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# **Market Opener**

Thursday, 15 October 2020

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#### Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6146	-15	-0.2
NZX 50	12539	-5	-0.0
DJIA Futures	28425	11	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3483	2	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	11966	-8	-0.1

#### **Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences today's trade with influential domestic data due late-morning, material data expected out of China by early afternoon and the Reserve Bank of Australia governor having spoken publicly this morning on recession recovery.

Overnight trade for several key commodities proved largely positive but not so international equities sentiment, ahead of two high-profile US presidential election events tonight.

In addition, post-ASX trade yesterday, **China** revealed new **lending** had tallied 1900B yuan in September, against 1280B yuan during August, and following forecasts of 1700B yuan.

**Locally** today, **Reserve Bank of Australia** (RBA) governor Philip Lowe has been speaking (~9am AEDT) on *The Recovery from a Very Uneven Recession* at a virtual conference.

Also today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases **September workforce** statistics 11.30am AEDT.

At the same time, the RBA publishes a monthly forex transactions and reserve assets report.

Also this morning, the Melbourne Institute publishes a monthly consumer inflation expectations report.

In addition, another batch of high-profile stocks is hosting **AGMs** and providing updates today.

**Regionally today, China** is expected to publish September **CPI** and **PPI** figures **12.30pm** AEDT.

In overnight commodities trade, oil extended Tuesday's gains.

US **gold** futures (August) seesawed higher, again trading above \$US1900/oz.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued lower, trading below \$US121.50/t.

LME **copper** and **nickel** turned higher, nickel strongly so. **Aluminium** continued to pull back slightly.

The **\$A** was pushed back to ~US71.60c appreciating to ~US71.80c early yesterday evening.

Earlier this morning, the \$A advanced briefly again, to ~US71.70c.

#### **Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	28514	-166	-0.6
S&P 500	3489	-23	-0.7
NASDAQ	11769	-95	-0.8

**Australia** – **RBA** governor Philip Lowe has addressed a conference on **The Recovery from a Very Uneven Recession** – 9am AEDT

Australia – September employment figures – 11.30am AEDT

China – September CPI and PPI – 12.30pm AEDT

## **Today's Stock Watch**

#### CV Check (CV1)

CV1 has secured its initial international wholesale customer, US-headquartered NetForce Global.

#### RPMGlobal Holdings (RUL)

RUL has launched its first 'software as a service' (SaaS) product using cloud technology, enabling improved haulage configuration support.

## Pointerra Ltd (3DP)

Annual contract value (ACV) grew 72% to \$US4.93M during August and September, supported by the US utilities and mapping sectors.

## Wide Open Agriculture (WOA)

WOA has commenced OatUp milk product shipping, ahead of an exclusive launch by month's end and a Western Australiawide launch in November.

In addition, WOA is in advanced negotiations with a plant-based milk products distributor.

## Perpetual Ltd (PPT)

Today's AGM materials lodged.

#### Transurban Group (TCL)

TCL has appointed TCL GM treasury and capital markets Tom McKay as interim CFO, effective 13 November when CFO Adam Watson retires from TCL.

### **Resources**

## Pure Minerals (PM1)

MoU secured with LG Chem for the supply of up to 10,000t of contained nickel and 1000t of contained cobalt, from mixed hydroxide precipitate and battery chemical sulphates from PM1's TECH project.

#### **BHP Group (BHP)**

AGM materials lodged post-trade yesterday.

The BHP Plc AGM is scheduled for today.

BHP has settled lower on the ASX the past four trading sessions, yesterday closing at \$36.03.

#### South32 Ltd (S32)

Update anticipated at today's AGM.



FTSE 100	5935	-35	-0.6
DAX 30	13028	9	0.1
Shanghai Comp	3341	-19	-0.6

#### **Overseas Markets Commentary**

Marked vacillating trade across major European and US equities markets overnight confirmed skittish sentiment, with traders continuing to face a broad plethora of considerations, including Covid-19 international spread concerns and the leadup to the 3 November US presidential election official polling day.

The US treasury secretary dampened expectations for a new legislated US stimulus package agreement, although talks remained scheduled to continue tonight.

In addition, large-cap US financial stocks delivered mixed earnings and outlook reports.

