

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	6803	-30	-0.4
<b>NZX 50</b>	12705	16	0.1
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	32853	18	0.2
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	3968	5	0.1
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	13172	21	0.2

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens mid-week trade with a Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) assistant governor speaking publicly, and a key economic report, by late morning, ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy meeting outcomes tonight (early tomorrow AEDT).

Overnight international equities and key commodities trade leads are mixed.

**Locally** today, **RBA** assistant governor (financial markets) Christopher Kent is scheduled to speak on *Small Businesses Finance in the Pandemic*, commencing **10.30am** AEDT.

Westpac and the Melbourne Institute publish their monthly **leading index** report, 11.30am AEDT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases the results of its February survey of the household impacts of Covid-19, also at 11.30am.

High-profile stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **ASB**, **BWX**, **ING** and **MML**. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.*

**Regionally** today, **Japan** is due to report February **trade** figures 10.50am AEDT.

Tankan indices are expected on ASX open.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** continued to fall.

US **gold** futures extended Monday's gain, albeit slightly.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) added \$US2.99/t, to \$US166.32/t.

LME **copper** (indicative) and most other key base metals turned lower.

The **\$A** rose to ~US77.45c after falling beneath US77.25c early yesterday evening.

**Overseas Markets.**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	32826	-128	-0.4
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	3963	-6	-0.2
<b>NASDAQ</b>	13472	12	0.1
<b>FTSE 100</b>	6804	54	0.8
<b>DAX 30</b>	14561	92	0.6
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3447	27	0.8

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

European, UK and US equities trade diverged overnight, despite

**RBA** – assistant governor Christopher Kent is scheduled to speak on *Small Businesses Finance in the Pandemic*, **10.30am** AEDT, at an Australian Finance Industry Association virtual event.

**Today's Stock Watch**
**5G Networks (5GN)**

Proposing to acquire cloud computing specialist Intergrid Group, for \$3.0M, using existing cash reserves.

Details and likely annual statistics lodged this morning.

**PainChek Ltd (PCK)**

CE Mark and TGA approvals in hand for PCK's Universal pain assessment app, enabling sales across Europe, the UK and Australia.

**VEEM Ltd (VEE)**

VEEM Gyro sales orders in hand from Italy-headquartered superyacht builders Rossinavi and Overmarine.

Details lodged this morning.

**Novatti Group (NOV)**

Pointing out that NOV provides banking and payment systems to Australian social media site LITT, which has completed a \$1.5M fundraiser.

**Resources**
**Andromeda Metals (ADN) / Minotaur Exploration (MEP)**

Offtake agreement in hand for 5000tpa of ceramic-grade product (\$A700/t) from the South Australia Great White kaolin project. The customer is in Japan.

**Galaxy Resources (GXY)**

Southern WA Mt Cattlin lithium-tantalum project resource updated to 12.0Mt @ 1.3% Li<sub>2</sub>O and 149ppm Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

Reserves newly estimated at 8.0Mt @ 1.1% Li<sub>2</sub>O and 139ppm Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

**Sihayo Gold (SIH)**

Indonesia Hutabargot gold prospect drilling has delivered significant-width, high-grade intersections.

Assays and further Sorikmas plans lodged this morning.

**Lake Resources (LKE)**

Kachi lithium brine project pre-feasibility statistics have been revised using updated lithium prices, the NPV rising to \$US1.6B.

Additional statistics lodged this morning.

**Si6 Metals (SI6)**

Heralding initial RC drilling results from the WA Monument gold project Korong and Waihi prospects.

Assays lodged this morning.

vacillating sentiment featuring across major indices on both sides of the Atlantic.

Covid-19 developments, including more nations reporting growing daily cases and others suspending vaccination programs, appeared to fuel caution concerning likely economic recovery timelines.

In addition, commentary regarding likely moves, and new economic forecasts, out of three influential central banks after this week's policy meetings added to the uncertainty.

The European Medicines Agency nominated Thursday as the day it would reveal the conclusions to its investigation into the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, but in the meantime reiterated its view that the vaccine benefits outweighed any risks.

Yesterday afternoon (AEDT), **Bank of Japan** governor Haruhiko Kuroda revealed the central bank would commence investigating how to best issue and distribute its own digital currency for when the bank might develop one.

Meanwhile, US administrators announced the president would host his first formal press conference 25 March (Thursday next week).

In overnight **data** releases, ZEW's economic sentiment index for the **euro zone** was calculated 4.4 points higher, at 74.

