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FAR EAST CAPITAL
The Mining Investment Experts

Weekly Commentary

22 August 2026 *Chart comments updated on Friday's close* Analyst : Warwick Grigor

Gold & silver back on the menu, so let's have a look at Maronan

The market was spurred upwards last week, largely on the back of the surge in gold and silver prices. It seems that the disruption caused by the Iranian War has now been absorbed into the psychology, and the market is now desensitised to it. It is just another factor rather than the primary influence. That suggests we are getting back to the fundamentals of why the gold price had been stronger in 2025.

Government debt is a major reason why gold is in favour. The US debt keeps rising, and Australia's debt was reported to be $1 trillion last week. That is mind-blowing. Where is the ALP taking us? Down Victoria Street?

The reliance of the stock market to absorb shocks and recover, in due course, is a constant feature. Look at the Iran War-induced bear market from February to early August. It was unexpected, and it caused pain amongst the resource market investors, but the bear market is now history. When the market was falling, we should have been drawing up a shopping list rather than trying to catch falling knives. Patience was essential for a while. We are now getting the signal that we should be acting on the shopping list as sentiment and the gold price continues to improve.

We look more closely at Maronan Metals (MMA) this week. While it may be seen as stock for longer-term investors, it has shown itself to be a quality proxy by which to play the silver price, well ahead of any production plans.

Grigor Sentiment Oscillator	
Charts in Uptrend:	35% (29%)
Charts in Downtrend:	35% (43%)

The Life Story of Polymetallics from Discovery to Production - Patience is a Must

Polymetallic projects seem to be more difficult for investors to get their heads around. When the deposits are first discovered, there is usually quite a bit of market excitement, and rightfully so, but thereafter it has always been difficult for them to maintain the peak prices for any length of time.

Once discovered, there often follows a lengthy period during which the deposit has to be drilled out to meet JORC standards. Then, the company goes through an extended period of scoping studies followed by PFS and DFS studies. With each iteration of study, there is another level of conservatism applied that can lead them to be perceived as boring. That can lead to them being dropped off the radar due to the diminished excitement. They tend to appeal more to longer-term value-seeking investors, and the share register has to go through a period of change.

The time it takes to progress such projects through to production will be at least five, if not ten years or more. Shareholders will come and go. Invariably, the studies highlight areas that need more attention, such as drill spacing for ore reserve calculation. Each project will have its own specific processing circuit that needs to be designed and tested, and that takes more time. Then, when all the technical issues are sorted to the satisfaction of financiers, funds must be raised, then development and commissioning issues need to be addressed. Overprinting the metals price cycle adds another level of consideration. You might think this means hard work for a long time, and you would be correct.

Trading opportunities can go unnoticed.

It is understandable that investors will look to more exciting situations while a company labours with a project. However, value seekers need to keep their eyes open for companies suffering from extreme neglect that can lead to absolute bargains. These will have a fundamental safety net provided by real projects as opposed to speculative play things.

Though no matter what stage of progress has been achieved, there should always be some sort of correlation between share prices and commodity prices. The shares can serve as a good proxy for playing commodity prices well ahead of actual production, especially when the market is in a bullish phase and hungry for equities.

Metal Equivalent Grades

Companies try to simplify their story where they can, converting the various metal grades into one primary equivalent grade. e.g. if copper is the focus, they will convert all other grades to a copper equivalent. This can be useful, but it can also be misleading, so be careful. It is not so simple, and payment terms can vary depending on the composition of concentrates.

Working on a comparative table

I started working on a comparative table, but there is a serious amount of work involved - taking more time than I have at the moment - so let's just call it work in progress for now. For this week, I have settled for a closer examination of Maronan Metals as an example.

Maronan Metals - advanced silver proxy

I don't often see Maronan Metals (MMA) mentioned in dispatches, but given it is a company of substance, I should be keeping a closer eye on it owing to its strong correlation with the silver price. At the recent price of 53¢, it carries a market capitalisation of $166m.

Background

The Maronan deposit is about 65 km south of Cloncurry in western Queensland, in a region that is one of Australia's major base metal districts that hosts Mt Isa, Cannington, Dugal River and Ernest Henry. It was originally discovered by Billiton in 1988. Phelps Dodge picked it up and subsequently sold it to Red Metal Ltd in 2003. BHP Billiton entered into a JV in September 2005 but withdrew in 2010. Red Metals then pursued the project in its own right.

