

NAOS Absolute Opportunities Company (NAC)

ABN 49 169 448 837

MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT AND NTA UPDATE

NAOS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

1. Concentrated Small/Mid Cap Exposure with a Long Term Value Focus

NAC seeks to provide investors with exposure to high quality, undervalued small-mid cap companies (market capitalisation generally >\$400 million to <\$1 billion) with an industrial bias in a concentrated structure.

2. Sustainable Growing Fully Franked Dividends

NAC's dividend has grown every year since inception with dividends usually paid on a six-monthly basis. To date all dividends have been fully franked.

3. Focus on Quality of Companies Not Quantity

Our primary focus is on developing a deep understanding and appreciation of the companies in our portfolio. We believe the best way to achieve this is to focus on a select number (typically 0-20) of high quality investment ideas in order to capitalise on our 'long term knowledge & liquidity advantage'. NAC has the ability to selectively short sell companies that the investment team believe are overvalued and of poor quality.

4. Portfolio Flexibility with a Benchmark Unaware Approach

This means we are not forced holders of stocks with large benchmark/index weightings that we are not convinced are attractive investment propositions. NAC can also hold up to 100% cash, it has been proven that holding cash offers the 'best hedge' during times of crisis.

5. Significant Alignment of Interests with Shareholders

NAOS employees/directors own over 7 million NAC shares, providing a significant alignment of interests.

6. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) NAOS adopts an ESG screen across its investments.

Net Tangible Asset Value Breakdown as at 31 January 2018

Pre Tax NTA:	\$1.17
Post Tax & Pre Unrealised Gains Tax NTA:	\$1.17
Post Tax NTA:	\$1.14
Share Price	\$1.05
Historical Fully Franked Dividend Yield	4.76%

Investment Portfolio Performance & Market Insight

The NAC Investment Portfolio returned -0.27% for the month of January compared to the absolute benchmark which increased by +0.37%. This brings the inception return for 3 years and two months to +72.75% compared to the benchmark return of +15.77% and the All Ordinaries Accumulation Index return of +28.91%.

Due to the lack of stock specific news throughout January, it is an opportune time to comment on recent market dynamics, and the resultant strain it can put on the application of a consistent investment process and philosophy.

Over the past 6 months we have seen local indices rise by over 10%, followed by a decrease of approximately 5% over the first few days in February. The gains over the first half of the financial year were predominantly driven by strong performance in the materials, oil and gas sectors, and some notable mid-cap performers during this time included Afterpay (ASX: APT), Aconex (ASX: ACX), Big Un (ASX: BIG), Kogan (ASX: KGN) and Bellamy's (ASX: BAL). Such long-term market trends, sustained over many months, even years, can often make an investment team question the sustainability of their investment process and whether changes are required. The increased volatility of early February has provided insight into what may lie ahead for companies that are valued on long-term earnings valuations, disruptive technological change and long-term commodity price assumptions, especially in more unique metals and minerals such as lithium and cobalt.

A key objective of investors should be to minimise the potential for permanent capital loss, which could occur through a company going into liquidation, or more commonly through investing in a business that is reliant on debt or equity funding, which is often called upon at low or depressed prices, and therefore caps any long-term share price appreciation. Ultimately, when trying to build a sustainable long-term track record of meaningful outperformance, the ability to manage risk and minimise periods of significant negative performance is key, as opposed to trying to shoot for high double digit returns year on year. In our view, the former can only be accomplished by sticking to a proven investment process, in times when it is producing results and also in times when performance can be harder to come by and patience can be tested.

