

Morningstar Announces Winners for 2022 Morningstar Awards – Australia

SYDNEY, 25 February 2022 -- [Morningstar Australasia Pty Limited](#), a subsidiary of Morningstar, Inc. (Nasdaq: MORN), a leading provider of independent investment research, today announced the winners of the 2022 Morningstar Awards - Australia. The annual Awards, held on Friday, 25th February at Establishment Ballroom in Sydney, recognise the best of the Australian fund management profession that have made substantial contributions to investors’ success as selected by Morningstar’s manager research analysts.

“Our 2022 winners have proven themselves to be excellent stewards of investors’ capital,” said Annika Bradley, Morningstar Australasia’s Director, Manager Research Ratings. “Australian investors are well served by a solid lineup of quality managers, but Vanguard Investments Australia wins our Overall Fund Manager of the Year award for a strong performance across their stable of funds and a preparedness to consistently put investors first.”

Award winners are determined by a combination of qualitative research by Morningstar's manager research analysts; risk-adjusted medium- to long-term performance track records; and performance in the 2021 calendar year. The table below shows the category winners, including winners for the overall Fund Manager of the Year, Undiscovered Manager and Sustainable Investing.

Award	Winners
Overall Fund Manager of the Year	Vanguard Investments Australia
Fund Manager of the Year: Undiscovered Manager	Bell Global Equities
Fund Manager of the Year: Domestic Equities - Large Cap	Bennelong Australian Equities
Fund Manager of the Year: Domestic Equities - Small Cap	Pengana Emerging Companies
Fund Manager of the Year: Fixed Interest	Bentham Global Income

Fund Manager of the Year: Global Equities	VanEck MSCI International Quality
Fund Manager of the Year: Listed Property and Infrastructure	Quay Global Real Estate
Fund Manager of the Year: Multisector	Perpetual Diversified Real Return
Fund Manager of the Year: Sustainable Investing	Stewart Investors

Overall Fund Manager of the Year

Vanguard Investments Australia is named the Overall Fund Manager of the Year due to an impressive lineup of strategies and an investor-centric ethos that has served investors well over the long-term. The team's genuine long-term approach continues to shine, keeping them above the pack.

Fund Manager of the Year: Undiscovered Manager

Bell Global Equities wins the award for Undiscovered Manager. Melbourne-based portfolio managers Ned Bell and Adrian Martuccio have a long and successful track record managing global equities for institutional investors. Bell launched the strategy in 2003 and over time have built up a team of experienced analysts with a strong performance-driven culture. While the wholesale and platform share classes have been around since 2007 and 2015 respectively, it is fair to say the strategy has flown under the radar in the retail space. The quality of the team, process and investment results makes this strategy deserving of more attention.

Fund Manager of the Year: Domestic Equities - Large Cap

Bennelong Australian Equities delivers a high-calibre team and an impressive investment process driven by one of the best portfolio managers in the game. A concentrated and highly flexible strategy that frequently dips down the market cap ladder can be a tall order for many, but Bennelong excels thanks to extensive fundamental research.

Fund Manager of the Year: Domestic Equities - Small Cap

Pengana Emerging Companies benefits from outstanding managers plying a disciplined small-cap approach. Under our enhanced ratings methodology, peer relativities within the sector increase our conviction in this strategy. Steve Black and Ed Prendergast have managed the strategy since its 2004 inception. They operate without any supporting team members, but with their extensive experience, we don't think this holds them back. We consider them among the best small-cap investors in the market.

Fund Manager of the Year: Fixed Interest

The investment team at Bentham Global Income are among the most experienced and stable bond teams around. Richard Quin has led the outfit from its beginnings at Credit Suisse and continues at the helm alongside founding partners Nik Persic and Mark Fabry. The firm adopts a strong multi-strategy credit approach willing to use the tools at its disposal and has applied its high conviction views with great success over several years.