A preliminary scoping study was released in March 2016, based on inferred resources for both the lead and silver orebody (30.8 Mt at 6.5% Pb and 106 gpt Ag), but not he copper/gold resources of 19.2 Mt at 1.24% Cu and 0.6 gpt Au.

Fast forward to April 2022. The project was spun out in a separate vehicle named Maronan Metals, with Red Metal retaining 50% of the company in the process. The IPO raised $15m. Red Metal subsequently distributed most of its shareholders via an in-specie distribution to its shareholders, retaining only 3%.

Project Status Today

MMA has delivered a Scoping Study on the Starter Zone which considers only 22% of the 65 Mt Global Resource. That detailed a 37% IRR from a 10-year, 1.2 Mtpa scale. That is interesting but it is only part of the story and actual development could be very different. We will know more when the updated MRE in H2 2027 is released, incorporating another 40,000m of infill drilling, along with a prefeasibility study around the same time.

The Starter Zone Scoping Study considered both stand-alone and toll-treating options to produce 3 Moz p.a. of silver, 38,000 tpa of lead and some copper and silver. The toll-treating option delivers a faster payback of 2 years versus a 4-year payback with a stand-alone facility. This gives a better IRR but a similar NPV.

Metalurgical test work has shown lead and silver recoveries of better than 90% into high-grade concentrates assaying > 70% Pb and 1,500 gpt Ag. Similarly, copper and gold recoveries are good, but these are minor products in the scheme of things in the Starter Zone.

In order to get a full understanding of Maronan's potential, you need to factor in the main Copper/Gold resource of 32 Mt at 0.85% Cu and 0.63% Au, containing 271,000 t of copper and 649,000 oz of gold.

The copper/gold mineralisation actually occurs between two silver/lead horizons. Maronan describes the copper/gold body as a steep-plunging, pipe-shaped, silica-pyrrhotite-rich body located between the main stratiform lead-silver horizons. The silver/lead Starter Zone is relatively shallow, starting at 90 m depth. The copper/gold has much more tonnage potential, appearing to blow out at depth, as suggested by the drill results from 1,250 m. You can expect that it will reveal much larger resources when fully drilled.

Good Shareholder Backing

Maronan has a strong share registry with the Canadian-based Kinterra Capital Corporation holding 19.9% after injecting $22 m in May, at 35¢ a share. Recall that this is the company that successfully bid for New World Resources recently. The perennially successful geologist and investor, Josh Pitt, holds about 8%.

