



Maple-Brown Abbott

Australian Equity Trust

ARSN 091 136 266

Annual Financial Report
30 June 2021

Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust Annual Financial Report

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Directors' Report

The directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial report of the Fund, for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the auditor's report thereon.

Responsible Entity

Maple-Brown Abbott Limited is the Responsible Entity (AFSL No. 237296).

The Responsible Entity is the investment manager of the Fund. The names of the persons who were directors of the Responsible Entity during or since the end of the year are as follows:

Name	Period of directorship
R A Grundy	Appointed 01/07/2008 (retired 9 October 2020)
G R Bazzan	Appointed 01/07/2008
T T Robinson	Appointed 07/03/2013
R A R Lee	Appointed 22/10/2015
J A Elliott	Appointed 04/01/2017
S N Roberts	Appointed 04/04/2019
S S Rahmani	Appointed 14/10/2019

The registered office and principal place of business of the Responsible Entity and the Fund is Level 31, 259 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Principal activities

The Fund invests in equities in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

There have been no other significant changes in the nature of those activities during the year.

Results of operations

Subject to the criteria for stock selection outlined in the Product Disclosure Statement the Responsible Entity aims to outperform the S&P/ASX 300 Index (Total Returns) (Benchmark) over rolling four-year periods.

The Fund achieved a rolling four year annualised return of 7.4% p.a. after fees (2020: 5.1% p.a.) versus the relevant Benchmark return of 10.6% p.a. (2020: 7.3% p.a.).

A summary of the Fund's annual performance after fees to 30 June is set out below:

	2021 %	2020 %
Total return*	31.3	(16.2)
Benchmark	28.5	(7.6)

*Total return is based on the movement in net asset value per unit plus distributions and is before tax and after all fees and charges. Imputation and foreign income tax offsets are not included in the performance figures.

Unit prices and distributions

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Unit prices		
Net asset value price per unit (ex-distribution as at 30 June)	0.9146	0.7788
Distribution		
Distributions per unit for the year ended 30 June (excluding tax credits) (note 6)	0.0999	0.0729

State of affairs

The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020 by the World Health Organisation. The rapid spread of the virus has seen an unprecedented response by governments and regulators. The COVID-19 pandemic is having an impact on both local and global economies and financial markets.

In the opinion of the Responsible Entity, there were no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund during the financial year under review.

Likely developments

The Fund will continue with its principal activities as detailed earlier in this report.

Events subsequent to balance date

Whilst the COVID 19 pandemic continues to create uncertainty in global markets, there has been no significant impact on the Fund since the end of the reporting period. As the investments are measured at their 30 June 2021 fair values in the financial report, any change in values subsequent to the end of the reporting period is not reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position. However, the change in the value of investments is reflected in the current unit price. The current unit price is available at Maple-brownabbott.com.au/australian-equity-trust.

No other significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

Interests of the Responsible Entity

The following fees were earned by the Responsible Entity from the Fund during the year:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Responsible Entity fees	545,429	808,965

Please refer to note 7(b) to the financial statements for details of Fund units held by the Responsible Entity and its associates.

Indemnities and insurance premiums for the Responsible Entity and auditors

No insurance premiums are paid out of the assets of the Fund for insurance cover provided to the Responsible Entity or auditors of the Fund. So long as the Responsible Entity acts in accordance with the Constitution and the law, the Responsible Entity is generally entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund. The auditors of the Fund are not indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

The Articles of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (the Company), in conjunction with the Deed of Access, Insurance and Indemnity entered into with the directors and officers of the Responsible Entity, indemnify the directors and officers against all liabilities to another person (other than the Company or related party) that may arise from their position as directors or officers of the Company, except where the liability arises out of conduct involving lack of good faith. The Articles stipulate that the Company will meet the full amount of any such liabilities, including costs and expenses.

Environmental Legislation

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulation under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

Rounding

The Fund is of a kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, and in accordance with that Instrument, amounts in the financial report and the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise stated.

Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 4 and forms part of the Directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Dated at Sydney this 6 day of September 2021.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited.



