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Your Free Wrap today is based on an extract from Edition 607 of Jim Berg's 'Investing & Online Trading' Stock Report



"The Market Liked it...."

By Jim Berg and John Atkinson

1. USA

On Wednesday 15th March, interest rates were raised in the USA by a quarter of a per cent.... and the market liked it!

Surprisingly to many traders and investors, instead of stocks being sold down, markets rallied further. Some market commentators attribute three main reasons for this out of character move:

- 1) The US economy appears to be strengthening
- 2) Rising interest rates shake off the gloom of GFC memories when interest rates in the USA were within a quarter of a percent of being negative
- 3) High expectations of Donald Trump

Another reason to consider is that the Fed had been pre-empting the potential for rising rates for a considerable time - so this rise had already been priced in by the Market and correspondingly there were 'no surprises' when it was announced on Wednesday. *"They met expectations perfectly,"* said J.J. Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade. *"They stayed to the script that Wall Street wanted to hear."* (CNBC)

Importantly for now, the USA market remains bullish, as shown in the following updated charts:

The Dow Jones is consolidating above where it gapped up from on 1st March:



Dow Jones Industrial Average

Similarly for the S&P500 (refer to our 'Last Word' in Edition 606):



S&P500

The Nasdaq is back to the High set on 1 March, and could either break out from this level or may be resisted, with a nearby support level of around 5800:



Nasdaq Composite

The Russell 2000 continues to consolidate at a support level around 1,350:



Russell 2000

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Dr Alexander Elder, author of the classic book '*Trading for a Living*' wrote on Thursday 16th March; *"..The fact that the market roared up and away after a rate increase is a wake-up call for all of who treated this as a normal garden-variety bull market, with orderly rallies and declines. This market is on fire, and we better be in gear with it."*

We will continue to monitor and report on these markets for any potential early warning signs in the future. In the meantime we recall a phrase quoted by a professional fund manager we met years ago "Trade what you see, not what you feel".

2. Australian Market



ASX200 Index Weekly Chart

Here in Australia, we drew attention to the risk of increased volatility during the Reporting Season in February.

That Reporting Season is now behind us, so 'normal' market conditions have resumed within a confirmed rising trend, as shown in this latest update of the ASX200 chart.

The following shows the current status for all Jim Berg's open Signals within his Signals Service, of which **76%** of his Trading Signals and **80%** of his Investing Signals are now showing **open profits***:

- A) **Trading Signals:** (Targeting short term profits up to 15% and managed *using daily charts*). On Friday 10th March, a notional Trading Signals trade was closed at a **+15.0%** notional profit or **+16.2%** with dividend. For the remaining 17 open Trading Signals:

	No. Of Open Positions
Open Loss up to -3.2%	4
Open Profit up to +5%	8
Open Profit +5% to +10%	5
Total Open Trading Signals	17

- B) **Investing Signals** (Designed to 'let profits run' and managed with *weekly charts*)

	No. Of Open Positions
Open Loss up to -5%	5
Open Profit up to +5%	4
Open Profit +5% to +10%	2
Open Profit +10% to +30%	12
Open Profit +30% to +50%	1
Open Profit +50% to +70%	2
Total Open Investing Signals	26

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On Friday 17th March, two of Jim's notional Trading Signals trades were exited; at a **-4.5%** notional loss and at a **+16.7%** notional profit, including dividends.

Jim also posted 1 new Australian [Investing Entry Signal](#) and 2 new [Trading Entry Signals](#) ready for Monday 20th March.



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