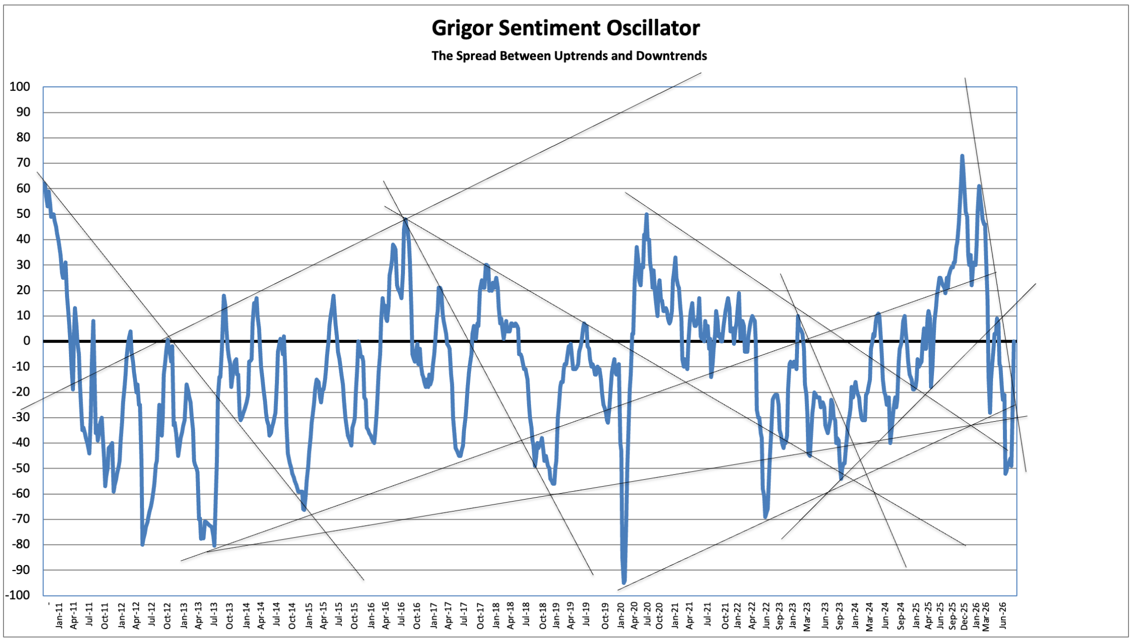
The Bottom Line

Rather than seeing Maronan as one of those boring base metals companies that are labouring their way to a development decision, the correlation with the silver price should be clearly in your focus. It is one of the better quality proxies for silver with around 50% of future revenue expected to come from silver (at this stage). It is well managed, has a good shareholder base, and is well financed for this stage of the journey. While the ultimate capex for the Starter Zone could be $300m for a stand-alone plant, any raising will be some time down the path. There should be plenty of trading opportunities between now and the expected date of first mining, in 2029.

Antimony Prices Have Taken a Dive

Back in late May, the antimony price was being quoted at around RMB 180,000/t, but the Chinese domestic price has fallen about 50% since then. Tying in the antimony price to real-world events is somewhat academic given the Chinese dominance, which is tainted with politics, so there is not much point in saying anything more than the price has fallen heavily. So far, we haven't seen a big impact on share prices, but maybe that is yet to come.

We added Maronan Metals to the chart coverage.



Grigor Sentiment Oscillator: It was a great rebound for the Sentiment Oscillator last week, taking the measure back to equilibrium, i.e. the same percentage of stocks in uptrends as those in downtrends. There were 35% (26%) of shares under coverage in uptrend, and 35% (48%) in downtrend.

Detailed Chart Comments

NB. Only the bold comments have been updated. Comments in grey type are from previous weeks and will be less relevant. Please note that this list is a cross section of the market. It IS NOT a list of recommendations.

Indices	Code		Trend Comment	
All Ordinaries	XAO		pullback	
Metals and Mining	XMM		back to highs	
Energy	XEJ		steep rise	
Stocks	**Code**		**Trend Comment (updated comments in bold)**	**Main Interest**
Aguia Resources	AGR		down after placement	phosphate, gold
Akora	AKO		testing downtrend	iron ore
Alkane Resources	ALK		bounced off support line	gold
Alligator Energy	AGE		pullback	uranium
Alpha HPA	A4N		falling	HPA
American Rare Earths	ARR		sideways	rare earths
American Tungsten & Antimony	AT4		steep rise	antimon
Anax Metals	ANX		rising again	copper
Andean Silver	ASL		surge to new high	silver
AnteoTech	ADO		down	batteries
Arafura Resources	ARU		new low	rare earths
Ardea Resources	ARL		breached downtrend	nickel
Ark Mines	AHK		surge out of downtrend	rare earths
Astral Resources	AAR		surge higher	gold
Aureka	AKA		improving	gold exploration
Auric Mining	AWJ		sideways through downtrend	gold
Aurora Energy Metals	1AE			uranium
Aurum Resources	AUE		surge out of steepest downtrend	gold exploration
Australian Gold and Copper	AGC		testing downtrend	base metals, silver, gold
Australian Rare Earths	AR3		down	rare earths
Australian Strategic Materials	ASM		breached downtrend	rare earths
BCI Minerals	BCI		sideways	salt
BHP	BHP		good rise	diversified, iron ore
Ballard Mining	BM1		testing downtrend	lithium
Ballymore Resources	BMR		breached downtrend	gold exploration
Barton Gold	BGD		rising again	gold exploration
BCI Minerals	BCI		improving	salt
Beach Energy	BPT			oil and gas
Beetaloo Energy	BTL		new low	gas
Bellevue Gold	BGL		good bounce	gold
Black Cat Syndicate	BC8		testing downtrend	gold

