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Market Opener

Tuesday, 15 September 2020

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Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	5893	-13	-0.2
NZX 50	11835	44	0.4
DJIA Futures	27994	1	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3384	1	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	11296	16	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) policy meeting minutes, and material data out of China, due by the middle of the day, following positive overnight US equities sentiment and price gains for a majority of key commodities.

Locally today, the **RBA** publishes **minutes** of the 1 September **policy meeting 11.30am** AEST.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases its June quarter residential property price report, also at 11.30am.

Pre-trade, a weekly consumer sentiment reading is due.

High-profile stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **ING**, **NWS** and **SSM**. *Please see pp3-4 for details*.

In addition today, two new **ASX listings** are scheduled. *Please see 'Today's Stock Watch' for details*.

Regionally today, **China** is due to report August updates for fixed asset investment, industrial production and retail sales **midday** AEST.

In overnight commodities trade, Brent **crude** continued lower and WTI turned so.

US gold futures (December) swung higher.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) picked up the pace of Friday's rise, trading beyond \$US128.85/t.

LME **copper** and other key base metals rallied, extending Friday's gains for most.

The **\$A** remained within a relatively narrow range after trading at ~US72.85c early yesterday evening.

Earlier this morning, the \$A was pushed to US72.90c.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	27993	328	1.2
S&P 500	3384	43	1.3
NASDAQ	11057	203	1.9
FTSE 100	6026	-6	-0.1
DAX 30	13194	-9	-0.1
Shanghai Comp	3279	18	0.6

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets diverged overnight, key

Today's Stock Watch

Austal Ltd (ASB)

ASB has appointed former APA Group (ASX: APA) CEO Michael (Mick) McCormack as a non-executive director, effective yesterday.

Electro Optic Systems (EOS)

\$A4.25M worth of new contracts in hand to supply R400 remote weapon systems to a European NATO country.

Senetas Corporation (SEN)

Largest order in hand for UHS ethernet encryptors via distributor Thales.

The \$US2M gross order is headed for the Middle East.

Australian Primary Hemp (APH)

Launching a hemp-based PPE face mask in Australia and with select international retailers.

A hand sanitiser infused with hemp seed oil and native bush mint balm is also ready for supply.

Initial orders total \$315,000.

AVA Risk Group (AVA)

AVA has decided to pay a 1c-per-share special dividend.

Cynata Therapeutics (CPY)

The results of CYP's CYP-001 clinical trial in patients with graft versus host disease have qualified for publication in *Nature Medicine*.

Frugl Group (FGL)

User account numbers have grown 37% to 17,888 in the two weeks since the 1 September launch of Version 2.0 of the frugl grocery comparison app.

Access Innovation Holdings (* AIM)

Live and recorded captioning and translation specialist scheduled to list on the ASX **midday** AEST following a \$65.5M IPO at \$1.23 per share.

144.38M quoted shares.

Resources

Pilbara Minerals (PLS)

\$US110M secured debt facility negotiated with BNP Paribas and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Drawdown, and an associated repayment of Nordic bonds, is anticipated by month's end.

Energy

Montem Resources (* MR1)

Coal-focused explorer and producer scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST following an \$8M IPO at 25c per share.



US indices maintaining positive sentiment from the outset, the tech sector benefiting in particular from significant deal-making, for which news had commenced late Sunday (US time).

Over the weekend, AstraZeneca and Oxford University had confirmed the recommencement of trials in the UK for their potential Covid-19 vaccine.

A UK Covid-19 recovery trial, which discovered dexamethasone could reduce death rates in seriously ill patients, announced it would trial another antibody treatment on patients in UK hospitals.

The treatment, a mix of two antibodies, is manufactured by Regeneron, the company which has produced antibodies found to be successful in treating Ebola.

Yesterday, key trading nation Japan announced a decisive leadership contest win by chief cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga who will become the country's next PM.

Back in the UK, parliamentarians, including Conservatives, refused to support the PM's proposed legislation which overrides some of the UK-EU separation agreement signed earlier this year, but which the PM says will protect UK-Northern Ireland trade.

In the US, where Democrats and Republicans cannot agree on a further Covid-19 -related support package, the Senate banking committee announced it had secured the treasury secretary and US Federal Reserve chair to meet with the committee Thursday next week to answer Covid-19 relief queries.

