

Fundies pore over Mercer: Hyperion, ECP, QVG up top

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Mercer's survey of investment performance is out and giving fund managers and brokers plenty to chat about as they swap domestic holiday stories and work out how to tackle the new year.

While we understand Mercer's survey does not cover all funds - and there are funds out there that will have outperformed Mercer's lot - the published tables show there were some huge performance numbers in 2020.

Starting with the big boys and girls: Collins St Value Fund topped the large company managers with a 43.6 per cent gross return for 2020, however don't have a three-year track record on the survey. The fund backed the likes of Lotus Resources (with a \$121 million market capitalisation), Vimy Resources (\$59 million) and Peninsula Energy (\$120 million).

Then came Hyperion Australian Growth, with a 33.7 per cent gross return for the year and 22.2 per cent a year over a three year period. Its biggest holdings at December were Afterpay, Wisetech and Xero.

In mid-caps, ECP Asset Management's EX50 product took out the one and three year titles with returns of 46.4 per cent and 28.3 per cent a year, respectively. Interestingly, Manny Pohl founded both Hyperion and ECP so make sure to ask him for a stock tip if you see him. At December ECP's largest positions were Magellan, HUB24 and ResMed.

In small caps, Hyperion won again over the year returning 34.5 per cent, while **the QVG Opportunities Fund led over three years with 21.2 per cent a year.** Regal's team might feel they deserve an honourable mention with 29.2 per cent over three years, but are probably best bracketed in the hedge fund category given their gearing and ability to short.

Speaking of hedge funds, **QVG Capital's Long Short Fund was top of the pops for the year with a 24 per cent return,** while BlackRock's Equitized Long Short took the three year going at 9.1 per cent a year.

In microcap land, the Saville Capital Emerging Companies fund returned 62.3 per cent, while Andrew Smith's Perennial MicroCap Opportunities Fund returned 27.4 per cent a year over three years. The bad news is both these funds are closed to new investors.