

Market Analysis

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Inside Market Analysis

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Founder: James R Cornell (B.Com.)

Summary and Recommended Investment Strategy.

Deferring the European debt crisis may help stockmarkets in the short to medium term, but the world faces a long period of major economic adjustment. At a micro-economic level this creates the potential for individual companies to exploit niche opportunities and grow strongly. At a macro-economic level, if uncertainty creates an extended period of *low share prices* then that is also extremely favourable as investment returns will compound at a higher rate - creating significant long term wealth!

Investment Outlook.

The US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the central banks in Japan, Canada and Switzerland have all agreed to provide low cost US dollar funding to European banks. This *defers* the current crisis into the future - hopefully giving enough time for governments to cut their deficits, for economic growth which will improve Debt/GDP ratios . . . and for inflation to erode the real value of those debts!

But without enough time for inflation to erode debts - allowing governments to “default by stealth” - what is the next step in resolving this crisis? Probably bringing in the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF used to bail out poorly run, often dictatorships in emerging economies - demanding the countries adopt necessary fiscal and economic policies as conditions for its loans. This may now be the only practical mechanism to *impose* sound policies on poorly run, democratic, developed countries where any government that even *considers* the necessary policy decisions can expect to be opposed in parliament and promptly voted out by the electorate!

Germany is talking about lending to the IMF, which would also raise funds from other countries around the world, with the IMF then on-lending to Italy and Greece - presumably with loan conditions (imposing upon their national sovereignty) that Italy and Greece would not accept directly from Germany.

So, more importantly, what is being done about the US debt problem? The Japanese debt problem? And, yes, the Australian debt problem and the New Zealand debt problem? All of these economies have run up sizeable government debts over the last half century. Life expectancy has also increased significantly, but with at best only minor plans to extend working age. So in addition to “on-balance sheet” debts, these government's face significant “off-balance sheet” liabilities for superannuation and healthcare.

The problem with an “aging population” is not that we have larger numbers of *aged and infirm* people that require care, but that we have large numbers of *aged and healthy* people that do not expect to

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Stockmarket Forecasts

	One-Month	One-Year
Australia:	65% (Bullish)	65% (Bullish)
New Zealand:	75% (Bullish)	53% (Neutral)



Recommended Investments

Cavalier Corporation reports carpet sales volumes down 18% over the first four months of the current financial year - which is a slight improvement on the 20% drop over the first three months reported last month! Overall the company expects the full year profit to be 40-50% lower at \$8.5-10.5 million (12½-15½ cents per share). The company will not pay its first interim dividend this year.

The company believes this decline is the result of several factors: Firstly, a sharp fall in business and

consumer confidence owing to the European debt crisis which had led to the *deferral* of many commercial refurbishment projects (which should boost sales *next* year). Secondly, a soft market for residential carpets in Australia and building activity “near historical lows” in New Zealand. Again, the rebuilding of Christchurch should boost sales next year. Thirdly, the 80% increase in wool prices has made wool carpets less competitive with synthetic carpets at the budget end of the market.

At the AGM, the Chairman (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 %
NZ Shares													
BUY	CDL Investments Ltd	CDI	12/01/99	25	D	252.8	1.4	8.72	28	5.4	32	20.3	+109%
BUY	Cavalier Corporation	CAV	05/12/95	156*	C	68.3	1.1	0.66	9	11.5	223	278.0	+221%
HOLD	Colonial Motor Company	CMO	10/11/92	128*	A	32.7	0.4	0.18	11	10.2	265	337.3	+371%
HOLD	Lyttelton Port Company	LPC	12/12/00	150	C	102.3	0.7	2.27	17	Nil	204	77.7	+88%
BUY	Michael Hill Int'l Ltd	MHI	11/06/91	5*	B	382.7	0.9	0.69	10	5.1	88	36.4	+2388%
HOLD+	Nuplex Industries Ltd	NPX	11/02/97	523*	C	196.7	1.1	0.30	7	8.8	240	409.0	+24%
HOLD	Postie Plus Group	PPG	08/05/06	71	B	40.0	1.9	0.09	16	5.5	26	8.5	-51%
HOLD	Renaissance Corp	RNS	13/08/96	85*	D	45.7	3.3	0.03	NE	Nil	10	53.9	-25%
HOLD	Smiths City Group	SCY	09/10/06	64	A	53.0	1.3	0.10	12	4.8	42	15.0	-11%
HOLD	South Port New Zealand	SPN	13/02/96	120	A	26.2	0.5	3.52	14	8.4	340	154.3	+312%
HOLD	Steel & Tube Holdings	STU	08/08/00	146	C	88.4	0.8	0.47	11	10.5	205	254.6	+215%
Australian Shares (in Aust cents)													
HOLD	AJ Lucas Group	AJL	13/05/03	120	C	65.3	0.7	0.63	NE	Nil	135	41.0	+47%
BUY	Atlas South Sea Pearl	ATP	14/05/96	73	C	136.4	2.2	0.97	6	Nil	10	17.5	-62%
HOLD	Campbell Brothers Ltd	CPB	12/10/99	389*	A	67.5	0.2	3.09	26	2.8	5076	679.0	+1379%
BUY	Cardno Ltd	CDD	14/12/09	399*	B	107.4	0.4	0.68	10	6.4	530	62.6	+49%
HOLD	Cellnet Group Ltd ¹	CLT	12/02/02	147*	B	61.3	1.2	0.29	18	10.0	35	35.9	-49%
BUY	Chandler Macleod Group	CMG	14/08/01	51*	B	467.9	1.3	0.14	14	5.7	35	22.9	+14%
HOLD+	Circadian Technologies	CIR	10/02/04	188	D	46.4	1.0	11.39	NE	Nil	45	65.0	-41%
BUY	Clarius Group Ltd	CND	08/04/03	82*	B	88.2	1.1	0.16	10	8.5	47	69.5	+42%
BUY	CPT Global Ltd	CGO	10/03/08	88	B	36.9	0.9	0.51	27	4.7	53	9.8	-29%
BUY	CSG Limited	CSV	11/10/10	175	A	282.6	0.8	0.74	7	5.4	102	5.5	-39%
BUY	Customers Ltd	CUS	11/07/11	83	A	134.9	0.8	1.25	8	4.3	115	2.0	+41%
HOLD+	Devine Ltd	DVN	13/11/06	84*	B	158.7	0.8	0.30	6	2.5	80	18.9	+18%
BUY	Ellex Medical Lasers	ELX	14/03/06	49	D	84.9	2.1	0.24	NE	Nil	13	Nil	-74%
BUY	Fiducian Portfolio Ser	FPS	11/02/08	260	B	32.2	0.8	1.47	8	7.8	112	31.8	-45%
BUY	Finbar Group Ltd	FRI	12/04/10	106	B	207.7	0.7	3.55	8	9.2	93	11.0	-2%
HOLD	Iluka Resources Ltd	ILU	12/10/04	471	A	415.5	0.3	7.26	0	0.5	1685	92.0	+277%
BUY	Integrated Research	IRI	14/01/08	40	A	166.9	1.0	1.81	11	8.2	49	14.0	+56%
HOLD	Mnet Group ¹	MNZ			C	208.3	4.4	0.41	NE	Nil	2.5	Nil	
HOLD	M2 Telecommunications	MTU	09/10/06	33	B	123.7	0.5	0.80	12	5.8	275	39.5	+853%
BUY	Melbourne IT	MLB	10/02/04	53	B	80.0	0.6	0.55	6	11.5	130	74.0	+285%
BUY	Nomad Building Solutio	NOD	16/08/10	13*	D	277.5	2.3	0.16	NE	Nil	10	Nil	-23%
BUY	Novarise Renewable Res	NOE	14/03/11	25	B	399.3	1.9	0.94	5	5.7	18	Nil	-30%
BUY	Penrice Soda Holdings	PSH	11/07/11	17	D	91.4	2.0	0.07	NE	Nil	12	Nil	-29%
BUY	Probiotec Ltd	PBP	11/02/08	116	C	52.9	1.2	0.26	18	Nil	35	9.3	-62%
HOLD+	Prophecy International	PRO	08/09/08	26	C	47.2	1.7	1.84	NE	2.6	19	7.3	+1%
HOLD	Skilled Group Ltd	SKE	12/03/02	126	B	233.1	0.6	0.25	18	1.5	200	135.0	+166%
HOLD	Technology One Ltd	TNE	11/11/03	44	B	303.4	0.7	2.05	16	4.4	106	27.3	+203%
HOLD+	TFS Corporation Ltd	TFC	08/01/07	45	B	276.5	0.9	1.59	9	7.4	64	14.2	+74%
BUY	The Reject Shop Ltd	TRS	11/01/05	257	B	26.0	0.3	0.51	17	3.0	1030	279.5	+410%
HOLD	Village Roadshow	VRL	10/08/09	77	B	151.5	0.5	0.49	16	5.3	302	137.0	+470%

