

Market Analysis

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Inside Market Analysis

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Summary and Recommended Investment Strategy.

Remain fully invested in the recommended shares.

Investment Outlook.

The United States stockmarket has moved back towards its recovery highs . . . so investors' fears just last month that stockmarkets could fall to new lows have become a distant memory. Stockmarkets may be manic depressive, but individual investors really do need to avoid these irrational mood swings!

The Australian and New Zealand stockmarkets have moved ahead slightly.

The performance of individual company shares, as expected, have varied significantly. Some have dipped sharply, often without any significant justification, and probably represent good buying opportunities. Investors with cash can add to their shareholdings at attractive valuations.

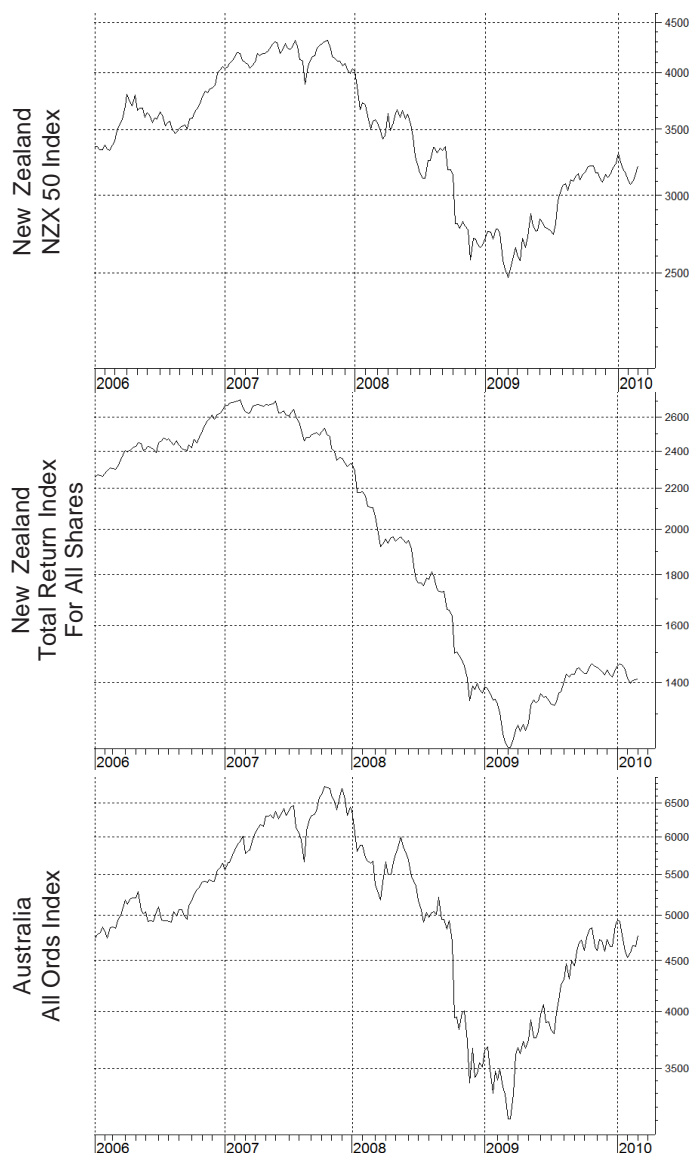
The current company profit results are mixed. This is not unexpected at this early stage in a slow economic recovery. Very few companies are losing significant amounts of cash or suffering huge losses, so the risk of company failure is low. Many are operating around break-even and, although that may not sound great, it does mean they have adapted to the depressed economic environment by lowering their operating costs to match depressed revenues. They are maintaining their cash position (and probably their business capacity) and are probably well placed to grow revenues and profits as the economic recovery continues.

It is always difficult to value companies that are not currently profitable, but for these companies the share valuations look low in terms of Price/Sales ratios. Profitable company shares generally trade on moderate Price/Earnings ratios and attractive Dividend Yields.

Being long term investors - not manic depressive share traders - our view on the stockmarket remains little changed from previous months! We continue to advise being 100% invested in the recommended shares.

Stockmarket Forecasts

	One-Month	One-Year
Australia:	87% (Bullish)	59% (Neutral)
New Zealand:	75% (Bullish)	49% (Neutral)



Recommended Investments

NZ's "Fair Dividend" Rate Tax

We shall discuss this tax next month, as the FDR tax payable for the coming tax year (to March 2011) will be determined by the starting market value of shares held on 1 April 2010.

There will be a few changes to the All Ordinaries Index - which will change how some individual shares are taxed *in the new tax year*. **M2 Telecommunications** and **Probiotec**, for example, will enter the All Ordinaries Index, so *next year* investors will pay

income tax on the actual dividends paid. For the *current year* (to 31 March 2010) both companies were subject to the FDR tax. For MTU that "fair dividend" was 2.475 cents (i.e. 5% of the starting share price of 49½ cents), which is significantly less than the actual dividends of 8.0 cents. For PBP the "fair dividend" was 7.725 cents compared with actual dividends of 3.5 cents.

