



MAPLE-BROWN ABBOTT

INVESTMENT MANAGERS SINCE 1984

Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Equity Trust
ARSN 091 136 266

Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2023

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 2023 and the auditor's report thereon.

Responsible Entity

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

The registered office and principal place of business of the Responsible Entity and the Fund is Level 26, Tower One, International Towers, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000.

Directors

The names of the directors of the Responsible Entity during the year and up to the date of issuance of this report are:

Name	Period of directorship
T T Robinson	Appointed 07/03/2013
R A R Lee	Appointed 22/10/2015
J A Elliott	Appointed 04/01/2017
S S Rahmani	Appointed 14/10/2019
A R Maple-Brown	Appointed 11/05/2022

Principal activities

The Fund invests in accordance with its investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the Fund's current Product Disclosure Statement and in accordance with the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year.

Review and 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 Total Return Index (Benchmark), after fees, over a four-year period.

The Fund achieved a rolling four-year annualised return of 6.8% p.a. after fees (2022: 6.3% p.a.) versus the relevant Benchmark return of 6.1% p.a. (2022: 5.4% p.a.).

Review and results of operations (continued)

Summary of the Fund's annual performance after fees to 30 June:

	2023 %	2022 %
Total return*	11.8	5.8
Benchmark	14.4	(6.8)
Distributions per unit for the year ended 30 June (excluding tax credits) (note 5)	0.1148	0.1952

*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.

Significant changes in state of affairs

In the opinion of the Responsible Entity, there were no 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.

Events subsequent to balance date

No 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 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund.

Interests of the Responsible Entity

Fees paid out of Fund property to and units held by the Responsible Entity and its associates during the year are disclosed in Note 6(b) to the financial statements.

Indemnities and insurance premiums for the officers of the Responsible Entity and auditors

No insurance premiums are paid out of the assets of the Fund for insurance cover provided to the officers of the Responsible Entity or auditors of the Fund. So long as the officers of the Responsible Entity act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the law, the officers of the Responsible Entity are 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.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive initial followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Director of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (ABN 73 001 208 564)
12 September 2023
Sydney, Australia



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 2023 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

Ashley Trang

Partner

Sydney

12 September 2023

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7(a)	446	1,241
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	8(a)	33,681	36,398
Interest receivable		1	-
Dividends and distributions receivable		183	167
Balances due from brokers		7	-
Reduced input tax credit receivable		14	14
Total assets		<u>34,332</u>	<u>37,820</u>
Liabilities			
Balances due to brokers		51	-
Distribution payable	5	2,112	2,885
Sundry creditors and accruals		13	19
Total liabilities		<u>2,176</u>	<u>2,904</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders - equity	3	<u><u>32,156</u></u>	<u><u>34,916</u></u>

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

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Revenue			
Dividends and distributions		1,929	2,397
Interest		20	-
Other income		6	-
Net change in the fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		<u>2,304</u>	<u>756</u>
		<u>4,259</u>	<u>3,153</u>
Expenses			
Responsible Entity fee	6(b)	131	159
Transaction costs		31	43
Other expenses		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
		<u>165</u>	<u>205</u>
Profit from operating activities		<u>4,094</u>	<u>2,948</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u><u>4,094</u></u>	<u><u>2,948</u></u>

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Total equity opening balance		34,916	144,331
Comprehensive income			
Profit from operating activities		<u>4,094</u>	<u>2,948</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>4,094</u>	<u>2,948</u>
Transactions with unitholders			
Applications	3	1,819	9,342
Redemptions	3	(3,547)	(113,186)
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders	3,5	<u>(5,126)</u>	<u>(8,519)</u>
Total transactions with unitholders		<u>(6,854)</u>	<u>(112,363)</u>
Total equity closing balance		<u><u>32,156</u></u>	<u><u>34,916</u></u>

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

Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of investments		12,160	123,264
Purchase of investments		(7,059)	(10,664)
Interest received		19	-
Dividends and distributions received		1,877	2,748
Other income received		6	-
Transaction costs paid		(31)	(43)
Responsible Entity fees paid		<u>(140)</u>	<u>(192)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	7(b)	<u>6,832</u>	<u>115,113</u>
Financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of units		585	3,536
Payments on redemption of units		(3,547)	(113,186)
Distributions paid		<u>(4,665)</u>	<u>(6,261)</u>
Net cash flows used in financing activities	7(d)	<u>(7,627)</u>	<u>(115,911)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents		(795)	(798)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>1,241</u>	<u>2,039</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	7(a)	<u><u>446</u></u>	<u><u>1,241</u></u>

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

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

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

The Fund is a registered managed investment scheme under the *Corporations Act 2001*. 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 26, Tower One, International Tower, 100 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo, Sydney, NSW 2000.

