

# Bell Global Equities Fund

Wholesale Class Fund Summary – Period Ending 31 March 2026

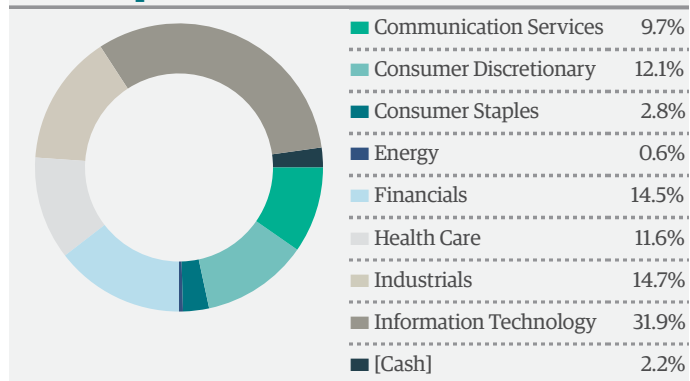
## Net Performance<sup>^</sup>

Returns in AUD	Fund	Index*
<b>1 Month</b>	-3.1%	-2.5%
<b>3 Months</b>	-11.1%	-6.2%
<b>6 Months</b>	-11.7%	-3.8%
<b>1 Year</b>	-4.0%	8.1%
<b>3 Years (pa)</b>	5.7%	16.0%
<b>5 Years (pa)</b>	6.7%	12.7%
<b>10 Years (pa)</b>	9.5%	13.2%
<b>Inception (pa)<sup>^</sup></b>	7.0%	9.0%

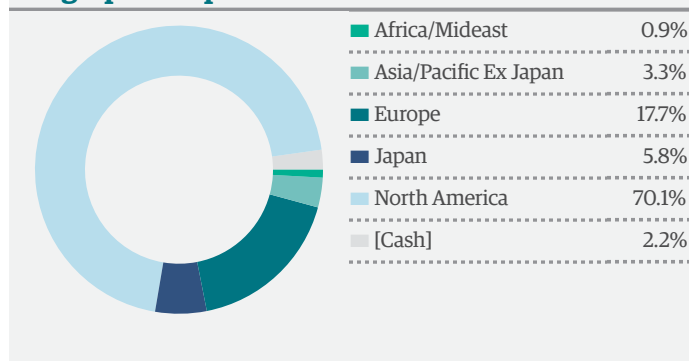
\* Index is the MSCI World ex Australia in \$A Unhedged with net dividends reinvested.

<sup>^</sup> Inception date of the Fund is 3 December 2007. Returns are based on the Wholesale redemption price and are net of fees. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

## Sector Exposure



## Geographic Exposure



## Top 10 Holdings

Company	Sector	Geography	Weight
NVIDIA Corporation	Information Technology	US	6.6%
Microsoft Corporation	Information Technology	US	4.8%
Alphabet Inc.	Communication Services	US	4.5%
Apple Inc.	Information Technology	US	4.1%
Amazon.com, Inc.	Consumer Discretionary	US	3.3%
Broadcom Inc.	Information Technology	US	2.6%
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	Financials	US	1.8%
Visa Inc.	Financials	US	1.6%
Tencent Holdings...	Communication Services	CN	1.3%
Mastercard Incorporated	Financials	US	1.2%

## Best & Worst Performers - 1 Month

Top 5 - Relative Contribution		Bottom 5 - Relative Contribution	
Sprouts Farmers...	0.11%	Boot Barn Holdings, Inc.	-0.14%
Deutsche Boerse AG	0.10%	Hermes International...	-0.13%
Oracle Corporation	0.08%	CTS Eventim AG & Co....	-0.12%
Eli Lilly and Company	0.08%	MonotaRO Co., Ltd.	-0.11%
Booking Holdings Inc.	0.06%	Schneider Electric SE	-0.10%

## Investment Metrics<sup>#</sup>

	Portfolio	Index	Relative
<b>Risk</b>			
Total Risk	13.51	12.77	
Number of Stocks	100	1,265	
Active Share	68.9		
<b>Value</b>			
P/E (Fwd 12M)	19.8	18.2	109%
EV / EBITDA	18.0	16.3	110%
<b>Growth (%)</b>			
Sales Growth	15.4	12.6	122%
EPS Growth	19.9	17.9	111%
<b>Quality</b>			
Return on Equity	29.0	16.4	176%
Net Debt / EBITDA	0.4	0.8	53%
<b>ESG</b>			
MSCI ESG Overall Score	7.2	6.8	105%
Carbon Emissions*	18.7	103.4	18%

<sup>#</sup> Investment Metrics calculated using FactSet database

\* Scope 1+2 CO2 and equivalents per US\$ mil. of revenue

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**Ned Bell** CIO / Portfolio Manager