Director of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (ABN 73 001 208 564)



Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the Directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited as the Responsible Entity of
Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit of Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KPMG

Rachel Milum
Partner

Sydney
6 September 2021

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	8(a)	2,039	2,336
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	9(a)	147,801	135,339
Dividends and distributions receivable		585	270
Balances due from brokers		375	250
Reduced input tax credit receivable		23	14
Total assets		<u>150,823</u>	<u>138,209</u>
Liabilities			
Balances due to brokers		-	320
Distribution payable	6	6,433	5,913
Sundry creditors and accruals		59	55
Futures		-	11
Total liabilities		<u>6,492</u>	<u>6,299</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity	3	<u>144,331</u>	<u>131,910</u>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Revenue			
Dividends and distributions		4,960	8,795
Interest		-	117
Other income		9	-
Net change in the fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		<u>34,961</u>	<u>(27,615)</u>
		<u>39,930</u>	<u>(18,703)</u>
Expenses			
Responsible Entity fee	7(b)	545	809
Transaction costs		121	103
Other expenses	4	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
		<u>680</u>	<u>927</u>
Profit/(loss) from operating activities		<u>39,250</u>	<u>(19,630)</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u><u>39,250</u></u>	<u><u>(19,630)</u></u>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Total equity opening balance		131,910	249,807
Comprehensive income			
Profit / (loss) from operating activities		<u>39,250</u>	<u>(19,630)</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>39,250</u>	<u>(19,630)</u>
Transactions with unitholders			
Applications		12,578	40,909
Redemptions		(23,223)	(123,834)
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders	6	<u>(16,184)</u>	<u>(15,342)</u>
Total transactions with unitholders		<u>(26,829)</u>	<u>(98,267)</u>
Total equity closing balance		<u>144,331</u>	<u>131,910</u>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of investments		45,805	68,290
Purchase of investments		(23,590)	(64,303)
Interest received		-	126
Dividends and distributions received		4,471	8,954
Transaction costs paid		(121)	(103)
Responsible Entity fees paid		(543)	(853)
Other expenses paid		<u>(10)</u>	<u>(14)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	8(b)	<u>26,012</u>	<u>12,097</u>
Financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of units		1,045	22,640
Payments on redemption of units		(23,223)	(26,988)
Distributions paid		<u>(4,131)</u>	<u>(15,547)</u>
Net cash flows used in financing activities	8(d)	<u>(26,309)</u>	<u>(19,895)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents		(297)	(7,798)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>2,336</u>	<u>10,134</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	8(a)	<u><u>2,039</u></u>	<u><u>2,336</u></u>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

The Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust (the "Fund") is a fund domiciled in Australia and is a for profit entity. The Fund was constituted on 18 December 1992 and will terminate 80 years (less one day) from the date of commencement or at such earlier time as provided by the Fund's Constitution or by the law.

Maple-Brown Abbott Limited is the Responsible Entity. The registered office and principal place of business of the Responsible Entity is Level 31, 259 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

This annual financial report covers the Fund as an individual entity.

The Annual Financial Report was authorised for issue by the directors on 6 September 2021. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial report.

(a) Statement of compliance

The annual financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia.

The annual financial report of the Fund also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards and interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report is prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities, except where otherwise stated.

(b) Basis of preparation

Functional and presentation currency

The annual financial report is presented in Australian dollars, which is the Fund's functional currency.

Use of estimates

The Responsible Entity makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. These estimates and associated assumptions are reviewed regularly and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The use of estimates and critical judgements in fair value measurement is described in note 9(a).

New accounting standards and interpretations

There are no new accounting standards, amendments and interpretations that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2020 that have an impact on the Fund.

Comparative Information

Comparative information for Proceeds from sale and Payments for purchase of Financial Assets is reclassified from Investing activity to Operating activities and Distributions paid is reclassified from Operating activities to Financing activities in the Statement of Cash Flows to conform with the current year's presentation. There were no changes to the balances as the result of this reclassification.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Financial instruments

Classification

The Responsible Entity classifies the Fund's investments based on its investment strategy for managing those financial assets and their contractual cash flow characteristics. The Responsible Entity evaluates the performance and related financial information about its investments on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's investment strategy.

