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#### On Friday's Close

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Weekly

Commentary

# Enthusiasm dropping back a gear. Introducing Los Cerros

The frenzy that was driving the mining sector seems to have dropped back a gear or two, along with the correction in the gold price. What is next? Maybe we go through a bit of a lull while we wait for the gold bulls to gain control again. For the time being the established gold producers look as if they want to go lower.

Don't look to copper for inspiration just now. After a period of strong gains the copper price has been going sideways since early July, even while LME stocks fell below 100,0000 tonnes for the first time since 2007. As with gold, the buying seems to have run out of momentum for copper stocks.

#### Chinese floods affecting rare earths supply

We are seeing snippets of news flow on the impact of the floods in China. Rare earths production is being affected, so this may be behind the improving prices. Chinese rare earth exports have fallen by 48% in the month of July, YoY.

#### Positive kimberlite sampling result from Lucapa

On Friday, Lucapa reported that the sampling of the L071 kimberlite pipe resulted in two diamonds being recovered with the largest one being 1.08 carats. You may ask "*If the result was positive, why didn't the share price jump*?" Let us put it in perspective.

The main aim was to determine whether there were any diamonds in the pipe rather than to determine grade or value. You need a much larger sample to do this. Recovering diamonds is an important first step. So, let's tick that box.

One of the diamonds was Type IIa, which is the valuable category that the alluvial mine specialises in. This means that the alluvial diamonds could have shed from this pipe.

The recovery process used was sub-optimal in that there was no crushing circuit involved, as the alluvial plant doesn't use one. Maybe there were diamonds that weren't sufficiently liberated to be recovered with the equipment at hand.

The Company wants to get around to sampling as many of the prospective pipes that it can during the current dry season rather than linger on the first positive result it gets. Thus the moving to test the next pipe is not a statement that L071 isn't any good. This latest result is pleasing but it is still just another step in the journey.

Disclosure: Nil. Interests associated with the author own shares and options in Lucapa. FEC has received capital raising fees in 2020, from managing a placement and an entitlement issue.

# Los Cerros rising from the ashes of Metminco

Los Cerros (LCL) is an interesting gold explorer operating in the Risaralda State of Colombia, in the Mid-Cauca miocene porphyry belt that hosts large gold and copper deposits such as Titiribi (10.6 Moz), Marmota (14.4 Moz) and Nuevo Chaquiro (30 Moz AuEq).

Los Cerros came into being through the merger of Andes Resources and Metminco in mid 2019, after Metminco ran out of puff. The entity was re-branded as Los Cerros early in 2020, with the two largest shareholders being Sandfire Resources (15%) and Rand Merchant Bank (15%). Both of these parties recently sold their positions. A brief history of Metminco appears further down.

The Quinchia Gold Project is the name given to Los Cerros's regional project. Miraflores, Tesorito and Chuscal are within a 3 km radius and are all prospects within Quinchia.

#### Miraflores resources is a starting point

Los Cerros has calculated a Measured and Indicated Resource of 9.27 Mt at 2.82 gpt for 840,000 oz at **Miraflores**, but Metminco had calculated a smaller underground ore reserve of 456,000 oz grading 3.29 gpt. With a capex estimate of US\$72m and lower gold prices (modelled on US\$1,300/oz) it was sub-economic at the time.

The Miraflores gold project is interesting and looking more attractive with a stronger gold price, but as it stands it still doesn't look sexy. It needs a better grade, especially in the first couple of years in order to get the capex payback figure closer to 12 months. While one of LCL's priorities is to try and find additional, better grade ore to improve the numbers, there is a much bigger picture to look at.

#### Exploration is going to be more interesting

What really attracted the new management to the Colombian assets was the seventh drill hole in the **Tesorito** project, to the SE of Miraflores, which returned 256m at 1.01 gpt, effectively from surface. This was drilled perpendicular to hole number two, which had returned 384m at 1.01 gpt. So, suddenly the prospect was demonstrating potential for volume in a structure that appears to be at least 400m x 200m in surface expression.

#### Doing tasks to get "drill ready"

Much of 2020 has been spent getting ready to drill. First off it announced a \$2m strategic partnership with Hong Kong Ausino for the supply of IP and drilling services, whereby the company could elect to pay for a diamond drill rig and IP equipment with cash or shares.

