

Business Markets

Commodity prices

	Last	Previous
ALUMINIUM \$US/tonne		
LME spot	2461	2475
LME 3 months	2515	2528
COPPER \$A/tonne		
CMA scrap base	8465	8628
\$US/tonne		
LME spot	6900	6932
LME 3 months	6867	6890
GOLD Indicative sell rates		
Perth Mint \$A/oz	1063.25	1046.10
Aust. Bullion Co \$A/oz	Na	Na
World markets, \$US/oz		
London	869.00	863.00
New York	864.70	897.00
Sydney	871.15	846.60
London morning fix	873.00	837.50
LEAD		
LME spot \$US/tonne	1832	1805
LME 3 months	1845	1815
NICKEL		
LME spot \$US/tonne	16,215	16,850
LME 3 months	16,800	17,100
OIL \$US/barrel		
Dated Brent Crude	9790	9330
West Texas Crude	10455	9788
PLATINUM		
\$US/troy oz	1136.00	1103.00
PALLADIUM		
\$US/troy oz	236.00	236.00
TIN \$A/tonne		
Australian spot	23,548	24,222
LME spot \$US/tonne	17195	17165
LME 3 months	17120	17,025
SILVER Indicative sell rates:		
Perth Mint \$A/oz	15.59	15.28
Aust. Bullion Co \$A/oz	Na	Na
WHEAT \$US/bushel		
Chicago Brd of Trade	7180	6,9275
WOOL		
Market indicator c/kg(clean)	896	894
ZINC		
High Grade \$A/tonne	2168	2168
Base metal \$A/tonne	2143	2169
LME spot \$US/tonne	1713	1705
LME 3 months	1735	1735

Exchange rates

One Australian dollar yesterday was worth:

Country	Currency	Buy	Sell
UNITED STATES	Dollar	0.8397	0.8249
UNITED KINGDOM	Pound	0.4611	0.4475
JAPAN	Yen	90.20	87.55
EUROPE	Euro	0.5836	0.5654
NEW ZEALAND	Dollar	1.2309	1.1971
BRUNEI	Dollar	1.2235	1.1532
CANADA	Dollar	0.8852	0.8575
CHINA	Yuan	On App	On App
DENMARK	Kroner	4.3408	4.2145
FIJI	Dollar	1.3658	1.3000
FRENCH PACIFIC	Franc	70.89	66.22
HONG KONG	Dollar	6.5557	6.3822
INDIA	Ruppee	On App	36.150
INDONESIA	Rupiah	On App	On App
KUWAIT	Dinar	On App	On App
MALAYSIA	Ringgit	On App	On App
MALTA	Lire	On App	On App
NORWAY	Kroner	4.7986	4.6464
PAKISTAN	Ruppee	On App	62.281
PAPUA N.GUINEA	Kina	On App	1.9912
PHILIPPINES	Peso	On App	37.200
SAUDI ARABIA	Riyal	3.1885	3.0602
SINGAPORE	Dollar	1.2050	1.1617
SRI LANKA	Dollar	6.8954	5.9089

Exchange's turn to feel regulatory pinch



LOUISE BURKE
MARKETS

ASX fell 5 per cent yesterday, losing \$1.90 to \$32.60, despite the sharemarket posting the biggest two-day rally in 21 years, as investors calculated the potential loss in trading fees the Australian Government's ban on short selling could have on the listed operator of the Australian Securities Exchange.

The wider market rally saw the S&P-ASX 200 climb a further 4.5 per cent, or 216.4 points, to 5020.5 and the all-ordinaries index gain 209.4 points to 5050.1.

Investors were in a buying frenzy, piling into resources and financial stocks after the sharemarket open was delayed while newly announced bans on short selling were clarified.

Fat Prophets chief executive Angus Geddes said the central fears driving heavy falls at the beginning of last week had been stymied by the US Government's move to rescue the ailing financial sector.

