

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6198	10	0.2
NZX 50	9447	-50	-0.5
DJIA Futures	25887	-19	-0.1
S&P 500 Futures	2835	-2	-0.1
NASDAQ Futures	7370	-6	-0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-week trade following vacillating overnight US equities trade, and ahead of an expected China response to new overnight US trade talks reports.

Locally today, Westpac and the Melbourne Institute are due to publish their monthly **leading index** 11.30am AEDT.

RBA assistant governor financial system Michele Bullock is scheduled to speak at an Urban Development of Australia event in Perth, 11am AEDT.

The Department of Jobs releases a **job vacancies** report today, ahead of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) February employment statistics, due tomorrow.

Stocks trading ex-dividend today include **CWN** and **WEB**. Please see pp3-4 for a comprehensive list.

In overnight commodities trade, Brent and WTI **crude** settled mixed and only slightly changed.

US **gold** futures (April) gained modestly.

Iron ore (China port, 62% Fe) swung lower.

LME **copper** and other key base metals rose by varying degrees.

The **\$A** slipped below US70.90c after trading at US70.95c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	25887	-27	-0.1
S&P 500	2833	-0.4	-0.0
NASDAQ	7724	9	0.1
FTSE 100	7324	25	0.3
DAX 30	11788	131	1.1
Shanghai Comp	3091	-5	-0.2

Overseas Markets Commentary

Trade across major European and US equities markets diverged overnight, sentiment across key US indices suddenly declining mid-session.

A media report claiming China was questioning US assurances in China-US trade talks, pushed the indices at least temporarily lower and prompted the US president to repeat that negotiations were progressing 'well'.

In the **UK**, the government's senior ministers were reportedly divided on for how long to seek a delay to the UK's planned

Australia – RBA assistant governor financial system Michele Bullock is speaking an Urban Development of Australia event, Perth, 11am AEDT

Today's Stock Watch

Healthscope Ltd (HSO)

Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) will not oppose the proposed Brookfield acquisition of HSO, including the associated sale and leaseback of 22 properties by HSO to NorthWest Healthcare and Medical Properties Trust. HSO expects to host a scheme meeting in May or June.

Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW)

€187.9M full year NPAT. €5.40 final and interim dividends. €53.3M net cash and equivalents.

Nufarm Ltd (NUF)

\$13.59M interim net loss, following an \$11.96M net profit a year ago. 8% higher, \$1.58B revenue. Nil interim dividend.

Wesfarmers Ltd (WES)

Bunnings operational site tour presentation lodged this morning. The presentation will also feature in a 10am AEDT webinar briefing.

Insurance Australia Group (IAG)

Conducting a \$A300M convertible notes offer.

Platinum Asset Management (PTM)

Kerr and Judith Neilson are selling a total 60M ordinary shares, representing 10% of PTM shares, under a fully-underwritten offer to institutional and professional investors.

Mr Kerr is a PTM co-founder and controller, and he and Mrs Kerr will retain a total 42.97% of PTM.

Mr and Mrs Kerr wish to diversify their investments, and to support the arts and boost philanthropic interests.

OFX Ltd (OFX)

2H FY2019 corporate revenue growth anticipated to grow 10%. FY results 21 May. Today's investor day presentation lodged.

Synlait Milk (SM1)

10% lower, \$NZ37.32M interim NPAT. 7% higher, \$NZ470.95M revenue.

Fonterra Shareholders' Fund (FSF)

\$NZ80M Fonterra Co-op interim NPAT. 1% lower, \$NZ9.75M revenue. Webcast briefing commencing 11.45am AEDT.

WiseTech Global (WTC)

Resuming from a trading halt having completed a \$300M, \$20.90-per-share institutional placement. SPP at a maximum \$20.90-per-share scheduled for 27 March – 11 April.

WTC last traded at \$23.18.



withdrawal from the European Union (EU), with reports also circulating that the EU would demand a new process for any fresh negotiations, and that Germany's leader was unlikely to support a lengthy new timeline.

In UK data releases, January average earnings were estimated 3.4% higher year-on-year (against 2.1% CPI growth) and 0.1% lower than for December.

Employment was calculated at a record 76.1%, and the unemployment rate at 3.9%, down 0.1%.

New unemployment claims were reported to have risen by 27,000 in February however, against 15,700 for January.

Among other overnight releases, a **euro zone** March economic sentiment index improved to -2.5, from -16.6.

January construction output fell 0.7% year-on-year, following a 2.1% December rise.

December quarter year-on-year wages growth came in flat, at 2.3%.

