SKERRYVORE GLOBAL EMERGING MARKETS ALL-CAP EQUITY FUND C SHARE CLASS

# **Quarterly Commentary**

Report for the quarter ended 31 March 2025



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## **Executive Summary**

#### C SHARE CLASS INVESTMENT RESULTS - PERIOD RETURNS TO 31 MARCH 2025

	1 Month (%)	3 Month (%)	6 Month (%)	1 Year (%)	Since Inception <sup>1</sup> P.A (%)
Fund (net)	1.88	3.06	4.50	6.15	5.35
Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	0.42	2.27	5.41	13.17	2.73
Value Added	1.46	0.79	-0.91	-7.01	2.62

#### **TOP 10 HOLDINGS**

Name	Weight (%)
HDFC Bank Limited	5.71
Cipla	4.82
Franco Nevada	4.24
Fomento Economico Mexicano	4.09
Raia Drogasil	3.63
Yifeng Pharmacy Chain	3.49
Kotak Mahindra Bank	3.42
Coca-Cola HBC	3.33
Tata Consultancy Services	3.12
Heineken Holding	2.88

#### **KEY CHARACTERISTICS**

Number of holdings	48
Number of countries	19
Number of sectors	8
Number of industries	23
Active share (%)	91

#### **FUND VALUE**

TOND VILEGE	
31 December 2024	31 March 2025
AUD \$ 700,188,898	AUD \$ 714,027,032
SHARE CLASS VALUE	
31 December 2024	31 March 2025

AUD \$ 124,563,731 AUD \$ 127,762,444

#### THE FUND AT A GLANCE

Feature	Fund Facts
APIR code	BFL3229AU
Benchmark	MSCI Emerging Markets Index (AUD)
Investment objective	Achieve long-term capital appreciation through investing in companies, operating in, or exposed to, emerging markets
Portfolio managers	Glen Finegan, Nicholas Cowley, Michael Cahoon
Active stock limit	+10%
Cash	0-10%
Recommended investment period	Long term (five years plus)
Buy/sell spread	+/-0.3%
Entry/exit fees	Nil
Management fees and costs*	1.10% p.a. of Net Asset Value of the fund

<sup>1.</sup> Inception date - O3 August 2021

2. MSCI Emerging Markets Index (AUD)

Source: Landy Tech as of 31 March 2025

Past performance is not indicative of future returns

<sup>\*</sup>Management fees and costs consist of annual management fee rate and capped recoverable expenses. For a detailed split of the fees and costs, please refer to the fund(s) PDS.

## **Quarterly Commentary**

#### **INVESTMENT OVERVIEW**

Global emerging market equities rose in Australian dollar terms during the quarter. The fund also rose in value and outperformed the benchmark index<sup>1</sup>.

#### **POSITIONING & STRATEGY**

We are fundamental, long-term, bottom-up investors seeking to create a high-conviction portfolio of reasonably valued, high-quality companies that are exposed to, or operate in, emerging markets. Portfolio positioning is the output of our bottom-up based convictions, rather than a specific top-down view.

#### PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

It has been a period of higher portfolio activity during this quarter. We have taken new positions in Arca Continental and another FEMSA entity, Coca-Cola FEMSA. Coca-Cola franchises have proven to be very resilient during the recent period of high inflation and both shares are attractively valued and offer strong long-term growth prospects. These purchases were also in part funded through a reduction in the Coca-Cola HBC position size following a significant re-rating of its shares. Having enjoyed some recovery in the share price of Mexican convenience store operator and Coca-Cola bottler, Fomento Económico Mexicano (FEMSA), we decided to reduce the holding to diversify our holdings in the country. The company continues to execute well across its territories, which include most of eastern Europe, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Nigeria but at the current price we find the opportunity in its Latin American peers more compelling.

We also sold the position in **Koh Young Technology** following a sharp rally in the share price. This was driven by news that the company had received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin selling its new brain surgery robot. Although this is a significant milestone, we have concerns over the strength of the core semiconductor testing equipment business and felt the valuation that the market was placing on the company could no longer be justified. After a series of disappointing results, we also decided to exit Chinese contract research organisation, **Hangzhou Tigermed**.