**Joel Connell** Portfolio Manager



**Andrew Gowen** PM / Director of Research

## Contact Details

Unitholder enquiries  
T: 1300 133 451  
E: registry@apexgroup.com

Bell Asset Management Limited  
W: bellasset.com.au  
T: 1300 305 476  
E: client@bellasset.com.au

Xanthe Virtue: Head of Wholesale & Platforms  
T: +61 2 8000 8872 M: +61 413 450 163  
E: xvirtue@bellasset.com.au

Andrew Stewart: Head of Retail Sales  
T: +61 2 8000 8875 M: +61 419 224 732  
E: astewart@bellasset.com.au

## Performance

The escalation of conflict in the Middle East acted as a key catalyst for heightened volatility across global markets during March, with conditions among the most unsettled seen in recent periods. For equities, this saw the MSCI World ex-Australia Index return -2.5% across March, whilst the Bell Global Equities Fund (Wholesale Class) declined 3.1%, underperforming the MSCI World ex-Australia Index by 0.6%.

## Performance Attribution

March saw the portfolio decline amid the broad-based weakness across global equities. Similar to the benchmark, Energy was the only sector to generate a positive return in USD terms, while Health Care, Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary and Industrials were the most significant detractors. From a geographic perspective, exposures to Europe and developed Asia-Pacific underperformed, whereas holdings in North America proved relatively more resilient. The portfolio's structural underweight to Energy represented the most significant allocation headwind to relative performance, while weaker stock selection across Communication Services, Health Care and Energy further detracted. These impacts were mostly offset by the absence of Materials exposure and stronger stock selection within Consumer Staples and Financials, which provided a relative buffer during the drawdown.

In terms of individual holdings, one of the most prominent performers for the quarter was Deutsche Boerse. The name was supported by improving investor sentiment as a pickup in market volatility drove increased trading activity, particularly within its high-margin derivatives franchise (Eurex), positioning the company for potential near-term earnings upside. The business continues to benefit from structurally attractive growth

drivers, including higher clearing volumes, sustained demand for risk management products and the ongoing migration toward centrally cleared markets. In addition, its data and analytics segment provides a stable, recurring revenue base that enhances earnings visibility. Despite these strengths, the stock entered the period at a relatively undemanding valuation for a business of this quality, which, combined with rising expectations for earnings upgrades, supported a re-rating. Overall, Deutsche Boerse offers an attractive mix of defensive recurring revenues and cyclical upside from increased market activity. We continue to hold the name in the portfolio, although have trimmed some profits following the outperformance. Other positive contributors included Sprouts Farmers Market (Consumer Staples), Oracle (Information Technology), Amazon (Consumer Discretionary) and our underweight to Micron Technology (Information Technology).

In contrast, Boot Barn was among the most notable detractors over the month. The escalation in geopolitical tensions drove a broad sell-off across Consumer Discretionary, reflecting both risk aversion and rising concerns around household spending as fuel costs increased and inflation expectations moved higher. As a SMID-cap, high-growth apparel retailer, Boot Barn was particularly exposed to these dynamics. Despite this near-term pressure, we retain conviction in the company's ability to deliver low single-digit same-store sales growth while continuing its strong store rollout strategy, supporting sustained top-line expansion. While some macro risk factors have increased, we see the risk-reward as attractive at this level following the valuation de-rating and therefore remain comfortable holding the name in the portfolio. Elsewhere, our lack of exposure to Exxon Mobil (Energy) was a hindrance, while holdings in Hermès (Consumer

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Discretionary) and MonotaRO (Industrials) also hurt.

## Market Commentary

Broader market risk aversion dominated equity markets throughout March, driving a sharp and largely indiscriminate sell-off. Despite a modest rebound into month-end, every sector declined by more than 4% in USD terms with the exception of Energy, while Industrials and Materials experienced low double-digit drawdowns. This dispersion was broadly consistent with the sharp rise in energy prices and the resulting tightening in financial conditions. From a regional perspective, North America proved relatively more resilient, while developed markets across Europe and Asia-Pacific, most notably Japan and Australia, saw more pronounced weakness. Factor performance was broadly consistent with a typical risk-off environment, with large caps, Value and Low Volatility outperforming, while Growth, Momentum and small caps lagged. Notably, there was little evidence of the flight to Quality typically seen in such environments, with the factor underperforming despite the deterioration in macro sentiment.

The key development over the period was the continued escalation of conflict in the Middle East, as tensions between Israel, the United States and Iran intensified following the initial strikes in late February. While early retaliatory actions unsettled markets, it was the forced closure of the Strait of Hormuz that proved most destabilising. Given the critical importance of this passage for global oil supply, the disruption led to stranded shipments and heightened concerns around an imminent supply shock. This was further compounded by damage to regional energy infrastructure and production curtailments across parts of OPEC. As a result, crude prices surged, with spot oil reaching approximately US\$120

per barrel, levels only seen once in the past decade, previously during the 2022 Russia-Ukraine shock.

