

MERCHANT OPPORTUNITIES FUND

ARSN 111 456 387

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Merchant Opportunities Fund
ARSN 111 456 387
Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2023

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Merchant Opportunities Fund
ARSN 111 456 387
Corporate Directory
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Responsible Entity

CIP Licensing Limited

Directors of the Responsible Entity

David McKay French	- Director
Keith Jones	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Kate Golder	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Don O'Brien	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Owen Evans	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)
Lance Livermore	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)
Christopher Heyworth	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)

Secretary

Kate Golder

Registered Office

CIP Licensing Limited
Suite 1B 103 Bolsover St,
Rockhampton QLD 4700

Auditor of the Fund

Moore Australia Audit (WA)
Level 15 Exchange Tower
2 The Esplanade
PERTH WA 6000

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Directors' Report
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The Directors of CIP Licensing Limited (ABN 63 603 558 658), the Responsible Entity of Merchant Opportunities Fund (“the Fund”), submit their report for the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023, and the auditor’s report thereon.

DIRECTORS

The names of the directors of the Responsible Entity in office during the period and until the date of this report are:

David French B.Econs, Dip.Corp Management

David French is the Chief Executive Officer. David was responsible for building Capricorn Investment Partners Limited (CIPLL) from scratch. CIP Licensing Limited is a special purpose AFS licencing vehicle which was created as part of a restructure of CIPLL. The business now looks after about \$700 million in investments including those held in two managed investment schemes. David has more than 20 years’ experience in finance and economics, most of which have been in investment markets.

He holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Diploma in Corporate Management and has also completed a range of other courses relating to the valuation of companies and investments. David is Treasurer of Home Support Association, a disability services organisation, and a past director of Rockhampton Regional Development Limited and The Rockhampton Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs Kate Golder Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Financial Planning

Kate is a Certified Financial Planner and has been in the financial planning and wealth management industry since 2000. Kate is an Executive Director and Head of Risk and Compliance at Alteris Financial Group and is a Responsible Manager on Alteris’ Financial Services License.

Kate is passionate about helping her clients achieve their financial and life goals. She provides personalised and expert advice to a broad range of clients including small business owners, sophisticated investors, business professionals and retirees. Her vast experience and know-how allows Kate to work with her clients on all aspects of their personal or business portfolios. Kate is known for her unparalleled knowledge and expertise in all facets of wealth management and financial planning.

Holding a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland, Kate has also completed a Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning. Kate is a member of the Financial Planning Association and the SMSF Professionals Association of Australia. Kate has a strong reputation for her specialised skills and was a regular panellist on Sky News Business before the channel was closed. For the last three years, Kate has been named one of Australia’s Top Financial Advisers in the list compiled annually by The Australian newspaper and US financial investment publication Barron’s.

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Directors' Report (continued)
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Mr Keith Jones Master of Economic Studies, Bachelor of Arts (Economics – Double Major), Diploma of Financial Planning

Keith Jones is the founder and CEO at Alteris Financial Group, one of Australia's leading boutique wealth management companies. With extensive experience in private wealth management, Keith's leadership has seen Alteris rise to prominence as a recognised industry leader in lifecycle planning, working with clients in accounting, financial planning, asset management and aged care financial advice.

Keith is widely recognised for his strong relationships with clients and expertise in wealth structuring, investment management, executive remuneration and intergenerational wealth transfer. As head of the firm's Investment Committee, Keith is responsible for overseeing Alteris' highquality, uniform approach to strategic asset allocation. He is also a Responsible Manager on Alteris' Financial Services License and is a Certified Financial Planner.

Keith holds a Master of Economic Studies and a Bachelor of Arts with a Double Major in Economics. He has also completed a Diploma of Financial Planning. Keith's expert views are regularly sought by media outlets and the financial services industry, and he was a regular panellist on Sky News Business before the channel was closed.

Don O'Brien Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Master of Taxation

With more than 40 years professional services experience, Don joined Alteris as Head of Accounting.

He is an experienced corporate tax adviser who has built teams and practices over many years. Don has been a partner at KPMG, RSM and Grant Thornton, and in each of these roles, held senior leadership positions.

Over his career, he built and led tax teams and has wide experience in advising on inbound and outbound investments to a range of multi-national clients in industries such as property and construction, manufacturing, retail and communication. For more than 5 years, he was on the International

David French, Owen Evans, Lance Livermore, and Christopher Heyworth have been in office from the beginning of the period until the date of this report.

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Directors' Report (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

OPERATIONAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Merchant Opportunities Fund (MOF) aims to materially outperform the ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index net of fees over a rolling 5-year period via investing in a portfolio of Australian companies listed – or soon to be listed – on the ASX.

The MOF is now in its eleventh year of operation, having changed the mandate from the Entrust Investment Fund in May 2012. As at 30 June 2023, MOF reported a performance of 0.78% for the full Financial Year and a rolling 3 year return of 9.04% per annum. Current assets under management are approximately \$88 million.

The Fund's activities did not change significantly during the year, compared to the last three years of operation. However, the Directors of CIP Licensing Limited and the Responsible Entity of Merchant Opportunities Fund continue to act with caution given the significant economic volatility caused by the war in the Ukraine which is being felt across the globe, the global energy supply crisis and the now inflationary impacts from these events.

The Fund's mandate continues to be to look for domestic (both short and long term) opportunities that are both listed on the ASX and unlisted. The Fund aims to have a portfolio of between 50 and 100 investments at all times and actively allocate capital to areas of the portfolio where the manager feels the greatest return on investment is possible. All investments during the year were undertaken in accordance with the Fund's constitution.

Throughout the year, MOF has managed its current core listed and unlisted investments in the Energy, Minerals and Resources, Financial Services, IT, Consumer Technologies, Medical Cannabis and Healthcare sectors of the market.

A number of these strategic positions relate to business plans which are expected to result in corporate activity over the coming year, providing opportunities to exit at expected higher prices or see increases in the value of the underlying asset.

Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd remains the investment manager of the Fund and is responsible for the day to day management of the Fund.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

SCHEME INFORMATION

Merchant Opportunities Fund is an Australian registered scheme and was constituted on 18 October 2004. CIP Licensing Limited was appointed as the Responsible Entity of the Fund on 4 May 2015. Previously the responsible entity was Capricorn Investment Partners Limited. CIP Licensing Limited is incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd, the investment manager of the Fund, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Directors' Report (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

SCHEME INFORMATION (continued)

The registered office of the Responsible Entity is located at Suite 1B 103 Bolsover St, Rockhampton QLD 4700. The Custodian is the Trust Company (Australia) Limited. The registered office of the Custodian is located at 35 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

REVIEW OF RESULTS AND OPERATIONS

Results

The net operating profit of Merchant Opportunities Fund is presented in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The profit from operating activities for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$1,153,009 (2022: loss of \$27,678,212), after distribution to unitholders.

Distributions

There was no distribution to unitholders for the year ended 30 June 2023 (2022: \$nil).

UNIT PRICE HISTORY

The ex-distribution exit prices and the highest and lowest exit prices for Merchant Opportunities Fund are shown below. All exit prices are exclusive of exit fees.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
As at 30 June	2.2195	2.2024
Year to 30 June:		
High	2.7574	2.8927
Low	2.2195	2.2024

UNITS ON ISSUE

39,862,706 units of Merchant Opportunities Fund were on issue at 30 June 2023 (2022: 40,809,871). During the year 124,425 (2022: 6,146,918) units were issued by the Fund and 1,071,590 units (2022: 4,559,591) were redeemed. No options over unissued units were in place at any time during the current or previous financial years.

SCHEME ASSETS

At 30 June 2023 Merchant Opportunities Fund held assets to a total value of \$88,766,951 (2022: \$90,189,931). The basis for valuation of the assets is disclosed in Note 3 to the financial statements. The Responsible Entity does not hold any units in the Fund as at 30 June 2023.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Directors' Report (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

FEES PAID TO THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITY AND ASSOCIATES

The following fees were paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the financial year:

Management fee for the 2023 financial year paid to the Responsible Entity & Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd	\$1,454,889	(2022: \$1,636,124)
Performance fee for the 2023 financial year paid to the Responsible Entity & Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd during the current financial year <i>(Note - the performance fee was fully rebated to Merchant Funds Management)</i>	\$Nil	(2022: \$6,192,698)
Preparation of Financial Reports	\$5,225	(2022: \$Nil)
Compliance Fees including Custodial Fees	\$Nil	(2022: \$871)
Expenses incurred by the Responsible Entity and reimbursed by the Fund in accordance with the Fund's constitution	\$15,685	(2022: \$Nil)

The interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property at the end of the year are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

There were no significant changes to the state of affairs of Merchant Opportunities Fund during the year.

LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The investment strategy of the Fund will be maintained in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and investment objectives.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION AND PERFORMANCE

The Fund's operations are not subject to any environmental regulations under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation.

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS OR AUDITORS

The Constitution of the Responsible Entity requires it to indemnify all current and former officers of the Responsible Entity (but not including auditors) out of the property of the Responsible Entity against:

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Directors' Report (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF OFFICERS OR AUDITORS (continued)

- (a) any liability for costs and expenses which may be incurred by that person in defending civil or criminal proceedings in which judgement is given in that person's favour, or in which the person is acquitted, or in connection with an application in relation to such proceedings in which the court grants relief to the person under the Corporations Act 2001; and
- (b) a liability incurred by the person, as an officer of the Responsible Entity or of a related body corporate, to another person (other than a Responsible Entity or a related body corporate) unless the liability arises out of conduct involving a lack of good faith.

During the financial year, the Responsible Entities and the Investment Manager paid an insurance premium in respect of a contract insuring each of the officers of the Responsible Entity. The amount of the premium is, under the insurance contract, confidential. The liabilities insured include costs and expenses that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against the officers in their capacity as officers of the Responsible Entity or related body corporates. This insurance premium does not cover auditors.

The Fund has not indemnified or insured officers and auditors.

EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which require disclosure in this report.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 8 and forms part of the directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Keith Jones
Director

Sydney

Date: _06 October 2023_____

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF CIP LICENSING LIMITED
AS THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITY OF MERCHANT OPPORTUNITIES FUND**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in *the Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit, and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



NEIL PACE
PARTNER



MOORE AUSTRALIA AUDIT (WA)
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Signed at Perth on the 6th day of October 2023.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Dividends Received	7	83,446	401,157
Interest income	7	330,776	548,930
Other income		15,970	-
Net gain on financial instruments through profit and loss	8	1,987,215	(26,446,859)
Unrealised Foreign Investment Movements	8	542,517	(321,510)
Net investment income		2,959,924	(25,818,282)
Expenses			
Responsible Entity and Fund Manager fees	4(a)	(1,511,493)	(1,582,361)
Auditors' remuneration	4(b)	(53,596)	(65,004)
Consultants' fees		(15,675)	(784)
Custodian and administration fees		(36,799)	(38,390)
Compliance fees		-	(871)
Other expenses		(189,352)	(172,520)
Operating expenses before finance costs		(1,806,915)	(1,859,930)
Profit/(Loss) from operating activities		1,153,009	(27,678,212)
Finance costs			
Distribution to unitholders	5(a)	-	-
Total profit		-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,153,009	(27,678,212)

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	11(a)	426,404	527,487
Prepayments, loans and receivables:			
Prepayments, dividends and other receivables	6	484,055	9,634,318
Financial assets at fair value through profit & loss:			
Equity investments and units in listed and unlisted schemes	6	81,584,606	74,953,127
Debentures and convertible notes	6	6,271,886	5,074,999
Total assets		88,766,951	90,189,931
Liabilities			
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:			
Accrued expenses	9	59,078	74,081
Accounts payable		124,444	125,583
Responsible entity and fund manager fees payable		128,342	109,954
Applications received		-	-
Distributions payable	5	-	-
Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to Unitholders)		311,864	309,618
Net assets attributable to unitholders – Liability	10(b)	88,455,087	89,880,313
Represented by:			
Net assets attributable to unitholders at redemption price	10(b)	88,455,807	89,880,313

