

## Takeover offer provides boost to Fisher Funds International portfolios

A takeover offer for an American company by Japanese cosmetics giant Shiseido will provide an early 2010 boost for three New Zealand funds managed by Fisher Funds.

The Fisher Funds International Growth Fund, the Fisher Funds KiwiSaver Growth Fund, and listed company Marlin Global, are all holders of shares in prestige American cosmetics company Bare Escentuals - a leading cosmetics company in the United States and an innovator in mineral-based cosmetics.

Shiseido's acquisition offer for Bare Escentuals represents a 40% premium to the share price and boosts the Net Asset Value of the Marlin Global fund by about NZ\$1.7million, with further gains for the Fisher Funds International Growth Fund and the Fisher Funds KiwiSaver Growth Fund. Fund manager Ken Applegate intends to crystallise the gain by accepting the takeover offer.

"Nearly 4% of our international portfolios was invested in Bare Escentuals prior to the announcement and the takeover price at US\$18.20 per share was an opportunity that was too good to ignore for our investors," said Mr Applegate.

"I have known Bare Escentuals for a number of years, and introduced it to our funds in August last year because the company had been overlooked by the market and its share price had drifted to absurdly low levels. This takeover offer represents close to a 100% gain over our average purchase price."

Fisher Funds Managing Director Carmel Fisher says that the takeover offer illustrates the value that still exists in the market place, despite the rally of 2009, and that successful investing is about buying leaders in niche segments rather than relying on broad share markets to perform.

The Fisher Funds international portfolios specialise in investing in growth businesses internationally and currently invest in 34 companies in Europe, the US and Asia.