	1 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year (p.a.)	3 Year (p.a.)	Inception (p.a.)	Inception (Nom.)
NAC Investment Portfolio Performance*	-0.27%	+14.52%	+10.09%	+17.84%	+19.34%	+18.50%	+72.75%
Benchmark (RBA Cash Rate + 250bps)	+0.37%	+2.14%	+4.32%	+4.47%	+4.60%	+4.65%	+15.77%
Relative Performance	-0.64%	+12.38%	+5.77%	+13.37%	+14.74%	+13.85%	+56.98%
XAOAI[^]	-0.33%	+8.75%	+12.96%	+15.00%	+8.03%	+8.21%	+28.91%

*Investment Portfolio performance is post all operating expenses, before fees, taxes and initial IPO and placement commissions. Performance has not been grossed up for franking credits received by shareholders. Since inception (p.a. and nom.) includes part performance for the month of November 2014. Returns compounded for periods greater than 12 months. [^] Refers to the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

Positive Stock Contribution Analysis

(Contribution is what has attributed to NAC's performance since Inception of 12 November 2014)

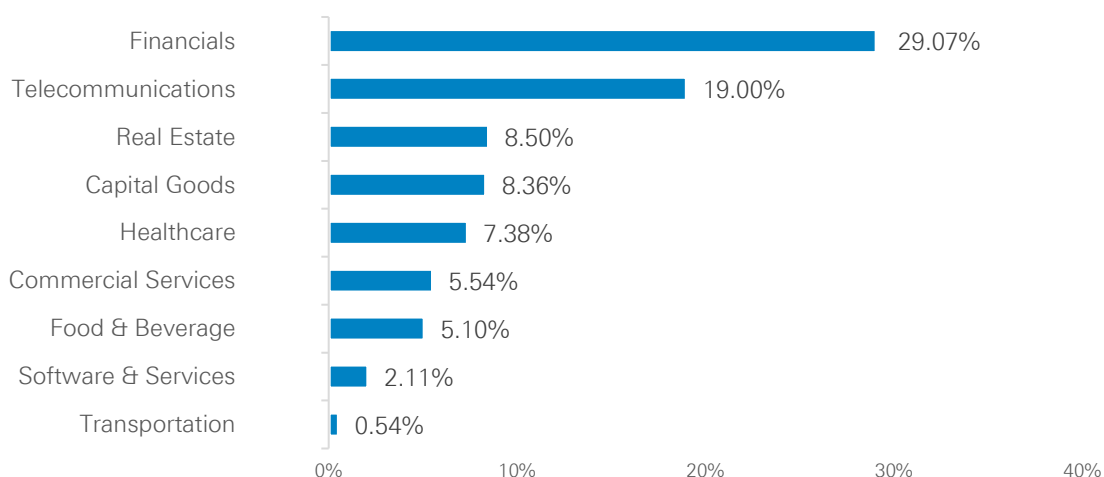
The table below lists the top positive contributors to NAC's total return since inception. The purpose of the information is to illustrate that the performance the investment team derive over time is not simply from one or two positions, but from a variety of positions, even with a concentrated portfolio of investments that is generally limited to 0-20 securities at any one time. We will disclose securities in which NAC has a current substantial holding, or when we have exited the position. Positions in the table below have **either been a long or short position** in the portfolio at some point in time.

Investment	Contribution to Return (%NAV)	Investment	Contribution to Return (%NAV)
MNF Group	+13.62%	Smart Group	+4.83%
BSA Ltd	+6.82%	Gentrack Group	+3.44%
Event Hospitality	+5.52%	Enero Group	+2.90%
Elders Ltd	+5.02%	Moelis Australia	+1.83%