High yielding **Challenger Wine Trust** and **Village Roadshow preference** shares are coming out of the All Ordinaries index, although *(Continued on Page 4)*

Portfolio of Recommended Investments

CURRENT ADVICE	Company	Code	Initial Recommendation - Date - Price	Performance Forecast	Issued Shares (mil.)	Vola- tility Ratio	Price/ Sales Ratio	Price/ Earnings Ratio	Gross Dividend Yield	Recent Share Price	Cash Dividends Rec'd	Total Return %
<u>NZ Shares</u>												
HOLD+	CDL Investments Ltd	CDI	12/01/99 25	E	243.4	1.5	12.26	50	1.1	26	17.9	+76%
HOLD+	Cavalier Corporation	CAV	05/12/95 156*	A	67.1	1.0	0.75	13	7.8	275	245.0	+233%
HOLD	Colonial Motor Company	CMO	10/11/92 128*	B	32.7	0.5	0.14	14	10.0	215	301.3	+303%
HOLD	Lyttelton Port Company	LPC	12/12/00 150	B	102.3	0.6	2.91	24	2.9	240	73.3	+109%
BUY	Michael Hill Int'l Ltd	MHI	11/06/91 5*	B	382.5	0.9	0.65	15	4.2	70	27.9	+1858%
BUY	Nuplex Industries Ltd	NPX	11/02/97 523*	A	189.8	1.1	0.42	38	1.5	333	367.0	+34%
HOLD	Postie Plus Group	PPG	08/05/06 71	C	40.0	1.6	0.14	26	Nil	40	8.5	-32%
HOLD	Renaissance Corp	RNS	13/08/96 85*	C	44.2	2.0	0.04	NE	Nil	20	53.9	-14%
HOLD	Smiths City Group	SCY	09/10/06 64	B	53.0	1.5	0.08	19	5.6	36	12.0	-25%
HOLD	South Port New Zealand	SPN	13/02/96 120	A	26.2	0.6	3.47	21	5.7	258	121.8	+216%
HOLD	Steel & Tube Holdings	STU	08/08/00 146	B	88.2	0.7	0.48	9	10.3	264	231.0	+239%
<u>Australian Shares (in Aust cents)</u>												
HOLD+	AJ Lucas Group	AJL	13/05/03 120	B	64.9	0.6	0.37	15	5.7	283	41.0	+170%
BUY	Ammtec Ltd	AEC	11/01/10 257	B	25.5	0.6	1.18	10	6.2	257	Nil	+0%
HOLD+	Atlas South Sea Pearl	ATP	14/05/96 73	C	120.1	2.1	0.67	NE	17.4	12	17.5	-60%
HOLD	Breville Group Ltd	BRG	13/11/06 171	B	129.5	0.6	0.55	15	3.0	185	16.0	+18%
HOLD	Campbell Brothers Ltd	CPB	12/10/99 389*	A	61.9	0.3	1.73	15	3.5	2880	484.0	+765%
BUY	Cardno Ltd	CDD	14/12/09 410	B	84.3	0.5	0.65	10	7.0	400	14.0	+1%
HOLD	Cellnet Group Ltd	CLT	12/02/02 147*	C	76.8	1.3	0.30	NE	Nil	33	32.4	-55%
BUY	Challenger Wine Trust	CWT	12/01/09 30	C	170.3	1.4	1.53	NE	23.7	30	5.7	+19%
HOLD-	Charter Hall Group	CHC	06/04/09 30*	B	977.3	0.9	7.57	NE	7.6	65	2.6	+125%
HOLD	Circadian Technologies	CIR	10/02/04 188	E	45.2	1.0	7.83	NE	Nil	54	65.0	-37%
HOLD+	Clarius Group Ltd	CND	08/04/03 82*	C	79.7	1.0	0.15	25	Nil	69	65.5	+63%
BUY	CPT Global Ltd	CGO	10/03/08 88	B	36.8	0.9	0.50	10	9.2	60	7.3	-24%
BUY	Devine Ltd	DVN	13/11/06 84*	B	552.1	1.4	0.20	5	11.8	26	16.9	-50%
HOLD+	Ellex Medical Lasers	ELX	14/03/06 49	C	84.9	1.9	0.24	34	Nil	17	Nil	-65%
BUY	Fiducian Portfolio Ser	FPS	11/02/08 260	B	32.4	0.8	2.11	14	4.7	143	17.0	-38%
HOLD+	Iluka Resources Ltd	ILU	12/10/04 471	B	380.7	0.5	2.46	23	Nil	370	64.0	-8%
BUY	Integrated Research	IRI	14/01/08 40	B	166.8	1.1	1.68	9	9.3	43	9.0	+30%
HOLD-	M2 Telecommunications	MTU	09/10/06 33	A	108.5	0.6	0.94	25	3.1	175	13.5	+471%
BUY	Melbourne IT	MLB	10/02/04 53	B	79.0	0.6	0.72	9	8.3	182	51.0	+339%
HOLD+	Photon Group Ltd	PGA	10/11/08 132*	B	154.3	0.7	0.19	5	11.2	112	11.8	-7%
BUY	Probiotec Ltd	PBP	11/02/08 116	B	47.1	0.6	0.96	9	1.8	177	7.3	+59%
HOLD+	Prophecy International	PRO	08/09/08 26	B	45.8	1.1	3.64	11	8.3	51	6.3	+120%
HOLD+	Ross Human Directions	RHD	14/08/01 92	A	83.5	1.3	0.07	7	5.3	33	35.8	-25%
HOLD+	Skilled Group Ltd	SKE	12/03/02 126	B	123.6	0.7	0.11	8	5.9	178	132.0	+146%
HOLD	Technology One Ltd	TNE	11/11/03 44	B	300.3	0.9	1.79	14	5.1	73	20.1	+112%
BUY	TFS Corporation Ltd	TFC	08/01/07 45	B	191.3	0.8	1.81	5	4.7	90	8.1	+118%
HOLD+	The Reject Shop Ltd	TRS	11/01/05 257	A	25.8	0.3	0.99	21	3.5	1580	181.5	+585%
BUY	Village Roadshow PREF	VRLPA	10/08/09 77	B	224.9	2.1	0.35	7	5.8	220	9.0	+197%

The average Total Return (i.e. both Capital Gains/Losses plus Dividends received) of all current investments from initial recommendation is +157.3%. This is equal to an average annual rate of +24.4%, based upon the length of time each position has been held.