It then moved to 100% ownership of the Chuscal prospect, introducing AngloGold Ashanti as a 4.3% shareholder in the process. A \$3.5m, two tranche placement at 4¢ early in July has secured the funding for the next round of drilling, being 2,500m at Tesorito, Chuscal and Miraflores.

On 24th August, LCL announced that the first hole had been completed at a depth of 325m after intercepting potassic alteration with intense porphyry and epithermal veining interpreted to be the core of the Tesorito porphyry. There were visual similarities with other holes on the prospect that delivered wide zones of gold mineralisation. Assays for this latest hole are due in September. In that announcement the company also revealed that it has commissioned a second drill rig, and their own rig, purchased through Hong Kong Ausino, is due to arrive on October potentially making a three rig program of far larger total meters this year

## Junior exploration companies and porphyries

I have said on more than one occasion that I get nervous when junior companies get excited about the potential for porphyry targets on their licences. That is because the bigger they are, the more expensive they are to drill and the longer it takes. The cost often exceeds the company's ability to fund it. Nevertheless, there are examples of junior companies and their shareholders that have had great success with porphyry deposits. SolGold is one such example. It helps if you have the "right" porphyry.

The Los Cerros strategy has two elements; drill for high grade to top up the Miraflores DFS, a project well within the reach of a well managed junior, and the long term porphyry story to possibly replicate some of the globally significant discoveries within the same Mid-Cauca porphyry belt.

### Using advanced techniques to shorten the odds

Los Cerros has employed Fathom Geophysics to apply a sophisticated 3-D multi-element geochemical modelling technique to the Chuscal geochemical data set. This has identified a high priority target at a depth of approximately 500m, some 50-100m below the four holes drilled in the 2019 drilling program.

The technique compares eleven selected porphyry pathfinder elements from Chuscal surface samples and drill core assays to the distribution of the same pathfinders at the Yerington porphyry, an internationally studied Cu-Mo-Au porphyry deposit in Nevada. Understanding that signature is critical in focussing drilling towards the high grade Cu-Au core of what can be very large mineralised porphyry systems.

The long, low grade intercepts at Tesorito have come from porphyry-style geology. Notwithstanding some good intercepts at Chuscal, drilling hasn't yet hit the main porphyry here. The higher grade has come from later stage epithermal veins that have overprinted the long intercepts of porphyry associated gold like 350m at 0.57 gpt and 320m at 0.43 gpt.

#### Geopolitical risk is acceptable

Most Australians think of Colombia as a land of drugs and the instability that comes with it, but this is a narrow view that doesn't necessarily reflect the facts. The recent change in government is viewed as being favourable to mining. The State in which Los Cerros operates is mining friendly and it is geologically rich. There are big deposits. Coffee is a valuable farming product in the region so drug growing is not so popular.

The company has about 30 people on the payroll, incountry. Thus the travel restrictions caused by the coronavirus is not an issue. Work is ongoing and in fact, is ramping up.

#### Value for money?

The market capitalisation of \$25m is modest in this gold climate. There have been a number of very significant intercepts with respect to size rather than grade with these pointing to a large gold endowment. This is "elephant" country, meaning anything is possible. It may be that the heavy lifting has to be done by a joint venture with a major, but let's see what the current drilling program delivers. I'm sure that there will be some larger North American companies doing the same. We have added Los Cerros to our chart coverage.

#### Some background from when it was Metminco.

Going back about 10 years ago there was a company named Metminco (MNC) that rose to a market capitalisation of hundreds of millions of dollars on the back the huge Los Calatos copper project in southern Peru. It raised \$30m at 20¢ in October 2010 and another \$30m in April 2011, this time at 38¢. Another US\$40m was raised in November 2011, but at a substantially lower price of 14¢. At the time the JORC Mineral Resource was 926 Mt at 0.51% CuEq and multiple drill rigs were running hard. It was declared to be a project of National Interest by the Government of Peru.