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The Fund's net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*. As such the Fund has no equity, and no items of changes in equity have been presented for the current or comparative year.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of investments		17,148,810	33,073,102
Purchase of investments		(9,922,987)	(18,675,739)
Interest received		17,129	2,651
Dividends received		63,476	401,157
Distributions to unitholders		-	(644,445)
Payments to suppliers		(227,915)	(288,826)
Payments to responsible entity and fund manager		(1,601,362)	(1,787,163)
Net cash flows from operating activities	11(b)	<u>5,477,151</u>	<u>12,080,736</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of convertible notes		<u>(3,000,000)</u>	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Net cash flows (used in) financing activities		<u>(3,000,000)</u>	<u>(3,000,000)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Applications for allotment		-	-
Proceeds from application monies		335,000	1,069,979
Payments on redemption of redeemable units		<u>(2,913,234)</u>	<u>(12,206,223)</u>
Net cash flows (used in) financing activities		<u>(2,578,234)</u>	<u>(11,136,244)</u>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(101,083)	(2,055,507)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		527,487	2,582,994
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	11(a)	<u>426,404</u>	<u>527,487</u>

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 Reporting Entity

Merchant Opportunities Fund (the Fund) is an Australian Registered Scheme, and was constituted on 18 October 2004 under the Corporations Act 2001. The Fund is a for profit entity. CIP Licensing Limited was appointed as the Responsible Entity of the Fund on 4 May 2015. CIP Licensing Limited is incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The registered office of the Responsible Entity is located at Suite 1B, 103 Bolsover St, Rockhampton QLD 4700.

Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd is the investment manager of the Fund and is responsible for the day to day management of the Fund.

The financial report of the Fund is for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Note 2 Basis of Preparation

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Corporations Act 2001. The financial report of the Fund complies with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial report was approved by the Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity on 6 October 2023.

(b) Basis of Measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis except for financial assets at fair value through profit and loss, which are measured at fair value.

The statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and do not distinguish between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within twelve months, except for financial assets held at fair value through profit or loss and net assets available for unitholders.

(c) Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Fund's functional currency.

(d) Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statement in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 Basis of Preparation (continued)

and expenses. Actual results may differ from estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimates are revised and in any future periods affected.

Note 12 contains information about the estimation of fair values of financial instruments.

(e) Changes in accounting policies and accounting standards

The Fund has adopted all changes from the Australian Accounting Standards during the year. The changes did not impact significantly on the results or the financial position of the Fund.

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied to all periods presented in these financial statements. The Fund has not early adopted any accounting standard.

(a) Financial asset and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

(i) Classification

Assets

The Fund classifies its investments based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets. The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy.

The Fund uses fair value information to assess performance of the portfolio and to make decisions to rebalance the portfolio or to realise fair value gains or minimise losses through sales or other trading strategies. The Fund's policy is for the Responsible Entity to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

Equity securities and derivatives are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For debt securities, the contractual cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, however they are neither held for collecting contractual cash flows nor held both for collecting contractual cash flows and for sale. The collection of contractual cash flows is only incidental to achieving the Fund's business model's objective. Consequently, the debt securities are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Liabilities

The Fund makes short sales in which a borrowed security is sold in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security, or it may use short sales for various arbitrage transactions. Short sales are held for trading and are consequently classified as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. Derivative contracts that have a negative fair value are presented as liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

(ii) Recognition and derecognition

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Investments are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or have been transferred and the Fund has transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.

(iii) Measurement

At initial recognition, the Fund measures financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets and financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss' in the period in which they arise. This also includes dividend expense on short sales of securities, which have been classified at fair value through profit or loss.

For further details on how the fair values of financial instruments are determined please see Note 12 to the financial statements.

(b) Convertible loans

Convertible loans are hybrid contracts measured at fair value through profit or loss as permitted under AASB 9.

The convertibility feature of the loan which meets the definition of an embedded derivative under AASB 9 is separated from the host contract and is measured at fair value through profit and loss.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(c) Investment Income

Investment income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Fund and the income can be reliably measured. The Fund's revenue recognition of interest, dividend and distribution income, investment gains/(losses) and foreign exchange gains/(losses) are excluded from the scope of AASB 15. The Fund's specific types of income are recognised as follows:

Dividend and distribution income

Dividends and distributions from listed entities are recognised as income on the date the share or unit is quoted ex-dividend or ex-distribution.

In some cases, the Fund may receive or choose to receive dividends or distributions in the form of additional shares or units rather than cash. In such cases the Fund recognises the dividend or distribution income for the amount of the cash dividend alternative with the corresponding debit treated as an additional investment.

Interest income

Income from interest bearing securities is recognised as the interest accrues using the effective interest rate method.

Changes in the fair value of assets

Other changes in fair value for such instruments are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 3(a) to the financial statements.

(d) Expenses

All expenses, including management fees and custodian fees, are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

Included in other operating expenses are legal, advisory and other fees which are broken down in the statement of comprehensive income.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, comprise cash at bank and short term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less, are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and are held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(c) Taxation

Under the current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided the unitholders are entitled to the income of the Fund and the Fund fully distributes its taxable income (including assessable realised capital gains).

(d) Distributions

In accordance with the Fund's Constitution, the distributable income of the Fund is the amount determined by the Responsible Entity to be appropriate after reviewing the income of the Fund, the investment opportunities available and the market and any other matters that the Responsible Entity believes are relevant. The amounts the Responsible Entity determines in each financial year shall not be less than the net income (as defined in Section 95(1) of the Tax Act) of the Fund for the financial year (excluding any notional tax credits included in assessable income, being franking credits or foreign income tax credits).

Distributable income is calculated and distributed at the end of the financial year and at any other time that the Responsible Entity elects. Realised capital losses are not distributed to unitholders but are retained in the Fund to be offset against any future realised capital gains. If realised capital gains exceed realised capital losses the excess is distributed to unitholders.