The average Total Return (i.e. both Capital Gains/Losses plus Dividends received) of all current investments from initial recommendation is +193.8%. This is equal to an average annual rate of +25.0%, based upon the length of time each position has been held.

The average annual rate of gain of ALL recommendations (both the 40 current and 152 closed out) is +29.1%, compared with a market gain of +3.7% (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 of Mnet Group distributed to shareholders.

Recommended Investments

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pointed out that “a carpet is a consumer durable” and “carpet purchase is generally deferred rather than lost”. The company's “experience in the past” is that “a feast generally follows a famine”.

The downturn in the current year's profitability could also result in a lower dividend rate, but profits (and dividends) should recover in the future. So the downturn in profits - and the share price - should therefore offer a buying opportunity for investors to add to their holdings in this company. The share price can hit lows and then recover quickly, so picking the ultimate bottom of the decline is very difficult. A better strategy would be to split any planned investment (or additional investment) into 3-4 amounts of approximately equal dollar value and then make 3-4 buy transactions over the next 6-9 months (i.e. buy a few shares every couple of months, averaging out the purchase price over a period when the price is expected to be depressed). “Buy”.

Cavalier Corporation



As previously reported this year, Cavalier Corporation's 50% owned wool scouring business, **Cavalier Wool Holdings**, had obtained **Commerce Commission** approval to acquire the wool scouring business of **Wool Services International** (although has yet to negotiate any acquisition or merger). This decision was appealed by **Godfrey Hirst**, but the High Court has dismissed that appeal. A merger of these two businesses would leave only one NZ wool scouring business, but that would still face competition from Chinese wool scours which currently process over 21% of NZ's wool exports and which have “decimated the Australian scouring industry”.

Nuplex Industries is to purchase German based **Vivero GmbH** for •75 million from **Bayer Material Science**. This business is expected to generate earnings (before interest, depreciation and tax) of around •11.5 million.

This acquisition will make Nuplex Industries one of the four largest resin manufacturers in Europe, as well as expanding into some new product groups. Vivero has a “world class production facility”, built in 1995, and gives Nuplex Industries better access to markets in Germany, Central and Eastern Europe.

Postie Plus Group reports first quarter sales down 4.3% to \$24.0 million. In part this is the result of lower school uniform sales during October, with the change in school terms as a result of the Rugby World Cup. Inventories are “well managed” and around 5% below last year.

Renaissance Corporation lifted revenues 18.0% to \$181.8 million over the year to 30 September 2011, but

operated at a loss of \$4,347,000 (minus 9.5 cents per share). This result includes the receipt of \$1.0 million in earthquake insurance claims, but makes no provision for a further \$3.6 million (pre-tax) in insurance claims that have not yet been accepted by its insurance company.

There was a net operating cash deficit of \$5.3 million.

Based upon trading in October, the company will probably need to downgrade the 2012 profit forecast made in September. The company is compliant with a new banking covenant (which runs to May 2012) but will “need to see a substantial improvement in trading performance”. The business is also under-capitalised “without the speedy restitution of our insured losses”.