The average annual rate of gain of ALL recommendations (both the 39 current and 147 closed out) is +29.3%, compared with a market gain of +4.7% (by the SRC Total Return Index).

CURRENT ADVICE is either Buy, Hold+, Hold, Hold- or Sell. Hold+ indicates the most attractive shares not rated as Buy. Hold- indicates relatively less attractive issues.

* Initial Recommendation Prices adjusted for Share Splits, Bonus and Cash Issues.

(1) Cellnet Group includes 1½ shares in Mnet Group distributed to shareholders.

Recommended Investments

(Continued from Page 3)

as these are not ordinary shares they are already subject to the lower 5% "fair dividend" rate tax.

New Zealand Shares

CDL Investments New Zealand recorded revenues of just \$5.1 million for the year to 31 December 2009. That is up 19.2% on the previous year, but still very depressed. The net profit was 24.9% lower at \$1,264,000 (0.5 cent per share). The company will reinstate an annual dividend of 0.2 cent (plus full imputation tax credits), after paying no dividend for the 2008 year.

The company will also pay a special dividend of 1.0 cent.

The business traded at a small cash surplus of \$316,000 which is a significant improvement on the \$3.4 million deficit in 2008.

CDL Investments' residential section development business is clearly very depressed, but the company has successfully adapted and downsized its activities to match the market. The company is debt-free and has \$5.5 million of cash in the bank. It is generating some sales and profits, plus a small operating cash surplus.

The shares have a net asset backing (at book value) of 37.8 cents, but the company's property assets, shown in the balance sheet at \$87.0 million, have a market value of \$171.6 million. That gives a net asset value (at market value) of 72.6 cents per share.

CDL Investments



Cavalier Corporation reports a 14.3% drop in revenues to \$112.8 million for the half year to 31 December 2009. Net profits were down 5.7% at \$7,014,000 (10.4 cents per share). A steady second interim dividend of 4.0 cents (plus tax credits) maintains the first half dividend at 7.0 cents.

The net operating cash surplus improved sharply, up 93% to \$15.0 million.

Cavalier Corporation



Cavalier Corporation has slightly raised its full year forecast, narrowing its forecast range from \$13.5-15.5 million to \$14.5-15.5 million, up 6-13%.

Colonial Motor Company's revenues for the half year to 31 December were 19.1% lower at \$214.3 million, with profits down 7.0% at \$2,594,000 (7.9 cents per share, adjusted for the recent bonus issue). The interim dividend will be raised 17.4% to 6.0 cents per share (plus full imputation tax credits).

The net operating cash surplus was down 28% - but still very strong - at \$8.5 million.

Colonial Motor Company



Lyttelton Port Company reports first half revenues down 2.4% at \$42.1 million, while profits were down 35.0% to \$3,677,000 (3.6 cents per share). A steady 1.5 cents interim dividend (plus full tax credits) will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus dropped 44% to \$5.3 million.

As we reported in January, this first half decline in profits simply reflects the earlier expenditure on annual maintenance, with the full year result expected to be similar to the year to 30 June 2009.

Lyttelton Port Company has met with its major shareholder, **Christchurch City Holdings**, to brief it on details of the potential merger with **Port Otago**. This newsletter believes that potentially price sensitive information should be disclosed to all shareholders!

Michael Hill International lifted revenues by 7.8% to \$245.5 million over the half year to 31 December 2009. Trading profits grew 61.1% to \$22,299,000 (5.8 cents per share) and the interim dividend will be raised 50.0% to 1.5 cents (with no imputation tax credits for NZ residents, but full franking credits for Australian investors).

The net cash surplus was down 6% at \$14.1 million.

This is a very good performance despite "difficult trading conditions". The company will continue to focus upon "improving existing store performance and controlling costs".

Michael Hill International



Nuplex Industries experienced a 10.1% decline in revenues to \$714.7 million over the half year to 31 December 2009, but profits recovered and grew almost 6-fold to \$34,631,000 (18.2 cents per share). This is “an all time record half year profit“. A 10.0 cents interim dividend (nil a year ago) will be paid (with no NZ imputation tax credits but 80% Australian franking credits).

The net operating cash surplus remained strong, growing 22% to \$53.9 million.

The company's “significant exposure to China and Southeast Asia has provided growth, while most mature markets remain depressed”.

Nuplex Industries established its first manufacturing plant in China at Foshan in 2004, acquiring a second plant at Suzhou in 2005. The company is now seeking to triple capacity at Suzhou which will make it the group's largest manufacturing facility in the world.

The manufacturing operation established in Vietnam in 1997 is about to go through its fourth major expansion.

Nuplex Industries is not only looking to Asia for low cost manufacturing but plans to establish a new Research and Technology centre, perhaps in China or Singapore. This emerging trend is extremely significant - perhaps not for Nuplex Industries but certainly for your (and your children's or grandchildren's) financial future. See our article on Page 13-14.

Postie Plus Group reports first half revenues (to 31 January 2010) up 9.25%. Full details will be announced on 9 March.