For the year ended 30 June 2023, the Responsible Entity determined that the net distributable income was equivalent to the taxable income of the Fund defined in Section 95(1) of the Tax Act (excluding any notional tax credits included in assessable income, as noted above). There was no net distributable trust income (as determined by reference to the trustee's determination) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

(e) Change in net assets attributable to unitholders

The amount of the Fund's income for a financial year not distributed to unitholders as determined by the Responsible Entity in accordance with the Fund's Constitution is transferred to net assets attributable to unitholders. The amount transferred to net assets attributable to unitholders as determined by the Responsible Entity may include amounts of unrealised gains and losses in the fair value of investments, accrued income not yet assessable and expenses provided for or accrued but not yet deductible, net capital losses and tax free or tax deferred income.

These items are included in the determination of distributable income in the period for which they are assessable for taxation purposes.

(f) Unit prices

Unit prices are determined in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and are calculated as the net portfolio value of the Fund less performance fees accrued and distributions paid divided by the number of units on issue.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(g) Terms and conditions on units

Each unit issued confers upon the unitholder an equal interest in the Fund, and is of equal value. A unit does not confer any interest in any particular asset or investment of the Fund. Unitholders have various rights under the Constitution and the Corporations Act 2001, including the right to:

- have their units redeemed;
- receive income distributions;
- attend and vote at meetings of unitholders; and
- participate in the termination and winding up of the Fund.

The rights, obligations and restrictions attached to each unitholder are identical in all respects.

(h) Goods and services tax

Expenses incurred by the Fund are recognised net of the amount of GST that can be recovered from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Amounts recognised as payables at balance date include the amount of GST payable.

Reduced input tax credits (RITC) recoverable by the Fund from the ATO are recognised as receivables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

(i) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

Except for the determination of fair values in the valuation of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss and recoverability of receivables, there are no other significant accounting judgements, estimates or assumptions made by management.

(j) Redeemable units

All redeemable units issued by the Fund provide the investors with the right to require redemption for cash and give rise to a financial liability. In accordance with the product disclosure documents the Fund is contractually obliged to redeem units at redemption price, which includes an allowance for transaction costs that would be incurred by the Fund on disposal of its assets required to fund redemptions.

As a result of the transaction cost factor, there will be a difference between the carrying amount of the net assets of the Fund (excluding the unitholders' funds classified as a financial liability) and the contractual amount payable to unitholders which is based on redemption price. The adjustments arising from the different unit pricing under Australian Accounting Standards' valuation principles are presented in the statement of financial position as part of the net assets attributable to unitholders.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(k) Finance costs

Distributions paid and payable on units are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs and as a liability where not paid. Distributions paid are included in cash flows from financing activities in the statement of cash flows.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 4 Expenses		
(a) Responsible Entity and Investment Manager fees		
Management fees	1,511,493	1,582,361
Total responsible entity and investment manager fees	<u>1,511,493</u>	<u>1,582,361</u>
(b) Auditor's remuneration		
Audit services:		
- audit of the financial reports	26,096	31,368
- review of the half year financial report	16,000	18,810
- compliance plan audit	11,500	10,500
- increase in provision for audit fees	-	4,326
	<u>53,596</u>	<u>65,004</u>

Note 5 Distributions paid and payable

(a) Distributions payable		
- for period ended 30 June	-	-
Total distributions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
(b) Per unit distribution		
- for period ended 30 June (cents per unit)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 6 Financial assets and liabilities

The following table details the categories of financial assets and liabilities held by the Fund at reporting date:

Assets

Classified as fair value through profit or loss upon initial recognition

-Equity investments	81,584,606	74,953,126
-Managed investment schemes	-	-
	<u>81,584,606</u>	<u>74,953,127</u>
-Derivative financial instruments	6,271,886	5,074,999
Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	<u>87,856,492</u>	<u>80,028,126</u>

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For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 6 Financial assets and liabilities (continued)		
Loans and receivables	484,056	9,634,318
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 11a)	426,404	527,487
Total financial assets	<u>88,766,951</u>	<u>90,189,931</u>

From 1 July 2018, AASB 9 introduced a new expected credit loss model to provide for amounts the Fund does not expect to receive from receivables and loans. This has not materially impacted the Fund as all receivable amounts, including the debentures, are considered to be recoverable.

Liabilities

Payables and accrued expenses	311,865	309,618
Total financial liabilities	<u>311,865</u>	<u>309,618</u>

Note 7 Interest and dividend income

The following tables detail the interest and dividend income earned by the Fund during the period:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest income for financial assets carried at amortised cost:		
-cash and cash equivalents	19,817	280
-convertible loan	310,959	98,616
-debt securities	-	450,034
Total interest income	330,776	548,930

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Dividend income for financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss	83,446	401,157
Total dividend income	83,446	401,157

Note 8 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

The following table details the gains and losses from financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:

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Note 8 Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss
(continued)

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Classified as fair value through profit or loss:		
-Equity investments and unlisted managed investment schemes	2,529,733	(26,768,369)
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets and liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss	2,529,733	(26,768,369)

Gains and losses presented above exclude interest income, dividend income and distribution income. The following table details the gains and losses from financial assets through profit or loss for the year ended:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Realised gain/(loss)	(830,246)	3,285,083
Unrealised gain/(loss)	3,359,979	(30,053,452)
Net gain from financial assets and liabilities classified as fair value through profit or loss	2,529,733	(26,768,369)

Note 9 Accrued expenses

Accounting fees	25,078	29,755
Audit fees	34,000	44,326
Performance fees	-	-
	<u>59,078</u>	<u>74,081</u>

Note 10 Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders

(a) Units on issue

The Fund's units on issue are represented by fully paid ordinary units.

The Fund considers its capital to be Unitholders' Funds.

The objective of the Fund is to provide unitholders with above average returns over the medium to long term through capital growth. The Fund aims to achieve this through investing in private companies, companies in the pre-listing phase and companies listed on ASX in line with the Responsible Entity's investment criteria, while maintaining sufficient liquidity to fund unitholder redemption facilities when these are operating.

The Fund does not have any externally imposed capital requirements.