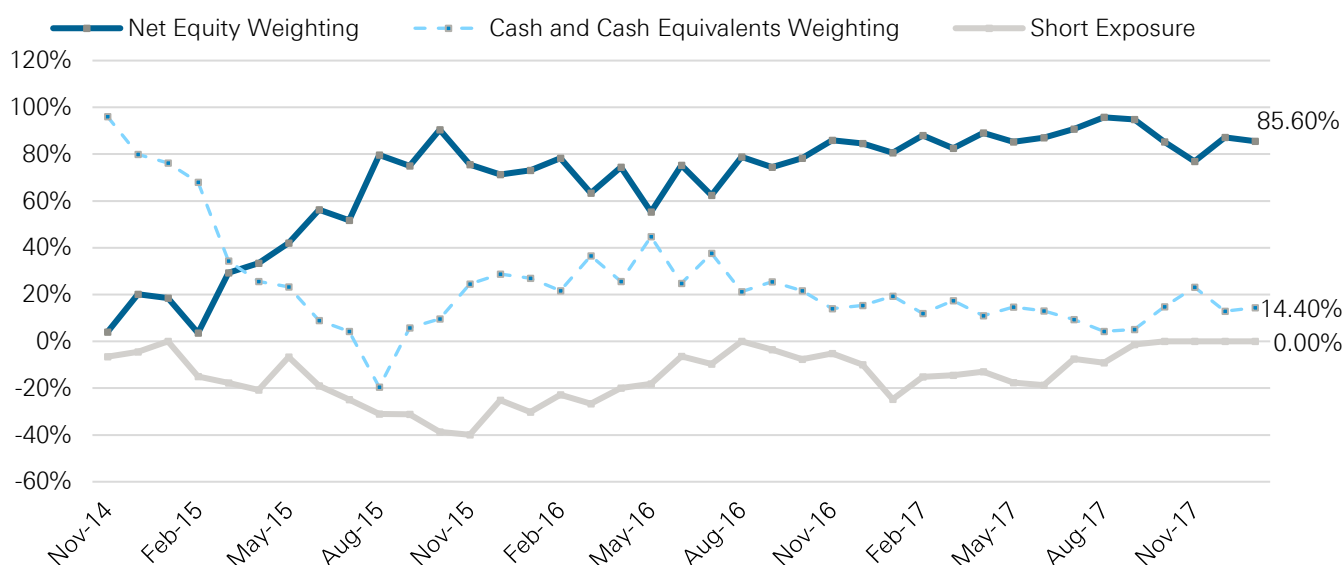
Portfolio Positioning as at 31 January 2018

As at 31 January 2018 the portfolio's net equity exposure was ~85.60% with a subsequent cash weighting of +14.40%. As at month end, the portfolio was comprised of 13 holdings, with 13 long positions and 0 short positions.

Net Industry Exposure



Net Equity Exposure



Company Meetings

The NAOS investment philosophy is based around the belief that for a company to succeed and generate strong returns for shareholders it must be led by a motivated, proven and experienced management team. That is why the NAOS Investment Team has contact with many listed and unlisted companies across a wide range of industries and geographies. A selection of the companies the team had contact with during December and January were as follows:

- Perpetual Ltd (PPT AU)
- Pinnacle Investment Management (PNI AU)
- Webster Limited (WBA AU)
- Navigator Global Investments Ltd (NGI AU)
- Bingo Industries Ltd (BIN AU)
- Oceania Healthcare Ltd (OCA AU)
- Consolidated Operations Group (COG AU)
- Fletcher Buildings Ltd (FBU AU)
- Collins Foods Ltd (CKF AU)
- PSC Insurance Group (PSI AU)

Portfolio Characteristics – Summary Data as at 31 January 2018

Below are a number of historical portfolio risk measures. Our aim in providing these metrics is to demonstrate to investors how NAC is placed from a risk adjusted basis to meet its objective, being to outperform the benchmark over the long term, and also to preserve investors' capital. A glossary of the terms used below and the method used for calculating them can be found on the last page of this report.