Renaissance Corporation lifted revenues 2.7% to \$194.8 million for the full year to 31 December 2009, but traded at a *loss* of \$1,328,000 (*minus* 3.0 cents per share), compared with a *trading* profit of \$3.1 million in 2008. No dividend will be paid for the year.

The business, however, did generate an operating cash surplus of \$5.1 million (a *deficit* of \$6.1 million in 2008).

The company plans to change its balance date from 31 December to 30 September “to improve the company's ability to *forecast* earnings”. The company earns most of its revenue in the December quarter, so this will move most of its business to the *first* quarter each year, rather than the *last* quarter. This quarter will, of course, be as unpredictable as ever, but once the company knows how it has done in this important first quarter it will then be able to accurately “predict” its full year result.

Details for restructuring the business will be disclosed to shareholders this month - and, hopefully, will involve a bit more substance than the change of balance date proposal!

Steel & Tube Holdings experienced a 30.4% drop in revenues to \$190.6 million for the half year to 31 December 2009. Profits were down 84.7% to \$3,173,000 (3.6 cents per share). The interim dividend will be cut 65.0% to 3.5 cents.

This half yearly report compares the recent low of the economic cycle with boom conditions experienced during the first half of last year.

The cash operating surplus, however, improved significantly to \$27.3 million, compared with a *deficit* of \$8.8 million a year earlier.

The company reports “early signs that conditions may

be slowly improving”.

Steel & Tube Holdings



Australian Shares

(This section is in Australian currency, unless stated.)

AJ Lucas Group's half year accounts are difficult to analyse owing to large energy investment gains and losses. The sale of ATP651 realised \$98.5 million in revenues and a pre-tax gain of \$93.5 million, while the group's further investment of \$25.4 million in the Monument Project needs to be written off as an expense under accounting rules - even though the company expects to realise the Monument investment this year for “an amount substantially in excess” of cost.

Trading performance, however, was clearly very poor for the half year to 31 December 2009. Revenues fell 43.3% to \$166.1 million and the *trading* loss (as far as we can calculate) appears to be around \$28.1 million (*minus* 43.0 cents per share). No interim dividend will be paid.

The cash operating *deficit* was \$1.9 million, compared with a small surplus in the period a year earlier.

AJ Lucas Group



As indicated last month, AJ Lucas Group expects “a much stronger second half”.

AJ Lucas Group has received a commitment from a group of energy-focused private equity funds managed by **Riverstone Holdings LLC** to subscribe US\$58.0 million of new capital in **Cuadrilla Resources Holdings**. This will give both AJ Lucas Group and the Riverstone funds a 36.0% equity in Cuadrilla Resources, with the remaining 28.0% held by management and employees.

AJ Lucas Group has invested A\$52.4 million in Cuadrilla Resources and this transaction now indicates that has a value of US\$58.0 million - or about A\$64.5 million (or 100 cents per AJ Lucas share) - but no adjustment will be made in the value of this investment in the company's accounts.

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Recommended Investments

(Continued from Page 5)

This cash injection will be “sufficient to fund the drilling and exploration program for the next three years”, so Cuadrilla Resources will no longer need additional financing from AJ Lucas Group.

Ammtec reported an 18.2% drop in revenues to \$24.6 million for the six months to 31 December 2009. Profits were 33.3% lower at \$2,628,679 but earnings per share were 53% lower at 7.2 cents owing to the increase in the issued capital. The interim dividend, however, is being raised 8.3% to 6.5 cents.

The net cash operating surplus was 4% lower at \$4.9 million.

The increased dividend - despite lower profits and the increased capital - reflects the directors belief that the business will improve strongly in the second half and over the next few years as new facilities are completed.

Ammtec



Atlas South Sea Pearl reports revenues down 48.0% to \$6.9 million for the year to 31 December 2009. There was a net loss of \$7,749,545 (*minus* 6.2 cents per share). No dividend will be paid. That loss consists mainly of the non-cash write down in the market value of oysters of \$6.3 million, reflecting the currently depressed state of the pearl market.

The net operating cash deficit was only about \$0.6 million.

During 2009 the company seeded 381,000 oysters - down slightly on the 430,000 in 2008.

Atlas South Sea Pearl



Breville Group's revenues were 3.8% lower for the half year to December 2009, but net profits increased 42.6% to \$15,348,000 (11.9 cents per share). If not for takeover response costs of \$2.9 million (after tax), profits would have been up 69.9% at \$18,296,000.

The interim dividend is being raised 50.0% to 6.0 cents.

There was a net operating cash surplus of \$13.8 million, up strongly from a \$19.9 million deficit a year earlier.

Campbell Brothers is predicting its full year profit to 31 March 2010 will be around \$75 million (119 cents per share), down 29% on the previous year. The annual dividend rate is forecast at 100 cents.

The company expects no contribution from the recently acquired **Pearlstreet** and **Ecowise** businesses, owing to integration and restructuring costs, but “both are expected to contribute strongly” in the March 2011 year.

Campbell Brothers



Cardno reports revenues 13.9% lower at \$228.6 million for the six months to 31 December 2009. Profits were down a similar 12.1% to \$16,051,000 while earnings per share were down 21.9% to 18.9 cents. A steady 14.0 cents interim dividend will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus improved 2% to \$17.0 million.

