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Stocks up as miners stall

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AUSTRALIAN miners turned in another lacklustre performance today as the broader market inched forward.

Stock		ASX Code	Close (\$)	Change (cents)	Change (%)	Vol (M)	VWAP (\$)
AngloGold Ashanti Ltd	↑	AGG	3.9	15	4.00	0.00	3.94
Northern Star Resources Ltd	↑	NST	1,675	5.5	3.40	9.80	1.71
Endeavour Mining Corp	↑	EVR	0.97	2.5	2.65	0.13	0.98
New Hope Corp Ltd	↑	NHC	2.72	7	2.64	0.23	2.75
Whitehaven Coal Ltd	↑	WHC	1.48	3.5	2.42	3.96	1.47
Alumina Ltd	↑	AWC	1,415	3	2.17	7.13	1.41
Independence Group NL	↑	IGO	4.85	5	1.04	1.13	4.87
BHP Billiton Ltd	↑	BHP	37.89	31	0.82	4.11	37.83
Rio Tinto Ltd	↑	RIO	62.42	28	0.45	1.07	62.20
Western Areas Ltd	↑	WSA	4.98	2	0.40	0.96	4.98
Iluka Resources Ltd	▬	ILU	8.3	0	0.00	0.72	8.29
Aquila Resources Ltd	▬	AQA	3.39	0	0.00	0.15	3.39
Sandfire Resources NL	▬	SFR	6.3	0	0.00	1.75	6.33
Energy Resources of Australia	▬	ERA	1.16	0	0.00	0.71	1.14
Mineral Resources Ltd	↓	MIN	10.51	-8	-0.76	1.89	10.49
Newcrest Mining Ltd	↓	NCM	11.09	-11	-0.98	2.23	11.21
OZ Minerals Ltd	↓	OZL	4.3	-7	-1.60	1.34	4.31
Alacer Gold Corp	↓	AQG	2.85	-6	-2.06	0.24	2.87
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd	↓	FMG	4.25	-9	-2.07	20.40	4.26
OceanaGold Corp	↓	OGC	3.33	-9	-2.63	0.37	3.37
Cudoco Ltd	↓	CDU	1.76	-5	-2.76	0.20	1.78
Beadell Resources Ltd	↓	BDR	0.61	-2	-3.17	6.18	0.62
Regis Resources Ltd	↓	RRL	1.8	-7.5	-4.00	3.26	1.83
Atlas Iron Ltd	↓	AGO	0.585	-2.5	-4.10	12.72	0.59
Sirius Resources NL	↓	SIR	3.52	-16	-4.35	1.38	3.59
PanAust Ltd	↓	PNA	2.15	-10	-4.44	6.36	2.14
Mount Gibson Iron Ltd	↓	MGX	0.645	-3	-4.44	3.45	0.66
Aquarius Platinum Ltd	↓	AQP	0.42	-2	-4.55	0.36	0.42
Arrium Ltd	↓	ARI	0.735	-4	-5.16	18.02	0.75
Evolution Mining Ltd	↓	EVN	0.825	-4.5	-5.17	3.49	0.85

The S&P/ASX 200 index marked a 0.4% gain to 5511 points, with the major miners helping drive a 0.4% improvement for the materials sector.

Rio Tinto closed 0.3% higher at \$A62.34 while BHP Billiton gained 0.7% to \$37.86.

Iron ore standouts on the session included Ferrum Crescent (up 28% to 3.2c), Cabral Resources (up 17.6% to 2c) and Strike Resources, which managed a 13.3% hike to 5.1c.

Gold companies were mostly lower despite the precious metal charting a 0.2% increase in value to \$US1340 per ounce.

However, newsmakers bucking the sector's stagnancy included MacPhersons Resources, up 12.5% to A18c with a feasibility update at its Nimbus project in Western Australia, and Crater Gold, which soared 68.5% to 15.5c with a plant commissioning in Papua New Guinea.

Besra Gold also jumped 28.2% to 5c with a \$US14.2 million (\$A15.1 million) investment from a new major shareholder.

Meanwhile, copper-gold play Fifth Element Resources added another 6.1% to \$A7.96.

Elsewhere in mining, Thundelarra was the statistical standout with a 143.5% rocket ride to 28c after reporting high grade copper results at its Red Bore project in WA, and Kibaran Resources, rose 27.9% to 27.5c on graphite hits at the Mahenge project in Tanzania

Mining companies requesting trading halts included Minrex Resources, Bassari Resources, Intercept Minerals, Discovery Metals, Metals of Africa, Latin Resources and Cape Lambert Resources, which is expecting an announcement regarding a legal dispute with Metallurgical Corporation of China.