The annual financial report was authorised for issue by the directors of the Responsible Entity on 12 September 2023. 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

In a limited number of circumstances 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 8(a).

New accounting standards and interpretations

There are no new accounting standards, amendments or interpretations that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2022 that have an impact on the Fund.

(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.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(c) Financial instruments (continued)

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) Listed equities

Listed equities are valued at their quoted last sale price on the exchange on which such securities are traded as of the close of business on the day the securities are being valued.

(ii) 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.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities of the Fund are measured 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*.

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 and distribution income from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in profit or loss when the Fund's right to receive payment is established.

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.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Revenue and expenses (continued)

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 concessional tax 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) 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.

(h) Receivables

Receivables may include applications, balances due from brokers, interest, dividend and distribution receivables as well as reduced input tax credit. 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.

(i) Other Payables

Payables may include redemptions, balances due to brokers, distribution and sundry creditors and accruals which are unpaid at the end of the reporting date.

(j) Taxation

The Responsible Entity 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)

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

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

The redemption price is determined in accordance with the Fund's 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.

(m) 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
2023	Australian equities	Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	1,053
2022	Australian equities	Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	1,187

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

	2023		2022	
	\$'000	Units '000	\$'000	Units '000
Opening balance	34,916	44,990	144,331	157,803
Profit from operating activities	4,094	-	2,948	-
Transactions with unitholders:				
Applications	1,819	2,312	9,342	10,174
Redemptions	(3,547)	(4,437)	(113,186)	(122,987)
Distributions paid and payable to unitholders	(5,126)	-	(8,519)	-
Total transactions with unitholders	<u>(6,854)</u>	<u>(2,125)</u>	<u>(112,363)</u>	<u>(112,813)</u>
Closing balance	<u>32,156</u>	<u>42,865</u>	<u>34,916</u>	<u>44,990</u>

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 Auditor's remuneration

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Audit services - KPMG:*		
Audit and review of the Annual Financial Report	22,110	27,407
Audit of the Compliance Plan	<u>5,005</u>	<u>4,675</u>
Total	<u>27,115</u>	<u>32,082</u>

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

5 Distributions paid and payable

	2023		2022	
	\$'000	\$ per unit	\$'000	\$ per unit
30 September	845	0.0185	1,950	0.0467
31 December	897	0.0195	1,388	0.0329
31 March	1,272	0.0275	2,296	0.0515
30 June (payable)	<u>2,112</u>	<u>0.0493</u>	<u>2,885</u>	<u>0.0641</u>
Total	<u><u>5,126</u></u>	<u><u>0.1148</u></u>	<u><u>8,519</u></u>	<u><u>0.1952</u></u>

(a) Unrealised taxable capital gains

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Balances at 30 June		
Net unrealised capital gains for tax	12,851	13,876

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

6 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.

6 Related parties (continued)

(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
T T Robinson	Appointed 07/03/2013
R A R Lee	Appointed 22/10/2015
J A Elliott	Appointed 04/01/2017
S S Rahmani	Appointed 14/10/2019
A R Maple-Brown	Appointed 11/05/2022

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.

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(m)) per annum, accrued daily and paid monthly based on the net asset value of the Fund. The total fee of \$130,721 (2022: \$158,842) 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:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Responsible Entity fees payable	10,631	12,983

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.

6 Related parties (continued)

(b) Responsible Entity (continued)

Details of the Fund's investment in the Maple-Brown Abbott Australian Value Opportunities Fund 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
		\$	%			\$
2023	1,262,843	1,052,580	8.8	48,159	315,583	45,972
2022	1,530,267	1,186,569	10.5	114,165	5,009,394	42,920

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.