Cardno has also announced the acquisition of **ITC Group**, an Australian building services consulting engineering firm involved in electrical, mechanical and specialist engineering services. Cardno will pay \$20.4 million (i.e. \$14.6 million in cash and 1,394,000 shares issued at 416 cents each) for this business which generates \$20 million in annual fee revenues with “excellent opportunity for further growth through cross selling” with existing Cardno businesses.

Cardno



Cellnet Group reports an 18.9% drop in revenues to \$44.0 million for the six months to 31 December 2009 and returned to profitability, earning a net profit of \$930,000 (1.2 cents per share). No interim dividend will be paid.

There was a small net operating cash deficit of \$637,000.

As previously reported, the full year profit is expected to be around \$1.4-1.5 million (1.9-2.0 cents per share).

The company also holds \$19.7 million in cash (26 cents per share) and is debt-free.

Charter Hall Group has agreed to acquire the Property Management business from **Macquarie** and investments in the property trusts it will manage for \$297 million (plus transaction costs of about \$13 million). Of this, \$108 million will be for the property management business and \$189 million for the property trust investments.

These investments are \$111 million in **Macquarie Office Trust** (which has been renamed Charter Hall Office REIT), \$69 million in **Macquarie CountryWide Trust** (now Charter Hall Retail REIT) and \$9 million in **Macquarie Direct Property Fund**.

This is being financed via a placement of 121 million shares at 70 cents (i.e. \$85 million) to Macquarie who will become a 10% shareholder in Charter Hall Group. A further 35.7 million shares at 70 cents (i.e. raising \$25 million) were placed with institutions and the group is making a 2 for 5 non-renounceable cash issue at 65 cents to existing shareholders to raise \$195 million.

As we notified subscribers in an email, we did NOT wish to significantly increase our investment in Charter Hall Group, so sold some existing shares at 70 cents to finance the new shares at 65 cents. That way we were able to realise some value from this cash issue without needing to commit new cash to Charter Hall Group.

The final payment date was 5 March.

The Property Management business is being acquired at about 7.7 times forecast earnings (before interest and tax) for the year to June 2011. That's a reasonable valuation and Charter Hall Group predicts it will lift forecast 2011 earnings per share by 18%, from 4.26 cents to 5.03 cents.

For the year to 31 December 2009, Charter Hall Group reports revenues down 12.9% to \$31.3 million. Overall the group *lost* \$65,800,000 (*minus* 9.4 cents per share) owing to a \$65.2 million drop in property values and a \$15.3 million impairment in the value of goodwill. The *underlying* profit was 32.0% lower at \$14,200,000 (2.0 cents per share). An interim distribution 59.6% lower at 1.60 cents per stapled unit will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus was 47% lower at \$11.3 million.

The group reports that the property market has "improved over the last six months" with "increased demand and transaction activity" indicating that "property values have likely bottomed in Australia". The full year underlying earnings per share is still forecast at around 4.1 cents, with an annual distribution of 3.0-3.2 cents.

Charter Hall Group



Clarius Group recorded a 15.8% drop in revenues to \$132.3 million for the half year to 31 December. Profits were up 11.2% to \$1,079,000 (1.5 cents per share), which is still a depressed level. No interim dividend will be paid.

The net cash operating *deficit* (which reverses in the second half year) was \$4.1 million, an improvement on the \$5.3 million deficit a year earlier.

At 31 December the company held cash of \$1.5 million and had interest bearing debts of \$4.6 million, but expects to be debt-free by 30 June 2010.

CPT Global suffered a 13.2% drop in revenues to \$18.8 million for the half year to 31 December, but operated at a *loss* of \$856,000 (*minus* 2.3 cents per share), compared with a profit of \$1,044,000 in the same period a year earlier. No interim dividend will be paid.

The business, however, still managed to generate a small cash surplus - down 90% to \$154,000 - and has just \$1.6 million of debt and \$1.2 million of cash.

CPT Global



Devine has made an institutional share placement of 47.2 million shares at 25 cents to raise \$11.8 million. That was a massive 37.5% discount to the market value of 40 cents so, not surprisingly, this placement was "significantly over-subscribed". Also not surprisingly, a placement at this low price significantly depressed the shares, which quickly fell to trade around 27-28 cents! Where do these companies get their corporate advice?

Devine is also making a 3 for 4 non-renounceable cash issue to existing shareholders at 20 cents per share. Payment must be made by 22 March. This will raise \$54.4 million.

Given that the Devine share price is very depressed - and this is a heavily discounted cash issue - investors should endeavour to take up their entitlements to these new shares!

For the half year to 31 December 2009, Devine reported a 55.5% increase in revenues to \$300.6 million but profits fell 89.5% to just \$1,221,000 (0.4 cent per share). No interim dividend will be paid - but the company's forecasts suggest that a 2.2 cents final dividend is likely.

The net operating cash surplus was 80% higher at \$74.9 million.

The company believes its underlying profit was \$14,424,000 (4.6 cents per share), with \$13.2 million of one-off losses exiting major development projects. The divisional results confirm this with earnings of \$17.0 million from *Housing & Land* and a loss of \$13.8 million on *Property Development* (Continued on Page 8)

Recommended Investments*(Continued from Page 7)*

(and corporate overheads and taxes of \$2.0 million).

Devine

Ellex Medical Lasers has returned to profitability despite difficult trading conditions. Revenues were down 16.3% to \$25.5 million for the half year to 31 December, but there was a profit of \$1,229,000 (1.4 cents per share). Ellex Medical Laser has never paid dividends and needs to retain cash to finance growth and expansion.

The cash operating surplus was 40% higher at \$2.9 million.

