



Happy New Year!

The 2012-13 financial year was yet another volatile one (the new normal), but despite the highs and lows, the year produced a much needed boost to the local share market and the residential property sector. While the final weeks of the year saw markets give back some of their hard won gains, the Australian share market still managed to grow by 17.3% and some global markets (like Japan and Germany) posted even higher returns (see below). For most clients, this is welcome news as the majority of superannuation funds have exposure to both Australian and international shares.

S&P ASX 200 (Australia)...+17.3%

S&P 500 (USA)...+17.9%

FTSE (UK)...+11.6%

NIKKEI (Japan)...+51.8%

Shanghai (China)...-11.5%

DAX (Germany)...+24.1%

For those clients with 'index' funds (typically through Vanguard), you will notice a close correlation between the real-world results listed above and your personal investment returns (for the Australian and international share components of your funds). More information about index funds and 'core-satellite' investing can be found on our website ([click here](#)).

and the **residential property** picture to June 30th was as follows...

Perth...+6%

Darwin...+6.1%

Sydney...+5.6%

Melbourne...+3.4%

Brisbane...+0.94%

Adelaide...+0.18%

Two noticeable issues were the price of gold and, more recently, our currency. Over the last year gold has declined by 22% to \$1,245 and our currency has depreciated by about 6% to \$96.68 (AUD/USD). Copper and iron ore prices have also seen better days.

On the **superannuation and pension** side of things there are just a few items to consider from today onwards...

- For employers and employees, the new compulsory 'super guarantee' rate increases from 9% to 9.25%.
- For those aged 60 or over, the 'concessional' super 'cap' increases from \$25,000 to \$35,000.
- For pensioners with account-based pensions, the temporary 25% reduction of the required minimum annual payment changes back to the original, higher minimum as follows...

Under age 65	4%
65 to 74	5%
75 to 79	6%
80 to 84	7%
85 to 89	9%
90 to 94	11%
95 or over	14%

Kind regards,



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Important Information

For real-time updates...

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Ideas worth spreading...



Questions? Call or email me...