The business has struggled to generate free cash flow since the slowdown in drug development activity in China and we have growing concerns over the strength of its franchise.

There have been a few other significant reductions and additions during the period. We continued to take profits in **TSMC** because the current price offers limited upside to our long-term price target. The assumptions required to believe in greater upside are too risky, in our opinion, for what has historically been a cyclical industry. We also reduced our position in the food and beverage company **Uni-President China**, whose shares enjoyed a strong recovery in 2024 from what we felt were oversold levels. The company continues to execute well in a competitive segment but today's valuation offers less upside going forward.

Bidcorp has become a more substantial position as we have added to it with the proceeds from some of the above sales. Bidcorp is a South African logistics business specialising in the food service industry. Its operations are globally diversified with significant operations in Europe, Australasia and South Africa. The company has a history of steady growth based on shrewd acquisitions and organic growth. We have also been trying to take advantage of the ongoing sell off in Brazil. High interest rates have made prices attractive, and we added to existing positions in family controlled holding company Itaúsa and drugstore operator Raia Drogasil.

Finally, we remain on the sidelines in Turkey. Many of the risks we worried about when we chose to exit our holdings in the country back in April 2023 appear to be crystallising with the arrest of opposition politicians and widespread protests.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Benchmark MSCI EM Net Total Return Index (AUD) as of 31 March 2025

## **Quarterly Commentary**

#### **OUTLOOK**

Many years' experience of investing in inflation-prone emerging markets has taught us to seek out companies with strong pricing power. A proven ability to create intellectual property, ownership of strong brands and well-managed retail franchises are some of the attributes of companies we have seen navigate previous periods of inflation. Regulated assets or assets at high risk of being regulated often lack pricing power, which can leave them more exposed to inflationary pressures, and for that reason we have tended to avoid holding these in our portfolios.

The strategy has a significant exposure to high quality domestic franchises such as leading retailers and soft drinks makers. These may prove to be more defensive in the current period of trade friction and are also beneficiaries of the demographic opportunity available in some emerging markets.

In an increasingly capricious political environment strong corporate governance is more important than ever to protect investors. We actively seek out owners and management teams with long track records of treating all their stakeholders fairly.

Finally, strong balance sheets help companies weather economic cycles, and as a result we won't invest in businesses with a record of excessive borrowing. Most importantly our investment philosophy and process is designed to weather stormy waters. Historically these storms have originated within our own markets, but developed markets are the source of the current bout of volatility. We believe valuations for businesses within our portfolio look attractive on an absolute basis and the long-term return opportunity in emerging markets continues to be an attractive one.

### **Investment Results**

#### C SHARE CLASS INVESTMENT RESULTS - PERIOD RETURNS TO 31 MARCH 2025

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Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	0.42	2.27	5.41	13.17	2.73
Value Added	1.46	0.79	-0.91	-7.01	2.62

#### **FUND OBJECTIVE**

The fund's objective is to achieve long-term capital appreciation through investing in companies operating in, or exposed to, emerging markets.

#### **COMMENTARY**

Global emerging market equities rose in Australian dollar terms during the period. The fund produced a positive return and outperformed the MSCI emerging markets index.

#### HOLDING LEVEL COMMENTARY

The largest positive contributor to returns was from the holding in **Franco Nevada**, which is a gold royalties and licensing business. The business is benefiting from the significant increase in the underlying gold price as well as strong underlying demand for capital from mining businesses that it is looking to partner with.

The second largest contributor to returns was from Coca-Cola HBC which is a coke bottler with operations in central and eastern Europe and west Africa. The business recently announced strong results with organic revenue growing almost 14% from a year ago with similar levels of profit growth. Sentiment towards its eastern European business has also improved with hopes of a ceasefire in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We have reduced the position size believing that whilst the business has strong long-term growth prospects this is now more reflected in the valuation.