Direct selling experienced just a 10% drop in revenues to \$18.9 million, with earnings down 2% to \$3.3 million, while sales through distributors were down 31% to \$6.5 million, with earnings down 38%.

Ellex Medical Laser is a very small, emerging growth company - so does involve high risks. The company, however, is bringing new products to market - unlike most of its competitors - and steadily building its global market share. Ellex Medical Lasers is the second largest company in its sector, with about a 20% global market share, but this specialist laser market is still spread between more than half a dozen competitors. Some rationalisation - perhaps a merger between Ellex Medical Lasers and a competitor, or some smaller competitors withdrawing from this market or failing - would certainly help improve profitability and growth potential!

The shares trade on a low valuation - an historical Price/Sales ratio of 0.24 and a Price/Earnings ratio of about 6 times this year's possible profits - so this high risk, high potential growth investment remains an attractive part of a diversified share portfolio.

Ellex Medical Lasers

Fiducian Portfolio Services has reported revenues of \$11.3 million for the half year to December 2009, down 4.9% on the same period a year ago. The net profit

was down 8.0% at \$1,850,000 (5.7 cents per share). A steady 3.75 cents interim dividend will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus was up 30% to \$1.6 million.

Fiducian Portfolio Services

Iluka Resources suffered a 35.6% drop in revenues to \$576.0 million for the year to 31 December, owing to the short term downturn in demand. Overall the group lost \$108.6 million (*minus* 25.9 cents per share), including \$67.6 million of impairment charges (i.e. writing down the value of mineral deposits) and \$22.9 million of profits from discontinued operations. No dividend will be paid.

Overall the business still generated a *positive* cash surplus of \$77.4 million (down 67%).

Iluka Resources

Integrated Research's revenues were 8.2% lower at \$18.1 million for the half year to December 2009. The net profit slipped 6.5% to \$2,703,000 (1.6 cents per share). A steady interim dividend of 1.5 cents - plus a special dividend of 0.5 cent - will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus dipped 55% to \$708,000.

Revenues for the company's IP Telephony products grew 77%.

Integrated Research

M2 Telecommunications - helped by earlier acquisitions - lifted revenues 115.4% for the half year to 31 December 2009. The net profit was up 156.4% at \$8,187,000 while earnings per share are up 80.5% to 7.4 cents. The interim dividend will be 100.0% higher at 5.0 cents.

The net operating cash surplus was only up 21% to \$5.6 million.

The company predicts full year revenues up 90-100% at \$380-400 million, profits up 95-105% at \$14.5-15.5 million. Earnings per share should be 90-100% higher at 13.2-14.0 cents, with the annual dividend 73% higher at about 9.5 cents.

While that is a very good performance, the share price has recovered and grown very strongly over the last twelve months, up 240% from around 51 cents to 175 cents. At this price a 9.5 cents annual dividend will yield 5.4% and the Price/Earnings ratio would be 12½-13.

That is not so expensive that we should sellout completely, but neither is it particularly cheap. The company has built up debts (albeit at only a modest level) partially funding acquisitions and the growth in operating cash surplus is less than expected. The company is introducing a dividend re-investment plan - which is a slight negative as it indicates the need to at least partially finance dividends by issuing new shares which will at least slightly dilute future earnings per share growth.

None of this is of *major* concern, but the shares are looking more fully valued and future growth rates may slow. Given that many other shares trade at depressed valuations, there is some sense in realising at least *partial* profits on our M2 Telecommunications investment - which is up 5½ fold over 3½ years - to provide cash to finance other share purchases.

The inclusion of M2 Telecommunications in the All Ordinaries index may help boost the share price as index funds acquire an initial shareholding and as the company is "discovered" by other institutional investors.

M2 Telecommunications



Mnet Group's revenues were 2.5% higher at \$2.9 million for the half year to 31 December. The *loss* increased 52.6% to \$963,887 (*minus* 0.5 cent per share), but depressed by the recent merger costs.

The net cash operating *deficit* (again boosted by one-off merger costs) was \$1.2 million.

Mnet Group has been awarded a *Tomorrow IP Grant* of \$100,000 by the South Australian government to help develop the company's *Campaign Mobile* software-as-a-service mobile marketing platform.

Melbourne IT has produced a good result for the

year to 31 December 2009 - and promises the potential for further strong growth in the years ahead.

Revenues for the year were up 7.5% to \$200.1 million and, despite earlier predicting profits could fall to about \$15 million, the net profit grew 3.8% to \$16,808,000 (21.4 cents per share). A final 8.0 cents dividend will make a steady 15.0 cents annual dividend rate.

The net operating cash surplus was down 11%, but still a very strong \$23.6 million.

Starting this month, Melbourne IT plans to spend \$25 million developing its *Integrated Web Services* and *Operational Support Systems*. These IT projects will enable the company to sell customers its full range of services across all business units and all countries while improving infrastructure stability and allow it to manage a greater range of products and services.

Much of this development cost will be capitalised, although \$3.9 million will be expensed in the 2010 results. This new expense will initially offset an expected "strong rise" in earnings, resulting in just "modest" growth in the net profit over the current financial year. The company is then predicting "robust net profit growth to return in 2011".

At 181½ cents, Melbourne IT shares are still 57% below their mid-2007 peak and trade on Price/Earnings ratio of 8½ and offer a Dividend Yield of 8.3%. That is an attractive, low valuation for a company with the potential for steady, but above average growth, over the medium to long term. We continue to rate Melbourne IT shares a "Buy" for current income, income growth and capital appreciation!