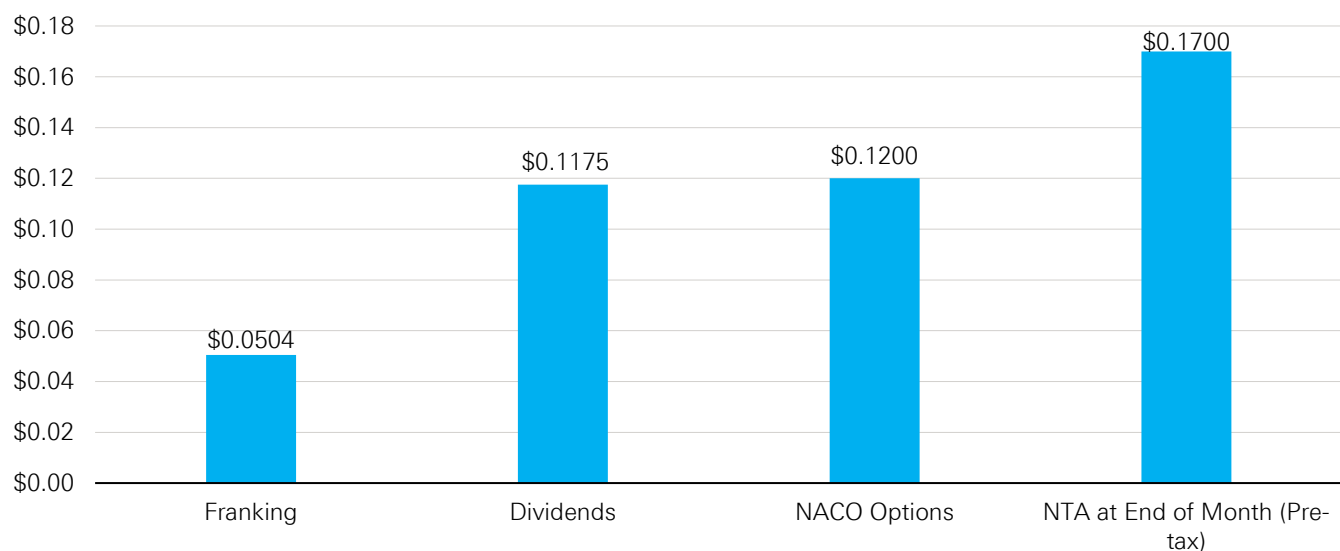
Total Number of Equity Holdings (Long & Short)	13
Total Number of Income/Debt Instruments*	0
Average Market Capitalisation of the Portfolio's Equity Holdings	\$503.90 million
Percentage of Positive Months (NAC)	64%
Percentage of Positive Months (XAOAI)	62%
Standard Deviation of Returns (NAC)	9.30%
Standard Deviation of Returns (XAOAI)	10.85%
Correlation of Returns to XAOAI	0.40
Sortino Ratio	5.92
Downside Deviation (NAC)	2.78%
Downside Deviation (XAOAI)	5.94%
Current Estimated Portfolio Beta	0.31

*Listed and unlisted bonds, convertible notes, preference shares and other income securities – both domestic and international.

Capital Structure - Summary Data as at 31 January 2018

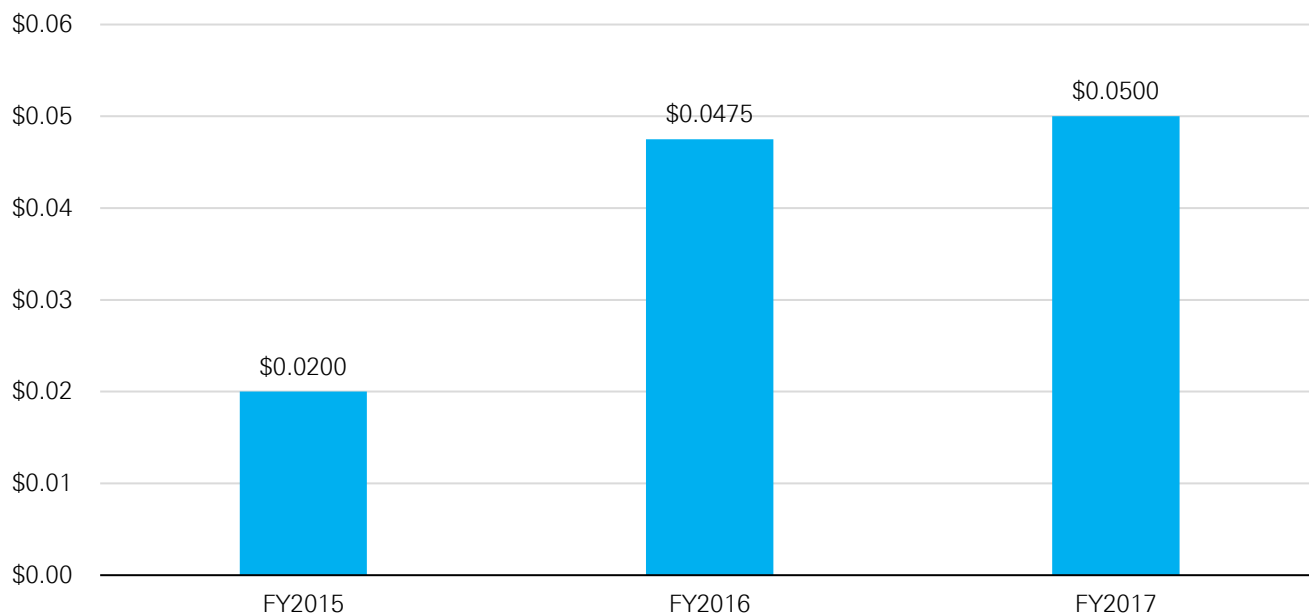
Share Price	\$1.05
Share Price Premium/(Discount) to Pre-Tax NTA	(-10.26%)
Shares on Issue	52,536,889
Directors Shareholding	6,907,917

