

# Ralton Dividend Builder

Portfolio Report | March 2021

## Key facts

### Income versus growth target



### Market cap bias



### Investment strategy

A portfolio of ASX-listed equities designed to provide attractive tax-effective income

### Investment objective

Outperform index by over 3% p.a.

### Benchmark index

S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index

### Portfolio Manager

Ralton Asset Management

### Inception date

February 2008

### Management fee

0.75% p.a. (may vary across platforms)

### Number of stocks

25-35

### External ratings

Zenith "Approved"

### Key platforms

CFS First Wrap, HUB24, Linear, NetWealth, OneVue, Powerwrap, Praemium



## Stock spotlight | Telstra Corp (TLS) +17%

Since the announcement by the Rudd government of the creation of the NBN, Australia's largest telco has been under material pressure from loss of high margin broadband earnings and increased competition in its mobile business. The significant position that the portfolio holds in Telstra is reflective of our view that the company is at an inflection point where business risk is reducing and earnings growth is set to accelerate. Group earnings are supported by ongoing cost reduction, an end of the NBN rollout and improving mobile outlook, broadly headwinds are turning into tailwinds. With the release of 5G handsets, TLS is set to monetise on its strong competitive advantage in 5G given competitors remain hamstrung by the ban of their Huawei technology build. Furthermore we see a catalyst for realisation of the undervalued infrastructure assets with the separation into four distinct legal entities. InfraCo Towers set to receive bids in early 22. We expect the company to sustain a 5% dividend yield and look to near term catalysts for share price appreciation.

**Performance** (% , returns greater than one year are per annum p.a.)

At month end	1 mth	3 mth	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	Inception
Ralton	<b>2.23%</b>	<b>5.54%</b>	<b>35.31%</b>	<b>6.49%</b>	<b>8.33%</b>	<b>9.16%</b>	<b>7.41%</b>
Income	0.95%	1.68%	4.20%	4.75%	4.68%	4.83%	4.97%
Growth	1.28%	3.86%	31.11%	1.74%	3.65%	4.33%	2.44%
Index	<b>2.30%</b>	<b>4.15%</b>	<b>38.34%</b>	<b>9.73%</b>	<b>10.32%</b>	<b>7.86%</b>	<b>5.85%</b>

## Portfolio Quarterly Performance and Drivers

The Ralton Dividend Builder portfolio returned +5.54% for the quarter, outperforming another strong period for the market by +1.39%. Investors have received a 4.2% dividend over the last year, well ahead of the index.

Valuation discipline has kept us underweight CSL (-6%) however a positive view on sustainably high levels of COVID testing has seen Sonic Healthcare positively contribute, we also topped up the position during the quarter. The team has increasingly positioned the portfolio to benefit from improving economic conditions while building positions in business that show improving quality of business trends. Nine Entertainment (NEC) is benefiting from improving advertising budgets as well as a fast growing digital business led by the Stan streaming platform.

An exceptional result in February drove the stock up 21.4% over the quarter, we see further gains ahead. Conviction holding Telstra (+17%) gained due to further clarity on an asset split, increasing the transparency of its infrastructure like assets. Ralton's diligence in avoiding extreme valuation signals assisted as higher bond rates impacted valuation extremes in the IT sector with large index weight Afterpay declining -12% along with the broader Tech Index which retreated -7.15%. While the portfolio benefited from its BHP position (+9.6%), gold holding Evolution Mining (-46.8%) lagged as real rates, global growth expectations decreased the attractiveness of the sector as downturn insurance.

Gold equities continue to screen extremely well given high cash flow with costs well below current prices, as such we took the opportunity during the quarter to increase the position. While we remain bullish on general activity in the resources space, early signs of inflation in wages and lower gold prices spooked investors in Perenti (-23.6%), given our strong stock conviction we added to the position 10% below current levels. The portfolio remains committed to its dual target of providing both income and capital returns. The strong reporting season indicates a return to higher dividends and we look forward to delivering higher income over the next few quarters.



## Sector allocation

Sector	Ralton	Index	+/-
Banks	20.83	21.47	-0.64
Communication Services	8.64	4.18	4.45
Consumer Discretionary	5.67	8.03	-2.37
Consumer Staples	8.33	5.61	2.72
Containers & Packaging	5.13	0.81	4.32
Diversified Financials	1.96	5.11	-3.15
Energy	3.78	3.73	0.04
Health Care	4.26	9.99	-5.74
Industrials	9.16	6.79	2.37
Insurance	2.38	2.69	-0.31
Metals & Mining	16.70	16.88	-0.18
Real Estate	6.23	6.97	-0.74
Utilities	4.44	1.27	3.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

## Top 10 holdings

National Australia Bank Limited
BHP Group Ltd
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Westpac Banking Corporation
Telstra Corporation Limited
Amcor PLC
Sonic Healthcare Limited
Evolution Mining Limited
Woodside Petroleum Ltd
Nine Entertainment Co. Holdings Limited