Australian Shares

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

AJ Lucas Group is to increase its recapitalisation to \$151 million (from the \$95-100 million proposed in September) and retain its drilling business which is “now performing to expectations”. The two year loan from **Kerogen Investments** will be increased from \$66.5 million to \$86.5 million (plus 11.3-18.6 million options to buy shares at 135-170 cents) while the cash issue to shareholders will increase from \$30-35 million to \$51.3 million.

The company will offer existing shareholders one new share at 135 cents for every two shares currently held. The cash issue is non-renounceable, but shareholders will be able to apply for an over-allotment of shares.

The EGM to approve this recapitalisation is expected on 22 December, with the cash issue opening on 10 January and closing on 27 January.

The Drilling Division has won a \$240 million, three-year contract with **Xstrata Coal** for gas drainage from its *Newlands* and *Oaky North* and *Oaky One* coal mines - lifting the backlog of work to over \$500 million.

Cuadrilla Resources is drilling the *Becconsall #1* well - now at 9,400 feet, with a target depth of 10,500 feet - in the Bowland Basin Shale prospect. The company hopes to restart fracking in the first quarter of 2012. **AJ Lucas Group** hopes to “realise some of the value” in this investment with “the commercialisation of the first Cuadrilla asset expected during 2012”.

Drilling is about to begin at the *Monument Prospect* in East Texas. The primary oil targets are at 10,000 feet and from 18,750-21,500 feet (plus “one promising deep well location”). Other companies drilling nearby have recently discovered oil at 7,450 feet and 7,600 feet. The drilling program will take 12-18 months.

Atlas South Sea Pearl reports that after eight years of successfully transporting oysters from Bali to Alyui Bay in West Papua, a load of 32,000 oysters have died. This was not the result of human error or mechanical failure and the company is investigating further to identify the cause of this event.

This will cause no immediate impact on cashflows (i.e. the ability to finance growth plans) but the current book value of \$415,000 (cost \$100,000) will be written off and lower the 2011 reported profit. These oysters would have been harvested in 2013, so will slightly lower revenues, cashflows and potential profits for 2013 and 2014.

Campbell Brothers lifted revenues 21.9% to \$667.5 million for the six months to 30 September 2011 and net profits were 54.5% higher at \$102,342,000. Earnings

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per share were 45.1% higher at 151.6 cents and the interim dividend will be raised 46.2% to 95.0 cents.

The net operating cash surplus was 28% higher at \$82.9 million.

The ALS Minerals division lifted revenues 75% to \$276.7 million and earnings 79% to \$95.0 million - helped by the acquisitions of **Ammtec** and **Stewart Group** (for three months). The ALS Environmental division lifted revenues 11% to \$173.0 million and earnings 13% to \$40.0 million. These two divisions generate 66% of group revenues and 84% of earnings.

During the period ALS Environmental commissioned a new laboratory in Bangkok and started construction of a new 42,000 ft² laboratory in Calgary, Canada.

Trading in October and November "has remained very strong", with the company forecasting a full year profit 51-66% higher at \$200-220 million (295-325 cents per share). At the current share price of \$50.76 that would give a Price/Earnings ratio of 15½-17 - which is still good value for a company with favourable business economics and growing very rapidly. Therefore, although our investment in Campbell Brothers has grown almost 15-fold (including dividends) over the last 12 years we are not in any hurry to sell out or to reduce our holding in this company.

Of course, if some investors portfolios are becoming very over-weighted in Campbell Brothers shares then it is a sound investment strategy to realise some partial profits and to re-invest in other recommended shares, to improve diversification.

Cellnet Group expects that "challenging trading conditions and subdued consumer sentiment" will result in a lower profit of around \$700,000 for the six months to 31 December 2011. Last year the company earned a first half profit of \$1.5 million but (after a small second half loss) a full year profit of \$1.2 million.

The company, however, will pay a steady 1.0 cent interim dividend and a 9.0 cents return of capital. The dividend will be paid on 23 December but the return of capital will require shareholder approval. Cellnet Group is debt-free and the dividend and capital return will distribute only about 30% of its cash to shareholders.

Circadian Technologies has released more information about potential future royalty earnings:

The LAM VEGF-D biomarker test (for degenerative lung disease) has seen "sales significantly increase over the past two months" and the company expects this to "expand to 25-50,000 tests per annum within 2-3 years". That would generate US\$10-20 million of revenues with Circadian Technologies receiving a 20-25% royalty - or US\$2-5 million annually (4-10 cents per share).

This test could also be used as a biomarker to monitor mTOR therapy. The lead drug in that class, *Affinitor*, is expected to have annual sales of US\$3000 million within 2-3 years - offering a significant market for Circadian Technologies' test, perhaps from around 2014.

The Cancers of Unknown Primary Origin test will be launched by **Healthscope** in early 2012 in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore, with an expected market of 10,000 tests annually at \$1000-1500 per test (compared with an existing test selling for \$3000). Circadian Technologies' royalty of over 15% would generate annual revenues of \$1.5-2.5 million (3-5 cents per share).

Circadian Technologies also retains all rights to

market this test in the rest of the world and estimates a market for 150,000 tests in the US, Europe and Japan. The company expects to have partnerships in place for the rest of the world by the first half of 2013 - and we estimate this could generate annual royalties of \$10-15 million (22-36 cents per share).

The company is also "accelerating" the development of a VEGF-C diagnostic test as a biomarker of resistance to anti-angiogenic therapy. The potential worldwide market would be around 250,000 tests annually, at US\$200-300 per test, or US\$50-75 million. That could generate further significant royalties from 2015!

Ellex Medical Lasers is the world leader (outside of the United States) in the supply of *Selective Trabeculoplasty Treatment* (SLA) lasers, which is the primary therapy for glaucoma in most developed markets. **Lumenis** (an Israeli company) has a 100% share of the lucrative United States market owing to patent protection - but that patent expires in July 2013 when Ellex Medical Lasers will be able to compete for US sales.

Iluka Resources believes that urbanisation and GDP growth in China and other developing economies will "underpin Zircon demand growth" but uncertain market conditions *may* lead to "a relatively soft Zircon sales quarter or two". That would temporarily depress revenues and profits.

