

# **Portfolio Managers**





Dan Simmonds

The Fund delivered a reasonable return of 0.3% in January. Bond and share performance was muted relative to the strength seen at the end of last year, with January's return predominately driven by the Fund's historically attractive yield (i.e. income). We believe this should continue to provide a solid foundation for returns going forward.

The contribution from bonds was moderately positive. The predominant exposure to corporate bonds continues to outperform government bonds, cushioning a little weakness in the latter. We continued to add selectively to corporate bonds in January through attractively priced new issues, notably in Australia given better valuation support. Performance was more mixed across shares. Positive contributors included US hospital operator HCA Healthcare (+12.6%) and local infrastructure company Infratil (+5.3%). There was, however, weakness in sectors such as infrastructure and energy (a portfolio inflation hedge). We added to shares where we believe valuations and return outlooks are attractive, e.g. US electricity utilities such as Duke Energy.

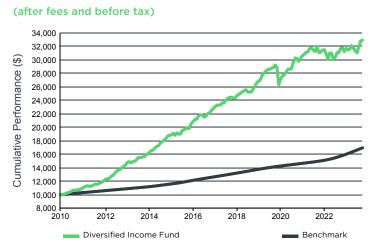
The preference remains for corporate bonds over shares. Bond yields to maturity remain historically attractive, including versus shares, providing a buffer against the price risk associated with most conceivable moves higher in market interest rates. That said, valuations across both broad bond and share markets have become more expensive, reflecting expectations for a soft economic landing, where inflation falls and growth remains resilient. Recent data supports this thesis, albeit Australasian inflation is proving a bit more stubborn. Crucially, so does the change in focus of many key global central banks to avoiding a growth slowdown, so long as inflation continues to fall. This is good for Fund returns and the opposite of the headwind faced for much of the past two years, where they were trying to slow growth to reduce inflation. But risks remain. Considering the Fund's absolute return target we continue to own downside share market protection via broad market index options. Interest rate exposure remains less than historically; sufficient to benefit from larger rate cuts in a slowdown, but not too much if rate cuts are smaller and later than market expectations.

Prevailing cash rates are historically attractive. Nevertheless, it is obvious they come with clear reinvestment risk from rate cuts. Therefore, we believe corporate bonds combined with an appropriately diversified portfolio of (primarily) incomeoriented shares should offer a better medium-term return outlook.

To view Milford's January 2024 Market and Economic Review please see milfordasset.com/insights.

For previous fund reports see milfordasset.com/fund-reports.

## **Cumulative Fund Performance**



Assumes the growth of \$10,000 invested at the Fund's inception date, and assumes reinvestment of distribution.

# **Key Fund Facts**

Objective <sup>1</sup>	•	provide income and capital growth over the imum recommended investment timeframe				
Description	Diversified fund that primarily invests in fixed interest and equity income-generating securities					
Minimum recommended investment timeframe		4 years +				
Target Allocation		60% Income Assets / 40% Growth Assets				
Neutral FX Expos	ure	0%				
Net Asset Value (NAV)		\$2,675.5 M				
Yield <sup>2</sup>		6.00%				
Average Credit Ra	ating	BBB+				
Duration		1.2 years				
Buy-sell Spread		None - swing pricing applies (See PDS for details)				
Inception Date		1 April 2010				
Current Distribution		1.7 cents per unit (Quarterly)				
Benchmark		OCR + 2.5% p.a.				
Base Fund Fee <sup>3</sup>		0.65%				
		10% of the Fund's returns above the Benchmark <sup>1</sup> , subject to the high watermark.				
Total Fund Fees <sup>4</sup>		0.85% (includes an est. performance fee)				
		Lower risk Higher risk				
<b>Risk Indicator</b>		1 2 3 4 5 6 7				
		Potentially lower returns Potentially higher returns				



### Investment Performance after fees as at 31 January 2024<sup>5</sup>

% of Fund

5.96%

1.57%

1.45%

140%

1.21%

1.19%

0.98%

0.98%

0.92%

0.83%

#### Unit Price: \$1.8632

**Region Exposure** 

	1 Month	3 Months	1 year	3 years (p.a.)	5 years (p.a.)	Since inception (p.a.)
Milford Diversified Income Fund (Gross Of Tax)	0.34%	6.00%	3.82%	2.95%	5.03%	9.00%
After Tax 10.50%	0.30%	5.60%	3.34%	2.72%	4.66%	8.38%
After Tax 17.50%	0.27%	5.33%	3.01%	2.56%	4.41%	7.96%
After Tax 28.00%	0.23%	4.94%	2.53%	2.32%	4.04%	7.36%
Benchmark	0.66%	1.96%	7.80%	5.22%	4.46%	3.89%

### **Top Equity Holdings**

Holdings	% of Fund
Contact Energy	2.26%
Spark	2.09%
Telstra	1.56%
Goodman	1.55%
Infratil	1.15%
Getlink	1.02%
AGL Energy	0.91%
Bank of Ireland Group	0.89%
Shell	0.88%
Aena SME	0.77%

**Top Fixed Interest Holdings** 

Holdings

NZGBI 2% 2025

ANZ 4.95% 2029

ANZ 5.888% 2034

Westpac 5% 2029

Telstra 4.9% 2028

CBA 4.9% 2028

Westpac 7.199% 2038

Scentre Group 5.125% 2080

**British Telecommunications** 

BNP Paribas 5.75% 2032

## **Current Asset Allocation**

	Actual Investment Mix	Neutral Investment Mix
Effective Cash #	7.70%	5%
New Zealand Fixed Interest	14.08%	10%
International Fixed Interest	46.41%	45.0%
New Zealand Equities	6.95%	5%
Australian Equities	6.81%	11%
International Equities	13.11%	5.5%
Listed Property	4.94%	18.5%
Other	0.00%	0.0%

# The actual cash held by the Fund is 4.44%. Effective Cash reported above is adjusted to reflect the Fund's notional positions (e.g. derivatives used to increase or reduce market exposure).

### Fund Portfolio Mix



Note: Fixed interest securities are reported in the following format: Issuer name, interest (coupon rate), maturity year.

 After the Base Fund Fee but before tax and before the performance fee. 2. The yield to maturity is not an indicator of future return, but reflects the current yield to maturity of the fund's underlying holdings (before tax and after the base fund fee). 3. Where applicable, the Base Fund Fee includes an estimate of non-related underlying fund charges.
The Total Fund Fees comprise the Base Fund Fee and any estimated Performance Fee. Please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement for more information as to how these are calculated.
Includes the reinvestment of distributions. Please note past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.

Please refer to the 'Glossary for the Monthly Fact Sheet' at <u>milfordasset.com/fact-sheet</u> for more information about the data published within this document. Disclaimer: The Milford Fund Fact Sheet has been prepared by Milford Funds Limited. It is based on information believed to be accurate and reliable although no guarantee can be given that this is the case. No reproduction of any material either in part or in full is permitted without prior permission. For more information about the Fund, please refer to the Production Disclosure Statement or the latest Quarterly Fund Update.