The same index for **Germany** came in at 76.6, from 71.2.

The current conditions component index was estimated to have improved to -61, from -67.2.

In the **US**, the **Federal Reserve** commenced a two-day policy meeting, from which outcomes are due tonight (early tomorrow morning AEDT), together with a new set of economic projections.

A swag of largely disappointing data releases included February retail sales, which dropped 3% for the month after a 7.6% January jump.

Against February 2020, sales were 6.3% higher, however.

February industrial production fell 2.2% for the month and was 4.2% beneath output reported for February 2020.

February import and export prices rose 1.3% and 1.6% respectively, against 2.4% and 2.5% for January.

January business inventories were estimated 0.3% higher for the month following a 0.8% December increase.

An industry-calculated housing market index declined to 82 from 84.

A 20-year US bond auction in the meantime produced a 2.29% yield, from 1.92%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, in addition to the Federal Reserve policy meeting outcomes statement and subsequent press conference, February housing starts and building permits are due, in addition to weekly mortgage applications.

Elsewhere, the euro zone releases its final CPI reading for February.

Germany conducts a 30-year bond auction.

In overnight corporate news, **Nokia** announced cost cuts, including cutting up to 10,000 jobs over two years.

**Volkswagen** revealed plans to construct six battery-cell facilities in Europe, and to boost electric vehicle charging infrastructure internationally.

Further, the group is investigating using solar energy, to be stored in electric vehicles, and potentially be available for use in homes,

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Auckland International Airport (\* AIA)

The February overall passenger tally dropped 71.8% year-on-year.

Domestic passenger numbers fell 42.8%.

Additional operational statistics lodged this morning.

### Fonterra Shareholders' Fund (\* FSF)

Fonterra Co-op interim net profit fell 22% to \$NZ391M. Revenue came in 5% lower, at \$US9.597B.

NZ5c interim dividend. \$NZ3.07 NTA, from \$NZ2.46.

### Z Energy (\* ZEL)

Anticipating paying a final dividend, likely NZ12c – NZ14c.

In association, debt covenant waivers have been renegotiated.

### InteliCare Holdings (ICR)

ICR has switched from CFO consulting services with Small Caps Corporate, to appointing Gap Corporate Services' Gary Elwell as CFO.

## Resources

### Blackstone Minerals (\* BSX)

Corporate strategy update, including additional downstream refining capacity, lodged this morning.

### Caravel Minerals (CVV)

Copper sulphide mineralisation visually identified within deep diamond core holes being drilled within the Bindi deposit.

CVV is operating two diamond and two RC rigs onsite.

### Carawine Resources (CWX)

WA Tropicana North gold project Atlantis prospect RC assays lodged this morning.

### Great Western Exploration (GTE)

Wiluna region Finlayson gold target RC drilling is expected to commence within a week.

Additional drilling plans lodged this morning.

### Orion Minerals (ORN)

ORN analysis of historical drilling and mining information for the South Africa Okiep copper project has identified four high-priority and shallow drill targets located proximal to an existing mineral resource.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

### Bastion Minerals (BMO)

Chile-focused minerals explorer completed a successful ASX listing yesterday, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 20c and traded at 19.5c – 23c before settling at 20.5c. 2.44M shares were traded across 97 transactions.

~57.45M quoted shares.

Copper, gold and silver exploration assets.

### Firebird Metals (\* FRB) / Firefly Resources (FFR)

FFR subsidiary, and WA Pilbara Oakover manganese project



commercial properties and energy networks.

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY) (Apr)</b>	<b>1730.9</b>	oz	1.7	0.1
<b>Silver (NY) (May)</b>	<b>26.00</b>	oz	-0.29	-1.1
<b>Gold (LON) (12 Mar)</b>	<b>1705</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>1208</b>	oz	-1	-0.1
<b>WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)</b>	<b>64.80</b>	bbl	-0.59	-0.9
<b>Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)</b>	<b>68.39</b>	bbl	-0.49	-0.7
<b>Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (15 Mar)</b>	<b>168.26</b>	t	0	0.0
<b>Copper (LME Ind)</b>	<b>8975</b>	t	-168	-1.8
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>16150</b>	t	-64	-0.4
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>2202</b>	t	-15	-0.7
<b>Lead</b>	<b>1967</b>	t	4	0.2
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>2805</b>	t	-53	-1.9
<b>Tin</b>	<b>25280</b>	t	-30	-0.1

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccination program suspensions across numerous countries has raised fears of a further delays to any sustainable oil demand recovery.