While warning about a "soft market", Iluka Resources has negotiated a further 80-85% increase in high grade titanium dioxide prices over the next six months. Compared with the current half year, rutile prices will rise 80-85% (to around US\$2410-2480/tonne) and synthetic rutile will rise 85-90% to US\$1990-2045/tonne.

These prices are 210-220% higher (i.e. more than tripling Iluka Resources' revenues per tonne) compared with the first half of the current financial year! Most of the extra revenues will flow straight through to significantly higher net profits and net operating cashflows.

Iluka Resource has completed a ten-day trial to test its rail load and unloading infrastructure by transporting mineral sands from its Murray Basin operations to the Hamilton Mineral Separation plant by train, rather than by truck. The concentrate was transported by truck to the Hopetoun rail lines, then transported 300km by rail to the processing facility. Rail transportation will be used permanently from early 2012, once the company has completed building some walls at the rail depots. This will improve efficiency and remove heavy trucks from the highways and roads.

Iluka Resources



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Recommended Investments

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Melbourne IT has signed an agreement with Philippine based **PDB SME Solutions** which offers online resources and online banking for small businesses in the Philippines. Under the agreement, Melbourne IT will provide domain name registration, webhosting, email and create e-commerce websites for PDB SME Solutions' customers.

Many of Melbourne IT's core operations are competitive, "commodity businesses" (i.e. domain name registration) where efficiency and a low-cost structure are important for success, although it also has some higher margin, value added businesses (i.e. web hosting, brand services). This is why its major investment in its transformation projects - *Integrated Web Services* and *Operational Support Systems* - are important to ensure the future efficient operation of the business as well as maximise the potential to cross-sell value added services to existing customers. These development costs, plus the higher Australian dollar and slower global economy, have depressed profits in the short term.

At 130 cents, Melbourne IT shares trade on a Price/Sales ratio of 0.55, a Price/Earnings ratio of 6½ and a Dividend Yield of 11.5%. The current year dividend is forecast at 14-15 cents, which will yield 10.8-11.5%.

The company has cash in the bank of \$19.7 million (24.6 cents per share) and interest bearing debts of \$41.5 million (i.e. a five year US\$44.0 million loan at 3.1%, repayable at US\$6.0 million annually through to April 2013 when the balance of US\$33.5 million will need to be repaid or refinanced).

When we initially recommended Melbourne IT shares in February 2004 at 52 cents the P/S ratio was 0.55, the P/E ratio 14 and the company had just paid a 1.0 cent maiden dividend (so a Yield of 3.8% was expected). The company held cash of \$16.8 million - or 33.6 cents per share!

Melbourne IT remains in a sound financial position today - with cash in the bank and moderate debt levels (resulting from the acquisition of part of the Digital Brand Services business). Despite flat profits over the last few years, Melbourne IT has grown profits significantly since we first bought in almost eight years ago. The share price is up 2½-fold, but earnings per share have risen 4¾-fold, so the P/E ratio has dropped from a reasonable 14 to a very low 6½. Improving earnings and cash in the bank have allowed the dividend rate to rise 7½-fold, so despite the higher share price the Yield has *tripled*.

Profits have declined slightly over the last few years, but this reflects difficult business conditions rather than any problems with the business. While the company operates in a competitive environment, it is in businesses that provide recurring revenue streams - so the company should generate fairly reliable cashflows and profits. Those cashflows will enable the company to pay generous cash dividends to shareholders, while also financing both organic growth and some growth through acquisition.

Over the medium to longer term, we would expect a company like Melbourne IT to be able to continue to grow profits and dividends at an above average rate. Perhaps Melbourne IT will not be able to grow earnings per share by a further 4¾-fold over the *next* eight years,

but a 2-3 fold increase would equal an annual growth of 9-15% per annum. Investors' *long term* return is the dividend yield (i.e. 11%) plus the *growth* rate (i.e. perhaps 9-15%) which would indicate a total return to investors of around 20-26% per annum.

If, over the next eight years, the shares were again re-rated from a P/E of 6¾ to 14, then the share price would rise a further 100% (i.e. 4-6 fold in total). That would equal an average 18-25% per annum capital appreciation *plus* an 11% income yield - or a total return of 29-36% per annum.

Some large Wealth Management (wealth *mismanagement*?) companies are predicting zero returns from stockmarkets over the next 5-10 years. We should, however, point out that at the top of a boom (e.g. the Technology boom in 1999) they predicted strong growth in the years ahead - so we place little value (and certainly none of our money) on these predictions. Nevertheless, even *if* stockmarkets perform poorly in the years ahead, then a soundly financed business with recurring cashflows and offering an 11% cash dividend yield should significantly outperform the market, even with no growth in profits and no appreciation of its share price.

So - if economic conditions remain really tough - then an 11% yield from an investment in Melbourne IT shares looks pretty good. And if things improve slightly and the business grows, then an 11% income yield *plus* income growth *plus* a 2-3 fold, or even a 4-6 fold, increase in the share price would be more than acceptable!

It is not often that investors can buy a high quality growth company like Melbourne IT on a P/E ratio of 6½ and a Yield of 11%. This is why we find the stockmarket downturn of the last few years so exciting . . . but some of the best shares to buy now are in companies already in our portfolio! Buy.

Melbourne IT



Nomad Building Solutions has \$13.3 million invested in transportable rental buildings and recently announced plans to invest a further \$5 million in this business. A significant part of this (187 four-person units and ten laundries) had been rented by **Newmont Boddington** which will now purchase these facilities for \$8.5 million. This will release a profit over depreciated book value and the proceeds will be used to "reduce debt, to invest in new hire fleet assets and other suitable projects".

The company "anticipates operations will return to profitability" this financial year (i.e. to June 2012).

Nomad Building Solutions is a *recovery situation* - so a return to profitability (and, at an appropriate time, the reinstatement of dividends) should see the shares

significantly re-rated in value! “Buy”.

Nomad Building Solutions



Penrice Soda Holdings reports a trading *loss* of \$2.6 million for the first four months of the new financial year, plus “one-off” costs of \$1.7 million from its strategic review and the temporary closure of the Gawler rail line. For the full year to June 2012 the company is aiming to break-even.