Boa Resources	BOA		bounced on support line	copper
Boab Metals	BML		rising again	silver/lead
Brazilian Rare Earths	BRE		breached downtrend	rare earths
Brightstar Resources	BTR		good rise	gold
Broken Hill Mines	BHM		rising	base metals
Canadian Phosphate	CP8		down	phosphate
Caravel Minerals	CVV		testing downtrend	copper
Carnaby Resources	CNB		spike out of downtrend on takeover	copper
Castile Resources	CST		improving	gold/copper/cobalt
Catalyst Metals	CYL		rising again	gold
Cazaly Resources	CAZ		down	rare earths
Centaurus Metals	CTM		testing downtrend	nickel/cobalt/HPA
Challenger Gold	CEL		steep rise	gold
CNG Resources	CGR		consolidating after rise	gold exploration
Cobalt Blue	COB			cobalt
CuFe	CUF		breaching support line	bismuth, Cu, Au
Cyprium Metals	CYM		rising	copper
Energy Transition Metals	ETM		down	rare earths
EQ Resources	EQR		rising	tungsten
Estrella Resources	ESR		rising again	manganese
Evolution Mining	EVN		breached downtrend	gold
Felix Gold	FXG		sideways at lows	gold exploration, antimony
Finder Energy	FDR			oil/gas
First Graphene	FGR			graphene
Flagship Minerals	FLG		sideways through downtrend	gold
Gateway Mining	GML		breached downtrend	gold exploration + gallium
GBM Resources	GBM		breaching downtrend	gold
Genesis Minerals	GMD		steep rise	gold
Globe Metals and Mining	GBE		back in downtrend	niobium
Gold 50	G50		testing downtrend	gold exploration + gallium
Golden Horse	GHM		good rise	gold exploration
Great Boulder Resources	GBR		new low	gold exploration
Green360 Tech	GT3		down	kaolin
Hamelin Gold	HMG		rising	gold exploration
Hawk Resources	HWK		down	scandium
Heavy Minerals	HVY		down	garnet
Hillgrove Resources	HGO		rising	copper
Iltani Resources	ILT		down	antimony
Iluka Resources	ILU		testing downtrend	mineral sands
Investigator Resources	IVR		down	silver
Jupiter Mines	JMS		sideways	manganese
Kaiser Reef	KAU		rising	gold
Kingfisher Minerals	KFM		testing downtrend	copper expl.
Kalamazoo Resources	KRZ		breached downtrend	gold

Kalina Power	KPO		rising	data centre power
Koba Resources	KOB		rising	uranium
Larvotto Resources	LRV		testing downtrend	gold, antimony
Litchfield Minerals	LMS		new low	copper exploration
Lindian Resources	LIN		approaching support line - trading halt	rare earths + bauxite
Lode Resources	LDR		down	antimony, silver
Lynas Corp.	LYC		steep rise	rare earths
Mammoth	M79			gold exploration
Many Peaks	MPK			gold exploration
Marmota	MEU		down	gold/uranium exploration
Maronan Metals	MMA		rising	silver/lead
Matsa Resources	MAT		new low	gold
Meeka Gold	MEK		testing downtrend	gold
MetalsX	MLX		rising	tin, nickel
Meteoric Resources	MEI		rising again	rare earths
Midas Minerals	MM1		breached downtrend	lithium
Mithril Silver & Gold	MTH		testing downtrend	silver, gold
Native Mineral Resources	NMR		testing downtrend	gold
New Murchison	NMG		rising	gold
Nexgen Energy	NXG		good rise	uranium
Novo Resources	NVO		down	gold exploration
Omega Oil	OMA		breached uptrend	oil
Pacific Gold	PGO		at highs pre placement	gold exploration
Pacific Lime & Cement	PLA		rising	renewables, cement
Paladin Energy	PDN		testing downtrend	uranium
Pantoro Gold	PNR		steep rise	gold
Patriot Battery Metals	PMT		at lows	lithium
Peninsula Energy	PEN		collapse	uranium
Perseus Mining	PRU		rising again	gold
Phosco	PHO		sideways	phosphate
Pilbara Minerals	PGL		testing downtrend	gold
PolarX	PXX			gold exploration, base metals
Power Minerals	PNN		new high	rare earths
QMines	QML		sideways	copper
Regis Resources	RRL		steep rise	gold
Revolver Resources	RRR		at lows	copper
Richmond Vanadium	RVT		down	vanadium
RIO	RIO		steep rise	diversified, iron ore
Rox Resources	RXL		breached downtrend	gold
RTG Mining	RTG		new high	copper
Rumble Resources	RTR			zinc, gold, tungsten exploration
Santana Minerals	SMI		testing downtrend	gold
Santos	STO		at highs	oil/gas
Sarytogan Graphite	SGA			graphite