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Note 10 Net Assets Attributable to Unitholders (continued)

Units are issued at the unit application price at the end of the month. The unit application price is calculated in accordance with the Fund's constitution.

It is anticipated that units can be redeemed at the end of each month, however from time to time the Fund may be illiquid – when such times arise the Investment Manager will seek permission to suspend the redemption facility until such time as liquidity emerges. The redemption price at which the units are redeemed is calculated at the end of the month in accordance with the Fund's constitution.

To protect the interests of all unitholders, no more than 15% of total units on issue may be redeemed in any month, although this restriction can be waived by the Responsible Entity. Each unitholder is entitled to attend and vote at any meeting convened by the Responsible Entity. Unitholders are entitled to one vote per unit held. Unitholders are entitled to receive all distributions declared and paid by the Fund. Upon winding up the unitholders are entitled to a return of capital based on the net asset value per share of the Fund.

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Units on issue as at beginning of reporting period	40 809 871	39,222,544
Units issued during the reporting period	124 425	6,146,918
Units redeemed or otherwise cancelled during reporting period	(1 071 591)	(4,559,591)
Units on issue as at the end of the reporting period	<u>39,738,280</u>	<u>40,809,871</u>

(b) Movement in net assets attributable to unitholders

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at beginning of reporting period	89,880,313	112,419,535
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders:		
Profit/(loss) from operating activities	1,153,009	(27,678,212)
Distribution to Unitholders	-	-
Units issued during the reporting period	335,000	17,345,213
Units redeemed or otherwise cancelled during the reporting period	(2,913,235)	(12,206,223)
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of reporting period	<u>88,455,087</u>	<u>89,880,313</u>

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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For the year ended 30 June 2023

2023 **2022**
\$ **\$**

Note 11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash balance comprises:

- Current deposits with banks	426,404	527,487
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(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

Profit/(Loss) from operating activities	1,153,009	(27,678,212)
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</i>		
(Increase)/Decrease in financial assets	(4,823,873)	47,002,904
(Increase)/Decrease in loans and receivables	9,150,262	(270,150)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other creditors	(2,247)	(6,973,806)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	5,477,151	12,080,736

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk

Investment overview and strategy

The objectives of Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd, the investment manager of the Fund are:

- To generate an absolute return greater than the prevailing Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) plus a gross margin of 5%.
- To manage the Fund in a disciplined and focused manner with the aim of providing capital growth over the long term.
- To provide access to investment opportunities to which individual investors may not normally gain access.
- To protect capital during periods of extreme volatility.
- To create a Western Australian based absolute return Fund focused on Australian listed and unlisted equities.

The Guiding Principles of the Investment Manager are similar to those employed by the previous manager with the following exceptions:

- The Fund will hold between 50 and 100 separate investments.
- No new single investment (apart from cash) can represent over 30% of the Fund's portfolio value unless approved by the Investment Committee
- The Investment Manager can from time to time invest in companies that are either private and or pre-listing status.
- The Fund aims to protect capital in periods of extreme volatility through moving to cash or utilising hedging strategies as it sees fit.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

- The Fund will seek and execute short term trading opportunities as appropriate and commensurate with the risk weightings of the Fund's parameters.

Investments in assets are determined by the Fund Manager. Where the Responsible Entity and the Committee identify an area of risk the Fund will change its focus or strategy or change the weighting of the portfolio to minimise identified risks. The Fund invests in securities in accordance with its investment strategy and the Fund Manager's investment criteria.

The impact of the financial risks to which the Fund is exposed are market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. Each of these are discussed below. Disclosures in regard to these risks are prepared on the basis of the Fund's directly held investments and not on a look through basis.

Market risk

Market risk embodies the potential for loss and gains and, in the case of the Fund is limited to price risk and currency risk on its investments and interest rate risk on its cash and cash equivalents.

The Fund's investment strategy is, in simple terms, to purchase quality investments at a reasonable price. The Fund's market risk is managed on a daily basis by the Fund Manager and the Investment Manager. A financial model is maintained and updated daily to reflect current market conditions, analysis of the major investments of the Fund and the pricing of the investments of the Fund. Any risks identified by the Fund Manager are discussed with members of the Committee and the Board to determine appropriate action.

The Investment Manager regularly reviews the investments and holds monthly meetings. The Investment Manager is also in regular contact with the Board.

The Fund Manager maintains regular contact with the companies and managed investment schemes it invests in to better understand those entities and to assist the manager recognise any risk factors that the investment may be subject to.

Interest rate risk

The majority of the Fund's assets are non-interest bearing. All assets exposed to interest rate fluctuations are short term therefore limiting the exposure of the Fund to interest rate risk. Any excess cash and cash equivalents are invested in regular interest bearing accounts available on call to enable the Fund to act quickly on potential investment opportunities. The Fund does not have any interest bearing financial liabilities.

It is the intention of the Responsible Entity to invest the funds in equity assets not interest bearing assets.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

Interest rate sensitivity

The Fund has no material exposure to interest rate sensitivity.

Currency risk

The Fund invests in financial instruments and enters into transactions that are denominated in currencies other than its functional currency, being US Dollars (USD) only (2022: US Dollars (USD) and Euro (EUR) only). Consequently, the Fund is exposed to risk that the exchange rate of its currency relative to other foreign currencies may change in a manner that has an adverse effect on the fair value or future cash flows of that portion of the scheme's financial assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Australian Dollar.

The Fund's policy with respect to managing its currency risk is to limit its total foreign currency and investment exposure to less than 20 percent (2022: 20 percent) of the scheme's net assets, with no individual foreign currency and investment exposure being greater than 15 percent (2022: 15 percent) of the net assets. The scheme's currency risk is managed on a daily basis by the investment manager in accordance with policies and procedures in place. The scheme's currency positions and exposures are regularly monitored by the directors.