Meanwhile, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings – related commentary continued, with the IMF's fiscal policy head Vitor Gaspar advancing the view that many advanced nations could borrow freely and that this likely meant no need for austerity programs to ensure public finance recovery following Covid-19 containment.

Mr Gaspar ventured the IMF anticipated these nations could potentially achieve stable public debt by ~2025.

**European Central Bank** (ECB) president Christine Lagarde earlier spoke to a United Nations virtual audience, questioning the idea of market neutrality for central bank company bond — buying programs, promoting the idea of favouring 'green' bonds.

This view was supported by at least one other ECB policy committee member, citing the effect of climate change on central bank considerations including economic growth, inflation and interest rates.

The UK PM's deadline for substantial progress on an agreement to govern **EU-UK** trade relations once the UK's EU separation transition period ends at the end of the year remained tonight, at the conclusion of a scheduled European Council meeting.

However, a UK negotiator was reportedly recommending a minimum additional two weeks of talks, given some progress, including on a potential fisheries arrangement.

In relatively scant overnight data releases, the **euro zone**'s August industrial production was calculated 7.2% lower than for August 2019 but 0.7% higher than for July.

0.5% August new growth had been anticipated following a 5% July jump.

In the **US**, September producer prices were reported 0.4% higher both for the month and year-on-year.

Weekly mortgage applications declined 0.7%

Mean 30-year mortgage rates came in at 3.00% from 3.01%.

The yield for a 30-year German bond auction in the meantime dropped to -0.16% from -0.07%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, the two candidates to be US president are hosting separate town hall events.

Import and export prices, two regional manufacturing indices and weekly new unemployment claims are also due.

In addition, several US Federal Reserve regional presidents plus

## **Pre-Open Announcements**

### Ingenia Communities Group (INA)

Conference presentation lodged this morning.

## **Kelly Partners Group Holdings (KPG)**

September quarter underlying attributable NPATA calculated 75.8% higher year-on-year, at \$1.7M.

Revenue grew 5.6% to \$13.6M.

EBITDA rose 23.9% to \$4.9M.

Refraining from providing FY21 earnings guidance.

## Thorn Group (TGA)

TGA has appointed former Resimac and Prime Capital CFO Luis Orp as TGA CFO, effective yesterday.

Former TGA CFO Peter Forsberg has retired from TGA after five years with TGA, during which time he also temporarily took on the acting CEO role.

#### Fonterra Shareholders' Fund (FSF)

Fonterra Co op has raised the forecast farmgate milk price range midpoint to \$NZ6.80/kg milk solids (MS) from \$NZ6.30/kgMS.

#### Meridian Energy (MEZ)

September year-on-year sales grew across agricultural, residential, and all business and corporate markets.

Statistics lodged this morning.

#### **Resources**

#### **Stavely Minerals (SVY)**

Presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

SVY settled at 60c yesterday, after closing out last week at 55c.

## Focus Minerals (FML)

Major FML shareholder Shandong Gold Group is providing a \$A20M unsecured three-year loan.

Funds are expected to be available by month's end.

#### Australia United Mining (AYM)

Co-operation agreement secured for the Forsayth project, pending satisfactory due diligence over a six week period.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

AYM was queried by the ASX over Monday's highly unusual company trade.

The company says it called a trading halt that day due to the pending co-operation agreement finalisation, and has requested to remain in suspended trade ahead of a potential JV agreement.

Prior to Monday this week, AYM had last traded 30 September, at 0.3c. Monday, the company traded at 0.4c-2c before settling at 0.9c.

#### Energy

## Whitehaven Coal (\* WHC)

September quarter coal sales grew 13% year-on-year.



the vice chair are scheduled to speak publicly.

Elsewhere, the European Council commences a key meeting.

Companies scheduled to report earnings tonight include: Atlassian, Honeywell International, LG Chemicals, Louis Vuitton, Morgan Stanley, Roche, Taiwan Semiconductor and Walgreens Boots Alliance.

UK supermarkets chain Tesco trades ex-dividend on the FTSE 100.