The largest negative contributor to returns during the period was from the holding in **TSMC**, the world's leading semiconductor foundry. The business continues to produce exceptionally strong results however there are concerns that demand for AI related technology may be peaking, most notably after the release by Deepseek of a competing AI

#### STOCK LEVEL ATTRIBUTION

#### TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO RETURN

Name	Contribution (%)
Franco Nevada	1.09
Coca-Cola HBC	1.01
Fomento Economico Mexicano	0.61
Kotak Mahindra Bank	0.60
Heineken Holding	0.49

#### TOP DETRACTORS TO RETURN

Name	Contribution (%)
TSMC	-0.56
Tata Consultancy Services	-0.40
Cipla	-0.30
Infosys	-0.26
Nexon Co Ltd	-0.24

product that was produced without the latest hardware. We have been significantly reducing the position during the last six-months on valuation grounds and continued to reduce it during the period.

The second largest negative contributor to returns was from the holding in the Indian IT services business **Tata Consulting Services (TCS)**. There has been no specific company news to explain the performance, however we believe the recent stock weakness is related to concerns that demand for consulting services in North America will weaken due to lower government spending. We recognise that this is a risk, and demand for consulting demand is cyclical and will continue to be. We believe TCS has the balance sheet and management team to weather any future storms.

<sup>1.</sup> Inception date - O3 August 2021

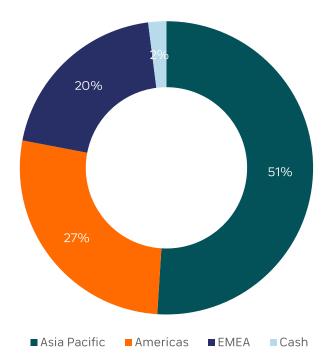
<sup>2.</sup> MSCI Emerging Markets Index (AUD)

### **Portfolio Characteristics**

#### **COUNTRY WEIGHTS**

Country	Portfolio (%)	Benchmark¹ (%)
India	23.92	18.51
Taiwan	10.69	16.84
Mexico	9.51	1.87
Brazil	7.79	4.41
China	7.32	30.35
South Africa	6.67	3.18
Canada	4.24	0.00
Chile	3.46	0.47
Switzerland	3.33	0.00
Greece	3.18	0.56
Netherlands	2.88	0.00
Portugal	2.66	0.00
Thailand	2.49	1.18
Philippines	2.21	0.49
Japan	2.02	0.00
Argentina	1.73	0.00
Indonesia	1.36	1.24
United Kingdom	1.09	0.00
Hong Kong	0.98	0.85
Cash	2.45	0.00

#### **REGIONAL WEIGHTS**



#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**

Sector	Portfolio (%)	Benchmark¹ (%)
Consumer Staples	44.22	4.60
Financials	17.53	24.33
Information Technology	10.82	22.45
Health Care	8.26	3.34
Consumer Discretionary	5.71	14.22
Industrials	4.66	5.96
Materials	4.33	6.13
Communication Services	2.02	10.16
Energy	0.00	4.54
Real Estate	0.00	1.68
Utilities	0.00	2.58
Cash	2.45	0.00

<sup>1.</sup> Benchmark MSCI EM Net Total Return Index (AUD)

### Disclaimer

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Effective 1 August 2024, following regulatory approval, from the UK's Financial Conduct Authority, Skerryvore became a wholly owned subsidiary of Skerryvore AM LLP.

Skerryvore may be referred to herein as the Investment Manager or Firm. The registered office of the Firm is Windsor House, Station Court, Station Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5NE.

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- Investments in Emerging Markets can involve a higher degree of risk.
- The Fund's investment programme is speculative in nature and entails substantial risks.
- The investments of each Fund may be subject to sudden and large falls in price or value and there could be a large loss upon realisation of a holder's investment, which could equal the total amount invested.
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### Disclaimer

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- An investment in the Fund is illiquid and there is no secondary market for the sale of interests in the Fund and none is expected to develop.
- There are restrictions on transferring interests in the Fund.
- The Fund is not a mutual fund pursuant to, and therefore is not subject to regulation under, the United States Investment Company Act.
- The members of BFML and their affiliates may receive performance-based compensation, which may result in riskier investments, and the Fund's fees may offset trading profits.
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#### skerryvoream.com

1800 895 388 (AU) or 0800 442 302 (NZ)



client.experience@bennelongfunds.com

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The fund is open to investors directly via the PDS (available on our <u>website</u>) or via the following platforms: AMP North - BT (Panorama) - Hub24 - Macquarie Wrap - Netwealth - Mason Stevens - Powerwrap - Praemium

Visit how to invest to find out more.