By mid-2012 the Mineral Resource had increased to 2.3 Bt at 0.4% Cu and 0.021% Mo. An independent scoping study calculated a 31 year mine life treating 656 Mt, starting with a seven year open pit followed by underground block cave mining, capex of US\$1.5bn and an opex of US\$1.09/lb. Positive news continued to flow but the share price never recovered following the placement at 14¢. The market had lost confidence. It was a death of a thousand cuts from that point as funding a major copper project became too difficult. Numbers were rejigged to try and lift the grade, but this was a rear guard action. The last rites for Los Calatos were effectively read when the Company purchased the Quinchia gold project in Colombia in March 2016, which had a N 43-101 resource of 134 Mt at 0.65 gpt for 2.8 Moz of gold, in two deposits; Miraflores and Dosguebradas. A year later Metmico sold its remaining 49% interest in Los Calatos for a paltry US\$5m to CD Capital Natural Resource Fund LLP.

Metminco reworked the calculations for Miraflores to increase the grade to 3.29 gpt, but the contained gold fell to 456,000 oz. In October 2017, it released results of a feasibility study based on an underground mine using long hole open stoping mining methods. Capital expenditure was estimated at US\$72m and there was no way the company was going to be able to fund that. So, it merged with Andes Resources and management changed. The shares structure underwent a 40 into 1 consolidation, reducing the outstanding issued shares from 6.6 billion to 166 million.

Disclosure: Nil.

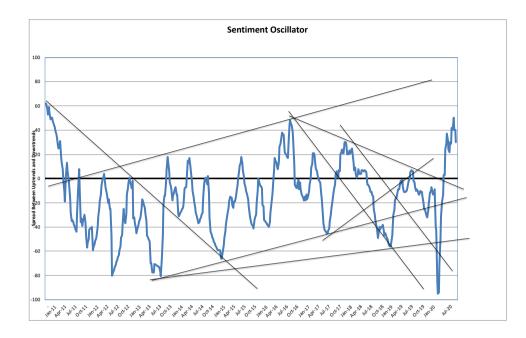
#### Remember to look at the Sentiment Oscillator

It is in times like this that you need to be looking at the Sentiment Oscillator Chart that we publish each week. How many times over the last 10 years has sentiment been more positive, and when it has been, how long has it stayed up at these high levels? The most recent time was

mid 2016, and prior to that you have to go back to 2010. The market could go higher, but the probability is that it will go lower.

*O*ne caveat though is that the stocks in the Oscillator change over time. They are never the same from one year

to the next. We introduce new stocks when they become interesting and delete moribund stocks that are going nowhere. We try and cover what is topical and more likely to be at the centre of attention, where they better reflect market sentiment.



Sentiment Oscillator: Sentiment has weakened further. There were 52% (56%) of the charts in uptrend and 21% (16%) in downtrend on Friday's close.

# **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	testing resistance line	
Metals and Mining	XMM	testing uptrend	
Energy	XEJ	sideways	
Stocks	Code	Trend Comment (updated comments in bold)	Main Interest
Alpha HPA	A4N	new high	HPA
Adriatic Resources	ADT	pullback	zinc, olymetalicp
Aeon Metals	AML	new high	copper + cobalt
Alkane Resources	ALK	heading lower	gold, zirconia
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	surge to new high	base metals, sliver, gold
Allegiance Coal	AHQ	sideways	coking coal
Alliance Resources	AGS	pullback	gold predevelopment
American Rare Earths (was BPL)	ARR	heavy correction	rare earths
Apollo Consolidated	AOP	downtrend commenced	gold exploration
Arafura Resources	ARU	breached downtrend	rare earths
Aurelia Metals	AMI	continuing higher	gold + base metals

