



**HD**      **Highlights of the AAP Finance Wire at 14:45 Aug 29, 2014**

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**SN**      Australian Associated Press Financial News Wire

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HIGHLIGHTS Highlights of the AAP Finance Wire for Friday, Aug 29:

SYDNEY - Virgin has sold of a \$960 **million stake** in its loyalty program as its looks to overcome another massive annual loss (VIRGIN WRAP to come)

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SYDNEY - Qantas and Virgin have plotted two very different courses to get them through what both airlines say has been the most turbulent period in Australian aviation history. (VIRGIN NA to come)

SYDNEY - Woolworths is taking mounting losses from the rollout of its hardware business in its stride as its supermarkets and liquor stores continue to grow (WOOLWORTHS WRAP to come).

MELBOURNE - Harvey Norman expects the strengthening housing market to boost its business, after achieving sales and profit growth in the past year. (HARVEY NORMAN WRAP to come)

SYDNEY - On the surface, Australian shareholders have done pretty well out of the latest reporting season, but analysts warn a lack of sales growth and conservatism by companies could come back to bite everyone next year. (EARNINGS to come)

PERTH - Australian Sandalwood producer TFS Corporation expects **China**, India and Europe to drive strong demand for its wood and **oil** products following a bumper profit.(TFS CORPORATION to come)

MELBOURNE - Pet care specialist Greencross will continue to expand its retail and veterinary networks in 2015 as it seeks to boost its market share in the fast-growing pet care sector (GREENCROSS to come)

MELBOURNE - Maintenance and asset management **firm** Transfield Services has returned to profit and expects its positive momentum to continue (TRANSFIELD on file).

PERTH - Australia's second largest hotel and resort operator Mantra Group is on the hunt for acquisitions after notching up a profit consistent with its full year prospectus forecast (MANTRA on file).

SYDNEY - The Reserve Bank's period of interest rate stability is likely to be extended as the high Australian dollar pulls on the reins of the Australian economy. (RATES PREVIEW to come)

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SYDNEY - the week in numbers (FINEX: NUMBERS on file)

SYDNEY - Economists found something to cheer about this week - evidence of the economy's fabled "rebalancing". (FINEX: ECONOMISTS to come)

See also on the general wire:

CANBERRA - Treasurer Joe Hockey has issued a fresh invitation to **Chinese** state-owned enterprises to invest in Australia (INVESTMENT).

CANBERRA - Australians' retirement nest-eggs are enjoying the fruits of a more stable global economy (SUPER on file).

Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust, Stockwatch, Stockwatch Week, Data Review, Data Preview and Finance Week to come

**CO** harnd : Harvey Norman Holdings Ltd

**IN** i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i648 : Household Goods/Hardware Stores | i654 : Specialty Stores | iretail : Retail

**NS** ncdig : Corporate Digests | ncat : Content Types

**RE** austr : Australia | melb : Melbourne | sydney : Sydney | victor : Victoria (Australia) | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania | nswals : New South Wales

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