Historical Shareholder Return Breakdown



*Assumes an intrinsic NACO value of \$0.12 cents per option at expiry (30 November 2016) based on pre-tax NTA on this date diluted for remaining options.

Dividend Profile – Historical Fully Franked Dividends (Cents per share)



Description of Statistical Terms/Glossary

Average Market Capitalisation of the Portfolio's Equity Holdings – The sum of, the percentage of each individual position relative to the total value of all Equity Holdings multiplied by each company's respective market capitalisation (Cash and Income/Debt securities are excluded).

Standard Deviation of Returns – A historical analysis of the volatility in monthly returns also known as historical volatility.

Correlation of Returns – A statistical measure of how two securities move in relation to each other. In this case the two securities are NAC and XAOAI. If the correlation is 1 then the two securities should have the same monthly returns and if the correlation is -1 and XAOAI had a return of -1.00% then NAC would be expected to have a return of +1.00%

Sortino Ratio – A modification of the Sharpe ratio that differentiates harmful volatility from general volatility by taking into account the standard deviation of negative asset returns, called downside deviation. A large Sortino may potentially indicate that there is a low probability of a large capital loss.

Downside Deviation - A measure of downside risk that focuses on returns that fall below a minimum threshold or minimum acceptable return (MAR). For our calculations, we use returns negative to zero for the calculation of portfolio downside deviation.

Portfolio Beta – A measure of the volatility, or systematic risk of a portfolio or security. A beta of 1 indicates a portfolio/security's price will move with the market. A beta of less than 1 indicated that a security/portfolio should be less volatile than the market.

XAOAI – S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index

Important Information:

This material has been prepared by NAOS Asset Management Limited (ABN 23 107 624 126, AFSL 273529) (NAOS) as investment manager of the listed investment company referred to herein (Company). This material is provided for general information purposes only and must not be construed as investment advice. It does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular investor. Before making an investment decision, investors should consider obtaining professional investment advice that is tailored to their specific circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results and neither NAOS nor the Company guarantees the future performance of the Company, the amount or timing of any return from the Company, or that the investment objectives of the Company will be achieved. To the maximum extent permitted by law, NAOS and the Company disclaims all liability to any person relying on the information contained herein in relation to any loss or damage (including consequential loss or damage), however caused, which may be suffered directly or indirectly in respect of such information. This material must not be reproduced or disclosed, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of NAOS.

CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Directors

David Rickards (Independent Chairman)
Warwick Evans (Director)
Sebastian Evans (Director)

Company Secretary

Rajiv Sharma

Investment Team

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Jeffrey Kim (Portfolio Manager)
Robert Miller (Portfolio Manager)
Ben Rundle (Portfolio Manager)
Chadd Knights (Investment Analyst)

Chief Financial/Operating Officer

Richard Preedy

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Rajiv Sharma

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Julia Stanistreet

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ENQUIRIES

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