



PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY – September 2026

Medalist All Growth (98) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a flat return, slightly underperforming the benchmark. Asset allocation made a small positive contribution, but manager selection was the main drag.

DNR Australian Emerging Companies was the largest detractor, as its concentrated, benchmark-unaware small-cap resources style was sold down, most sharply in September when commodity prices fell and smaller companies lagged. Platypus Australian Equities also lagged the market before it was fully redeemed in early September. The Schroder Australian Equity Fund was the main contributor, as its valuation-led, diversified, quality-aware style held up when value shares outlasted growth in September.

Allocation effects were small. Australian listed property and global infrastructure were the largest positives, helped by smaller holdings than benchmark in two areas that fell, and cash also added. A modest underweight to Australian shares was the main drag as the local market outperformed. Global shares, with hedged and unhedged holdings combined, added a little.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to equities in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, positioning was little changed, and the split between growth and defensive assets stayed close to target. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights: exposure to DNR Australian Emerging Companies, Barrow Hanley Global Share, Life Cycle Global Share Fund and Capital Group New Perspective was increased, alongside reductions to Australian listed property, Baillie Gifford Global Growth and the iShares S&P 500 (AUD Hedged) ETF. At August month-end, Platypus Australian Equities was partly redeemed and the proceeds moved to the Solaris Australian Equity Fund, the largest trade of the quarter. In early September, the remaining Platypus holding was fully redeemed and reinvested in the First Sentier Australian Share Fund, a new holding.



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Outlook

Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. The portfolio holds growth assets close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.



PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY – September 2026

Medalist High Growth (90) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a small loss, slightly underperforming the benchmark. Asset allocation made a small positive contribution, but manager selection was the main drag.

DNR Australian Emerging Companies was the largest detractor, as its concentrated, benchmark-unaware small-cap resources style was sold down, most sharply in September when commodity prices fell and smaller companies lagged. Platypus Australian Equities also lagged the market before it was fully redeemed in early September. The Schroder Australian Equity Fund was the main contributor, as its valuation-led, diversified, quality-aware style held up when value shares outlasted growth in September.

Allocation effects were small. Australian listed property and global infrastructure were the largest positives, helped by smaller holdings than benchmark in two areas that fell, with cash and global shares also adding. A modest underweight to Australian shares was the main drag as the local market outperformed.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to equities in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, positioning was little changed, and the split between growth and defensive assets stayed close to target. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights: exposure to DNR Australian Emerging Companies, Barrow Hanley Global Share, Life Cycle Global Share Fund and Capital Group New Perspective was increased, with smaller additions to bonds, alongside reductions to listed property, Baillie Gifford Global Growth and the Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets ETF. At August month-end, Platypus Australian Equities was partly redeemed and the proceeds moved to the Solaris Australian Equity Fund, the largest trade of the quarter. In early September, the remaining Platypus holding was fully redeemed and reinvested in the First Sentier Australian Share Fund, a new holding.

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Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. Growth and defensive assets are held close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares and a lower cash holding to support yield. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.



PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY – September 2026

Medalist Growth (70) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a small loss, slightly underperforming the benchmark. Asset allocation was a small drag, and manager selection was the main drag.

DNR Australian Emerging Companies was the largest detractor, as its concentrated, benchmark-unaware small-cap resources style was sold down, most sharply in September when commodity prices fell and smaller companies lagged. Platypus Australian Equities also lagged the market before it was fully redeemed in early September. The Schroder Australian Equity Fund was the main contributor, as its valuation-led, diversified, quality-aware style held up when value shares outlasted growth in September.

Allocation was a small drag. The underweight to Australian shares cost as the local market outperformed, and the overweight to Australian bonds cost as bonds fell. Smaller holdings than benchmark in global infrastructure and Australian property helped as both fell, and the overweight to hedged global shares also added.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to equities and fixed income in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, positioning was little changed, and the split between growth and defensive assets stayed close to target. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights: exposure to DNR Australian Emerging Companies, Barrow Hanley Global Share, Life Cycle Global Share Fund and Capital Group New Perspective was increased, alongside additions to Australian and international bonds and reductions to listed property and Baillie Gifford Global Growth. At August month-end, Platypus Australian Equities was partly redeemed and the proceeds moved to the Solaris Australian Equity Fund, the largest trade of the quarter. In early September, the remaining Platypus holding was fully redeemed and reinvested in the First Sentier Australian Share Fund, a new holding. In mid-September, exposure to Bentham Global Income was increased, funded by small reductions to the Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF, Janus Henderson Tactical Income and iShares Global Bond Index.



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Outlook

Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. Growth and defensive assets are held close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares and a lower cash holding to support yield. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.



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Medalist Balanced (50) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a small loss, marginally outperforming the benchmark. Manager selection was the main driver, while asset allocation was a small drag.

The Schroder Australian Equity Fund was the main contributor, as its valuation-led, diversified, quality-aware style held up when value shares outlasted growth in September. Janus Henderson Tactical Income also added value, as its short duration helped it hold up while core Australian bonds fell as yields rose. Magellan Infrastructure was the largest detractor, as its defensive, rate-sensitive infrastructure style was hurt when bond yields climbed.