The high exchange rate has reduced export receipts as well as reducing the demand from glass customers. A downturn in construction has resulted in lower quarry sales.

The company expects improved performance in the second half, helped by agreed price rises. The *Selective Salts Recovery* pilot plant (to treat coal seam gas water) “will make a positive impact on earnings in the current financial year”. The company believes that “if the pilot plant is successful, it may lead to a commercial scale plant” and that this new business could be a “company transforming project that would diversify income streams and access a high growth market”.

To reduce debt levels the company *may* need to sell off its mine (although the directors would prefer to keep it), raise additional equity capital (perhaps in the form of a convertible note) or “transfer ownership of the entire business to a larger group with a larger balance sheet that could negotiate the economic and commodity cycles” (i.e. find someone to take over the company). Penrice Soda is holding “preliminary discussions with a number of parties”.

The sodium bicarbonate business “provides the greatest potential return on capital” so annual production will be increased by 25,000 tonnes. This will require a capital investment of \$8 million, but increase earnings by \$3.5 million annually, which is a “highly attractive payback period”.

London City Equities (and a few other shareholders), calling itself the *Penrice Shareholder Action Group*, has required the company to hold an EGM where it will seek to remove four existing directors and install three of its own nominees. Two of the directors it seeks to remove were re-elected at the AGM last week (with 63-65% of votes cast on a poll) and one of its nominees has previously been *invited* to join the Penrice Soda board.

While the board of directors *could* perhaps benefit from a bit of a shake-up, London City Equities' nominees for the board do not have any specific plans or ideas on how to run the company better. London City Equities does not have the financial resources to support Penrice Soda and there must be doubts about its long term commitment to this company, having sold 490,000 Penrice Soda shares over the last month, reducing their

holding to 4,507,811 shares.

Probiotec reports revenues up 4% to \$22.9 million for the first four months of the new financial year, with a small pre-tax profit of \$300,000 (up from a pre-tax *loss* of \$1.4 million for the same period a year earlier).

The company has announced the sale of its surplus Bundaberg production site for \$1.05 million (book value \$1.0 million), with settlement in January. Proceeds will be used to reduce debts.

The company has also sold its *Milton* antibacterial and baby care brand to **Rivadis Australia** for \$6.0 million in cash plus around \$150,000 for stock (plus an earn-out of up to \$750,000 based upon achieving sales targets over the next 18 months). This business - which is now considered “non-core” - generates revenues of about \$2.57 million and we estimate net profits of about \$6-700,000. So the business is being sold on a Price/Sales ratio of 2.4-2.7 and a Price/Earnings ratio of 9-10. This loss of profits will be partially offset by repaying interest bearing debt.

The *Milton* business was purchased in 2005 and has a book value of \$3.1 million, so will generate a non-recurring pre-tax profit of \$2.9 million in the current half year.

Prophecy International Holdings reports results from its newly acquired **Inersect Alliance** “above expectations” and with “growth projections looking very positive”. Version 6 of its *Snare* monitoring software will be released in 2012 and Prophecy plans to grow this business via its existing international sales channels.

The groups' *Promadis* business has won two major projects: A major upgrade Registry software system for the **Australian Capital Territory Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry** plus the ACT's *Office of Regulatory Services* has commissioned the company to develop and supply a specialist *Workplace Checking* software module. These contracts are worth around \$500,000.

The company is “in the process of completing the final paperwork” on two *basis2* Utility software sales - although these are small projects worth in excess of \$1.5 million in total. This division is also continuing to develop its Billing solutions under a *Software as a Service* model using Cloud computing. This service will be marketed by “two large partners”.

Overall the company expects first half revenues to be up 50% with profits tripling to around \$750,000 and allowing it to reinstate an interim dividend. Full year revenues are expected to rise 45% with a net profit of about \$1.25 million (2½ cents per share), up from a small loss in 2011.

Prophecy International Holdings



(Continued on Page 8)

Recommended Investments

(Continued from Page 7)

Skilled Group has sold its **Tradeforce NZ** business to **AWF Group** for NZ\$3.2 million in cash, plus up to NZ\$300,000 payable in 2012, subject to achieving revenue targets. The business has a book value of NZ\$700,000.

Technology One lifted revenues 15.3% to \$156.7 million for the year to 30 September 2011 and net profits 14.1% to \$20,326,000 (6.8 cents per share). A final dividend of 3.16 cents will lift the regular dividend rate 10.0% to 4.62 cents and in addition the company will again pay a special dividend of 1.5 cents.

The net operating cash surplus was 33% lower, but still a healthy \$21.2 million.

The company holds cash of \$43.4 million (14.5 cents per share) and has no bank debt, although does have finance lease borrowings of \$7.4 million.

With Research & Development expenditure of \$31.8 million, Technology One shares trade on a Price/Research ratio of 10 - which is reasonable value.

Technology One has over 500 staff at its new Brisbane R&D centre and established a small offshore R&D centre in Indonesia in July 2011. This is currently being trialled with just over 30 people until June 2012. If successful, it will be expanded to help contain the group's high R&D costs.

The business is also continuing to focus upon improving its profit margins which have declined over the last decade. Profit margins have been steady around 17% over the last few years, but the company will seek to raise these to around 25-30%.

The business also generates 77% of earnings from Financial, Supply Chain and Corporate Performance Management software, so looks to grow revenues and earnings from its Asset Management, Enterprise Content Management, HR & Payroll, Customer Relationship Management, Mobile and Property & Rating software.

The United Kingdom business *lost* \$1.5 million and generated only 0.4% of new licence revenues, but Technology One is trying new strategies and has a new structure and new personnel and "remains committed to the UK market". Success in this market would offer huge growth potential for the company and significantly improve margins and its return on its massive investments in R&D.

Technology One



TFS Corporation is required under the terms of its US\$150 million Senior Secured Notes to report unaudited quarterly results. These will largely be meaningless, owing to large and irregular institutional plantation

investments which will cause fluctuations in reported revenues from quarter to quarter.

