Newsletter

Announcing Game winners

What an interesting Game we've had!

With unprecedented falls in the market due to pandemic fears, and then, a much faster than anticipated recovery. This means we have seen record portfolio values in the Schools Game, with syndicates making the most of the of the market conditions.

For this Game:

- The All Ordinaries (XAO) was up 5.05%.
- The best performing sector was energy up 34.69% and utilities up 26.45%.
- The worst performing sector was industrials down -7.66%. This was the only sector in the negative.
- The top stock was MSB - Mesoblast up 148.7%, followed by KGN - Kogan up 126.28%.
- The worst performing stock was URW - Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield down -47.31%, followed by FLT down -45.18%.
- 72% of syndicates finished in profit with the average portfolio value being $53,541.

The top syndicates used a variety of strategies, read on to discover what they did.

NATIONAL 1ST & NEW SOUTH WALES 1ST

Zain in Year 9 at Whitebridge High School

Portfolio Value: $116,468

Strategy: "After buying and selling shares over the first few weeks, in week 4 of the Game I chose to make a bold move and invest my $50,000 into the stocks that had recently dropped in value and see what would happen…To my surprise in the next fortnight, I had profited over $45,000. I ended up holding all of these stocks through the coming weeks hoping that the market would continue up.

I chose this strategy because I didn't have much knowledge of the stock market and wanted to investigate and see where this strategy would take me. I stuck to my plan for the whole Game. I was tempted to sell all of my shares at one point for the fun of it and re-invest but I thought I would play it safe and just hold my stocks and hope for the best.

The biggest lesson I have learnt was to have fun and investigate how the sharemarket works. I learnt what happens when you spread your buying of shares out over a range of companies, and how your stocks are affected when the market crashes or drops."

NATIONAL 2ND & NEW SOUTH WALES 2ND

The chads - Ethan, James & Matthew in Year 9 at St Luke's Grammar School

Portfolio Value: $115,529

Strategy: "Our strategy throughout the Game was to choose companies that had experienced massive falls. With an unpredictable market of record falls one day and record rises the next, we knew that the companies that had experienced falls would eventually rise again. The day after we invested in Afterpay it had a 30% gain."

NSW 3RD: No Dry - Jason in Year 10 at Fort Street High School

NATIONAL 3RD & VICTORIA 1ST

Simonds21 - Andrew in Year 12 at Simonds Catholic College

Portfolio Value: $114,081

Strategy: "My strategy going into the Game was to buy shares in companies that were negatively affected by the coronavirus event. I looked at many companies that were on a decline and, using the chart tool from the Game, compared their current share price with their previous share price prior to the pandemic lock-down (usually 6 months to 1 year previously).
Throughout the Game, I predominately held shares that had been severely affected by the lock-down: buying these shares at a low prices and only selling the shares when they returned back to normal (normal being the original price of the share before the lock-down affected the share negatively).

I was able to double my initial investment through investing in shares that had dropped over 200%. The most important lesson I learnt whilst playing the Game was to be patient and not to stress over every little decline in the market. The sharemarket was especially volatile during this Game and I made countless mistakes; however, the most important part is to learn from these mistakes and apply your learning towards your next trade."

VIC 2ND: CG in Connor in 10 Year at Overnewton Anglican Community College
VIC 3RD: Win in Year 11 at Hoppers Crossing Secondary College

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1ST

Cooper in Year 8 at Shenton College

Portfolio Value: $107,019

Strategy: "Due to the impact of coronavirus, many big companies had fallen in value. I researched about companies that would regain their normal value and decided to invest as much as I could into them. These where companies that many people would need either during or after the virus restrictions had cleared, such as AfterPay, IDP Education and Corporate Travel Management Limited.

My strategy was to invest all my money into the stocks and hold them for as long as possible. I chose the strategy as I knew stocks were on the rise and keeping them would maximise my profits. I stuck to the plan for the whole competition and on some occasions, as my stocks went down, I felt like selling and reinvesting but I stuck to the plan and it worked out in the long run.

The biggest lessons I have learned from this experience is patience and trusting my gut feeling. In all, I would definitely love to do the ASX Sharemarket Game again and I would recommend everyone to give it a go!"

WA 2ND: Theo in Year 12 at Christ Church Grammar School
WA 3RD: Carissa-Reif - Carissa and Reif in Year 12 at Manea Senior College

QUEENSLAND 1ST

Jaymee in Year 11 at Mary MacKillop Catholic College

Portfolio Value: $104,533

Strategy: "My Game strategy was formulated at a time when the ASX was declining during the coronavirus pandemic. The shares I initially purchased were based on some of my Dad's advice regarding Credit Corp and Afterpay. The other advice came from Mr Cavanough who discussed the implications of the coronavirus pandemic to equities markets. Based on this discussion, I researched several medical companies and purchased a holding in both Fisher and Paykel Health and Promedicus. I adopted the buy and hold strategy and tracked the growth of these shares throughout the competition and recovery of the ASX. I stuck to my

plan as I see investing as a long-term process."

