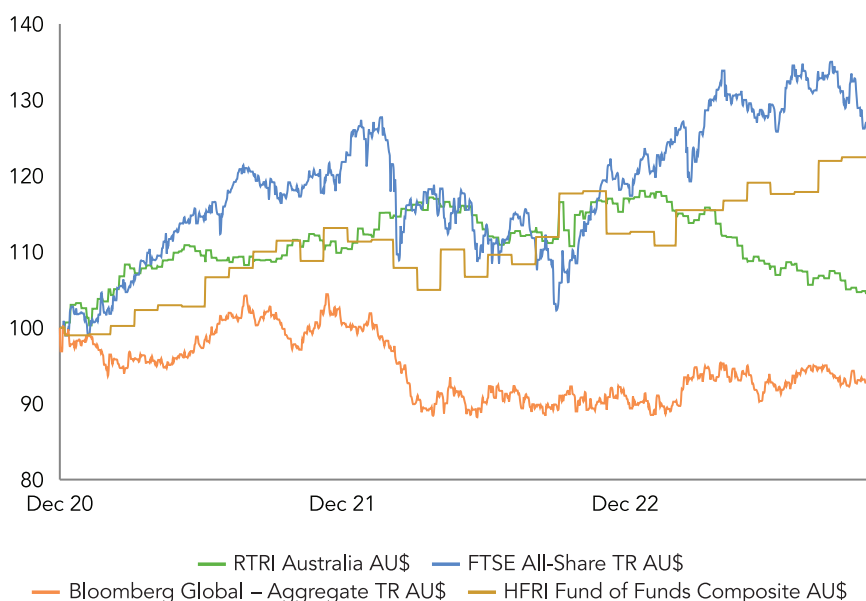


# Ruffer Total Return International – Australia Fund

## SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH ON 24 DECEMBER 2020

Past performance does not predict future returns



October saw a sell-off in bond and equity markets, with both the benchmark US ten year Treasury bond and the MSCI World equity index falling by over 3%. It was the sixth consecutive month of losses for Treasuries and the third consecutive month of losses for the equity market.

Rising bond yields (so falling bond prices) since the summer have been driven by resilient economic data, a theme that continued in October, and by further increases in forecasts for US government spending. Something that also looks set to continue, with the conflict in the Gaza Strip adding further to US defence and foreign aid spending.

In the portfolio, although the protections worked (especially credit) and the balance of the portfolio was much improved as compared to earlier in the year, the muted nature of the equity sell-off so far has meant that these gains were insufficient to fully offset the losses from our bond holdings.

It has long been our belief – expressed on these pages almost every month this year – that rising bond yields would, slowly then suddenly, cause damage to financial markets and thereafter the wider economy. Wary of the timing of such an event, we have kept the portfolio relatively lightly positioned this year, but that has not prevented it from failing to deliver on Ruffer's core objective of preserving capital over a rolling 12 month period. Whilst similar previous rolling 12 month losses for the Ruffer portfolio have historically heralded significant downturns in markets (and ensuing positive returns for the portfolio), that is scant consolation at this point.

In October, however, we drew a line in the sand. The bond market narrative shifted from 'recession is still a possibility' to 'definitely a soft landing', with long-dated US yields rising through the important 5% level as a result. This shift gave us an attractively priced opportunity to significantly increase the portfolio's interest rate sensitivity (duration), with investors seemingly comfortable that both the economy and financial markets can support higher interest rates for longer. We did so by adding to our existing longer duration position in US TIPS (treasury inflation protected securities) and also buying long-dated nominal government bonds for only the second time since the financial crisis (the previous time being the prior high in yields in October 2022).

It is our firm view that bond yields cannot rise further from here without doing significant damage to both the real and financial economies. In the short term the opposite may be more likely – that bond yields come down, giving markets a temporary fillip – and we should benefit from such an outcome through the fund's increased duration. However, signs are increasingly visible that high interest rates are causing damage in financial markets (struggling small caps, utilities and banks) and now also in the real economy (higher corporate delinquencies, falling job openings and sky high mortgage rates). So far, this year has been a difficult one for our portfolio and a trying time for our investors, but we feel the fund is well set to deliver on our aims in the volatile environment to come.