Melbourne IT



Photon Group recorded revenues 9.7% lower at \$300.7 million for the six months to 31 December 2009. *Trading* profits were up 2.1% to \$9,673,000 but earnings per share were down 41.3% to 5.4 cents owing to the increase in the issued capital. The interim dividend will be 50.0% lower at 3.0 cents.

Non-recurring costs, acquisition costs and an asset impairment charge took the bottom line result to a profit of \$2.9 million.

The net cash surplus from operations was \$16.6 million, up 109%.

Earnings from the *Strategic Intelligence* division rose 47% to \$7.3 million, while *Integrated Communications & Digital* earnings were 74% higher at \$9.4 million. *Field Marketing* earnings dipped 14% to \$12.9 million, *Internet & E-Commerce* fell 52% to \$5.8 million, while *Specialised Communications* lifted earnings 3% to \$7.7 million. (Continued on Page 10)

Recommended Investments

(Continued from Page 9)

The company is focused upon organic growth and expansion into new markets. It also predicts a “better result” for the second half.

Photon Group



Probiotec recorded a 14.4% drop in revenues to \$39.8 million for the half year to 31 December - mainly as the *previous* year's revenue was boosted by the sale of initial stocks to retailers in the United Kingdom. Profits increased 46.1% to \$6,233,880 (11.9 cents per share). The interim dividend is being raised 20.0% to 1.5 cents per share.

The net operating cash surplus was 38% higher at \$3.2 million.

Probiotec has reached agreement for two of its weight loss products to be distributed throughout Asia by four major retailers. Product launches are scheduled from March to June 2010.

Probiotec



Prophecy International Holdings' revenues fell 10.4% to \$2.5 million for the half year to 31 December 2009, while profits were down 77.8% to just \$296,082 (0.6 cent per share). A steady 2.0 cents unfranked dividend will be paid.

The net operating cash surplus was just 26.4% lower at \$714,445.

The company “expects to see an improved second half for revenue and profits”.

Prophecy International has improved its relationship with the US giant **Computer Sciences Corporation**, upgrading their *Memorandum of Understanding* to a *Global Alliance Reseller Agreement*. Computer Sciences Corporation sees “significant competitive

advantages in the global mid market segment” for Prophecy International's *basis2* software and the current agreement gives it non-exclusive rights to sell software licences to any utility business, for any service in any country.

Ross Human Directions' suffered a 9.5% decline in revenues to \$184.4 million for the half year to December 2009, but managed to lift profits 22.1% to \$2,813,000 (3.4 cents per share). The interim dividend will be raised 100.0% to 1.5 cents.

The net operating cash surplus was down 48% but still very high at \$5.4 million.

Earnings for the *Recruitment* division fell 35% to \$2.2 million while *Non-Recruitment* (i.e. technology consulting, payroll outsourcing, etc) lifted earnings 22% to \$3.6 million. The focus on working capital and debt reduction saved over \$1 million in interest costs.

Ross Human Directions



Skilled Group's recent half year report to December 2009 shows a significant decline on the same period a year earlier. but that prior period was “the strongest performance for Skilled Group in its history” and profitability fell sharply in the second half to June 2009 - which is now “showing an improving trend”.

For the recent period, revenues fell 20.9% to \$844.5 million, while profits were down 79.0% to just \$4,506,000 (2.8 cents per share). The company will not pay an interim dividend this year.

The business continues to generate strong net operating cash surpluses, although 71% lower than last year at \$14.6 million.

Skilled Group



TFS Corporation's results remain highly seasonal - making the first half result meaningless and possibly

misleading! Current and historical results have also been restated for a major accounting change, as previously discussed.

For the record, reported revenues fell 23.7% to \$22.4 million and profits were down 88.4% to \$983,000 (0.4 cents per share). The interim dividend will remain steady at 1.25 cents per share.

The net operating cash *deficit* increased 12-fold to \$26.7 million (although compared with a very small first half deficit last year).

We *could* discuss the figures that make up this result at great length - except that would probably just be a waste of time and space as TFS Corporation conducts virtually all of its financial business in the second half and the current numbers are largely meaningless.

For the full year the company expects its "cash" profits to be up over 10%, but the issued capital has increased about 18% over the year, so "cash" earnings per share should be relatively unchanged. Last year the company also earned 24% of its total profit from the revaluation of plantation assets - without which total earnings per share could be down about 25%.

Total plantation sales should "at least equal" the 1025 hectares sold last year, with institutional sales through *Beyond Carbon* up from 350 hectares to over 500 hectares.

The one figure that we feel does warrant discussion in the half year result is the cash operating deficit which includes the costs of developing the *Kingston Rest* property (i.e. about \$15 million) "completely paid for before client funds have been received". This reflects the "strength" of the company's "business model".

TFS Corporation



The Reject Shop lifted revenues 13.0% to \$250.5 million for the six months to 31 December, while profits increased 21.7% to \$18,942,000 (72.9 cents per share). The interim dividend will be raised 21.9% to 39.0 cents.

The net operating cash surplus was up 92% to \$38.5 million.

During the half year the company opened 23 new stores and closed one, giving it 192 stores. Four new stores will open in the second half.

The company expects its full year profit to be around \$22.0-22.5 million - up 16-18% for the year. The second half result will be partially depressed by opening costs for the new Queensland Distribution Centre, plus higher interest costs to finance higher stock levels during the

transition from servicing the stores from one distribution centre to two. This will give the group the infrastructure to service over 400 stores - more than twice the current size of the business!