At the reporting date the carrying value of the scheme's net financial assets and liabilities held in individual foreign currencies expressed in Australian Dollars and as a percentage of its net assets were as follows:

Currency	2023		2022	
	\$	%	\$	%
USD	1,744,243	1.97	1,869,979	2.07
EUR	-	-	9,369,986	10.39
	<u>1,744,243</u>	<u>1.97</u>	<u>11,239,965</u>	<u>12.46</u>

The table below sets out the effect on the Fund's profit or loss and net assets attributable to unitholders of a reasonably possible weakening of AUD against the USD by 8% (2022: 8%) and against the EUR by 0% (2022: 4%), at 30 June 2023. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular interest rates, remain constant.

Effect in thousands of AUD	2023	2022
	\$	\$
USD	132,539	149,598
EUR	-	374,799
	<u>132,539</u>	<u>524,397</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

Effect in % of net assets	2023 %	2022 %
USD	0.16%	0.17%
EUR	-	0.58%
	0.16%	0.75%

A reasonably possible strengthening of AUD against the above currencies would have resulted in an equal but opposite effect to the amounts shown above.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that value of the instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate or currency risk), whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer or all factors affecting all instruments traded in the market.

As a majority of the Fund's financial instruments are carried at fair value with fair value changes recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, all changes in market value of investments will directly affect the investment income of the Fund.

Price risk is managed by the Fund Manager by constructing a diversified portfolio of assets traded in differing sectors of the market.

The Fund is permitted to invest in securities quoted on ASX or unlisted companies, cash or interest in cash management trusts, debentures bonds and unsecured notes, derivative and short selling of securities, warrants and options and other financial products as permitted by the Responsible Entity's AFSL.

The following table details the sector breakdown:

Total investment assets by industry sector	2023		2022	
	\$	%	\$	%
Consumer discretionary	-	-	2,109,589	2.63
Energy	4,169,755	4.75	6,866,423	8.58
Property	817,358	0.95	762,264	0.95
Healthcare	49,063,088	55.83	31,889,114	39.85
Industrials	8,042,244	9.15	4,785,592	5.98
Materials	6,897,796	7.85	15,109,123	18.88
Information Technology	16,753,80	19.07	18,229,426	22.78
Utilities	-	-	150,783	0.19
Financials	2,112,671	2.40	125,812	0.16
	87,856,492	100.00	80,028,126	100.00

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

The following table details the breakdown of the investment assets held by the Fund:

	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Listed equity investments	23,885,023	35,780,883
Unlisted equity investments and unlisted managed investment schemes	57,699,583	39,172,243
Convertible notes	8,271,886	5,075,000
Total investment assets	87,856,492	80,028,126

Sensitivity analysis

The objective of the Fund is to exceed the return of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index over the medium to long term. A 5% increase in the market price of the Fund's listed investments at 30 June 2023 would have increased net assets attributable to unitholders and increased profit from operating activities by \$1,194,251 (2022: \$1,782,754): an equal change in the opposite direction would have decreased net assets attributable to unitholders and increased loss from operating activities by an equal amount.

A 5% increase in the value of unlisted equity investments and convertible notes at 30 June 2023 would have increased net assets attributable to unitholders and increased profit from operating activities by \$3,198,574 (2022: \$2,218,653). An equal change in the opposite direction would have decreased net assets attributable to unitholders and increased loss from operating activities by an equal amount.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Fund, resulting in financial loss to the Fund. The carrying amounts of financial assets best represent the maximum credit risk exposure at balance date.

At reporting date the Fund's financial assets exposed to credit risk amounted to the following:

	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	426,404	527,487
Prepayments, dividends, distributions and other receivables	484,056	9,634,318

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

Convertible notes	6,271,886	5,074,999
Total	7,182,346	15,236,804

Credit risk arising on transactions with brokers relates to transactions awaiting settlement. The Fund uses a range of brokers when entering into equity transactions. As a result should one broker fail to settle transactions the Fund's exposure to this broker is diluted. The Fund uses only brokers that are known to the manager, have a good record in the industry and have a history and reputation for quality service and settling on equity transactions.

Distributions and dividends receivables are only recognised once declared. The credit risk the Fund is exposed to in respect to unsettled transactions and receivables is therefore considered low. The convertible notes do not bear any interest.

All assets are held by the Fund's custodian, The Trust Company ("Custodian"). Bankruptcy or insolvency by the custodian may cause the Fund's right to securities held by the custodian to be delayed or limited. The Fund monitors the position of the Custodian in terms of its market participant stature on a quarterly basis and National Australia Bank ("Bank") with whom it places its cash with.

The credit risk associated with the custodian and the Bank is considered low as the Custodian is owned by a major financial institution. The Responsible Entity monitors the position of the Bank and the custodian through ASX releases and media commentary on a regular basis.

The carrying amounts of financial assets best represent maximum credit risk exposure at the balance date.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations arising from its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset, or that such obligations will have to be settled in a manner disadvantageous to the Fund.

The Fund aims to provide a monthly redemption facility; however in times of illiquidity, the Fund will seek permission from the Responsible Entity to suspend redemptions to protect the value of the remaining unit holders.

Liquidity risk is managed on a daily basis by the fund manager in respect to trades awaiting settlement, monthly redemption requests and short term liabilities of the Fund. The portfolio of the Fund is updated to reflect purchases and sales of securities.

The Fund's listed securities are considered to be readily realisable as they are all listed on ASX.

The Fund's redemption policy allows for redemptions at the end of the month only, save for liquidity issues that arise from time to time referred to above.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

Set out below is the contractual maturity profile of the Fund's financial liabilities:

30 June 2023

	Contractual cashflows \$	Less than 1 month \$	On call* \$
Accounts payable	124,445	124,445	-
Responsible Entity and Fund Manager fees payable	128,342	128,342	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	88,455,087	-	88,455,087
Total financial liabilities	88,707,874	252,787	88,455,087

30 June 2022

	Contractual cashflows \$	Less than 1 month \$	On call* \$
Accounts payable	125,583	125,583	-
Responsible Entity and Fund Manager fees payable	109,954	109,954	-
Net assets attributable to unitholders	89,880,313	235,537	89,880,313
Total financial liabilities	90,115,850	235,537	89,880,313

*To protect the interests of all unitholders, no more than 15% of total units on issue may be redeemed in any month, although this restriction can be waived by the Responsible Entity.

Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of direct or indirect loss arising from a wide variety of causes associated with the Fund's processes, personnel, technology and infrastructure, and from external factors other than credit, market and liquidity risks such as those arising from legal and regulatory requirements and generally accepted standards of corporate behaviour. Operational risks arise from all of the Fund's operations.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

The objective of the Responsible Entity of the Fund is to manage operational risk so as to balance limiting of financial losses and damage to the Fund's reputation with overall cost effectiveness and to avoid control procedures that restrict initiative and creativity.

The primary responsibility for the development and implementation of controls to address operational risk is assigned to the Responsible Entity. This responsibility is supported by the development of overall Fund standards for the management of operational risk in the following areas:

- requirements for appropriate segregation of duties, including the independent authorisation of transactions.
- requirements for the reconciliation and monitoring of transactions.
- compliance with regulatory and other legal requirements.
- documentation of controls and procedures.
- requirements for the periodic assessment of operational risks faced, and the adequacy of controls and procedures to address the risks identified.
- requirements for the reporting of operational losses and proposed remedial action development of contingency plans.
- training and professional development.
- ethical and business standards.
- risk mitigation, including insurance where this is effective.

Estimation of fair values

The methods and assumptions used in estimating the fair values of financial instruments are disclosed in note 3(a)(iii) of the significant accounting policies.

Listed investments

At 30 June 2023, the carrying amounts of equity investments whose fair values were determined directly, in full or in part, by reference to published price quotations amounted to \$23,885,023 (2022: \$35,750,883).

Unlisted investments

The directors of CIP Licensing Limited have determined that the most recent transaction price paid represents the best estimate of fair value as at 30 June 2023.

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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Details of unlisted investments and the valuation approach as at 30 June 2023 are set out below:

	Industry Sector	Basis of valuation	Date of transaction	Fair value as at 30 June 2023 \$	Fair value as at 30 June 2022 \$
Alerte Digital Health Pty Ltd	Healthcare	Price of most recent capital raising (FOREX adjusted)	June 2022	503,377	914,264
Australian Cannabis Ventures Limited*	Healthcare	Price of most recent capital raising	March 2022	550,000	550,000
Buy Natural Pty Ltd	Consumer Discretionary	Price of MOF's entry price	October 2021	131,694	131,694
Critical Minerals Group	Materials	Price of MOF's entry price in 2022, listed in 2023	February 2022	-	250,000
Eccocentric Group Limited*	Information Technology	Price of most recent capital raising	March 2023	2,094,017	2,094,017
Eurocann Corporation Limited (Formerly 1-Page Ltd)	Healthcare	Planned capital raise for quarter 2023 and consideration of valuation multiples attributed to comparable listed companies	June 2022	31,663,729	9,187,426
Fibonacci Global Payments Pte Ltd*	Information Technology	Price of most recent capital raising (FOREX adjusted)	June 2023 - FOREX adjustment only	872,966	872,966

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

	Industry Sector	Basis of valuation	Date of transaction	Fair value as at 30 June 2023 \$	Fair value as at 30 June 2022 \$
Frugal Group Ltd (Previously Family Insights Group Ltd)	Information Technology	Earnings Probability model	June 2023	374,593	374,593
Geo40 Limited	Industrials	Price of most recent capital raising	April 2022	276,450	276,450
Infitecs Pty Ltd*	Information Technology	Earnings multiplier model	June 2023	83,600	83,600
Kontrarian Resource Fund No 1 (prev start-up)	Materials	Independent valuation of assets	June 2023	3,465,087	3,465,087
Local Agent Finder Limited	Information Technology	Price of last transaction	May 2023	299,468	299,468
Levin Growing Pty Ltd*	Healthcare	Price of most recent capital raising	June 2023	1,794,171	1,794,171
Marketech Ltd*	Information Technology	Last transaction price	December 2022	1,012,500	912,500
Meta Carbon Inc	Information Technology	Price of MOF's entry price	February 2022	534,275	518,306
Mobile Tyre Shop Holdings Pty Ltd	Industrials	Price of most recent capital raising	June 2022	711,876	967,611
Nicevend Pte Ltd*	Information Technology	Price of most recent capital raising (FOREX adjusted)	June 2022	82,749	82,749
Nicolab International Limited*	Healthcare	Price of MOF's entry price	May 2021	300,000	300,000

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

	Industry Sector	Basis of valuation	Date of transaction	Fair value as at 30 June 2023 \$	Fair value as at 30 June 2022 \$
Order Esports Holding Limited*	Information Technology	Written down to nil	February 2022	-	500,000
Pro9 Global Pty Ltd	Industrials	Price of most recent capital raising and peer comparison	May 2023	4,643,143	3,316,531
Sands Innovation Ltd (Previously Snapsil Innovations Limited)	Industrials	Price of most recent capital raising	July 2021	225,000	225,000
Seminal Pty Ltd	Information Technology	Price of capital raising	April 2023	50,000	-
Sapien Cyber Ltd (Formerly SC8 Technologies Pty Ltd)*	Information Technology	Price of last transaction, peer comparison	February 2022	1,493,500	1,493,500
Sky and Space Limited	Information Technology	Price of last capital raise, peer comparison	June 2022	3,188,809	4,830,000
Sky and Space Limited – Options	Information Technology	Price of last capital raise, peer comparison	June 2022	936,250	936,250
Southern Cross Payments Limited	Information Technology	Price of last transaction	June 2022	245,000	204,700
Valiant Resources Ltd (prev start-up)	Energy	Price of most recent capital raising	March 2023	1,155,560	1,155,560
Vets Central Pty Ltd	Consumer Discretionary	Price of MOF's entry price	July 2022	1,362,671	1,362,671
Village National Limited	Property	Net asset backing audited financials	December 2022	817,546	762,264
Wave Park Development Pty Ltd*	Industrials	Price of most recent capital raising	June 2022	1,310,866	1,310,866
Total				60,178,897	39,172,244

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For the year ended 30 June 2023

The table below analyses financial instruments carried at fair value, by valuation method. The different levels have been defined as follows:

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those instruments valued based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those instruments valued based on inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those instruments valued based on techniques using significant unobservable inputs. This category includes all instruments for which the valuation technique includes inputs not based on observable data and the unobservable inputs have a significant effect on the instrument's valuation. This category includes instruments that are valued based on quoted prices for similar instruments for which significant unobservable adjustments or assumptions are required to reflect differences between the instruments.