While the direct impact of higher energy prices was quickly felt across energy-intensive sectors, the secondary effects proved more significant in shaping broader market behaviour. Elevated oil prices, if sustained, have broad-based implications given their role as both a key industrial input and a fundamental driver of transportation costs. As a result, inflation expectations moved higher, prompting a reassessment of the rate outlook and raising the prospect of a more stagflationary backdrop. This repricing of the policy path was a key driver of weakness across risk assets.

The impact was not confined to equities. Precious metals saw a sharp reversal, with gold declining amid rising real yields and a stronger US dollar, in part reflecting its use as a source of liquidity during the sell-off. Fixed income markets also came under pressure, with yields rising across developed markets, particularly in Europe and the UK. Currency markets experienced elevated volatility, with the Australian dollar weakening against the US dollar, while Japanese authorities signalled a potential intervention to support the yen.

More recently, a tentative ceasefire has been reached in early April, helping to stabilise sentiment and partially reverse some of the more extreme moves observed during March. Looking ahead, market direction will likely be shaped by the durability of the ceasefire and the extent to which earlier disruptions to energy supply continue to feed through into inflation and growth expectations over the remainder of 2026. In particular, the persistence of elevated energy prices will be critical in determining whether the recent shock proves transitory or evolves into a more sustained stagflationary environment.

## Portfolio Activity

Heightened portfolio activity persisted through the end of the first quarter, reflecting our efforts to actively take advantage of the elevated market volatility and many dispersions in the market between quality and intrinsic value. Among the new additions was TE Connectivity, a global leader in electrical connectors. One of the primary tailwinds for the company has recently been its increased market share in the critical components that distribute power, signal, and data across electric vehicles, factory robots and hyperscale AI server racks. This positioning is expected to support a sustained period of double-digit revenue growth, alongside margin expansion over the medium-term. The company also consistently generates significant free cash flow and boasts a shareholder-friendly management team, illustrated earlier this year when the board approved a 10% quarterly dividend hike alongside a substantial \$3 billion expansion to its share repurchase program. We currently model meaningful upside looking forward, driven by a combination of earnings upgrades and potential for valuation multiple expansion.

We also initiated a position in Nomura Research Institute following a sharp pullback in its share price and a positive meeting with management on our recent research trip to Japan. The company operates as a leading IT solutions provider and consultancy, primarily serving financial, retail and manufacturing clients in Japan. We believe that the business will benefit from both revenue growth and cost optimisation opportunities arising from the accelerating implementation of AI within both customer workflows and its own operations. Furthermore, customer adoption of AI should also drive an acceleration in consultancy and implementation revenues, while the fixed-price nature of the IT Solutions business

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will benefit from the company's own AI adoption internally. We anticipate that the upcoming capital markets day will provide greater clarity on the medium-term growth outlook and progress of its international restructuring initiatives. A holding was also established in MercadoLibre, the "Amazon of Latin America". MercadoLibre is a vast enterprise, shipping over US\$85bn (3bn items) worth of goods each year to over 120 million customers. Both volumes and revenues have increased tenfold over the past six years, while the income statement and cash flow inflected into sustained profitability. We have long admired this company and its excellent founder-led management team, but the shares only occasionally provide an opportune window to enter a position. We had watched its success attract renewed competition last year and anticipated margins to come under pressure. With margin forecasts now reset to appropriate levels, we used the recent share price weakness to begin a position in a company where we forecast earnings will more than triple in the five years ahead.

In terms of exits, Nike was among the more notable disposals during March, with the position closed ahead of its latest earnings release. This was a position initiated late last year as confidence grew that the turnaround under new management was gaining traction. In the prior quarter, inventories had been brought under control, tariffs were well incorporated into margin forecasts, and the important US business delivered a second consecutive quarter of accelerating growth in the key wholesale channel. However, following the escalation of conflict in the Middle East and the associated inflationary pressures, we saw increasing risks to the recovery and therefore decided to exit ahead of what we feared could be a softer earnings print. Among other exits was the sale of Old Dominion Freight Line, a leading US less-than-truckload (LTL) carrier. While we continue to see good

scope for strong earnings growth in the coming years as earnings rebound from depressed levels, a strong rally in the share price and material valuation re-rating have largely priced this in. With the potential for macro disruptions related to the conflict in Iran, we felt the risk-reward profile was starting to skew to the downside and therefore exited the position.