Scorpion Minerals	SCN		down	gold exploration
Sinclair Gold (was AQI)	SGC			gold exploration
Siren Gold	SNG		down	gold exploration
Skylark Minerals	SKM		down	gold exploration
Somerset Minerals	SMM		bounced off lows	copper exploration
Southern Palladium	SPD		rising	PGMs
Stanmore Coal	SMR		down	coal
St George Mining	SGQ		down	rare earths, niobium
Stellar Resources	SRZ		improving	tin
Sun Silver	SS1		breached downtrend	silver
Sunrise Metals	SRL		**spike to new high**	scandium
Tamboran Resources	TBN		sideways	gas
Theta Gold	TGM		on support line	gold
Tivan	TVN		resuming downtrend	fluorite
Torque Metals	TOR		new low	gold exploration + lithium
Toubani Resources	TRE		new low	gold
Verity Resources	VRL		down	gold
Vertex Minerals	VTX		steep rise	gold
Waratah Minerals	WTM		**testing downtrend**	gold exploration
Westgold Resources	WGX		steep rise	gold
West Wits Mining	WWI		testing downtrend	gold
Whitehaven Coal	WHC		down	coal
White Cliff Minerals	WCN		sideways	copper exploration
WIN Metals	WIN		down	gold
Yandal Resources	YRL		down	gold exploration
Totals	35%	51	Uptrend	
	35%	50	Downtrend	
		144		

Guides to Chart Interpretations

- Charts usually go from one trend (up or down) into the other via a period of indecision and uncertainty during which the trend can either recover or change. This period is signified by the orange colour. The orange represents both the greatest risk and greatest reward possibilities.
- Once a chart is in confirmed up or downtrends, it is not uncommon for 10-20% of that trend to have already transpired.
- There are trends within trends. The focus of this chart review is the immediate trend that affects the sentiment, i.e. it can be a downtrend within a long-term uptrend.
- Not every chart warrants a new comment every week. The new comments are in bold type. Grey-type comments may be dated.
- Individual charts provide a single view. It is valuable to look at charts of other companies in similar commodities, and the overall sentiment is also very valuable. Not many stocks can swim against the tide.
- We periodically add or delete charts, sometimes for obscure reasons. If a chart consistently gives poor signals or is very erratic, we may delete it. Sometimes we add a chart because we want to see what all the fuss is about. We do have a preference for charting stocks that we cover in our research as well.
- Errors and omissions may occur from time to time, especially in fast-moving markets.

Amber Lights in Tables: Just a reminder, if the amber light is used in the table – it is when the charts are ambiguous or when there is a change of trend taking place. If a chart is breaching a downtrend, it can either be a positive sign or a trap. Only once it has done more work can it be confirmed as a new uptrend. Maybe it is a new uptrend (or conversely a new downtrend); the risk-takers can decide to jump on board early (or sell). They will maximise their profits (or minimise their losses if indeed it is the start of the new uptrend (or downtrend). More risk-averse investors should wait a little longer, being prepared to give up some of the gains in return for greater certainty.

Weightings of Sectors Represented in the Company Charts			
Sector	**No. of Companies**	**Weighting**	
Gold	33	22.9%	
Gold Exploration	24	16.7%	
Copper	13	9.0%	
Rare Earths	13	9.0%	
Uranium	6	4.2%	
Oil/Gas/Hydrogen	6	4.2%	
Silver	7	4.9%	
Iron Ore/Manganese	5	3.5%	
Antimony	4	2.8%	
Lithium	3	2.1%	
Graphite/graphene	2	1.4%	
HPA/Kaolin	2	1.4%	
Nickel	2	1.4%	
Scandium	2	1.4%	
Tungsten	1	0.7%	
Tin	2	1.4%	
Coal	2	1.4%	
Bismuth	1	0.7%	
Niobium	1	0.7%	
Potash/Phosphate	3	2.1%	
Base metals	1	0.7%	
Vanadium	1	0.7%	
PGMs	1	0.7%	
Mineral Sands	1	0.7%	
Cobalt	1	0.7%	
Other	7	4.9%	
Total	144		

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