Note 12 Financial instruments and associated risk (continued)

30 June 2023	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss	23,885,023	245,000	63,726,469	87,856,492

30 June 2022	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss	35,780,883	936,250	43,310,993	80,028,126

Note 13 Related Party Transactions

(a) Responsible Entity

The Responsible Entity of Merchant Opportunities Fund is CIP Licensing Limited (ABN 63 603 558 658). Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd (ABN 32 154 493 277) is the appointed investment manager of the Fund, and is responsible for the day to day management of the Fund.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13 Related Party Transactions (continued)

(b) Details of Directors and Other Key Management Personnel

(i) Directors

The directors of CIP Licensing Limited (the Responsible Entity) during the year were:

David McKay French	- Director
Keith Jones	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Kate Golder	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Don O'Brien	- Director (Appointed 10 January 2023)
Owen Evans	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)
Lance Livermore	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)
Christopher Heyworth	- Director (Resigned 10 January 2023)

(ii) Other Key Management Personnel

Neither Merchant Opportunities Fund, nor CIP Licensing Limited employ persons deemed to be key management personnel of the Fund. The directors do not receive any compensation directly from Merchant Opportunities Fund, and there are no agreements in place between the directors and the Fund.

(c) Loans to Directors

The Fund has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly any loans to the directors or their personally related entities at any time during the period.

(d) Related party investments of the Fund

Transactions between Merchant Opportunities Fund and CIP Licensing result from normal dealings with that company as the Fund's Responsible Entity. CIP Licensing Limited is an Australian Financial Services license holder.

Andrew Chapman, the director of Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd (the investment manager for Merchant Opportunities Fund) is also a non-executive director of Kontrarian Resource Fund and Eurocann Corporation Limited (Formerly 1-Page Ltd). The Fund has an investment in Kontrarian Resource Fund and Eurocann Corporation Limited (Formerly 1-Page Ltd).

Christopher Mews, the secretary of Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd (the investment manager for Merchant Opportunities Fund) is also a non-executive director of Kontrarian Resource Fund, Cycliq Group Limited and AusCann Group Holdings Limited. The Fund has an investment in Kontrarian Resource Fund, Cycliq Group Limited and AusCann Group Holdings Limited.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
ARSN 111 456 387
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13 Related Party Transactions (continued)

(e) Related party transactions

All transactions with related parties are conducted on normal commercial terms and conditions. From time to time the Responsible Entity or their director-related entities may invest in or withdraw from the Trust. These investments or withdrawals are on the same terms and conditions as those entered into by other Trust investors.

(f) Investments

The directors of CIP Licensing Limited (the Responsible Entity for Merchant Opportunities Fund), including their related entities did not hold any interest in Merchant Opportunities Funds as at 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

The related entities of the directors of Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd (the Fund Manager for Merchant Opportunities Fund), hold the following interests in Merchant Opportunities Funds as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022:

	2023	2022
	Units	Units
Macaronis Pty Ltd ATF the Pink Lady Trust	1,250,000	1,134,536
PPass Pty Ltd ATF the Green Apple Super Fund	201,186	201,185
Red Apple Superannuation Pty Ltd ATF the Red Apple Super Fund	331,376	604,626
Pepaanne Pty Ltd ATF the Chapman Family Trust	95,000	95,000
Rachel Marques ATF the Hill Valley Trust	211,050	211,050
Total	2,088,612	2,246,397

(g) Fees

The Responsible Entity, CIP Licensing Limited, and the Fund Manager, Merchant Funds Management Pty Ltd, received all management fees, responsible entity fees and performance fees that have been deducted from the Fund during the period. Total management fees, responsible entity fees and performance fees paid to the Responsible Entity and Fund Manager during the period were \$1,454,890 (2022: \$7,828,822).

Management fees and responsible entity fees remaining payable at 30 June 2023 were \$128,342 (2022: \$109,954). Performance fees provided for, but not yet finalised or paid, at 30 June 2023 were \$Nil (2022: \$Nil).

Merchant Opportunities Fund
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Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The total compliance and accounts preparation fees paid to the Responsible Entity during the period was \$Nil (2022: \$871). Expenses incurred by the Responsible Entity during the period and reimbursed by the Fund in accordance with the Fund's constitution was \$Nil (2022: \$Nil).

CIP Licensing Limited provides investment services to Merchant Opportunities Fund and outsources custodial and administrative functions.

(h) Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no director of the Responsible Entity or the Fund Manager has entered into a material contract with the Fund since the end of the previous year and there were no material contracts involving directors' interests subsisting at year end.

Note 14 Contingencies

There are no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$Nil).

Note 15 Events subsequent to reporting date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which require disclosure in this report.

Merchant Opportunities Fund
ARSN 111 456 387
Directors' Declaration
For the year ended 30 June 2023

In the opinion of the Directors of CIP Licensing Limited, the Responsible Entity of the Merchant Opportunities Fund, I state that:

- (a) the financial statements and notes that are set out on pages 9 to 38 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
 - (i) 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
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001;
- (b) the Directors draw attention to Note 2(a) of the financial report which contains a statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards; and
- (c) 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
CIP Licensing Limited



Keith Jones
Director

Sydney

Date: 6 October 2023_____

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF MERCHANT OPPORTUNITIES FUND****Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Merchant Opportunities Fund (the Fund), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Merchant Opportunities Fund is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the period then ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. 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 auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the 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 also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the Directors of the Responsible Entity of the Fund, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the Fund to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF MERCHANT OPPORTUNITIES FUND (CONTINUED)**

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are 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 the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to include the economic decisions of the 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 Standard Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our audit report.



NEIL PACE
PARTNER



MOORE AUSTRALIA AUDIT (WA)
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Signed at Perth this 6th day of October 2023.