## Portfolio metrics

PE	14.60
EPS Growth (%)	9.50%
Dividend Yield (%)	5.01%

## March Quarterly Market Commentary

The Australian market returned +4.15%, continuing the strong equity market performance with the ASX300 now up +18% over 6 months and +38% over one year. With memories of last March well in the rear view mirror and the an accelerating vaccine rollout coupled with central bank commitment to support functioning markets are set to breach historical highs in the forthcoming period. Despite a rally in value stocks over growth, the ASX Industrials x Financials index remains at a large premium to the broader market at 18.1 x NTM EPS. At this stage, stock gains are being supported by EPS upgrades with EPS growth set to exceed 20% in the next year. However we remain of the view that we are entering a period of "new normal" as bond yields normalise with early signs of inflation emerging. Irrespective of the path the destination is the same with higher yields and lower expected returns driving a longer term rotation to companies set to benefit from global growth, or more clearly those in the "value" bucket. A thematic that is set to benefit the Ralton process and subsequently returns.

The Banking sector was the clear leader in the March quarter, increasing 15.51% over the quarter, driving a significant portion of the market return. Discounted banks Westpac (+26%) and ANZ (+24%) led the sector higher as updates released in February confirmed that the consumer is in strong shape and the housing market is lifting lending volume. The Communication Services (+8.98%) was driven by Telstra, increasing 17% however it was sector wide M&A activity that drove sentiment as Vocus (VOC) accepted a joint bud by Aware Super and MIRA to acquire the company. As a thematic, increasing data usage and low interest rates are driving the attractiveness of Telco assets. Despite a disappointing update by Orica and the subsequent exit of long term CEO, the Chemicals sector rose 9.44% as Agri exposed IPL and NUF increased 29.5% and 28% respectively. Given solid rains and improving global farming economics, the outlook for these sector remains robust.

As investors rotate to the cyclical components of financials and consumer sectors, segments of the market that have benefited from low inflation driven discount rates became the sources of funding. High PE sectors IT and Healthcare were then decliners over the quarter falling -10.3% and -2.14% respectively. In the IT sector, market darling Afterpay (-13.98%) declined as CBA stepped up its entry into the BNPL space while the market suffered from indigestion as the company tapped the convertible bond market with \$1.5bn in February. CSL (-6.05%), Resmed (-7.15%) led the Healthcare sector lower as valuations normalised from excessive levels and USD exposed companies faced headwinds from a surging The pull back in gold names also factored over the quarter as rising yields impacted gold prices due to the long negative correlation.

Performance of the Ralton Dividend Builder Model Portfolio is based on a model portfolio and is gross of investment management and administration fees, but net of transaction costs. The total return performance figures quoted are historical and do not allow the effects of income tax or inflation. Total returns assume the reinvestment of all portfolio income. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. \* The performance comparison of \$20,000 over 5 years is for illustrative purposes only. Performance is calculated on a gross basis. Actual performance will vary depending on the amount of fees charged by the relevant platform that a client uses to implement the portfolio. The comparison with the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index is for comparative purposes only. Index returns do not allow for transaction, management, operational or tax costs. An index is not managed and investors cannot invest directly in an index. There is no guarantee these objectives will be met. # Portfolio holdings may not be representative of current or future recommendations for the portfolio. The securities listed may not represent all of the recommended portfolio's holdings. Future recommended portfolio holdings may not be profitable. This document is for general information only and does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific reader. As such, before acting on any information contained in this document, readers should consider whether the information is suitable for their needs. This may involve seeking advice from a qualified financial adviser. Ralton Asset Management (ABN 45 114 924 382) (Ralton) is the provider of the Ralton Wholesale High Yield Australian Shares Model Portfolio. To subscribe, contact Copia Investment Partners Ltd (AFSL 229316, ABN 22 092 872 056) (Copia) by calling 1800 442 129 or email [dienstices@copiapartners.com.au](mailto:dienstices@copiapartners.com.au). Any opinions or recommendations contained in this document are subject to change without notice. Ralton and Copia are under no obligation to update or keep information contained in this document current. ZENITH: The Zenith Investment Partners ("Zenith") Australian Financial Services License No. 226872 rating (assigned June 2019) referred to in this document is limited to "General Advice" (as defined by the Corporations Act 2001) for Wholesale clients only. This advice has been prepared without taking into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of any individual. It is not a specific recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the relevant product(s). Investors should seek independent financial advice before making an investment decision and should consider the appropriateness of this advice in light of their own objectives, financial situation and needs. Investors should obtain a copy of, and consider the PDS or offer document before making any decision and refer to the full Zenith Product Assessment available on the Zenith website. Zenith usually charges the product issuer, fund manager or a related party to conduct Product Assessments. Full details regarding Zenith's methodology, ratings definitions and regulatory compliance are available on our Product Assessment's and at <http://www.zenithpartners.com.au/RegulatoryGuidelines>. LONSEC: The Lonsec Rating (assigned August 2019) presented in this document is published by Lonsec Research Pty Ltd ABN 11 151 658 561 AFSL 421 445. The Rating is limited to "General Advice" (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)) and based solely on consideration of the investment merits of the financial product(s). Past performance information is for illustrative purposes only and is not indicative of future performance. It is