"There may be a bit more volatility, but there is a good chance that we have

seen the bottom and that the lows we saw will hold and that we are setting ourselves up for a nice relief rally in the fourth quarter of this year," Mr Geddes said.

However, Sentinel Stockbroking chief executive Norman Robinson said he did not believe the bounce was sustainable because the underlying fundamentals of the global economy were still very negative, with a lot of bad debt unwinding.

Mining stocks surged on the back of stronger commodities driving the S&P-ASX 200 Materials index to a 9.78 per cent gain, with stalwarts **BHP Billiton** and **Rio Tinto** leading the charge, up \$4.30 and \$9.50 to \$39.70 and \$111 respectively.

Fortescue Metals surged 25.4 per cent, or \$1.45, to \$7.15, **Gindalbie Metals** jumped 8.5¢ to 78.5¢, **Atlas Iron** grew 26.5¢ to \$1.79 and **Minara** climbed 19.5¢ to \$1.30.

In the financial sector, the beleaguered **Babcock & Brown** spiked 54.7 per cent, or 43.5¢, to \$1.23 and fellow investment bank **Macquarie Group** also extended its Friday rally, up a further \$1.90 to \$37.80.

The big four banks all improved, with **ANZ** up 8 per cent, or \$1.44, to \$19.15, **NAB** climbing \$1.30 to \$24.30, **Commonwealth** adding \$1.90 to \$44.60, **Westpac** growing

\$1.16 to \$24.70 and takeover target **St George** increasing 94¢ to \$31.49.

In the health sector, **CSL** fell \$1.30 to \$37.70 as investors shifted from defensive positions into "cheap" stocks elsewhere.

"CSL has been a great stalwart through difficult times, but now people are looking at those that have been oversold as the stocks to pick up, so it didn't surprise me that CSL has come off," Bell Potter head of wealth management Heather Zampatti said.

In local stocks, **WA Newspapers** slid 38¢ to \$9.24 but **Coles** owner **Wesfarmers** gained 95¢ to \$31.75.

Fox Resources gained 26.4 per cent, or 9¢, to 43¢, after reporting encouraging assay results at its Mt Oscar iron ore project in the Pilbara.

Uranium hopeful **Bannerman Resources** climbed 6.5¢ to 71.5¢ after releasing an updated resource estimate at its Etango project in Namibia, with preliminary metallurgical test work showing the resource to be amenable to acid leaching.

• The **Australian dollar** posted its second-biggest one day-gain since it was floated 25 years ago as traders took an upbeat view of a US Government plan to spend \$US700 billion (\$840 billion) buying bad mortgage debt. At the Perth close the dollar was at **US83.23¢** from Friday's **US81.27¢**.

BRIEFING

Rio extracts more

Just over a week after emerging as the buyer of a 10.9 per cent stake in WA uranium hopeful **Extract Resources**, **Rio Tinto** has boosted its shareholding to 13.1 per cent. Rio also has a stake in AIM-listed **Kalahari Minerals**, which owns 39.11 per cent of **Extract** and recently proposed an all-scrip merger with the company. It is not known yet if Rio will support the **Kalahari** deal, under which **Extract** shareholders would receive 1.6 shares in **Kalahari**. **Extract's** **Rossing South** project in Namibia is situated near Rio's 69 per cent-owned **Rossing** project area.

Coretrack on course

WA-based oil and gas drilling technology firm **Coretrack** has successfully completed further testing of its core barrel "telemetry" system. **Coretrack's** flagship technology is a measuring and recording device that is placed inside the inner core barrel during exploration drilling and collects data as drilling progresses. The data collected informs geologists what depths the core was captured at and where core was lost. A working telemetry system would allow drilling progress to be viewed in real-time, potentially preventing costly delays by detecting blockages. A data signal was successfully transmitted through the drilling fluid over 2m, 9m and 27m during testing and **Coretrack** now hopes to test the technology in a real well by the end of 2008.

Billionaire's bank move