Some figures, however, are of interest. The interest expense is up 4¼-fold to \$4.4 million (owing to the high interest US\$150 million notes) while interest income (i.e. interest earned on this uninvested cash at lower interest rates) was only \$877,000. Company owned plantations increased \$7.5 million in value (mainly owing to the rise of the US dollar over the quarter), which was offset by the \$8.6 million exchange rate *loss* on the US\$150 million of borrowings.

The US dollar borrowing are a *natural hedge* for the company's plantation assets and future export revenues - but accounting standards will require significant gains and losses in future quarterly reports as exchange rates fluctuate!

What is also significant - as a measure of the growth of the business - is the 76% growth in recurring management fees to \$8.8 million. \$2.5 million was received in cash and \$6.3 million is deferred and TFS Corporation will be paid from the eventual harvest and sale of trees.

Village Roadshow AGM has reported many favourable developments. At the *Village Cinemas* division "Business is GREAT!", with the conversion to digital projection having a "positive impact on the whole industry's economics and competitive power of the cinema medium". The *Roadshow Film Distribution* is performing well and in the home market "sees real growth in direct internet streaming". The *Theme Parks* are enjoying "strong" business and (subject to weather conditions) should experience "another successful trading year". The group is still investigating listing **Village Roadshow Entertainment Group** (i.e. film production), "possibly in Asia", as increased equity would enable the company to "more fully utilise our very advantageous US\$1000 million film finance facility and produce a broader portfolio of films each year".

The company is making "very good progress to build and operate a world class theme park in China" which "will be an enormous undertaking" but "without any heavy investment burden". That suggests the company is looking at a joint venture where it contributes brands, know-how, project management and on-going management while a partner contributes the equity financing. The company would then probably earn an annual management fee to run the theme park, plus own an equity interest and a share of the profits. That is the kind of deal that can create significant Shareholder wealth by utilising the company's existing intellectual property and skills, but requiring little capital investment.

Village Roadshow



“Neglect” Ratings of Australian Shares

“Neglected” Shares = 1-2 Brokers, “Moderately Followed” Shares = 3-4 Brokers, “Widely Followed” Shares = 5 or more Brokers.

