



**HD Highlights of the AAP Finance Wire Aug 29, 2014**

**WC** 524 words

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**SN** Australian Associated Press Financial News Wire

**SC** AAPFIN

**LA** English

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

SYDNEY - Virgin Australia has sold off more than a third of its \$960 million loyalty program as its looks to overcome another massive annual loss. (VIRGIN on file)

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SYDNEY - Qantas and Virgin Australia have plotted two very different courses to help them through the most turbulent period in Australian aviation history. (VIRGIN NA on file)

SYDNEY - Woolworths is taking mounting losses from its battle with Bunnings in its stride, as its supermarkets and bottle shops continue to grow. (WOOLWORTHS on file)

MELBOURNE - More houses are being built and renovated, and that makes Gerry Harvey optimistic about his business' fortunes. (HARVEY NORMAN on file)

SYDNEY - Good news for borrowers - the chance of an interest rate hike before June 2015 is becoming less and less likely. (RATES PREVIEW, with factbox, on file)

SYDNEY - Profits were up and dividends as well, but analysts say the latest company earnings season should give investors something to worry about. (EARNINGS on file)

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 on file)

MELBOURNE - Petcare specialist Greencross will continue to expand its retail and vet networks as its seeks to boost its market share in the fast growing sector. (GREENCROSS on file)

SYDNEY - Struggling retailer Noni B has made a \$7.8 million loss amid falling sales partly caused by the impact of the federal budget. (NONI B on file)

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 - National Australia Bank will float its US subsidiary Great Western Bank as it looks to focus on its core Australian and New Zealand operations. (NAB on file)

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SYDNEY - The big and small numbers that grabbed attention - or should have - in the business world over the past week. (FINEX: NUMBERS on file)

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

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 - The Abbott government is proceeding with the **sale** of Medibank Private and expects the health insurer will be listed on the Australian Securities Exchange at the end of the year. (MEDIBANK)

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

Stocks Aust, Dollar Aust, Stockwatch, Stockwatch Week, Data Review, Data Preview and Finance Week on file

AAP dmc

**CO** harnd : Harvey Norman Holdings Ltd | vrbair : Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd

**IN** i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i648 : Household Goods/Hardware Stores | i654 : Specialty Stores | i75 : Airlines | i7501 : Scheduled Passenger Airlines | iairtr : Air Transport | ilowair : Low Cost Airlines | iretail : Retail | itsp : Transportation/Shipping

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