

## HD Australian Stocks: What Happened Today?

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WC 1,547 words

PD 27 August 2014

SN FN Arena

SC FNAREN

LA English

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A solid day today given Telstra Corporation Limited (A\$5.53, -3.7%) and Woodside Petroleum Limited (A\$42.98, -2.6%) were both ex-dividend and accounted for around 8.5 index points. At the death the ASX200 closed up 14 at 5651 after flirting with 5637. Despite the overnight falls in the **iron ore** price, miners managed to eke out gains with BHP Billiton Limited (A\$37.33, +0.3%), RIO Tinto Limited (A\$64.13, +unch) and Fortescue Metals Group Ltd (A\$4.31, +0.7%) all in the black. Other miners joined in Beadell Resources Limited (A\$0.50, +7.5%) led the golds with some good results, and Newcrest **Mining** Limited (A\$11.25, +2.4%) also firmed up as did Kingsgate Consolidated Limited (A\$0.93, +3.3%), Evolution **Mining** Limited (A\$0.755, +2.7%) and Silver Lake Resources Limited (A\$0.43, unch). The base metals and graphite superstars also did well Sirius Resources NL (A\$3.86, +3.2%) and Syrah Resources Limited (A\$5.17, +2.4%) standing loud and proud.

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In the industrials Boral Limited (A\$5.63, +4.5%) were a standout after good outlook commentary on their numbers although didn't feed through to CSR Limited (A\$3.43, -1.2%). Woolworths Limited (A\$36.96, +0.5%) and Wesfarmers Limited (A\$44.76, +0.4%) both firmed, Amcor Limited (A\$11.55, +1.4%) shone as did Orora Limited (A\$1.685, +3.4%) after numbers yesterday. Property trusts were **firm**, Westfield Corp, Dexus Property Group (A\$1.205, +1.3%) and Goodman Group (A\$5.60, +1.1%) all did well. Financials as usual were the driving force as the big four pushed ahead, QBE Insurance Group Limited (A\$11.24, -1.4%) fell away after the placement settled but Cover-More Group did just that as they continued to draw strength from the results.

**Energy** stocks were better Origin **Energy** Limited (A\$15.20, +1.4%), Caltex Australia Limited (A\$28.39, +1.8%), Sundance **Energy** Australia Limited (A\$1.39, +1.1%), Senex **Energy** Limited (A\$0.62, +1.6%) and Buru **Energy** Limited (A\$1.00, unch). Woodside Petroleum Limited (A\$42.98, -2.6%) went ex, weighed on the rest.

In the hot seat today were Steadfast Group Ltd, Veda Group Ltd, Servcorp Limited (A\$5.39, +5.5%), Papillon Resources Limited (A\$1.725, +5.2%) and Asaleo Care in the biggies and Audio Pixels Holdings Limited (A\$13.25, +30.9%), Norton **Gold** Fields Limited (A\$0.16, +18.5%), #PSY# and #UNI# all pitching in. Losers failing to bring the sexy back were Pacific Brands Limited (A\$0.525, -9.5%), **Energy** World Corporation Ltd (A\$0.38, -7.3%), Primary Health Care Limited (A\$4.44, -3.5%), Recall Holdings Limited (A\$4.68, -1.9%) and Transpacific Industries Group Ltd (A\$0.885, -3.3%) with Melbourne IT Limited (A\$1.375, -9.2%), #PMP#, OM Holdings Limited (A\$0.415, -6.7%) and McAleese amongst the smalls.

Aussie dollar around 93.2 and tulips at \$552 and **gold** at \$1283. Volume today on the good side at around \$4.5bn. Japan unchanged, HK up 0.12% and Shanghai up 0.39%.

Stocks and Stories

Results continue to drive the market. Dividends are king. Long live the King!

Boral Limited (A\$5.63, +4.5%) revealed a great set of numbers with underlying profit, as measured by net profit after tax before significant items, jumped 64 per cent to \$171 **million**. Dividend at 8c and importantly they said that business was improving across all of its divisions in Australia, the United States and Asia.

WDS Limited (A\$0.985, +10.7%) bucked the trend in **mining** services as EPS rose to 8.9 cents from 5.5 cents with a 1.25 cent a share special dividend giving a final payout of a handy 3.75 cents a share. This

takes the annual payout to 9.5 cents from 7.5 cents a year earlier. Not too shabby at all. Who said the sector was dead! **Oil** and gas sector the standout.