Measurement

Financial assets

The Fund's financial assets are classified either as "fair value through profit or loss" or as "amortised cost". Financial assets which are classified as "fair value through profit or loss" are recognised or derecognised by the Responsible Entity as such at trade date. They are initially recognised at fair value, excluding transaction costs, which are expensed as incurred. Thereafter they are re-measured at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised immediately in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Financial assets' fair values are determined as follows:

(i) Australian-listed equities

These securities are valued at their quoted last sale price on the Australian Securities Exchange as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued.

(ii) Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trusts

Listed equities held via units in unlisted unit trusts are valued at the net asset value price as reported by the manager at close of business on the day the trusts are being valued.

(iii) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents may include cash at bank, deposits at call with banks, term deposits and bank bills of exchange and are valued at cost.

(iv) Receivables

Receivables include balances due from brokers, dividend and distribution receivables as well as other receivables. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being accrued for. Receivable amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. At each reporting date, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance on receivables at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss within other operating expenses. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other operating expenses in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities of the Fund are measured at "amortised cost" using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities include distributions payable, balances due to brokers, redemptions payable and sundry creditors and accruals which are carried at "amortised cost" using the effective interest method. These financial liabilities are of a short term nature and hence their carrying value approximates fair value.

The issue of redeemable units in the Fund are classified as equity because the units issued by the Fund satisfies all criteria for the classification of puttable financial instruments as equity under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Financial instruments (continued)

Derivatives

Derivative financial instruments are held for trading and accounted for on a fair value basis using the most recent verifiable source of market prices. Fair values are obtained using quoted market prices or determined through the use of valuation techniques. All derivatives are carried as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when fair value is negative.

The Fund does not designate any derivatives as hedges in a hedging relationship.

Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(d) Revenue and expenses

Dividends are recognised as revenue on the date the shares are quoted ex-dividend. Distributions from unlisted unit trusts are recognised as at the date the unit value is quoted ex-distribution. Where a present entitlement to a distribution exists at year end, it is derived for tax purposes.

Interest on cash deposits and bank bills of exchange is calculated using the effective interest method and is recognised as revenue in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis.

Net change in the fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss is determined as the difference between the fair value at year end or consideration received (if sold during the year) and the fair value as at the prior year end or acquisition (if the investment was acquired during the year).

Transaction costs incurred in the acquisition and disposal of assets are expensed in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis.

Expenses, including Responsible Entity fees, are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on an accruals basis.

(e) Distributions

In accordance with the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity may elect whether to make a distribution. Once elected by the Responsible Entity, distributions paid and payable are recognised and disclosed as transactions with unitholders in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

(f) Change in net assets attributable to unitholders

Unrealised gains and losses arising from movements in the fair value of assets are held within net assets attributable to unitholders. The taxable and concessionally taxed portions of realised capital gains on the disposal of investments are attributed to unitholders in the period for which they are assessable for tax purposes.

(g) Taxation

The Fund has elected into the Attribution Managed Investment Trust (AMIT) regime. On the basis that unitholders are attributed all of the taxable income of the Fund (which includes net realised capital gains) for a financial year, the Fund itself should not be liable for tax. Unitholders will be attributed a share of the taxable income of the Fund and will be required to include the amount attributed to them in their assessable income.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Taxation (continued)

The price of a unit is based on the market values of underlying assets and thus may include a share of unrealised taxable capital gains/losses. Should a net gain be realised, that portion of the gain that is subject to capital gains tax will be attributed to unitholders.

Any balance of realised capital losses is not attributed to unitholders but is carried forward to be offset against any future realised capital gains. If realised capital gains exceed realised capital losses, the excess is attributed to unitholders.

(h) Net assets attributable to unitholders

The net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as equity because the units issued by the Fund satisfy all the criteria for "puttable financial instruments" to be classified as equity under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Units issued by the Fund provide unitholders with the right to redeem their units on request. The fair value of redeemable units is measured at the net asset value price.