The Reject Shop



Village Roadshow's revenues from continuing operations were unchanged at \$663.1 million for the half year to 31 December 2009, but *trading* profits recovered 143.8% to \$41,600,000. The issued capital was reduced 25.8% in the recent buy-back, so earnings per share increased over three-fold to 24.9 cents. The company will not pay an interim dividend at this stage but must pay at least 10.175 cents annually on the Preference shares (or at least 3.0 cents more than on the ordinary shares, whichever is greater).

In addition there were one-off gains totalling a further \$26.0 million after tax.

The net operating cash surplus was up 30% to \$116.4 million. This business does generate very high cashflows which can be used to finance growth, repay debt or buy back shares.

Australian based Village Roadshow and Hong Kong based **Golden Harvest Group** have used their Singapore based joint venture to acquire an undisclosed "cornerstone investment" in Singapore based **RGM Group**. RGM Group also plans to list on the Australian stockmarket, via a "reverse takeover" from the listed shell company **Biosignal**. RGM Group has two divisions, a *Talent Management Agency* (which represents many Australian artists and collects fees from representing these acting, directing and writing clients) and a *Content Development* business (involved as executive producer of film and television projects globally, funded by third parties, on which it collects service fees).

Village Roadshow (ord)



Globalisation of Skilled and Professional Occupations

The recent announcement by Nuplex Industries that it is planning to establish a Research & Technology centre in Asia highlights an emerging trend that will have significant economic impacts over the decades ahead.

In the past, Asia and other emerging economies have been seen as a source of cheap unskilled or semi-skilled labour. Over the last 40 years, that has decimated unskilled jobs - and unskilled wages - in developed economies, mainly as manufacturing activities have moved offshore.

But Asia is no longer just a massive supply of low cost, semi-skilled labour. There are now more trained engineers, doctors, teachers, etc, in India than there are in the United States. Developing economies have educated at least some of their populations and are now emerging as a massive source of *lower cost, highly skilled* labour.

With globalisation, many of these skilled people will move to developed countries in search of work. More likely, however, global businesses will simply start outsourcing more highly skilled jobs to emerging countries.

In the past we have seen skilled jobs - research and development, finance, marketing - performed by skilled, highly paid people in developed countries while only the unskilled jobs (i.e. in manufacturing) were outsourced to low cost developing countries. Today, there is a rapidly growing pool of skilled professionals in developing countries - and as global companies start outsourcing, or moving skilled jobs offshore, this will decimate and lower real incomes for skilled workers and professionals in developed countries.

A good education (leading to a skilled/professional job) is no longer enough to protect a person from globalisation. Companies can now employ a *better* trained person from India or Vietnam or Singapore for half the salary! In fact, rather than import foreign skilled labour, companies will move many of the skilled head office functions offshore.

The long term impact is that the real incomes of skilled workers and professionals in developed countries will fall over the decades ahead, just as the real incomes of unskilled workers in developed countries have fallen over the last 40 years.

People and countries can resist this change - just as they fought (expensively and unsuccessfully) to protect semi-skilled manufacturing jobs, but the availability of lower cost skilled workers in developing countries will ultimately drive down skilled incomes globally.

Winners and Losers: The Global Re-Distribution of "National Income"

As in the past, people can draw a line in the sand and try to keep back the tide - or accept that change will happen

and adapt to benefit from those changes. If skilled labour costs are about to fall - lowering the incomes of skilled workers - then who will benefit? The answer (as with the drop in unskilled labour costs) is (1) consumers and (2) companies.

Lower labour costs will result in lower production costs. Moving unskilled and semi-skilled manufacturing to lower cost developing countries has lowered the cost of cars, microwave ovens, computers, etc. (Quality is a separate issue. Consumers don't accept unsafe cars but for some reason do accept computers that crash!) Lower costs for skilled labour will further reduce costs in these businesses *and* in more skilled service industries. Your doctor's, dentist's and lawyer's hourly charge-out rate will likely fall significantly in real (i.e. inflation adjusted) terms over the decades ahead!

The main benefits, however, will accrue to businesses and their owners/shareholders. Economics students learn at high school that the National Income of a country (or of the whole world) is represented by the total value of the goods and services produced and that this equals the total amount paid out as wages, profits, rents and interest. Wages are, of course, the return on labour, while profits, rents and interest are the returns on capital.

If the returns on labour fall - and this has *already* happened to unskilled labour and is about to spread to skilled labour - then the returns on capital will rise. In the future, total wages will account for a smaller share of national incomes, while profits will earn a larger share.

Adapting to Change

What does this mean for individuals? Firstly, whether you are a doctor or a dentist or a lawyer, then it is not enough to work for someone else as just an employee. Over time, your employer will be able to hire other doctors or dentists or lawyers to do your job at a lower real cost, so your real income will likely decline steadily. At the very least you need to invest in your own practice or become an owner/partner in the business. Your *income as an owner* will therefore tend to increase to offset the decline in your *income as an employee*.

Secondly, increasing returns to capital makes a strong case for share ownership. Workers - even highly skilled workers - will become *relatively* poorer (i.e. less well paid) while owners/shareholders will enjoy a higher percentage of the national income in the decades ahead.

Summary and Recommendation

Globalisation has re-shaped the world economy over the last 40 years and this process is far from complete. In the past, living in a developed or undeveloped country, being uneducated or well educated, or having an unskilled or skilled job, probably determined whether you are classified as "living in poverty" (Continued on Page 14)