Helloworld Limited (A\$0.275, unch) reported a 25 per cent fall in adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation and impairment to \$40.6 **million**, in line with its guidance.

The **company** swung to a statutory loss of \$61.2 **million**, from a \$26.7 **million** profit a year earlier, as a result of business transformation costs and write-downs. Total transaction value fell by 6 per cent to \$4.86 **billion**.

Nine Entertainment Co Holdings Ltd and Fairfax Media Limited (A\$0.895, +1.7%) have joined the fight for a subscription on demand service to rival Netflix and Foxtel. Streamco will be owned 50:50 by the two and they are putting in \$50m each to kick it off. Might need a better name though.

Veda Group Ltd is one of the winners, jumping after the credit reference agency beat prospectus forecasts with a statutory profit after tax of \$22.7 **million**.

Sovereign Metals Limited, Seven Group Holdings, with full-year net income dropping 46 per cent to \$262.5 **million**. Revenues for Seven, which owns the WesTrac **mining** services business, fell 35 per cent to \$3.1 **billion**.

Steadfast Group Ltd has beaten its prospectus forecast's profit numbers, as it confirmed it would team up with reinsurance giant Munich Re to buy listed insurer #CIX# in a \$105.4 **million** deal.

Steadfast, posted \$32.4 **million** in pro-forma net profit, outperforming the prospectus's \$30.1 **million** figure.

Healthscope Limited has met its group-wide prospectus targets and recorded a full-year net loss after tax of \$19.3 **million**.

Lend Lease Group (A\$13.95, +1.5%) said full-year profit jumped 50 per cent after selling its **stake** in a UK shopping centre. Net income at Australia's biggest listed property developer surged to \$823 **million** in the 12 months ended June 30 from \$549 **million** a year earlier. They will pay a full-year dividend of 71 cents a share, compared with 42 cents a year earlier.

Tomorrow's News Today

Another Liberal member stand aside! Bart Bassett. You couldn't make this stuff up. Must see TV Utopia tonight too.

Couple of Taiwanese fighters chase the **Chinese** off. Meanwhile in **China**, these guys think big, they have ambition and vision. Not quite like here I am afraid. **China** is considering providing as much as 100 **billion** yuan (\$16 **billion**) in government funding to build electric-vehicle charging facilities and spur demand for clean cars.

Burger King moves to Canada with its donut **purchase**. Avoids tax.

Looks like the US is assembling the coalition of the willing to bomb IS in Northern Iraq and Syria. This one will run and run. Suspect they will sign us up for boots on the ground again.

Seems a sad choice but to defeat IS we need Assad!

UK house prices will end the year 9.5% higher than they started it, but the strength of increases this year means that in London the market could flatline in 2016.

Off to Queen tonight. Excited!

That is all

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**RF** DF28960D-E744-B8A2-5886337E487677C4

**CO** ambol : Fortescue Metals Group Ltd | bcsc : Boral Limited | bdllrs : Beadell Resources Ltd | bkhlp : BHP Billiton Ltd | craaus : Rio Tinto Ltd | crssmg : Sirius Resources NL | kincol : Kingsgate Consolidated Ltd | newmoh : Newcrest Mining Ltd | rsrhrl : Syrah Resources Limited | slvkrc : Silver Lake Resources Ltd | tocoma : Telstra Corporation Ltd | westml : Evolution Mining Limited | wodpet : Woodside Petroleum Ltd | bltplc : BHP Billiton PLC | rtz : Rio Tinto PLC

**IN** i211 : Metal Ore Mining | i22 : Primary Metals | i221 : Iron/Steel/Ferroalloys | ibasicm : Basic Materials/Resources | imet : Mining/Quarrying | i1 : Energy | i13 : Crude Oil/Natural Gas | i1300003 : Crude Petroleum Extraction | i232 : Mineral Mining Support Activities | i242 : Cement/Ready-mix Concrete | i7902 : Telecommunications | ibuildpr : Building Materials/Products | icre : Real Estate/Construction | iextra : Natural Gas/Oil Extraction | igoldm : Gold Ore Mining

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**PUB** FN Arena Ltd.

**AN** Document FNAREN0020140827ea8r000gp