## Outlook

Recent performance has remained below our expectations, reflecting a continuation of the challenging environment for quality-oriented investing. In particular, the ongoing AI disruption narrative has been a key driver of market behaviour, with periods of indiscriminate selling extending beyond pure software into a range of adjacent sectors. While we continue to assess these risks carefully at the individual company level, we believe much of the recent weakness has been sentiment-driven rather than reflective of fundamental deterioration in the underlying businesses we own, either in the near or longer term.

To date, the market's treatment of stocks with any perceived AI competitive exposure has remained largely indiscriminate. While we do not underestimate the genuine disruption risks posed by this rapid technological shift, we believe the reality will prove far more nuanced and that, over time, the distinction between winners and losers will become clearer. That said, we acknowledge that we underestimated the magnitude of this sentiment-driven dislocation, and as a result, shorter-term returns have been impacted.

While we have had exposure to a number of AI beneficiaries, including Teradyne, Fujikura, Hoya and Keysight Technologies to name a few, the relative outperformance from these holdings has been more than offset by material valuation contraction

across other parts of the portfolio, particularly in segments where AI disruption fears are most acute.

Importantly, this backdrop is creating a growing opportunity set. We are increasingly observing attractive dislocations across high-quality businesses with durable competitive positions, strong balance sheets and long-term growth potential. As a result, we have remained active in refining the portfolio, exiting positions where the risk-reward has deteriorated while redeploying capital into opportunities where upside potential has materially improved.

While the near-term path of markets remains uncertain, particularly given the evolving macro environment, we remain confident in the long-term merits of our Quality at a Reasonable Price approach. Periods of heightened dispersion and dislocation have historically provided the foundation for stronger future returns, and we believe the portfolio is becoming progressively better positioned as we lean into these opportunities. Overall, we see an improving risk-reward profile across the portfolio and remain focused on disciplined execution to drive stronger outcomes over time.

## Key Features

<b>Investment Objective</b>	To outperform the MSCI World Ex Australia Index in Australian Dollars with net dividends reinvested, over rolling three-year periods after fees and expenses (but before taxes).
<b>Asset Allocation</b>	Long only global equities, no gearing, no derivatives
<b>Investment Style</b>	Fundamental bottom up approach 'quality at a reasonable price'
<b>Investment Highlights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global equity portfolio</li><li>• 'Quality' focus - consistently high returning companies</li><li>• Long-term horizon - typically 3-5 year holding periods</li><li>• Benchmark agnostic</li><li>• Diversified portfolio structure</li><li>• Maximum cash exposure 10%</li><li>• Fund inception 2007 (strategy inception 2003)</li><li>• Highly experienced investment team</li></ul>
<b>Benchmark</b>	MSCI World (ex Australia) Index
<b>Currency Exposure</b>	Unhedged
<b>Investment Timeframe</b>	At least 5 years
<b>Number of Holdings</b>	80-110

## Fund Terms

<b>Fund Inception Date</b>	3 December 2007
<b>Product Structure</b>	Registered Managed Investment Scheme
<b>Investment Manager</b>	Bell Asset Management Limited
<b>Responsible Entity</b>	The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited
<b>Custodian</b>	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd
<b>Unit Pricing &amp; Liquidity</b>	Daily Published on <a href="http://www.bellasset.com.au">www.bellasset.com.au</a> & market data services
<b>Indirect Cost Ratio</b>	0.91%p.a
<b>Buy / Sell Spread</b>	+/-0.10%
<b>Reporting</b>	Transaction confirmations upon transacting, tax statement, distribution statement and Annual Financial Report
<b>Income</b>	Annual distribution of taxable income
<b>Target Market</b>	This product is intended for use as a core, minor or satellite component within a portfolio for a consumer who is seeking capital growth and has a high to very high risk and return profile for that portion of their investment portfolio. It is likely to be consistent with the financial situation and needs of a consumer with a 5-year minimum investment timeframe and who is unlikely to need to withdraw their money on less than one month's notice.

**Important Information:** The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited (Trust Co) ABN 45 003 278 831, AFSL 235150 is the responsible entity and issuer of units for the Bell Global Equities Fund (the Fund). Bell Asset Management Limited (BAM) ABN 84 092 278 647, AFSL 231091 is the investment manager for the Fund. This report has been prepared and issued by BAM for information purposes only and does not take into consideration the investment objectives, financial circumstances or needs of any particular recipient and it contains general information only. You should consider the product disclosure statement (PDS), prior to making any investment decisions. The PDS and target market determination (TMD) can be obtained for free by calling 1300 133 451 or visiting our website [www.bellasset.com.au](http://www.bellasset.com.au). If you require financial advice that takes into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs, you should consult your licensed or authorised financial adviser. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of any assumption contained in this report and none of Trust Co, BAM and its directors, employees or agents accepts any liability for any loss arising, including from negligence, from the use of this document. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of expected future performance. Total returns shown for the Fund have been calculated using exit prices after taking into account all ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for taxation.