



The Bullroarer - Thursday 9th October 2008

Posted by [aeldric](#) on October 8, 2008 - 6:34pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

The Australian - [Tricks of tapping into oil investments](#)

OIL may be black gold to those who have already found it, but investing in Australian oil companies has been one of the harder sectors in which to make money. Getting the right oil exposure is a tricky business. If you look at the chart for West Texas Intermediate, the graph goes from just over \$US50 in January last year, rises in July this year to \$US145, then slides back to present levels.

Investors had a good bull run. Not so with energy stocks on the ASX; that index hit its peak last November and, apart from an upwards spike in May, has been on a declining trend all year. Oil investors out there have lost money even as oil prices surged.

National Business Review NZ [Contact Energy anticipates similar profit in 2009](#)

A week after announcing a 10 percent price rise Contact Energy has announced it expects its 2009 profit to be close to the 2008 profit.

TVNZ - [Economy not hitting the bottle](#)

In the wake of rising petrol prices and interest rate rises, consumers' alcohol purchasing habits do not appear to be affected, according to Nielsen research.

New Zealanders and Australians had very similar responses in relation to their alcohol spend, with over one in five stating they had been significantly influenced by the pressures of rising petrol prices and interest rates.

News.com.au - [We'll survive this crisis - PM](#)

Expressing a belief that many of us have iterated for a few years now:

"We've got a rocky road ahead, but I guess if you were in any country in the world in these circumstances, the country you would want to be in is, of course, Australia," Mr Swan said.

Auckland's billion-dollar rail electrification project is rolling after the Government said yesterday it had approved a regional fuel tax to pay for it.

GO Media - [How Much Oil is Actually Left On This Planet? Should We Care?](#)

According to Dr. Peter McCabe, a world-renowned scientist currently working at CSIRO in Australia, any realistic analysis of future energy sources can only conclude that, barring some complete and miraculous harmony between all the world's economic superpowers, fossil fuels will dominate our energy mix for at least the next few decades – and we should just accept it.

Herald Sun - [Qantas reduces fuel levy](#)

QANTAS Airways Ltd will reduce fuel surcharges on its international fares from tomorrow, because of recent falls in world oil and jet fuel prices.

Surcharges on flights from Australia to Britain and Europe will be cut by \$20 to \$190.

The Australian - [WA companies and households face bigger energy bills](#)

COMPANIES and households in Western Australia's booming southwest corner face higher energy bills from the middle of next year.

This will be the case if the regulator agrees to Western Power's request for network tariffs to be raised by 40 per cent.

Further increases are slated for the following two years in a move Western Power says is needed to fund upgrades to the system and to meet increasing demand.

TVNZ One News - [Petrol crisis escalates in the Pacific](#)

"We haven't seen instability arise because of rising fuel prices in the region yet, but it is something we are continuing to monitor closely," NZ Foreign Affairs spokesman Mark Talbot says.

The Marshall Islands is under an economic state of emergency because they cannot pay for their next fuel shipment, with other islands not far behind.

"In my view it is dire; it is critical," Jared Morris of the Pacific Islands forum says.

NZ Herald - [It's not a hybrid](#)

[.....]

The Volt has a 16Kw lithium-ion battery pack that gives the Volt a range of around 65km, sufficient for most everyday use.

But what's different is the Volt's small petrol engine. Unlike the Toyota Prius, for example, the engine isn't coupled to the drivetrain but acts as a generator, recharging the battery when it's out of juice. That way Volt owners won't be stranded if they travel for more than 65km.

Canberra Times - [Energy firm airs its Yass wind farm plan](#)

A Sydney-based renewable energy company is looking into building a wind farm near Yass.

Nine MSN - [Coal exporters, govt fail to agree](#)

A queuing crisis - with up to 70 freighters anchored off Newcastle at any one time - looks unlikely to be resolved in the short-term, with coal exporters and the state government unable to reach an agreement.