Australian Potash	APC	str
Auteco Minerals	AUT	ne
BHP	BHP	bre
Base Resources	BSE	risi
BBX Minerals	BBX	hig
Beach Energy	BPT	tes
Beacon Mining	BCN	ge
Bellevue Gold	BGL	ne
Blackstone Minerals	BSX	risi
Blue Star Helium	BNL	tes
Breaker Resources	BRB	stil
Buru Energy	BRU	sid
Buxton Resources	BUX	ste
Calidus Resources	CAI	sid
Capricorn Metals	CMM	bre
Cardinal Resources	CDV	sui
Central Petroleum	CTP	bre
Chalice Gold	CHN	sui
Chase Mining	CML	hit
Chesser Resources	CHZ	off
Cobalt Blue	COB	on
Dacian Gold	DCN	rall
Danakali	DNK	risi
Davenport Resources	DAV	stil
De Grey	DEG	ne
E2 Metals	E2M	at I
Ecograf (was Kibaran)	EGR	stro
Element 25	E25	off
Emerald Resources	EMR	bre
Euro Manganese	EMN	at I
Evolution Mining	EVN	sid
First Graphene	FGR	sid
Fortescue Metals	FMG	ne
Galaxy Resources	GXY	risi
Galena Mining	G1A	risi
Galilee Energy	GLL	bre
Genisis Minerals	GMD	up
Gold Road	GOR	do
Highfield Resources	HFR	bre
Hillgrove Resources	HGO	stil
Iluka Resources	ILU	hig
Image Resources	IMA	hig
Independence Group	IGO	do
ioneer (was Global Geoscience)	INR	do

	Heekiy commentary
strongly higher	potash
new high	gold exploration
breaching uptrend	diversified, iron ore
rising	mineral sands
higher	gold exploration
testing downtrend	oil and gas
gentle downtrend	gold production
new high again	gold exploration
rising	nickel
testing downtrend	gas, helium
still in LT downtrend	gold exploration
sideways	oil
steeply higher	nickel exploration
sideways at highs	gold
breached uptrend	gold
surge on takeover bid	gold exploration
breaching downtrend	oil/gas
surge to new high	nicklel, copper, PGMs, gold exploration
hit resistance	nickel/copper/PGE
off its highs	gold exploration
on support line	cobalt
rallying	gold
rising	potash
still in longer term downtrend	potash
new high	gold
at highs	gold exploration
stronger	graphite
off its highs	manganese
breached uptrend	gold
at lows	manganese
sideways	gold
sideways	graphene
new high	iron ore
rising	lithium
rising	lead
breached uptrend	oil and gas, CBM
uptrend	gold
down	gold
breached support	potash
still in downtrend	copper
higher	mineral sands
higher	mineral sands
down	gold
down	lithium

Ionic Rare Earths (Oro Verde)	IXR	ge
Jervois Mining	JVR	su
Jindalee Resources	JRL	su
Kin Mining	KIN	do
Kingston Resources	KSN	ne
Kingwest Resources	KWR	do
Legend Mining	LEG	sid
Lepidico	LPD	sid
Lindian Resources	LIN	hig
Lithium Australia	LIT	ne
Los Cerros	LCL	up
Lotus Resources	LOT	ne
Lucapa Diamond	LOM	pu
Lynas Corp.	LYC	ne
Mako Gold	MKG	bre
Manhattan Corp	мнс	bre
Marmota	MEU	str
Marvel Gold (was Graphex)	MVL	hiti
MetalTech	MTC	bre
MetalsX	MLX	sid
Metro Mining	ММІ	do
Mincor Resources	MCR	sid
Musgrave Minerals	MGV	off
Myanmar Minerals	MYL	su
Nelson Resources	NES	risi
Neometals	NMT	tes
Northern Minerals	NTU	ste
Northern Star Res.	NST	do
NTM Gold	NTM	sid
Oceana Gold	OGC	bre
Oklo Resources	OKU	tes
Orecorp	ORR	risi
Orocobre	ORE	ste
Oz Minerals	OZL	ne
Pacific American Holdings	PAK	bre
Pacifico Minerals	PMY	tes
Pantoro	PNR	bre
Panoramic Res	PAN	do
Peak Resources	PEK	ste
Peel Mining	PEX	up
Peninsula Energy	PEN	do
Pure Minerals	PM1	ris
Pensana Metals	PM8	su
Perseus Mining	PRU	tes