(i) Determination of redemption price for units in the Fund

The redemption price is determined in accordance with the Constitution and is calculated as the value of the assets of the Fund less its liabilities, adjusted for estimated transaction costs, divided by the number of units on issue.

(j) Goods and services tax (GST)

The Responsible Entity fees and other expenses are recognised net of the amount of GST recoverable as a reduced input tax credit (RITC). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis.

2 Interests in unconsolidated structured entities

A structured entity is an entity that has been designed so that voting or similar rights are not the dominant factor in deciding control and the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. The Fund considers all investments in unlisted unit trusts to be interests in structured entities.

The Fund's maximum exposure to loss from its interests in the structured entities is equal to the total fair value of its investments in these entities. The Fund's exposure to any risk from the structured entities will cease when these investments are disposed of. The Fund does not have current commitments or intentions and contractual obligations to provide financial or other support to the structured entities. There are no loans or advances made to these entities.

At 30 June the unconsolidated structured entities held by the Fund is set out below:

	Asset class	Statement of Financial Position reference	Fair value \$'000
2021	Australian equities	Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	4,869
2020	Australian equities	Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	5,055

2 Interests in unconsolidated structured entities (continued)

The investment manager of each unconsolidated structured entity is responsible for implementing and monitoring the entity's investment objective and strategy. The investment decisions are based on the analysis conducted by the underlying investment manager. The return of the Fund is exposed to the variability of the performance of the underlying structured entity.

3 Net assets attributable to unitholders

	2021		2020	
	\$'000	Units '000	\$'000	Units '000
Opening balance	131,910	169,374	249,807	246,992
Profit/(loss) from operating activities	39,250	-	(19,630)	-
Transactions with unitholders:				
Applications	12,578	15,041	40,909	45,660
Redemptions	(23,223)	(26,612)	(123,834)	(123,278)
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders	(16,184)	-	(15,342)	-
Total transactions with unitholders	(26,829)	(11,571)	(98,267)	(77,618)
Closing balance	144,331	157,803	131,910	169,374

The Responsible Entity considers net assets attributable to unitholders as capital. This capital is invested in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution. The Responsible Entity may make additional investments in the case of net applications, or realise investments in the case of net redemptions, depending on the desired level of liquidity in the Fund. Under the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity may suspend applications or redemptions if it is considered to be in the best interests of unitholders.

4 Other expenses

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Audit expenses*	14	15
Total	14	15

*Represents the fees accrued or paid during the year.

5 Auditor's remuneration

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Audit services - KPMG:*		
Audit and review of the Annual Financial Report	24,860	24,860
Audit of the Compliance Plan	4,345	4,345
Total	29,205	29,205

*Represents the agreed fees for the audit of the Annual Financial Report and Compliance plan.

6 Distributions paid and payable

	2021		2020	
	\$'000	\$ per unit	\$'000	\$ per unit
30 September	1,995	0.0121	5,354	0.0202
31 December	3,038	0.0185	2,868	0.0108
31 March	4,718	0.0285	1,207	0.0070
30 June (payable)	6,433	0.0408	5,913	0.0349
Total	16,184	0.0999	15,342	0.0729

(a) Unrealised capital gains/(losses)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Balances at 30 June		
Net unrealised capital gains/(losses) for tax	57,815	35,339

Unrealised capital gains/(losses) have been calculated in accordance with the relevant tax legislation and have not been reported in the financial statements, refer note 1(h).

7 Related parties

(a) Responsible Entity and Key Management Personnel

Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (ABN 73 001 208 564) is the Responsible Entity of the Fund. Maple-Brown Abbott Limited is also the investment manager of the Fund.

As Responsible Entity, Maple-Brown Abbott Limited is regarded as fulfilling the role and obligations of key management personnel of the Fund. The directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited are regarded as key management personnel of that company and not of the Fund.

(b) Responsible Entity

The names of the persons who were directors of the Responsible Entity during or since the end of the period are as follows:

Name	Period of directorship
R A Grundy	Appointed 01/07/2008 (retired 9 October 2020)
G R Bazzan	Appointed 01/07/2008
T T Robinson	Appointed 07/03/2013
R A R Lee	Appointed 22/10/2015
J A Elliott	Appointed 04/01/2017
S N Roberts	Appointed 04/04/2019
S S Rahmani	Appointed 14/10/2019

Loans to key management personnel of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to the key management personnel of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited or their personally-related entities at any time during the reporting period.