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
		\$			\$
2023					
T T Robinson	212,670	159,460	16,815	-	23,686
R A R Lee	584,195	438,030	200,517	-	65,065
A Maple-Brown	594,104	445,459	88,731	-	66,169
2022					
G R Bazzan	144,313	112,002	24,301	-	26,473
T T Robinson	195,855	152,003	-	-	38,220
S N Roberts	42,767	33,191	7,202	-	7,845
R A R Lee	383,678	297,773	64,609	-	70,381
A Maple-Brown	505,373	392,220	85,101	-	92,705

All transactions with related parties are conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions. This includes that Maple-Brown Abbott Limited, directly and on behalf of other Funds issued by it, and its directors and director's related entities, may invest in or withdraw from the Fund from time-to-time, and the Responsible Entity may rebate management fees to these entities where they are wholesale clients, as defined in the Corporations Act. Staff may also invest in or withdraw from the Fund from time-to-time and may also be charged lower than the stated management costs, as allowed by the Corporations Act.

7 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Components of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash at bank	446	1,241

(b) Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash flows from operating activities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Profit for the reporting period attributable to unit holders	4,094	2,948
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	12,160	123,264
Purchase of financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	(7,059)	(10,664)
Net gains on financial instruments held at fair value through profit or loss	(2,304)	(756)
Net change in receivables and other assets	(16)	425
Net change in payables and other liabilities	(6)	(40)
Reinvested income	(37)	(64)
<i>Net cash flows from operating activities</i>	<u>6,832</u>	<u>115,113</u>

(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:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Dividends and distributions received in the form of shares or units	37	64

Financing activities

Unitholder distributions reinvested

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

7 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:

	2023		2022	
	\$'000	Units '000	\$'000	Units '000
Units issued or redeemed:				
Unitholder distribution reinvested	1,234	1,578	5,806	6,356

(d) Reconciliation of liabilities from financing activities

The net change in financing activities during the year is (\$7,626,903) which was from application, redemption and distribution paid made by unitholders (2022: (\$115,910,406)).

8 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.

(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 and restrictions

The Responsible Entity invests in assets in accordance to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement and monitors the Fund's guidelines and restrictions to ensure compliance.

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

Market exposures

As at 30 June the market exposures were as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:		
Australian-listed equities	32,628	35,211
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	1,053	1,187
Total	33,681	36,398

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

As 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:

	2023		2022	
	% change	\$'000	% change	\$'000
Increase in price	10	3,368	10	3,640
Decrease in price	10	(3,368)	10	(3,640)

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).

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

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
2023				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Australian-listed equities	32,628	-	-	32,628
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	-	1,053	-	1,053
Total	<u>32,628</u>	<u>1,053</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,681</u>
	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
2022				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Australian-listed equities	35,211	-	-	35,211
Australian-listed equities held via unlisted unit trust	-	1,187	-	1,187
Total	<u>35,211</u>	<u>1,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,398</u>

Transfers between levels

The Responsible Entity'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 2023 and 30 June 2022. There were also no changes made to any of the valuation techniques applied as of 30 June 2023.

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.

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 6(b). These investments are valued at their quoted net asset value price at balance date in accordance with note 1(c).

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

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 Responsible Entity 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 2023 or the year ended 30 June 2022.

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.

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

	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest rate	Total
2023	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank	446	-	446
Total	446	-	446

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(a) Market risk (continued)

	Floating interest rate \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Total \$'000
2022			
Cash at bank	1,241	-	1,241
Total	<u>1,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,241</u>

(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.

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
2023					
Balances due to brokers	51	-	-	-	51
Distributions payable	2,112	-	-	-	2,112
Sundry creditors and accruals	13	-	-	-	13
Total	<u>2,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,176</u>
2022					
Distribution payable	2,885	-	-	-	2,885
Sundry creditors and accruals	19	-	-	-	19
Total	<u>2,904</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,904</u>

* 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.

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(c) Credit risk (continued)

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 Responsible Entity 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.

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

2023	\$'000	Credit rating*
Cash at bank	446	A1+
2022		
Cash at bank	1,241	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.

8 Financial instruments (continued)

(d) Operational risk (continued)

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 business standards; and
- risk mitigation, including insurance where this is effective.

9 Events subsequent to balance date

No 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 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund.

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 2023 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, circular flourish followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Director of Maple-Brown Abbott Limited (ABN 73 001 208 564)
12 September 2023
Sydney, Australia



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 2023 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 2023;
- Statement of comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended;
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies; and
- 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) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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 an audit opinion or 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 the 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

Ashley Trang

Partner

Sydney

12 September 2023