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PURE SPECULATION

ROBIN
BROMBY

*But copper has
reached a two-year
high and provides a
good-news story*

Copper is good news

THIRD on that 2007 IPO hit list was **YTC Resources** (YTC), which has gone from a high that year of \$1.445 to 30c now.

But YTC, based at Orange in NSW, does at least have a story in one good-news sector: copper.

The company has just reported a 7m intersection at 8.3 per cent copper, 46g/tonne silver and 0.32g/tonne gold at its Hera project south of Cobar in NSW.

And with earlier results, YTC is encouraged that this deposit may prove to be larger than expected.

Copper got above \$US8200/tonne last week for a two-year high as stockpiles continued to fall to their lowest since November.

Foster Stockbroking compiled a chart that shows the great run of some local copper stocks in the September quarter.

Miles Kennedy's **Resource and Investment** (RNI), part of the Doolgunna copper-gold rush, provided a share price return of 280 per cent for the three months to September 30.

Its neighbour near Meekatharra in Western Australia, **Talisman Mining** (TLM), was up 163 per cent and **Altona Mining** (AOH) with its start of development on a copper project in Finland pro-

vided a 126 per cent return.

The next best performer was **Rex Minerals** (RXM) and its Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, project at 108 per cent, which leads us to a company that was not on the Foster list, but one which might be worth keeping an eye on.

Phoenix Copper (PNX) made two announcements last week.

One was that it had raised \$2.5 million from a small group of New Zealand investors at an 11.5 per cent premium to the share price, not something you see every day.

Apparently there's growing interest across the ditch in putting money into Australian exploration stories. Then it reported first revenue from its project near Leigh Creek, where it is producing copper cement that contains about 80 per cent of metal and is sold to a Burra company producing copper oxide and carbonate.

Phoenix may be producing "poor man's copper", but the company is expecting a \$2m profit for the first year. More importantly, it will provide cash for drilling tenements that abut Rex's Hillside project, results from which have been the big excitement behind Rex's share price rise. Seven anomalies have so far been identified on the Phoenix ground.



Copper rose above \$US8200/tonne last week for a two-year high as stockpiles continued to fall to their lowest since last November