**Pandemonium to Pandevac – what a year!**

What a year indeed and I can only say “good riddance”, and I figure that many of you would too.

Personal and family tragedies aside, we all started the year with the over-powering fear of bushfire being on our doorstep both in a real and metaphoric sense. The ever-present smell of smoke, hazy skies and constant ‘watch & act’ messages on the radio and TV got the year off to a very nervous start. Mother Nature showed us her displeasure at the state of the World’s climate and the way we manage the environment.

At the end of February your NFS advisors and staff exited TFSA and joined with Sentry Advice as our new Dealer group, this has been a major period of readjustment and drama which in many respects is still in play. We are hoping for a closure of our ‘apprenticeship’ status early in 2021.

But then it got worse.

Coronavirus pandemic to be sure, emanating from Wuhan China and soon to be at a place near you and me. No need to go into the blame game or to recite the statistics but it is very significant that the 3 lowest rates of infection/deaths all come from island nations; Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia. To be surrounded by water as your national border became an unbelievable defensive asset, close the beaches and the border to incoming infection became the call.

Nations sharing land borders did not fare very well but then nations like UK surrounded by water did not either. The added feature needed for success was to have good leadership and the resolute support of the citizens to join together and do whatever was needed to beat the virus.

We did in Australia, **pandecrusher** was the outcome.

But I jump ahead of the total storyline, as the Covid-19 hit hard economies all over the World were forced into shutdown and commerce came to a virtual stop. The flow-on was the wipe-out of the value of companies and the asset value of their owners, you, me, shareholders or investors. Over the period of about 3+ weeks we saw values drop by 35 – 40% until the world hit **pandebottom** on 23 March.

Since then we have slowly regained a better sense of value, both of the life we enjoy as we counted our blessings during lockdown and of the true value of the economy we live under. Share values slowly improved, the virus slowly was reigned in and we re-opened to the new-normal.

Late in October and into November we started to hear stories that a vaccine was very close to being approved, **pandevac** had arrived.

Additionally, the Presidential Election in the USA closed the door on the erratic leadership of Donald Trump and gave a feeling of fresh air to many partner nations.

Both of these events gave a major lift in confidence and in World Share-markets. As I write this (23/12) in that last 30 days our market has risen by 1.66%% but on a rolling year on year basis it is still down 0.17% on where it was a year ago.

Official measures of confidence indicate a clear upward trend and expected to gain pace in 2021. This sets the tone for the return to positive actions, growth and investments in the year ahead. Somebody tell me we can’t go backwards again!

As I write these Christmas greetings I am mindful that not all of our staff and clients share the same faith but we do all share the same holidays with family and friends.

On behalf of all of us at Nixon Financial Services I wish you all a safe and joyous break to close out 2020 and to open the New Year of 2021.

Be safe, stay healthy, be back in 2021.

Bob Nixon.

We are closing both offices from lunchtime 24th December and re-open at 9am 4th January.