Allocation was a small drag. The underweight to cash was the largest cost, as cash held up better than bonds, followed by the underweight to Australian shares, as the local market outperformed, and the overweight to Australian bonds, as bonds fell. A smaller holding than benchmark in global infrastructure and an overweight to hedged global shares added.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to equities and fixed income in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, the underweight to cash widened, the overweight to Australian bonds widened and international bonds moved from a small underweight to an overweight, while the split between growth and defensive assets was little changed. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights, with exposure to the Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF, iShares Global Bond Index and Janus Henderson Tactical Income increased, alongside additions to Capital Group New Perspective, Barrow Hanley Global Share and Life Cycle Global Share Fund. These were funded in part by a reduction to the iShares Core Cash ETF. At August month-end, Platypus Australian Equities was fully redeemed and the proceeds reinvested in the Solaris Australian Equity Fund, the largest trade of the quarter. In mid-September, to take advantage of higher yields on offer, exposure to Bentham



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Global Income and Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF was increased, funded by reductions to the iShares Core Cash ETF mostly with the remainder from Janus Henderson Tactical Income and iShares Global Bond Index.

Outlook

Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. Growth and defensive assets are held close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares and a lower cash holding to support yield. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.



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Medalist Moderate (30) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a small loss, slightly outperforming the benchmark. Manager selection was the main driver, while asset allocation was a small drag.

Janus Henderson Tactical Income was the standout contributor, as its short duration helped it hold up while core Australian bonds fell as yields rose, followed by the Schroder Australian Equity Fund, whose valuation-led, diversified, quality-aware style held up when value shares outlasted growth in September. Magellan Infrastructure was the largest detractor, as its defensive, rate-sensitive infrastructure style was hurt when bond yields climbed.

Allocation was a small drag. The underweight to cash was the main detractor, as cash held up better than bonds, and overweights to Australian and international bonds also cost as bond prices fell. Global shares, infrastructure and international property added a little.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to equities and fixed income in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, the overweights to Australian and international bonds widened and the underweight to cash widened, while the split between growth and defensive assets was little changed. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights, with exposure to the Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF, iShares Global Bond Index and Janus Henderson Tactical Income increased, alongside additions to Capital Group New Perspective, Barrow Hanley Global Share and Solaris Australian Equity Fund, and reductions to international property and the Schroder Australian Equity Fund. In mid-September, to take advantage of higher yields on offer, exposure to Bentham Global Income and Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF was increased, including the largest trade of the quarter in Bentham Global Income, funded by reductions to cash mostly with the remainder coming from Janus Henderson Tactical Income and iShares Global Bond Index.



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Outlook

Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. Growth and defensive assets are held close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares and a lower cash holding to support yield. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.



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Medalist Conservative (15) Managed Account Commentary

Market Update

Markets were choppy over the September quarter, and cash and equities outpaced bonds as yields climbed. Persistent inflation, large deficits and heavy AI investment pushed bond yields higher. A violent sell-off in AI-linked technology and semiconductor shares in July, hardest on South Korea and Taiwan, tested sentiment. Strong US technology earnings and a healthcare-led reporting season then lifted shares, and Australian shares reached record highs in August. September was harder: the US Federal Reserve raised rates, the Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the cash rate again, and oil rose as Middle East supply concerns resurfaced, including attacks on Gulf shipping. Australian shares finished modestly ahead of global shares, and cash beat both Australian and international bonds. Listed property and infrastructure fell as higher yields weighed on rate-sensitive assets.

Portfolio Update

Over the three months to 30 September, the portfolio delivered a modest loss, broadly in line with the benchmark. Manager selection added, but asset allocation offset it.

Magellan Infrastructure was the largest detractor, as its defensive, rate-sensitive infrastructure style was hurt when bond yields climbed, followed by Capital Group New Perspective, whose growth-oriented, technology-heavy style was caught in July's AI and semiconductor sell-off. Janus Henderson Tactical Income was the main contributor, as its short duration helped it hold up while core Australian bonds fell as yields rose.

Allocation detracted, mainly because the portfolio held less cash than its benchmark while cash outperformed bonds. Overweights to Australian and international bonds also cost as bond prices fell. Global shares and infrastructure added a little.

What changes were made to the portfolio during the quarter?

Morningstar refined our allocation to fixed income in the recent quarter. Relative to benchmark weights, the overweights to Australian and international bonds widened and the underweight to cash widened, while the split between growth and defensive assets was little changed. In July, the portfolio was rebalanced back to its May target weights, with exposure to the Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF, iShares Global Bond Index and Janus Henderson Tactical Income increased, alongside smaller additions to Capital Group New Perspective, Solaris Australian Equity Fund and Life Cycle Global Share Fund, and a reduction to the iShares Core Cash ETF. In mid-September, to take advantage of higher yields on offer, exposure to the Vanguard Australian Fixed Interest ETF, iShares Global Bond Index and Bentham Global Income was increased, funded by reductions to the iShares Core Cash ETF and Janus Henderson Tactical Income.

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Higher yields, persistent inflation and Middle East tension continue to shape markets, and heavy AI investment is concentrating risk in a few connected companies and supply chains. If one part of that chain stumbles, the effects could spread quickly. Our primary focus therefore remains disciplined risk management: robust diversification, avoiding excessive exposure to any single theme and investing where risk and reward look attractive. We have been selectively taking advantage of weakness in bond markets, while continuing to favour shares where price and value have come apart. Growth and defensive assets are held close to target, with a mild tilt towards global over Australian shares and a lower cash holding to support yield. We will keep reviewing where risk is being taken and the sources of tracking error.