

TO: COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OFFICE

COMPANY: AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE LIMITED

FROM: VAN EYK THREE PILLARS LIMITED

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## **Notification of Net Tangible Assets**

We hereby provide notification of van Eyk Three Pillars Limited's net tangible asset backing per ordinary share as at the close of the last month.

Net Tangible Asset Backing per Ordinary Share		
Month End	November 2008	
Gross Tangible Asset Backing* (prior to deferred tax)	\$0.78	
Add Deferred Tax Benefit	\$0.08	
Net Tangible Asset Backing	\$0.86	

<sup>\*</sup>This amount is net of any deferred tax asset

Net tangible asset backing includes investments at current market value less associated selling costs and provision for tax at 30%.

Peter Roberts Company Secretary



## van Eyk Three Pillars Monthly Comment - November 2008

#### Market / Portfolio

The ASX 300 suffered yet another sharp fall of more than 6% during November as the reality of a global recession sunk in and the odds of a recovery, at least in the short term, lengthened considerably as the downtrends in many world macro economic indicators accelerated. Despite considerable stimulus in the form of interest rate cuts and fiscal packages, the Australian economy remains highly leveraged to the fortunes of others, in particular China and the other emerging nations, and as such the Australian market continues to follow the larger markets in lockstep.

In terms of industry sectors, none made positive returns for the month, but the traditionally defensive areas of telecoms, and utilities again outperformed on a relative basis, whilst IT and consumer discretionary underperformed.

Volatility has been unprecedented with even large cap defensive names swinging in excess of 5% daily. Quantitative factors are illustrating the manic nature of trading, with no specific factor, such as value, growth, momentum, and derivates thereof, providing any consistency of relative outperformance.

In view of the magnitude of the market falls it may be little comfort to investors, but such volatility, coupled with some attractive valuations, may be indicating the bottoming process is advancing.

Best stock contributors to the portfolio for November:

•	Austal	+0.44%
•	Sonic Healthcare	+0.24%
•	Kingsgate	+0.13%
•	Healthscope	+0.09%

#### Worst contributors:

•	Bradken	-0.54%
•	Origin Energy	-0.53%
•	UXC	-0.35%
•	Pacific Brands	-0.24%

The overall portfolio strategy remains well positioned for the current environment. The sector exposures maintain an overweight to healthcare, energy, and selected high quality industrials, whilst remaining underweight financials, property, and consumer. The weighting in gold stocks has been increased as a hedge against the current monetary inflation, noting that in many currencies (apart from the US dollar) gold is trading at all time highs.

At month end the portfolio held 1.6% cash.





	1 Month	12 Month	Inception *
VTP	-7.64%	-40.25%	6.71%
ASX 300	-6.30%	-40.45%	6.89%

<sup>\*</sup>Annualised from inception Jan 28 2004.

#### Outlook

The macro economic news continues to get worse, such that a serious global recession now looks fait accompli, and the discussion thus turns to how long and how severe the downturn will get.

Central bankers and politicians have turned to slashing interest rates and massive bail out and fiscal packages in an effort to cushion the blow, however the speed and severity of the downturn, which has accelerated since October, particularly in China and other emerging economies, has taken all by surprise. Avoiding a deflationary spiral at all costs is the task of policymakers, as a prolonged period of deleveraging and falling asset prices is the natural conclusion to the worldwide credit bubble we have seen over the past decade.

There are however some ambiguities emerging in the current outlook for equities, that indicate we may have seen the bulk of falls, but in all probability too early to call a definitive bottom.

### The positives;

- Valuations are very cheap.
- Interest rates, right up to the long end of the yield curve are falling dramatically
- Credit spreads starting to ease
- Massive fiscal stimulus packages to come

#### The negatives;

- Asset prices are coming off, balance sheets are impaired
- Unemployment rates are rapidly rising
- Consumer and business confidence is very poor
- Lending markets are still at impasse

In the short term a rally is likely as valuations have become incredibly cheap in areas - FY 2010 does not exist in some earnings profiles, however until the macro conditions become clearer, the market will remain very volatile and lacking the essential catalysts for sustained gains.

We continue to expect an environment of continued volatility over a broad trading range, however cheap valuations should help limit downside from current levels. In our view the environment is becoming more suitable for active stock selection than that seen in the previous three years, such that we aim to exploit ongoing volatility by focussing on our key criteria of quality, growth and valuation.



# **Top Ten Holdings**

Company	Weight
BHP Billiton	12.7%
Commonwealth Bank	6.2%
Origin Energy	5.3%
Westpac	4.5%
National Australia Bank	4.5%
Woolworths	4.3%
ANZ Bank	3.5%
QBE Insurance	3.2%
Sonic Healthcare	3.0%
Telstra	2.9%
	50.1%