In scant overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone** reported July industrial production had risen 4.1% for the month, following a 9.5% June jump and following expectations of a new 3.7% gain.

Output was 7.7% lower than for July 2019.

Tonight in the US, the US Federal Reserve commences a two-day policy meeting from which outcomes are due early Thursday AEST.

In addition, the NY Fed (Empire State) manufacturing index, August industrial production and August import and export prices are due.

Companies due to report earnings or provide trading updates tonight include Adobe, FedEx, Ocado and Salvatore Ferragamo.

In overnight corporate news, **ByteDance** and **Oracle** announced a proposed new partnership for ByteDance's TikTok US operations, whereby Oracle would provide security for data belonging to Tiktok US users.

Late-Sunday US time, **SoftBank** announced it would sell UK-headquartered chip manufacturer **ARM** to US-headquartered graphics chip specialist **Nvidia** in an ~\$US40B deal.

Meanwhile, **Daimler** reached a \$US1.5B settlement with US regulators which had alleged fraudulent emissions test results in diesel vehicles. Daimler will also pay \$US700M to settle a class action initiated by vehicle owners.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1963.7	OZ	15.8	0.8
Silver (NY) (Dec)	27.355	OZ	0.5	1.9
Gold (LON) (11 Sep)	1947	OZ		

Pre-Open Announcements

Serko Ltd (SKO)

SKO has appointed acting chair Claudia Batten as the company's new chair, taking over from Simon Botherway who temporarily stepped down for medical reasons earlier this year. Mr Botherway will remain with SKO as an independent director.

archTIS Ltd (AR9)

In response to an ASX 'aware' query, AR9 has disclosed the Australian Government first revealed a Department of Defence contract awarded to AR9 on the Austender website, rather than to AR9.

AR9 was notified by a shareholder 10 September (Thursday last week) that the website stated the contract had been awarded effective 1 September.

AR9 subsequently called a trading halt while seeking clarification, and consequently a signed purchase order.

Once the order was obtained, AR9 was able to disclose the \$4.2M computer services contract award to the ASX.

AR9 traded as high as 59c during 10 September trade but settled for the week at 44c, and yesterday at 41c.

Ellerston Asian Investments (EAI)

Investor update webinar scheduled to commence **10am** AEST. Presentation and webinar registration link lodged post-trade yesterday.

Osprey Medical (OSP)

Presenting at the HC Wainwright global investment conference 6am AEST tomorrow.

Presentation and live webcast link lodged this morning.

Collaborate Corporation (CL8)

Seeking \$3.445M in an entitlement issue underwritten to up to \$2.08M by existing shareholders.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Resources

Genesis Minerals (GMD)

Ulysses gold project initial Admiral deposit RC drilling has delivered significant width and high-grade intersections at relatively shallow depths. Assays lodged this morning.

Hawkstone Mining (HWK)

Reporting high-grade gold intersections from initial diamond drilling within the Lone Pine gold project, Idaho, US.

Redbank Copper (* RCP)

RCP will be reinstated to official ASX trade on today's opening following an extended suspension.

RCP last traded August 2019, at 1.9c.

Breaker Resources (BRB)

BRB's 24c-per-share SPP has raised \$2.68M.

BRB has traded at 22.5c - 25.5c the past five sessions.



Platinum	948	OZ	27	2.9
WTI Crude (NYMEX Oct)	37.26	bbl	-0.07	-0.2
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Nov)	39.61	bbl	-0.22	-0.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	128.86	t	1.43	1.1
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	6784	t	71	1.1
Nickel	15265	t	180	1.2
Aluminium	1801	t	28	1.6
Lead	1920	t	25	1.3
Zinc	2479	t	7	0.3
Tin	18155	t	115	0.6

Commodities Commentary

Oil – OPEC's monthly oil market update, released overnight, included a 400,000bbl/d downward revision in 2020 estimated demand to 90.2MMbbl/d, on daily demand falling by 9.46MMbbl.

US government agency the EIA in the meantime predicted October US shale output would fall 68,000bbl/d, to 7.64MMbbl/d, representing the first monthly decrease since May.