#### **Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1907.3	OZ	12.7	0.7
Silver (NY) (Dec)	24.395	OZ	0.27	1.1
Gold (LON) (13 Oct)	1891	OZ		
Platinum	856	OZ	-5	-0.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Nov)	41.04	bbl	0.84	2.1
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Dec)	43.32	bbl	0.87	2.1
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	121.48	t	-0.95	-0.8
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	6720	t	36	0.5
Nickel	15535	t	525	3.5
Aluminium	1849	t	-4	-0.2
Lead	1789	t	-16	-0.9
Zinc	2423	t	10	0.4
Tin	18320	t	65	0.4

#### **Commodities Commentary**

*Oil* – the International Energy Agency's (IEA) monthly oil report, published overnight, contained a warning that broadening renewed growth in the number of reported daily Covid-19 diagnoses, and associated reimposed restrictions, would constrain demand and hence prices.

The IEA forecast a 4MMbbl/d fall in December quarter international demand.

In the meantime, commentary from OPEC+ members grew ahead of another monitoring committee meeting scheduled for 19 October (Monday next week).

**Post-US trade**, an API weekly publication included an estimate of a 5.42MMbbl draw on crude stocks during last week.

US government agency the EIA is due to release the group's weekly US petroleum inventories report tonight.

**Gold** – prices swung higher overnight, as the \$US pulled back (ICE \$US -0.2%) and on evidence of some dip-buying, amid indications additional legislated US fiscal stimulus might not eventuate this year.

**Base metals** — overnight trade appeared to react to a \$US pullback, Tuesday's trade figures out of China, and new lending figures released in early (LME) trade, supply-demand views and expectations of additional central bank support moves related to renewed restrictions aimed at containing Covid-19.

China's September producer prices and CPI are expected to influence at least some of tonight's trade. During overnight LME trade, China reported an increase in monthly new lending.

Additional statistics and new FY21 cost guidance lodged this morning.

## Tigers Realm Coal (\* TIG)

TIG has secured a £5.5M contract to supply a modular coal handling and preparation plant with 150tph capacity to USheadquartered Derek Parnaby Cyclones International.

Additional details lodged this morning.

#### Senex Energy (SXY)

Debbie Goodin is retiring from the SXY board, effective at the end of the 19 November AGM.

### **Trading Halts**

Company	Code	Resuming
Actinogen Medical	ACW	15 Oct
New Energy Minerals	NXE	15 Oct
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	15 Oct
Pursuit Minerals	PUR	15 Oct
Alterity Therapeutics	ATH	16 Oct
Pureprofile Ltd	PPL	16 Oct
Recce Pharmaceuticals	RCE	16 Oct
WhiteHawk Ltd	WHK	16 Oct
Holista CollTech	HCT	19 Oct
GBM Resources	GBZ	20 Oct
Respiri Ltd	RSH	20 Oct

#### Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
The Agency Group Australia	AU1	5 Oct
Australia United Mining	AYM	14 Oct
Funtastic Ltd	FUN	5 Oct
Lincoln Minerals	LML	21 Sep
Metalicity Ltd	MCT	2 Oct
Phoslock Environmental Technologies	PET	21 Sep
Quantum Graphite	QGL	2 Oct
Vault Intelligence	VLT	9 Oct

#### **Ex-Dividends**

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
AVG	Today	2.7	62.96	3.96
D20	Today	2.9	100	2.01
PL8	Today	0.4	100	5.00
TGA	Tomorrow	7.5	100	0.00
CDM	Mon	2	100	5.06
FGX	Mon	2.6	100	2.18
KSC	Mon	3	100	1.47
WAA	Mon	3	100	2.68
WGB	Mon	4	100	1.36
WLE	Mon	3.25	100	2.60



#### **Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7149	-0.0012	-0.17
EUR – USD	1.1746	0.0001	0.01

#### **Australian Data Today**

ABS	Workforce (incl wages, jobs, unemployment rate)	Sep
RBA	Forex transactions; reserve assets	Sep
MInst	Consumer inflation expectations	Oct

## **US Data Tonight**

Initial jobless claims	10 Oct
NY Fed (State Empire) manufacturing	Oct
Philadelphia Fed manufacturing	Oct
Import and export prices	Sep

#### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	PPI	Sep
China	СРІ	Sep
Japan	Tertiary industry index (3.3opm AEDT)	Aug

### **Need More Information?**

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## **Reports & Events**

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ARB	AGM
	AD8	AGM
	CLQ	AGM
	IMD	AGM
	PPT	AGM
	PYC	Update (tele midday)
	S32	AGM
	WHC	Sep Q
Tomorrow	ILU	AGM
	RIO	AGM (8.30am)
	SKC	AGM

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