7 Related parties (continued)

(b) Responsible Entity (continued)

Other transactions with key management personnel of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited have entered into a contract for services with the Fund since the end of the previous financial year.

Remuneration

The Responsible Entity's fees are calculated in accordance with the Fund's Constitution (as amended). The Responsible Entity's fee is 0.38% (refer note 1(j)) per annum, accrued daily and paid monthly based on the net asset value of the Fund. The total fee of \$545,421 (2020: \$808,965) is disclosed as an item of expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the fee paid during the year is disclosed separately in the Statement of Cash Flows.

Balances payable

The aggregate amount payable to the Responsible Entity by the Fund at 30 June are as follows:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Responsible Entity fees payable	48,846	46,646

These amounts are included in sundry creditors and accruals in the Statement of Financial Position.

Related Party Transactions

Investing activities (in other Maple-Brown Abbott funds)

The Fund may purchase and sell units in other registered managed investment schemes managed by the Responsible Entity in the ordinary course of business at application and redemption prices calculated in accordance with the Constitutions of those funds. Where the Fund invests in such other schemes, no additional investment management or responsible entity fees are charged in respect of these inter-fund investments.

Details of the Fund's investment in the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Value Opportunities Fund (formerly known as Maple-Brown Abbott Small Companies Trust) are set out below:

	Number of units held at 30 June	Fair value	Interest held in the Fund	Units purchased during the year	Units sold during the year	Distributions received/ receivable during the year
		\$	%			\$
2021	6,425,496	4,869,241	35.5	500,347	1,770,722	223,635
2020	7,695,871	5,054,648	13.8	542,062	6,614,835	313,086

The transactions with the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Value Opportunities Fund are carried out on the same terms and conditions as for other unitholders in that fund.

7 Related parties (continued)

(b) Responsible Entity (continued)

Transactions with other parties

Details of the transactions by each specified director of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited and their personally related entities are as follows:

Unitholder	Number of units held at 30 June	Fair Value	Units purchased during the year	Units sold during the year	Distributions received/receivable during the year
2021		\$			\$
G R Bazzan	120,012	109,763	22,404	-	11,366
T T Robinson	195,855	179,129	8,402	-	19,569
R A Grundy	234,843	214,788	24,777	-	22,857
S N Roberts	35,565	32,528	3,753	-	3,462
R A R Lee	319,070	291,821	177,150	-	21,982
2020					
G R Bazzan	97,608	76,018	12,206	-	7,002
T T Robinson	187,453	145,989	23,442	-	13,488
R A Grundy	210,066	163,600	35,164	100,000	15,070
S N Roberts	31,812	24,776	3,978	-	2,282
R A R Lee	141,920	110,527	141,920	-	5,933

Other entities associated with the Responsible Entity may hold units in the Fund from time to time in various capacities. The transactions with those other entities and any of the above related entities are carried out on the same terms and conditions as for other unitholders in the Fund.

8 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Components of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Cash at bank	2,039	2,336

8 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

(b) Reconciliation of change in net assets attributable to unitholders to cash flows from operating activities

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Profit/(loss) for the reporting period attributable to unit holders	39,250	(19,630)
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	45,805	68,290
Purchase of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	(23,590)	(64,303)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	(34,961)	27,615
Net change in receivables and other assets	(325)	891
Net change in payables and other liabilities	7	(53)
Reinvested income	(174)	(713)
<i>Total Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</i>	26,012	12,097

(c) Non-cash operating and financing activities

The following amounts are not included in the Statement of Cash Flows:

Operating activities

Dividend and distribution income reinvestment

During the year the Fund received dividends and distributions in the form of shares or units via a dividend or distribution reinvestment plan (DRP). The dividend and distribution income reinvestments are not included in the Statement of Cash Flows relating to the purchase of investments. The value of the shares or units received is based on the market value as determined by the DRP rules and is detailed below:

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Dividends and distributions received in the form of shares or units	174	713

Financing activities

Unitholder distributions reinvested and in-specie transfer of assets

The Fund issues new units in consideration for the reinvestment of distributions payable to unitholders.