Company	No. of Brokers Following Company	Market Capitalisation (\$ Mill.)	Company	No. of Brokers Following Company	Market Capitalisation (\$ Mill.)	Company	No. of Brokers Following Company	Market Capitalisation (\$ Mill.)	Company	No. of Brokers Following Company	Market Capitalisation (\$ Mill.)
AGL Energy Ltd	4	6,652	Charter Hall GR	2	596	James Hardie	4	2,965	Resolute Mining	3	907
AMP Ltd	4	8,893	Chart H Office	4	1,756	Jupiter Mines	1	574	Resource Equip.	2	81
ANZ Bank	4	54,815	Chart H Retail	4	979	Kagara Ltd	2	241	Retail Food Grp	4	271
APA Group	4	2,923	Clarius Group	3	41	Kingrose Mining	1	87	Rex Minerals	2	204
APN News Media	3	445	Coalspur Mines	1	962	Kingsgate Cons.	4	931	Ridley Corp.	4	323
ARB Corporation	1	589	CocaCola Amatil	5	8,732	Leighton Hold	5	7,074	Rio Tinto Ltd	5	27,775
ASG Group Ltd	2	140	Cochlear Ltd	4	3,107	Lend Lease Grp	4	4,208	Roc Oil Company	4	196
ASX Limited	3	5,396	Cockatoo Coal	2	406	Linc Energy Ltd	1	689	SAI Global Ltd	4	955
AWE Limited	4	746	Codan Ltd	2	199	Liq Natural Gas	1	62	SDI Limited	1	18
Abacus Property	4	729	Com'wealth Bank	3	75,813	Logicamms Ltd	3	48	SMS Mgmt & Tech	4	300
Acrux Ltd	1	478	Computershare	5	4,429	Lycopodium Ltd	1	228	SP Ausnet	4	2,529
Adelaide Bright	5	1,867	Cons Media Hold	4	1,472	Lynas Corp Ltd	2	2,228	STW Comm Group	1	311
Aditya Birla	1	241	Cooper Energy	3	111	M2 Telecom. Grp	3	340	Salmat Ltd	3	399
Alesco Corp Ltd	4	110	Cromwell Prop.	3	637	MApp Group	3	6,607	Sandfire Res.	1	1,008
Alumina Ltd	6	3,270	Crown Ltd	3	6,154	MSF Sugar Ltd	1	275	Santos Ltd	3	11,209
Amadeus Energy	21	60	Cue Energy Res.	1	156	MacMahon Hold	5	422	Sedgman Ltd	5	409
Amalgamated Hld	2	888	Customers Ltd	3	155	Macquarie Atlas	2	647	Seek Ltd	7	2,013
Amcor Ltd	3	9,014	DUET Group	3	1,624	Macquarie C Tel	2	155	Select harvest	1	107
Amcom Telecom.	6	207	DWS Limited	4	161	Macquarie Group	4	8,455	Service Stream	1	79
Ampella Mining	2	349	Data 3 Ltd	1	183	Matrix Comp.	3	251	Seven West Med.	6	2,063
Ansell Ltd	4	1,899	David Jones	7	1,368	Maxi TRANS	1	60	Sigma Pharm.	4	731
Antares Energy	1	116	Decmil Group	4	381	Mayne Pharma Gr	1	68	Silex Systems	2	322
Aquarius Plat.	2	1,265	Dexus Property	4	4,186	McMillan Shake.	2	590	Sims Metal Mgmt	4	2,721
Aquila Res.	6	2,400	Domino's Pizza	4	538	McPherson's Ltd	1	132	Sirtex Medical	1	241
Ardent Leisure	3	344	Downer EDI Ltd	6	1,343	Melbourne IT	2	104	Skilled Group	3	466
Aristocrat Leis	3	1,260	DuluxGroup Ltd	5	1,051	Mermaid Marine	4	659	Slater & Gordon	2	279
Asciano Limited	6	4,462	Dyesol Ltd	1	46	Metcash Ltd	5	3,122	Sonic Health	5	4,482
Aspen Group Ltd	2	252	Elders Limited	4	96	Mincor Resource	2	147	Soul Pattinson	1	3,255
Atlas Iron Ltd	7	2,461	Emeco Holdings	4	672	Mineral Res.	2	1,993	Spark Infrastru	4	1,678
Aurora Oil Gas	2	811	Energy Resource	4	712	Mirabela Nickel	2	742	Spec Fashion	3	110
Ausdrill Ltd	5	874	Envestra	4	1,028	Mirvac Group	4	4,364	St Barbara Ltd	4	739
Ausenco Ltd	6	337	Evolution Min.	2	429	Molopo Energy	1	156	Starpharma Hold	2	291
Austral Limited	3	404	Extract Res.	3	2,126	Monadelphous Gr	7	1,788	Sth Cross Elect	1	137
Austini Eng.	3	294	FKP Limited	3	557	Mt Gibson Iron	5	1,359	Sth Cross Media	3	826
Austar United	4	1,576	Fairfax Media	3	1,858	Myer Holdings	7	1,440	Stockland	5	8,002
Aust Infra.	3	1,207	Fantastic Hold.	2	229	NRW Holdings	6	795	Strike Energy	1	41
Australand Prop	5	1,529	Fleetwood Corp	5	703	Nat'l Aust Bank	4	51,714	Suncorp Group	4	10,730
Aust Pharm. Ind	2	110	Flexicorp Ltd	4	566	Navitas Ltd	3	1,272	Sundance Res.	1	1,062
Aust Education	1	165	Flight Centre	4	1,840	New Hope Corp.	4	4,824	Sunland Group	1	186
Automotive Hold	1	486	Focus Minerals	2	203	Newcrest Mining	7	25,283	Super Retail Gr	5	1,115
BHP Billiton	5	115,164	Fortescue Metal	7	14,696	News Corp.	2	13,990	Swick Min Serv	2	79
BT Invest Mgmt	2	459	Foster's Group	1	10,446	Nexbis Ltd	1	65	TFS Corporation	2	177
BWP Trust	6	905	G.U.D. Holdings	3	504	Nexus Energy	2	358	TPG Telecom Ltd	6	1,085
Bandanna Energy	2	262	GPT Group	5	5,863	Nick Scali Ltd	1	138	Tabcorp Holding	3	1,871
Bank of Q'land	4	1,787	GWA Group Ltd	3	712	Nido Petroleum	1	51	Talent2 Int'l	2	147
Bannerman Res.	1	66	Geodynamics Ltd	2	61	Noble Mineral	1	220	Tap Oil	2	152
Beach Energy	3	1,539	Gerard Lighting	1	124	Norfolk Group	3	175	Tassal Group	4	219
Bendigo Bank	4	3,385	Gindalbie Met.	5	468	Nufarm Limited	4	1,163	Tatts Group Ltd	3	3,112
Billabong Int'l	4	996	Gloucester Coal	4	1,328	OZ Minerals Ltd	7	3,524	Technology One	3	322
Blackmores Ltd	3	461	Gold One Int'l	1	448	Oakton Limited	3	125	Telstra	5	40,191
Bluescope Steel	3	1,409	Goodman Group	4	4,289	Oil Search Ltd	6	8,350	Ten Network	3	946
Boart Longyear	4	1,504	Goodman Fielder	3	1,027	Onestee Ltd	4	1,084	The Reject Shop	8	268
Boom Logistics	1	114	Graincorp	5	1,535	Orica Ltd	5	9,248	Thorn Group Ltd	4	251
Boral Limited	4	2,693	Grange Resource	2	565	Origin Energy	4	15,212	Toll Holdings	4	3,316
Bow Energy Ltd	1	528	Growthpoint Pro	1	463	Orocobre Ltd	1	170	Tox Free Sol.	5	196
Bradken Ltd	7	1,215	Gryphon Mineral	2	387	Oroton Group	3	342	Transfield Serv	6	1,286
Brambles Ltd	3	10,430	Gunns Ltd	3	136	Pacific Brands	6	512	Transurban Grp	4	8,039
Brickworks Ltd	2	1,611	Hansen Tech.	2	148	Paladin Energy	6	1,260	TransPacific In	4	1,247
Brockman Res.	1	308	Harvey Norman	5	2,220	Panaust Ltd	4	1,968	Troy Resources	2	402
C'wth Prop Off.	4	2,326	Hastie Group	4	45	Panoramic Res.	2	287	Trust Company	2	173
C.S.R. Ltd	4	1,052	Hast Div Util	3	929	Paperlin X Ltd	3	46	UGL Limited	6	2,038
CGA Mining Ltd	1	707	Heartware Inc.	1	122	Patties Foods	3	231	UXC Limited	2	135
CSG Ltd	3	288	Henderson Group	2	3,354	Peet Ltd	2	259	VDM Group Ltd	3	9
CSL Limited	5	16,842	Hills Holdings	3	273	Perilya Mines	2	300	Virgin Aust	4	740
Cabcharge Ltd	3	553	Horizon Oil Ltd	3	243	Perpetual Ltd	3	911	WDS Limited	3	95
Caltex Australia	2	3,448	IMD Group	4	411	Platinum Asset	3	2,077	WHK Group Ltd	1	223
Campbell Bros	4	3,426	IMF (Aust) Ltd	1	165	Premier Invest	4	826	Watpac Ltd	2	215
Cape Lambert R.	1	272	IOOF Holdings	4	1,289	Primary Health	4	1,607	Webfirm Group	1	44
Carbon Energy	2	63	Iluka Resources	4	7,001	Prime Media Grp	2	238	Webjet NL	6	189
Cardno Ltd	2	569	Incitec Pivot	4	5,098	Q.B.E. Insur.	3	14,577	Wellcom Group	1	91
Carnarvon Pet.	3	72	Independ. Group	5	883	QRXPharma Ltd	2	174	Wesfarmers Ltd	5	31,659
Carsales.com	6	1,080	Industrea Ltd	3	419	Qantas Airways	4	3,602	Western Areas	5	994
Cash Converters	2	209	Infigen Energy	1	183	RCG Corporation	2	89	Westfield Group	4	18,356
Cedar Woods Prp	1	223	Insurance Aust.	3	6,396	RCR Tomlinson	4	223	Westpac Banking	4	63,842
Chal Infra Fund	2	360	Int Research	1	81	REA Group Ltd	6	1,594	Whitehaven Coal	3	2,874
Chal Div Prop	3	453	Investa Office	4	1,651	Ramsay Health	5	3,771	Wide Bay Aust.	1	263
Challenger Ltd	4	2,165	Invocare Ltd	4	749	Reckon Limited	3	312	Woodside Petrol	5	24,983
Chalice Gold	2	65	Iress Mkt Tech	3	948	Regis Resources	3	1,525	Woolworths Ltd	5	31,155
Chandler McLeod	4	164	JB Hi-Fi Ltd	7	1,544	Regional Exp.	1	115	Worley Group	7	6,597
									Wotif.com Hold.	7	805

