

# Fairview Equity Partners Monthly Investment Report February 2013

# **Emerging Companies Fund**

Fairview Equity Partners is a smaller company Australian equities manager. The Fairview Equity Partners Emerging Companies Fund seeks to provide capital growth and some income by outperforming the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index over the medium to long term.

### **Performance Return**

| Period ending<br>28 February 2013                 | 1<br>Month | 3<br>Months | 1<br>Year | 3 Years p.a. | Since inception# |
|---|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| Fairview Emerging Companies Fund*                 | 3.51%      | 11.49%      | 19.34%    | 19.51%       | 22.30%           |
| S&P/ASX Small<br>Ordinaries<br>Accumulation Index | 0.87%      | 8.50%       | -2.40%    | 2.60%        | 5.18%            |
| Excess Return*                                    | 2.64%      | 2.99%       | 21.74%    | 16.91%       | 17.12%           |
| Net Fund Return (after fees & expenses)           | 3.23%      | 10.64%      | 13.72%    | 15.09%       | 17.85%           |

<sup>\*</sup> Returns shown are gross at a manager level (pre fees) # Annualised. Fund incepted 8 October 2008 Past performance is not a reliable indicator of the future performance.

During February, the benchmark Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index rose 0.87%. The Fund performed substantially better than this returning 3.51% gross and 3.23% net, well and truly offsetting the January under-performance.

# **Portfolio Strategy**

Reporting season on aggregate saw results reported largely in line with expectations and there continues to be little evidence of a material pick-up in activity in the more cyclical sectors. Mining services were a mixed bag but there was clear commentary that the investment and construction spending has either peaked or is about to.

Investment fundamentals for the Small Industrial segment of the smaller companies universe are now somewhat 'stretched' given a 12 months forward PER of 15x. This represents a 10% premium to the average of 13.7x over the past 15 years, noting a 15% increase in the Small Industrials index over the past year that was entirely PER expansion rather than EPS driven – our view is that a 'step up' in EPS growth is now required to be demonstrated to drive further sustainable upside.

# **Market Outlook**

Although industrials generally are now lacking obvious valuation support, this is mitigated by improving economic conditions, historically low interest rates and a reduction in the previously elevated levels of risk aversion.

A potential area of support for the smaller companies universe could come from the resources sector which has under-performed the smaller industrials by around 50% over the last year. Apart from the



gold and coal sectors, commodity prices have staged a reasonable recovery in recent months and that should lead to improved share price performance from the related mining companies at some stage.

Regardless of the above valuation issues, we continue to look for mispriced opportunities and are presently considering many potential investments to add to the fund.

## **Performance Attribution**

We highlight below the largest positive and negative relative performance contributors during the month of February 2013.

| Positive contributors          |            | Negative contributors   |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| REA Group Ltd.                 | Overweight | Regis Resources Ltd.    | Overweight |
| Codan Ltd.                     | Overweight | Beadell Resources Ltd.  | Overweight |
| McMillan Shakespeare Ltd.      | Overweight | Breville Group Ltd.     | Overweight |
| Ainsworth Game Technology Ltd. | Overweight | JB Hi-Fi Ltd.           | Not Held   |
| G8 Education Ltd.              | Overweight | Papillon Resources Ltd. | Overweight |

| Number of stock holdings at 28 February 2013: | 50 |
|---|----|
|---|----|

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