Meanwhile, a US Gulf of Mexico tropical storm strengthened to a hurricane and was forecast to cross the Louisiana coast anytime from Tuesday US time.

Associated industry shutdowns were estimated to have pushed 21.4% of regional offshore oil production offline.

Ports have also been closed, impacting petroleum imports and exports and some refiners have cut, or closed down, production.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is due to publish its monthly report **tonight**.

Thursday, OPEC+ monitoring committee is scheduled to meet (virtually) again, but media reports have claimed sources expect no significant new recommendations.

Gold – US equities proved firmly in favour overnight, but a waning \$US (ICE \$US index -0.3%) also supported gold interest.

Monetary policy decisions and comments out of reserve bank meetings in the US, UK and Japan this week are expected to keep sentiment fluid, in addition to US presidential election campaigning.

Base metals – a weaker \$US and China's positive August lending figures, announced late Friday, were cited as key supports for across-the-board overnight LME gains.

In addition, *copper* inventories were reported yet lower in LME-registered warehouses.

China's August fixed asset investment, industrial production and retail sales updates are due **today** and are likely to influence at least some of tonight's trade.

Yesterday, China reported August house prices had risen 4.8% year-on-year, the same rate as for July.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7285	0.0007	0.09
EUR – USD	1.1867	0.0031	0.26

Energy

Peninsula Energy (PEN)

Investor conference presentation webcast link lodged posttrade yesterday.

PEN presented at 3am AEST at a conference hosted by New York-based HC Wainwright & Co.

Blue Star Helium (BNL)

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
iCandy Interactive	ICI	15 Sep
Pacific American Holdings	PAK	15 Sep
Pursuit Minerals	PUR	15 Sep
Alterra Ltd	1AG	16 Sep
Ausmon Resources	AOA	16 Sep
BCI Minerals	BCI	16 Sep
Celsius Resources	CLA	16 Sep
Consolidated Zinc	CZL	16 Sep
Firefly Resources	FFR	16 Sep
Inca Minerals	ICG	16 Sep
Los Cerros	LCL	16 Sep
MRG Metals	MRQ	16 Sep
Peak Resources	PEK	16 Sep
Red 5	RED	16 Sep
DGO Gold	DGO	17 Sep
Sipa Resources	SRI	18 Sep

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Ansila Energy	ANA	7 Sep
FAR Ltd	FAR	14 Sep
Faster Enterprises	FE8	2 Sep
Intiger Group	IAM	1 Sep
Quantify Technology Holdings	QFY	14 Sep
Velocity Property Group	VP7	7 Sep

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CGR	Today	1.75	100	0.00
DTL	Today	8.8	100	0.88
ING	Today	6.7	100	5.62
NWS	Today	9.69	0	0.55
NWSLV	Today	9.69	0	0.56
PL8	Today	0.4	100	4.76
PPG	Today	0.4	100	0.00
SSM	Today	5	100	4.96



Import & export prices

Australian Data Today

ANZ/RoyMgn	Consumer sentiment	13 Sep
RBA	Policy meeting minutes	1 Sep
ABS Residential property prices		Jun Q
	US Data Tonight	
	_	
Empire State (New	York Fed) manufacturing	Aug

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Aug

China	Industrial production	Aug
China	Fixed asset investment	Jan-Aug
China	Retail sales	Aug
UK	Unemployment claims	Aug
UK	Average earnings	Jul
UK	ILO unemployment rate	Jul
Germany	ZEW economic sentiment; conditions	Sep
Euro zone	ZEW economic sentiment	Sep

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CGC	Tomorrow	4	100	0.58
SNL	Tomorrow	9	100	1.32
5GN	Thu	1	100	0.61
AHX	Thu	1.2	100	2.62
AKG	Thu	1.36	100	12.66
AMI	Thu	1	100	0.00
CIW	Thu	1	100	4.46
EGG	Thu	3.5	100	3.45
EMB	Thu	20	100	3.64
JYC	Thu	5	100	6.62
OZL	Thu	8	100	1.01
PAC	Thu	25	100	1.69
PWH	Thu	4	100	0.41
RXP	Thu	2.5	100	2.38
SPK	Thu	11.36	0	4.96
SVW	Thu	21	100	1.16
WSA	Thu	1	100	0.44

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