The Fund can also issue or redeem units and distribute fund income by way of in-specie transfer of assets.

8 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

(c) Non-cash operating and financing activities (continued)

The value of the units and number of units issued or redeemed during the year is summarised below:

	2021		2020	
	\$'000	Units '000	\$'000	Units '000
Units issued or redeemed:				
Unitholder distribution reinvested	11,533	13,874	18,269	18,477
In-specie transfer of assets	(1,892)	(2,353)	(96,847)	(94,642)

Operating activities

The above in-specie transfers are not included in the Statement of Cash Flows relating to the proceeds from sale of investments or purchase of investments.

The above dividend and distribution income reinvestments are not included in the Statement of Cash Flows relating to the purchase of investments.

(d) Reconciliation of liabilities from financing activities

The net change in financing activities during the year is (\$26,308,925) which was from application, redemption and distribution paid made by unitholders (2020: (\$19,895,188)).

9 Financial instruments

Risks and capital management objectives

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of risks: market risk (including price risk and interest rate changes), liquidity risk, credit risk and operational risk.

The Responsible Entity seeks to manage the Fund's financial risks through a variety of activities, including diversification of the investment portfolio and the selection of liquid investments in accordance with specific investment policies and restrictions set out in the Product Disclosure Statement.

The key element in the Responsible Entity's investment philosophy is to seek to buy investments that offer relatively good long term value. The investment philosophy can also be described as contrarian and conservative, which helps to manage the Fund's financial risks.

The nature and extent of the financial instruments outstanding at the balance date and the risk management policies employed by the Responsible Entity are discussed below, together with specific investment objectives and policies applicable to the Fund.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused uncertainty and market volatility during the period, the Responsible Entity has continued to follow its established policies and process (as set out in this note) in managing risk and determining the fair value of the financial assets and liabilities as at the reporting date. No changes were required to the principles used in applying the fair value measurement hierarchy to financial assets and liabilities held, with each asset and liability continuing to be classified in a manner which reflects the significance and observability of the inputs used in the valuation.

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will change as a result of exposure to market price changes and interest rate changes.

Price risk

The Fund's market price risk is managed on a daily basis in accordance with the following specific investment policies and restrictions.

Investment policies

The Responsible Entity will invest at least 90% of the Fund's total assets either directly or indirectly in Australian-listed equities, including real estate investment trusts and other funds that the Responsible Entity manages. The Responsible Entity may also invest in unlisted equities provided that they are expected to be listed on an Australian exchange within 3 months from the date of investment.

Investment restrictions

The main guidelines in relation to portfolio composition is exposure to a single stock should not be greater than 5% above its weighting in the Benchmark. Exposure to funds managed by the Responsible Entity should not be greater than 5% of the Fund's market value.

Market exposures

As at 30 June the market exposures were as follows:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:		
Australian-listed equities	142,932	130,284
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	4,869	5,055
Total	147,801	135,339

Carrying amounts versus fair values

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amounts in the Statement of Financial Position.

Sensitivity analysis

At 30 June, the table below details the approximate change in net assets attributable to unitholders if there is a percentage change in the price assuming all other variables are constant:

	2021		2020*	
	% change	\$'000	% change	\$'000
Increase in price	10	14,780	10	13,534
Decrease in price	10	(14,780)	10	(13,534)

* Comparative information has been re-presented due to a change in calculation methodology that provides a more reliable and relevant estimation of the change in net assets (The prior year number as presented in the financial report was \$14,644).

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

Fair value measurement recognised in the Statement of Financial Position

The fair value measurement disclosures use a three-tier value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in measuring fair values. The fair value hierarchy is comprised of the following levels:

- Level 1 – fair values measured using quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical instruments;
- Level 2 – fair values measured using directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices) observable inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1; and
- Level 3 – fair values measured using inputs that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The financial instruments carried at fair value split by valuation method is summarised below:

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2021				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Australian-listed equities	142,932	-	-	142,932
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	-	4,869	-	4,869
Total	142,932	4,869	-	147,801

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2020				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Australian-listed equities	130,284	-	-	130,284
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	-	5,055	-	5,055
Total	130,284	5,055	-	135,339

Transfers between levels

The Fund's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period. There have been no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy at the end of 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2020.