	Weekiy Commentary
gentle uptrend	rare earths
surge higher	nickel/cobalt
surge out of downtrend	lithium
down	gold
new high	gold
down	gold
sideways	nickel exploration
sideways	lithium
higher	bauxite
new uptrend	lithium
uptrend	gold exploration
new high	uranium
pullback on exploration news	diamonds
new high	rare earths
breached uptrend	gold exploration
breaching support line	gold exploration
strong recovery	gold exploration
hitting resistance	gold exploration
breached uptrend	gold
sideways	tin, nickel
down	bauxite
sideways near high	gold/nickel
off its highs	gold exploration
surge to new high	lead, zinc, silver
rising	gold exploration
testing downtrend	lithium
steeply higher	REE
down	gold
sideways	gold exploration
breached uptrend	gold
testing uptrend	gold expl.
rising	gold development
steep uptrend	lithium
new high	copper
breaching downtrend	coal
testing uptrend	silver/lead
breached uptrend	gold
down	gold , nickel
steeply higher	rare earths
uptrend	copper .
down again	
rising	nickel/cobalt/HPA
surge to new high	rare earths
testing uptrend	gold

Pilbara Minerals	PLS	
Polarex	PXX	
Ramelius Resources	RMS	
Red5	RED	
Red River Resources	RVR	
Regis Resources	RRL	
Renergen	RLT	
Resolution Minerals	RML	
Resolute Mining	RSG	
RIO	RIO	
Rumble Resources	RTR	
Salt Lake Potash	SO4	
Saracen Minerals	SAR	
St Barbara	SBM	
Sandfire Resources	SFR	
Santos	STO	
Saturn Metals	STN	
Sheffield Resources	SFX	
Sky Metals	SKY	
St George Mining	SGQ	
Silex Systems	SLX	
Silver Mines	SVL	
Sipa Resources	SRI	
Stanmore Coal	SMR	
Strandline Resources	STA	
Talga Resources	TLG	
Technology Metals	тмт	
Tesoro Resources	TSO	
Theta Gold Mines	TGM	
Titan Minerals	ттм	
Vango Mining	VAN	
Venturex	VXR	
Vimy Resources	VMY	
West African Resources	WAF	
Westgold Resources	WGX	
West Wits Mining	WWI	
Western Areas	WSA	
Whitebark Energy	WBE	
Whitehaven Coal	WHC	
Wiluna Mining	WMX	
Yandal Resources	YRL	
Zinc Mines of Ireland	ZMI	
Totals	52%	74
	21%	30

testing support	lithium
new high	polymetallic exploration
breached uptrend	gold production
rallying	gold
broken through resistance line	zinc
breached trend line	gold
recapturing uptrend	gas, helium
rising again	gold exploration
testing support	gold
down	diversified, iron ore
rising again	gold exploration
hitting resistance	potash
breaching uptrend	gold
on trend line	gold
breached downtrend but heavy pullback	copper
sideways	oil/gas
new high	gold exploration
new high	mineral sands
rallying	gold exploration
down	nickel
breaching uptrend	uranium enrichment technology
off its high	silver
rising	general exploration - Ni,Cu, Co, Au
new low	coal
drifting lower	mineral sands
rising	graphite
on support line	vanadium
new high	gold exploration
uptrend	gold
drifting lower	gold
rising	gold
testing downtrend	zinc
down	uranium
off its high	gold
down	gold
rising	gold
down	nickel
down	oil and gas
secondary downtrend	coal
softer	gold
breached uptrend	gold exploration
still in downtrend	zinc
Uptrend	
Downtrend	
Uptrend	zinc

141 Total

#### **Guides to Chart Interpretations**

- Charts usually go pass 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 represent 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, some times for obscure reasons. If a chart consistent 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 when 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 poster their losses if indeed it is the start of the new uptrend (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	35	24.8%	
Gold Exploration	24	17.0%	
Zinc/Lead	9	6.4%	
Nickel	8	5.7%	
Oil/Gas	8	5.7%	
Lithium	8	5.7%	
Coal	5	3.5%	
Mineral Sands	5	3.5%	
Rare Earths	7	5.0%	
Potash/Phosphate	5	3.5%	
Copper	5	3.5%	
Graphite	2	1.4%	
Iron Ore/Manganese	5	3.5%	
Uranium	3	2.1%	
Bauxite	3	2.1%	
Silver	3	2.1%	
Cobalt	2	1.4%	
Tin	1	0.7%	
Diamonds	1	0.7%	

Other	2	
Total	141	

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