The Age - [Set emissions target higher: Origin](#)

GAS-FOCUSED Origin Energy has called on the Federal Government to reject the greenhouse advice of Ross Garnaut and set a comparatively ambitious target, even if global climate negotiations collapse.

In a tack that puts it at odds with industry groups and other electricity generators, Origin has called for Australia to cut emissions by between 10% and 20% below 2000 levels by 2020 regardless of commitments elsewhere.

Radio Australia - [Auckland meeting to discuss bulk fuel buying](#)

Soaring fuel prices have reached crisis point in the Pacific Islands. Most Pacific Islanders don't just need fuel for their cars - they also rely on diesel to generate electricity. The situation has got so bad in the Marshall Islands that an economic state of emergency has been declared and the capital of Kiribati recently ran out of fuel. Petroleum and energy experts met in Auckland this morning to discuss - once again - the plan for Pacific Islands to save money by bulk buying petrol.

SMH - [The best funds in a crisis](#)

[.....]

The better-performing share funds have tended to be those that picked the rise of the soft-commodities cycle and avoided the financial-services companies. Rising food prices are being driven by demand from emerging economies and the increasing use of farm products in bio-fuel production. Yet, arable land is diminishing and demand is growing for products that can increase crop yields.

[.....]

The manager will not invest in about 85 per cent of the Australian sharemarket on ethical grounds. Although it will not invest in the traditional resources sector, it has been investing in explorers, producers and retailers of coal-seam gas companies, such as Origin Energy, Arrow Energy and Pure Energy Resources. The manager has backed the three stocks because coal-seam gas emits 50 per cent less carbon dioxide than coal-fired power generation.

ABC - [Too much farmland being lost to mining: environmentalist](#)

An upper Hunter environmentalist says the future needs of the region's farming sector are being overlooked due to the money being generated by coal mining.

The Australian - [Oil weathers the storm](#)

DOWN \$US10 a barrel one night, up \$US4 a barrel the next. Week after week, oil has been unpredictable; you might even say irascible.

Futures contracts were changing hands at \$US147 a barrel in July; now analysts are talking somewhere around \$US85 as a floor in the coming months. No one really knows for sure, which doesn't do anything to ease investor concern.

Nor do conflicting theories. The July high gave credibility to the "peak oil" crowd; the fall since then has been attributed to fears of a slowing world economy. And the evil speculators are in the mix somewhere. Probably, it's a case of "all the above" to some degree or other.

Car and SUV New Zealand - [Renault shows Zero Emissions Concept at Paris](#)

Renault used the recent Paris Motor Show to unveil the technology which will be available in its electric car when it is launched in 2011.

Z.E. Concept (Zero Emissions Concept) features a design which has been adapted to the spirit of an electric vehicle, with the focus on minimising energy consumption while at the same time maintaining core comfort features.

The energy consumption of auxiliary functions such as lighting, heating, and climate control limits an electric vehicle's range, so special attention has been paid to optimise energy management.

The Australian - [Demand fixes oil as a safe financial investment](#)

WHEN global investment markets are going mad it's good to find an industry where long-term demand looks set to exceed supply, such as oil.

It's now becoming apparent that the \$US147 spike in the crude price earlier in the year was an aberration that was greatly abetted by speculators, but the growing demand picture means that prices don't have far to fall from current levels, either.

The Australian - [Coal price dip prompts miner's Indonesian venture](#)

SENTIMENT towards the coal sector has come off the boil with the Newcastle spot price, a key benchmark for prices in the Australasian region, falling from a high of \$192.50 per tonne to a current price of \$140.

However, these prices are still historically high, twice the average price recorded in 2003-04.

In an attempt to take advantage of these high prices, wise-owl.com analyst Imran Valibhoy says junior miners such as Handini Resources (HDI) are looking to successfully raise funds to pursue tenements which, in this case, are located in Indonesia.

SMH - [Govt stands firm on green energy promise](#)

The federal government has rejected calls to dump its promise to have 20 per cent of electricity generated from renewable sources by 2020.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).