Fair value measurement

Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives and equity securities) is based on last sale prices at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs. For the majority of financial assets and liabilities, information provided by the quoted market independent pricing services is relied upon for valuation.

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis. An active market is a market in which transactions for the financial asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market (level 2 and 3)

The investments in unlisted trusts included as level 2 in the above table relate to investments in other funds managed by the Responsible Entity. Further details of these investments are disclosed in note 7(b). These investments are valued at their quoted net asset value price at balance date in accordance with note 1(c).

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined by using valuation techniques. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for debt securities held. The Fund may use a variety of valuation methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at the end of each reporting period. Valuation techniques used for non-standardised financial instruments, such as over-the-counter derivatives, include the use of comparable arm's length transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar other instrument or any other valuation technique that is commonly used by market participants which maximises the use of market inputs and relies as little as possible on entity-specific inputs.

For other pricing models, inputs are based on market data at the end of the reporting period.

The output of a model is always an estimate or approximation of a value that cannot be determined with certainty, and valuation techniques employed may not fully reflect all factors relevant to the positions held. Valuations are therefore adjusted, where appropriate, to allow for additional factors including liquidity risk and counterparty risk.

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The Fund did not hold any financial instruments with fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs during the year ended 30 June 2021 or the year ended 30 June 2020.

Financial instruments not measured at fair value

The carrying value less impairment provision of other receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short term nature.

Interest rate risk

The majority of the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are non-interest bearing. As a result, the Fund is not subject to significant amounts of risk due to fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on interest bearing financial assets and liabilities. Any excess cash and cash equivalents are invested at short term market interest rates. The Responsible Entity monitors the overall exposure to cash and consequently interest rate sensitivity on a daily basis.

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

At 30 June the Fund's exposure to interest rate risk for classes of financial assets is set out below:

	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Total \$'000
2021			
Cash at bank	2,039	-	2,039
Total	2,039	-	2,039

	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Total \$'000
2020			
Cash at bank	2,336	-	2,336
Total	2,336	-	2,336

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions of redeemable units. The majority of the Fund's investments in equity securities are considered to be readily realisable. The Fund primarily holds investments in an active market which can be readily disposed.

In order to manage the Fund's overall liquidity, the Fund's Constitution permits the Responsible Entity to suspend withdrawals if it's considered to be in the best interests of unitholders. Due to ongoing uncertainty as the result of pandemic, the Responsible Entity continued to actively monitor the liquidity of the Fund through monitoring investor redemption and application levels and any impact on the financial assets and liabilities.

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(b) Liquidity risk (continued)

The table below shows financial liabilities at contractual undiscounted cashflow amounts grouped into relevant maturities based on the remaining period at 30 June to the contractual maturity date:

	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3-12 months \$'000	More than 1 year \$'000	Total* \$'000
2021					
Distributions payable	6,433	-	-	-	6,433
Sundry creditors and accruals	59	-	-	-	59
Total	6,492	-	-	-	6,492
	Less than 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3-12 months \$'000	More than 1 year \$'000	Total* \$'000
2020					
Balances due to brokers	320	-	-	-	320
Distributions payable	5,913	-	-	-	5,913
Sundry creditors and accruals	55	-	-	-	55
Futures	11	-	-	-	11
Total	6,299	-	-	-	6,299

* The carrying amounts equal the contractual cashflow amounts

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the Fund may incur a loss if other parties fail to perform their obligations under the financial instruments which comprise the Fund's investment portfolio.

Any non-equity investments generally incorporate credit assessments in investment valuations and the risk of loss is implicitly provided for in the determination of the fair value of such investments. The Fund also has a credit risk exposure in relation to its transactions with counterparties such as brokers, banks and other financial intermediaries.

