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Aussie stocks outperform

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MINERS were the standout for the third consecutive session today as Australian stocks bucked the regional trend.

Stock	ASX Code	Close (\$)	Change (cents)	Change (%)	Vol (M)	VWAP (\$)
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd	↑ FMG	4.63	23	5.23	33.78	4.57
Arrium Ltd	↑ ARI	0.865	4	4.85	18.65	0.85
Alumina Ltd	↑ AWC	1.45	6	4.32	19.30	1.43
Western Areas Ltd	↑ WSA	5	20	4.17	3.30	5.01
Mineral Resources Ltd	↑ MIN	9.84	37	3.91	1.01	9.71
Mount Gibson Iron Ltd	↑ MGX	0.725	2.5	3.57	5.19	0.73
Aquarius Platinum Ltd	↑ AQP	0.44	1.5	3.53	0.30	0.44
Iluka Resources Ltd	↑ ILU	8.61	23	2.74	1.48	8.56
Northern Star Resources Ltd	↑ NST	1.35	3.5	2.66	4.20	1.35
Atlas Iron Ltd	↑ AGO	0.655	1.5	2.34	13.26	0.65
Newcrest Mining Ltd	↑ NCM	11.03	24	2.22	3.51	10.99
OZ Minerals Ltd	↑ OZL	4.32	9	2.13	3.13	4.30
Alacer Gold Corp	↑ AQG	2.78	5	1.83	0.55	2.79
Regis Resources Ltd	↑ RRL	1.735	2.5	1.46	7.16	1.73
Evolution Mining Ltd	↑ EVN	0.73	1	1.39	1.12	0.73
BHP Billiton Ltd	↑ BHP	37.23	38	1.03	7.41	37.17
Sirius Resources NL	↑ SIR	3.43	3	0.88	2.89	3.47
Resolute Mining Ltd	↑ RSG	0.62	0.5	0.81	3.86	0.62
Rio Tinto Ltd	↑ RIO	62.45	45	0.73	2.64	62.38
Independence Group NL	↑ IGO	4.48	3	0.67	2.85	4.49
Aquila Resources Ltd	↑ AQA	3.4	2	0.59	0.48	3.39
PanAust Ltd	↑ PNA	2.27	1	0.44	1.15	2.27
AngloGold Ashanti Ltd	▬ AGG	3.54	0	0.00	0.00	3.54
New Hope Corp Ltd	▬ NHC	2.67	0	0.00	0.17	2.68
Cudoco Ltd	↓ CDU	1.78	-0.5	-0.28	0.16	1.78
OceanaGold Corp	↓ OGC	3.26	-1	-0.31	0.46	3.24
Sandfire Resources NL	↓ SFR	6.33	-4	-0.63	0.73	6.39
Whitehaven Coal Ltd	↓ WHC	1.435	-1	-0.69	2.57	1.44
Beadell Resources Ltd	↓ BDR	0.59	-1	-1.67	11.26	0.59
Energy Resources of Australia	↓ ERA	1.205	-2.5	-2.03	0.28	1.21

While the US market was only marginally higher overnight and Asian stocks were tracking down today, the S&P/ASX 200 rose by nearly 0.7% or 35.8 points to 5491.2 points.

Materials was by far the strongest sector with a 1.3% rise.

BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto had another strong day, adding 1% and 0.7% respectively.

Iron ore miners were a standout after the spot price added another US50c overnight to \$94.70 per tonne.

Fortescue Metals Group was particularly strong, adding 5.2% or A23c to \$4.63, its highest price in almost a month.

Smaller iron ore producer Western Desert Resources added another 18% to 29.5c, taking its total gains so far this week to 34%.

Mirabela Nickel continued its spectacular run, jumping a further 53% to 23c.

Copper producer Discovery Metals also had a good session on no news, rising by 32% to 4c, around a four-month high.

Latin Resources jumped by nearly 30% to 4.8c on high volume, prompting a speeding ticket from the ASX.

The company said there was no information that was yet to be released to the market, but suggested a Resource Capital Research report or London investor briefings by its managing director Chris Gale as a possible reason for the rise.

Minnow Fifth Element Resources would have to be heading for its fourth price query in six weeks after its shares added a further 25% to a fresh all-time high of \$3.50.

Its shares are now up 1650% since its listing in May.