100% tariff on pharmaceutical imports—hurt several large-cap names in South Korea, Japan, and India, with India's markets underperforming due to these double setbacks. Overall, policy, trade, and technology trends shaped the region's performance.

Performance overview

Over the past 12 months, the Fund has posted a total return net of fees of 8.56%, while the market returned 23.29%*. In September, the Fund returned 0.51% net of fees underperforming the market by 1.94%.

Positive contributions came from the Fund's holdings in the Communication Services and IT sectors and having no exposure to Energy.

Performance was negatively impacted by the Fund's holdings in the Health Care, Financials and Consumer Discretionary sectors.

Regionally, Asia Pacific was neutral to performance, Fund holdings in Europe and North America detracted.

The top five contributors were TSMC, Applied Materials, ASML Holding, Amphenol and Alphabet.

The bottom five contributors were L'Oreal, Nasdaq, Zoetis, Brown & Brown and Lonza Group.

Dividends

The monthly average dividend increase was 9.9% and the announcements consisted of Accenture 10.1% and Microsoft 9.6%.

Portfolio changes

During the month, Lindt, the Swiss chocolatier and confectionery company was sold, there were no new investments.

*Solactive GBS Global Markets ex Australia Large & Mid Cap AUD Index.

Contact us

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Recommended
Lonsec Research

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