The Fund manages concentrations of credit risk by transacting through a number of brokers all of whom operate on recognised and reputable exchanges. All bank bill securities held by the Fund are endorsed or accepted by major Australian trading banks. The credit risk exposure to any one counterparty is low.

Total credit risk for the Fund arising from recognised financial instruments is limited to the value of the Fund's investments and receivables shown in the Statement of Financial Position.

All derivatives transactions are conducted through counterparties who are members of a recognised market exchange and are approved by the Responsible Entity. As such the credit risk associated with the use of derivatives is low.

9 Financial instruments (continued)

(c) Credit risk (continued)

As 30 June the credit rating for cash and cash equivalents is set out below:

2021	\$'000	Credit rating*
Cash at bank	2,039	A1+
2020		
Cash at bank	2,336	A1+

* Standard & Poor's

(d) Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of direct or indirect loss to the Fund associated with the Responsible Entity's processes, personnel, technology and infrastructure, and from external forces (other than credit, market and liquidity risks) such as those arising from changes to legal and regulatory requirements.

The objective of the Responsible Entity in managing operational risk is to mitigate as much as possible the risk of financial losses and damage to reputation, commensurate with overall cost effectiveness.

The Responsible Entity is responsible for the development and implementation of controls to address operational risk. This responsibility is supported by the development of an overall control framework implemented to manage operational risk, key aspects of which include:

- appropriate segregation of duties, including the independent authorisation of transactions;
- cash and securities positions are completely and accurately recorded and reconciled to third party data;
- monitoring the performance of external service providers;
- documentation of controls and procedures;
- periodic assessment of operational risks faced, and the adequacy of controls and procedures to address the risks identified;
- reporting of operational losses and proposed remedial action, with appropriate follow-up;
- assessment and mitigation of cyber risks and development of contingency business continuity, including disaster recovery plans;
- training and professional development;
- ethical and business standards; and
- risk mitigation, including insurance where this is effective.

10 Derivative financial instruments

A derivative is a financial instrument whose value is derived from the value of an underlying asset. The value of a financial derivative is generally derived from the price of an underlying item, such as an asset or index.

Derivative financial instruments will generally require no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than what would be required for other types of financial instruments that have a similar response to changes in market factors.

Holding derivatives is considered to be part of the investment process. Whilst derivatives are used for trading purposes, the Responsible Entity is prohibited to use derivatives to gear (leverage) the Fund. The use of derivatives is multifaceted and can include:

- hedging to protect a Fund asset or liability against fluctuations in market values or to reduce volatility;
- a substitution for trading of physical securities; and
- adjusting asset exposures within the investment guidelines.

(a) Futures

Futures are contractual obligations to buy or sell on a future date at a specified price. Buying or selling futures require an initial margin payment which is marked to market daily.

At 30 June the Fund's holding in futures is nil (2020: \$10,450).

11 Events subsequent to balance date

Whilst the COVID 19 pandemic continues to create uncertainty in global markets, there has been no significant impact on the Fund since the end of the reporting period. As the investments are measured at their 30 June 2021 fair values in the financial report, any change in values subsequent to the end of the reporting period is not reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income or the Statement of Financial Position. However the change in the value of investments is reflected in the current unit price. The current unit price is available at Maple-brownabbott.com.au/australian-equity-trust.

No other significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Fund disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust:

- 1 The financial statements and notes to and forming part of the financial statements are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (a) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*;
- 2 The financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards disclosed in note 1(a); and
- 3 There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this 6 day of September 2021.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited.



Director of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (ABN 73 001 208 564)



Independent Auditor's Report

To the unitholders of Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust,

Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Report** of the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust (the Fund).

In our opinion, the accompanying **Financial Report** of the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including

- giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

The **Financial Report** comprises the:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021
- Statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended
- Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Directors' Declaration.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the relevant ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code). We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report. This includes the Directors' Report. The Directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (the Responsible Entity) are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Financial Report does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



In connection with our audit of the Financial Report, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the Financial Report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (the Responsible Entity) are responsible for:

- preparing the Financial Report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards* and the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of a Financial Report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this Financial Report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

KPMG

Rachel Milum
Partner

Sydney
6 September 2021