Fund Manager of the Year: Global Equities

VanEck MSCI International Quality efficiently delivers a portfolio of high-quality global equities for a competitive price. The strategy emulates the risk/reward profile of the MSCI World ex Australia Quality Index, a quality-factor-based, nimbler subset of broader MSCI World ex Australia Index. The quality factor captures durable businesses that generate earnings that are less susceptible to broader economic cyclicalities, giving them a competitive edge. QUAL offers a solid cost-value proposition. At 0.40% annually, it may be more expensive than other passive options but remains more attractive than an average active manager. The combination of excellent investor outcomes and an attractive price makes VanEck MSCI International Quality a worthy winner of the Fund Manager of the Year: Global Equities category.

Fund Manager of the Year: Listed Property and Infrastructure

Quay Global Real Estate is led by co-founders and co-portfolio managers Chris Bedingfield and Justin Blaess who have been ably looking after the strategy since its inception in 2014. Together with two analysts they have consistently outperformed over a number of years. A finalist last year their investment process has proved to be repeatable providing consistent returns to date for investors.

Fund Manager of the Year: Multisector

Perpetual Diversified Real Return delivers risk management without sacrificing returns like few others, making it the leading option amongst the flexible cohort. Head of multi-asset Michael O'Dea leads one of the most experienced and multifaceted groups in the sector. While O'Dea is the ultimate decision-maker, he draws on individual specialties in asset allocation, macroeconomics, and implementation to apply investment ideas. These complementary skill sets are well-suited to the strategy's risk management focus, and their quantitative capabilities have expanded considerably in recent years.

Fund Manager of the Year: Sustainable Investing

This year, Morningstar has also introduced the Fund Manager of the Year Sustainable Investing Award category. The award category recognises the increasing interest and engagement in environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies by investors and Morningstar's own growing coverage in this area. Stewart Investors Worldwide Sustainability benefits from a best-in-class team and clear investment approach, which makes it a top global equity pick. Managed by Stewart's Sustainable Funds Group, the strategy's investment team is impressive.

Methodology

Only fund managers with products available for sale in Australia qualify for inclusion in the Morningstar Australia Awards. Morningstar determines winners based on a combination of qualitative research by its manager research analysts; risk-adjusted returns over medium- to long-term periods; and performance in the 2021 calendar year.

Morningstar's manager research analysts assess quantitative factors such as the track record for a fund based on Morningstar's Risk-Adjusted Return measure over the one-, three-, five-, and ten-year periods. Morningstar's manager research analysts then conduct a qualitative assessment of the fund managers under consideration. This incorporates the key pillars of the [Morningstar Analyst Rating™](#) – People, Process and Parent. The qualitative assessment also captures practical issues that quantitative screens cannot. After assessing the quantitative and qualitative outcomes for each fund manager, Morningstar's analysts then debate and decide on the fund managers they believe are worthy winners and finalists across the various Award categories. If a verdict cannot be reached by a unanimous decision, then each analyst casts a vote to decide.

To receive the overall Fund Manager of the Year award, a fund manager must have offered products in multiple award categories or delivered an outstanding outcome for investors. Fund managers were assessed not only on whether they were a finalist in at least one category, but on products that had peer-beating returns but did not obtain a top three position. The winner must have strong returns across multiple categories, proven themselves a good steward of investors' capital, and in Morningstar's opinion, has achieved the highest level of funds management excellence.

To receive the Sustainable Investing award, a fund manager must have achieved a superior result in the Morningstar ESG commitment level assessment (asset manager), a forward-looking qualitative assessment

incorporating three key pillars: Philosophy and Process, Resources, and Active Ownership. Fund managers were also assessed on the Morningstar ESG commitment assessment (strategy); the Morningstar Sustainability Rating; the Morningstar carbon metrics (specifically low carbon designation); as well as the Morningstar Analyst Rating of their strategies.

The award for Undiscovered Manager includes managers or specific funds with strong investment merit that Morningstar considers worthy of bringing to the attention of the retail market. For example, a manager that may be newer to the retail market but has a successful track record offshore or in the institutional space.

The Awards are copyrighted to Morningstar. Fund managers may not publicise the Award(s) without the prior written consent of Morningstar.

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