QLD 2ND: Jimmy C - Ramsay in Year 12 at Holland Park State High School
QLD 3RD: Rich 22 – Joseph in Year 9 at James Nash State High School

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY 1ST

Sharons and Karyns – Gen, Harley & Joshua in Year 9 at Radford College

Portfolio Value: $91,266

Strategy: "Our syndicate decided to choose our stocks mainly on their recent performance, for example looking at trends in the companies' earnings growth. We also researched and compared a variety of different companies as well as diversifying our portfolio. We did this for protection so if a company fails, it only affects a small proportion of the investment, not the whole portfolio.

Our strategy was to buy and hold, depending on how the company was performing, we would base our decision off that on what to do next. We did stick to this plan, in the last few weeks of the competition, we didn't sell, knowing that the company prices at this time would increase.

Handling the market volatility due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was a challenge for our syndicate, but we tried to stick to our plan as best we could and to keep a diversified portfolio through these times where the market was moving down. The main lessons we have learnt from the Stock Market Game are how the stock exchange works and the public companies that are involved in it."

ACT 2ND: Stonks - Brandon in Year 12 at Narrabundah College
ACT 3RD: Redacted – Pradhyumna, Ethan & Sreekar in Year 11 at Narrabundah College

TASMANIA 1ST

JahCoin2 – Tate in Year 11 at Hobart College

Portfolio Value: $89,549

Strategy: "After starting the Game a bit late, I managed to start buying stocks around the bottom of the initial dip. I bought into stocks like Eclipx and Afterpay because I thought they were very undervalued at the time. Over the course of the Game, I decided to sell after large gains, then buy back into the stock after the following dips. While this didn't work all the time, it helped me cement profits. The main thing I learned is that the market doesn't always react exactly to what the news is in Australia, rather what the news is compared to the investors' expectations."

TAS 2ND: Kalon in Year 10 at Smithton High School
TAS 3RD: Chicken - Joshua, Karn, Sally in Year 12 at Guilford Young College Hobart Campus

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1ST

Hodgey623 - Lochlan in Year 11 at Swan Reach Area School

Portfolio Value: $81,844

Strategy: "I chose companies that were significantly down by looking at their historical graphs and trends. For example, AfterPay was at its lowest market price, so I bought 908 shares of this stock. I bought it at $13, then it shot up to $44 per share at the end of Schools Share Market Game. One of the reasons I chose AfterPay, was because during COVID-19 I felt that most of the shops wouldn't take cash, therefore most

people would choose AfterPay as their preferred option. Additionally, most people would choose online shopping, which uses AfterPay.

Initially, I tried to make a quick profit, but…I decided to change my strategy to buy and hold. To invest in stock markets in the future, I will hold for long term and not be greedy with short-term profits."

SA 2ND: Angus 1 – Angus in Year 11 at Mercedes College

SA 3RD: NotBaden - Baden in Year 10 at Saint Ignatius' College

NORTHERN TERRITORY 1ST

TISM - William in Year 11 at Casuarina Senior College

Portfolio Value: $76,783

Strategy: "I looked at the way world events were unfolding with the coronavirus and affecting the Australia economy. Keeping this in mind I chose mainly companies that I thought would benefit from the situation such as health companies and Afterpay. A few other companies were chosen because they were familiar names. This meant I also had a range of business types.

Initially I followed the prices closely and sold some shares. My strategy didn't seem to be working early in the Game as my portfolio continually decreased. At this point I was tempted to sell the under-performing shares but decided to wait and see what happens. I considered that if I sold the shares it would be a loss and other shares may not perform any better.

The strategy to buy health shares paid off because the share prices reversed and started increasing. …I considered there was still a risk that the prices could decrease, however overall the portfolio was going well and I stayed with the companies. There was a lot of market volatility but I noticed this occurred in both directions. There were some big losses but there were also some big gains. I learnt to look closely at what is happening in Australia and the world. These events can have a big impact on Australian share prices and to choose companies that might benefit from the situation."

NT 2ND: AMD - Andrew in Year 10 at Casuarina Senior College
NT 3RD: lulubei - Mangpo in Year 10 at Casuarina Senior College

Special mention to our New Zealand and International top syndicates:

New Zealand 1ST - Lachlan from Waimea College
International 1ST - JJ-Cho from Fukuoka International School

The company list has been updated for the entire Game period.

Well done to everyone who played the Game, we hope you had fun and learnt a lot.

The Games Team

Previous newsletters

- Game 2 2019 winners
- Getting ready
- Game essentials
- Fear Factor
- Leaders
- Share prices

Game update

- 26 March
- 2 April
- 8 April
- 16 April
- 23 April
- 30 April