## OCTOBER 2023

Performance cap %	AUD	
October	-1.7	
Year to date	-10.7	
1 year	-8.7	
3 years pa	-	
5 years pa	-	
10 years pa	-	
Since inception pa	1.5	
<b>Share price</b>		
AUD cap	1.0444	
	<b>Net</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Duration (years)	5.3	6.7
Equity exposure %	17.9	15.7

## 12 month performance to 30 September 2023

%	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RTRI AUD	-	-	-	6.8	-8.9
FTSE All-Share TR AU\$	-	-	-	-10.2	23.8
B'berg Gbl-Agg TR AU\$	-	-	-	-10.1	1.7
HFRI FOF Comp AU\$	-	-	-	5.6	4.1

One to twelve month performance figures are cumulative, all others are annualised. Source: RTRI-AU, FTSE International, Bloomberg, HFRI. The comparator benchmarks shown are those of the underlying fund, hedged in AUD, which were chosen because they represent the investible universe of the strategy, both in terms of instruments and geographies. Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

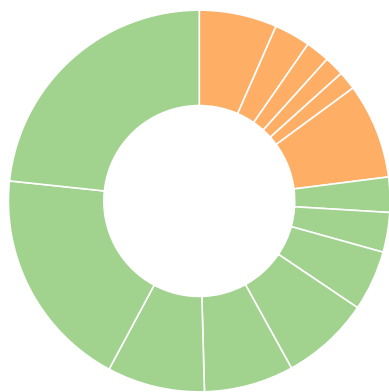
The investment objective of the fund is to achieve low volatility, positive returns from an actively managed portfolio. The fund may have exposure to the following asset classes: cash, debt, securities of any type (including government and corporate debt), equities and equity-related securities and commodities (including precious metals). Overriding this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation. Investors should note that there can be no assurance that the investment objective will be achieved. Returns are not guaranteed.

## TARGET MARKET SUMMARY

This product is likely to be appropriate for a consumer seeking capital growth and capital preservation to be used as a core or satellite component within a portfolio where the consumer has a minimum five year investment timeframe, medium to high risk/ return profile and needs weekly access to capital. Investors should refer to the TMD for further information.

# Ruffer Total Return International – Australia Fund as at 31 Oct 23

## ASSET ALLOCATION



Asset allocation	%	Currency allocation	%
Short-dated bonds	23.3	Sterling	72.4
Non-UK index-linked	18.8	Yen	20.2
Cash	8.3	US dollar	4.4
Long-dated bonds	7.6	Euro	0.6
Long-dated index-linked gilts	7.5	Other	2.4
Gold exposure and gold equities	5.1	<b>Geographical equity allocation</b>	<b>%</b>
Index-linked gilts	3.4	UK equities	5.3
Credit and derivative strategies	3.0	North America equities	3.7
Commodity exposure	6.6	Asia ex-Japan equities	3.5
Consumer discretionary equities	3.1	Europe equities	3.4
Financials equities	2.0	Other equities	0.5
Consumer staples equities	1.7		
Healthcare equities	1.6		
Other equities	8.1		

## 5 LARGEST EQUITY HOLDINGS

Stock	% of fund
iShares MSCI China A UCITS ETF	2.0
Alibaba Group Holding	0.9
BP	0.9
Ryanair ADR	0.7
Amazon	0.5

Largest equity holdings exclude Ruffer funds | Source: Ruffer LLP | Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

## RUFFER LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 30 September 2023, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £24.1bn.



FUND SIZE **A\$290.6M**

## FUND INFORMATION

Management costs	1.07% per annum of net asset value of fund comprising: fund level fees and costs 0.9%, indirect costs 0.17%	
Minimum initial investment	AU\$20,000	
Cut offs	Redemptions and subscriptions weekly, typically 2.00pm Friday	
Dealing frequency	Weekly, typically a Thursday	
Distribution	Annual, although not expected. Year end is 30 June	
Settlement dates	Redemptions and subscriptions T+5, typically a Thursday	
Investment manager	Ruffer LLP	
Administrator	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd	
Custodian	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd	
Responsible entity	The Trust Company (RE Services) Limited	
Auditors	Ernst & Young	
Fund regulator	Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)	
Structure	Managed Investment Scheme	
APIR	PIM1038AU	
ARSN	643 278 693	
Asset class	Multi-Asset	
Buy/sell spread	0%	
Share class	ISIN	Ticker
AUD cap	AU60PIM10382	PIM1038 AU

## ENQUIRIES

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## FUND TEAM



**Alex Lennard**  
INVESTMENT DIRECTOR |  
FUND MANAGER

Joined Ruffer in 2006 after graduating from Exeter University with an honours degree in economics and finance. He is a member of the CISI. He is comanager of two of Ruffer's flagship funds.



**Fiona Ker**  
INVESTMENT MANAGER |  
FUND MANAGER

Joined Ruffer in 2017 from Ernst & Young. She manages portfolios for institutions with a focus on international clients and is a member of the CISI and the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England & Wales.

## GLOSSARY

**Volatility** measures the extent to which returns vary over a given period. High volatility means returns have been more variable over time

**Duration** measures the sensitivity of a bond or fixed income portfolio's price to changes in interest rates. The higher the duration, the more sensitive the price or portfolio is to changes in interest rates

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The fund's dealing day, subscription and redemption cut-off will be impacted by public holidays in Luxembourg, the UK and/or Australia. Impacted dates are available from [ruffer.co.uk/rtri-au](https://ruffer.co.uk/rtri-au)

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