In addition, US refiners were reported to be reducing their bookings for tankers, due to recent unprecedented winter weather and medium-term international demand uncertainty.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report is due tonight, from government agency the EIA.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) monthly report is also keenly anticipated.

Overnight, post-US trade, the API published a weekly report which estimated a 1MMbbl net draw on crude stocks last week.

**Gold** – overnight gold interest was supported by caution ahead of three key central bank meetings this week, and with material US data undershooting forecasts.

Inflation views and persistently high US bond yields constrained moves, however.

**Base metals** – market-watchers cited positioning as a main influence on overnight LME trade, ahead of policy meeting outcome statements from the US Federal Reserve tonight, Bank of England tomorrow night and Bank of Japan Friday.

In addition, speculation continued regarding emissions controls in the wake of the significant dust storm across parts of Mongolia and northern China, including Beijing, earlier this week.

Further, LME copper stocks were reported to have grown 41% over the past two weeks to the most in two months.

Potential industrial action has been averted at **Antofagasta's** Los Pelambres copper operation in Chile, with a workers' union agreeing to extend contract talks.

Antofagasta in the meantime reported a 12% rise in 2020 profit, buoyed by copper prices, and while converting the Chile Zaldivar operation to renewable energy. Zaldivar would also potentially operate electric buses and on-site trucks, the company announced.

Antofagasta produced 733,900t of copper, 5% fewer than during 2019, partly due to grades, but anticipates 730,00t – 760,000t of

holder, scheduled to list on the ASX 1pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share.

Evan Cranston non-executive chair. Peter Allen MD. ~50.49M quoted shares.

### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
De.mem Ltd	DEM	17 Mar
Perpetual Resources	PEC	17 Mar
Roto-Gro International	RGI	17 Mar
Singular Health Group	SHG	17 Mar
Stellar Resources	SRZ	17 Mar
Adherium Ltd	ADR	18 Mar
Armour Energy	AJQ	18 Mar
Australian Pacific Coal	AQC	18 Mar
Helios Energy	HE8	18 Mar
Strandline Resources	STA	18 Mar

### Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
333D Ltd	T3D	26 Feb
Eastern Iron	EFE	17 Apr
MetalsTech Ltd	MTC	15 Mar
Oliver's Real Food	OLI	26 Feb

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>AGG</b>	Today	<b>9.49</b>	0	0.00
<b>ASB</b>	Today	<b>4</b>	0	3.27
<b>BWX</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	0.54
<b>EPY</b>	Today	<b>1</b>	100	4.02
<b>GNE</b>	Today	<b>7.8</b>	0	4.46
<b>ING</b>	Today	<b>7.5</b>	100	1.88
<b>MML</b>	Today	<b>5</b>	0	0.00
<b>MTO</b>	Today	<b>10</b>	100	0.00
<b>PPG</b>	Today	<b>0.25</b>	100	2.16
<b>TRA</b>	Today	<b>5.58</b>	85	4.58
BCN	Tomorrow	0.7	0	0.00
BRI	Tomorrow	2.6	100	1.61
CUP	Tomorrow	1.25	100	1.98
PPC	Tomorrow	1	100	1.32
PWH	Tomorrow	2.8	100	1.11
SPK	Tomorrow	11.55	0	2.71
SWK	Tomorrow	0.45	100	3.64
WQG	Tomorrow	2	100	1.26
AHX	Fri	1.2	100	2.68
ALF	Fri	3.1	100	0.00
HUB	Fri	4.5	100	0.14



copper output this year.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7745	-0.0007	<b>-0.01</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.1902	-0.0036	<b>-0.30</b>

### Australian Data Today

Wstpc/Melb Inst	Leading index	Feb
ABS	Covid-19 household impacts	Feb

### US Data Tonight

Fed Reserve policy	17 Mar
Fed Reserve economic projections	Mar
Housing starts	Feb
Building permits	Feb
MBA mortgage applications	12 Mar

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>Japan</b>	Trade balance	Feb
Japan	Tankan indices	Mar
<b>Euro zone</b>	CPI (final)	Feb
Euro zone	Construction output	Jan

### Need More Information?

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, [advice@stateone.com.au](mailto:advice@stateone.com.au)

KSC	Fri	3	100	3.50
VLS	Fri	2.75	100	3.41
BKL	Mon (22 Mar)	29	100	0.00
NWH	Mon	4	100	2.98

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