Investment Outlook

(Continued from Page 1)

make any further *economic* contribution to society. In 1950, life expectancy at age 65 was about 15 years for men and 17 years for women. Today it is around 21 (for men) and 24 years (for women), and likely to be 24-28 years by 2050. All of these extra years are going into retirement - funded by the state from taxes on an ever smaller percentage of the working population.

In 1950, a person would spend around three quarters of their adult life working and one-quarter in retirement. Applying that ratio would suggest a current retirement age around age 69-72, rising to age 72-75 in 2050 - although given the state of government finances in developed countries there probably will be no state funded retirement benefits (i.e. no official retirement age) by 2050!

In a democracy, governments (who don't want to find themselves suddenly in opposition) simply ignore these problems. Let's just pretend the problem doesn't exist, wait for a crisis before doing anything and then, eventually, call in the IMF!

There are many important lessons here for investors. Firstly, if you are under 30 years of age and you don't save and invest now, there will likely be no government retirement income and you will probably have to work until you die at age 90. Even if you are 60 now, the IMF might get called in when you are 70 or 75 and - regrettably, as there is no other option - your government funded retirement income might get cut significantly or completely. For anyone without some private capital and investment income, retirement isn't going to be too great!

Secondly, we can expect a whole lot of European style sovereign debt crises over the next two decades. These will cause disruption to financial markets and a significant decline in the standard of living in the countries involved. This is, of course, part of the transfer of economic power from developed countries to developing countries.

Thirdly, disruptions to financial markets does NOT mean that shares will be a poor investment. Over recent years, stockmarket values have adjusted downwards to reflect this on-going uncertainty. And in 15-20 years time

Dividends

Company	Cents per Share	Ex-Date	Pay-able	Tax Credit
Argosy Property	1.50	06-12	20-12	-
FP Healthcare	5.40	02-12	16-12	Full
Goodman Property Trust	1.5625	01-12	19-12	0.1737
Horizon Energy	8.00	05-12	15-12	3.4286
Kiwi Income Properties	1.67143	01-12	20-12	0.0065
Mainfreight	12.00	09-12	16-12	Full
Methven Ltd	4.50	16-12	30-12	1.125
Postie Plus Group	1.00	07-12	14-12	0.4286
Ryman Healthcare	3.90	02-12	09-12	-
Salvus Strategic	1.20	16-12	23-12	-
Sanford Ltd	14.00	14-12	19-12	Full
Scott Technology	5.00	23-11	02-12	2.1429
Tower Group	2.00	20-01	01-12	Full
TrustPower	20.00	25-11	09-12	Full
Australian Shares				
Campbell Brothers	95.00	07-12	19-12	
Cellnet Group	1.00	05-12	23-12	
Cellnet Group Capital	9.00	-	-	
Technology One	3.16	28-11	16-12	
Technology One Special	1.50	28-11	16-12	

“just another developed country” financial crisis will be as unimportant to the global economy as “just another emerging country” financial crisis was in the 1980's. A period of low share prices is also extremely attractive for building investment wealth. If we have a period of high share valuations (i.e. a P/E of 30, which is a 3.3% earnings yield) then, re-invested in the stockmarket, it takes 21 years for money to double. With a period of low share valuations (i.e. a P/E of 8 or an earnings yield of 12.5%) it takes only 6 years. Over 21 years, capital increases 12-fold!! The best thing for investors is an extended period of depressed share prices!!

Fourthly, managing every crisis by printing money will be inflationary - which, of course, is an important part of treating the problem by eroding the value of debt and reducing its value over the medium to long term (at the cost of investors holding those fixed interest investments). Shares are the best hedge against inflation - so investors should look to companies that have pricing power and can pass on price increases to consumers and maintain the real value of their profits.

Fifthly, if governments are unable to protect the vested interests of its citizens, then they will be unable to protect local businesses that are uneconomic. The global market may be a “jungle”, but investors need to look to companies that can compete and operate globally, avoiding “national champions” dependent upon government subsidies or protection from foreign competition. Companies operating globally will also benefit from the growth in developing economies, ideally combining the best of the developed world (i.e. professional management, sound legal structures, transparent accounting standards and access to global capital) and combining it with the best of the developing world (i.e. growing consumer markets, lower compliance costs, lower costs of labour and land, greater availability of labour resources).

Deferring the European debt crisis could help stockmarkets in the short to medium term, but ultimately individual stock selection is important as some companies will adapt and prosper and others will fail. We recommend remaining fully invested in the recommended shares.

Total Return Index for All Listed Shares

Nov 14	1198.91	Nov 21	1187.50
Nov 15	1196.28	Nov 22	1178.67
Nov 16	1187.80	Nov 23	1187.16
Nov 17	1188.64	Nov 24	1181.18
Nov 18	1185.69	Nov 25	1177.99
Nov 28	1174.57	Dec 5	1168.28
Nov 29	1168.88	Dec 6	1166.79
Nov 30	1166.47	Dec 7	1180.72
Dec 1	1165.46	Dec 8	1179.52
Dec 2	1165.46	Dec 9	1181.31

Next Issue:

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