Meanwhile, **Italy** reported its trade surplus had tumbled to €322M during January, from €2.76B at the end of December.

In the **US**, January factory orders rose 0.1%, at the same rate as for December.

Tonight in the **US**, the **Federal Reserve** announces outcomes from its policy meeting (early AEDT tomorrow). New GDP and CPI predictions are anticipated.

Weekly mortgage applications are also due tonight.

Elsewhere, the **UK's** February CPI is keenly anticipated, following 0.8% deflation reported for January.

BMW, Hermes, Korea Electric Power and Man are scheduled to report earnings and/or provide updates.

Overnight, **FedEx** reported post-US trade, disappointing with earnings and guidance, which included a further international slowdown warning.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1306.5	oz	5	0.4
Silver (NY) (May)	15.37	oz	0.05	0.3
Gold (LON)	1306	oz		
Platinum	851	oz	18	2.2
WTI Crude (Apr)	59.03	bbl	-0.06	-0.1
Brent Crude (May)	67.61	bbl	0.07	0.1
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	87.23	t	-1.03	-1.2
Copper (LME,3mth,PM)	6456	t	25	0.4
Nickel	13155	t	140	1.1
Aluminium	1939	t	12	0.6
Lead	2034	t	2	0.1
Zinc	2817	t	43	1.6
Tin	21350	t	220	1.0
CBT Wheat (May)	4.57	bshl	0.00	0.1

Commodities Commentary

Pre-Open Announcements

Sims Metal Management (* SGM) / Boral Ltd (* BLD)

SGM has appointed BLD CEO and MD Mike Kane as an independent non-executive director.

Clover Corporation (** CLV)

40% higher, \$4.48M interim NPAT.

10% higher, \$34.27M revenue.

0.625c fully franked interim dividend. 23.1c NTA.

Wattle Health Australia (* WHA)

Previously-announced China supply agreement finalised.

Fluence Corporation (* FLC)

\$US74M EPC contract awarded to an FLC JV partnership.

Details lodged this morning.

Clean Seas Seafood (* CSS)

January-February sales volumes have grown 40% year-on-year, to 489t.

April sales are expected to be significantly higher than for April 2018, and March sales.

March sales are likely to come in on par, due to a March 2018 Easter but April 2019 Easter.

Additional details lodged this morning.

Keytone Dairy Corporation (KTD)

New Zealand government organic exporter certification in hand, following the AsureQuality production organic certification award.

Resources

BHP Billiton (** BHP)

BHP has appointed Ian Cockerill and Susan Kilsby as independent non-executive directors, effective 1 April.

Mr Cockerill is a former Anglo Coal CEO and Gold Fields CEO, president and MD. Mr Cockerill is also chair-elect of Polymetal International Plc, Blackrock World Mining Trust Plc chairman, and an Ivanhoe Mines and Orica Ltd (ASX: ORI) non-executive director. He is stepping down from the ORI board by year's end.

Ms Kilsby is a former Credit Suisse senior advisor and chair of Credit Suisse EMEA mergers & acquisitions. Ms Kilsby also recently chaired Shire Plc, and is a BBA Aviation Plc and Diageo Plc non-executive director.

Lepidico Ltd (* LPD)

Pilot plant commissioning expected to commence in April.

Anson Resources (* ASN)

89% Boron recoveries achieved in laboratory test work.

Newcrest Mining (* NCM)

Updated investor information in the form of presentation slides lodged post-trade yesterday, ahead of shareholder, potential investor and analyst meetings tomorrow in New Zealand and



Oil – prices rose further from early overnight trade but pulled back, this attributed in part to new less-than-rosy reports regarding **US-China** trade talks.

Further, the decision by OPEC and output agreement partners to cancel an April meeting, meaning current production levels were likely to remain until the end of June, was considered more influential than initially, on speculation **Russia** had forced the cancellation, against **Saudi Arabia**'s wish for an April decision to extend cuts through to year's end.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly indicated reductions will be needed into the second half of the year.

Venezuela in the meantime has reportedly suspended crude exports to **India**, leaving China and Russia as its major customers, following the imposition of US sanctions against the Venezuelan petroleum sector earlier this year. India remains a major customer of crude from Iran, while a six-month waiver to US sanctions remains current.

Among the forecasters, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML) ventured international demand would grow by a daily 1.2MMbbl during 2019 and by 1.15MMbbl/d in 2020.

BAML also predicted Brent crude and WTI prices would average \$US70/bbl and \$US59/bbl respectively this year, and \$US65/bbl and \$US60bbl during 2020.

US government agency EIA is due to report weekly petroleum inventories tonight.

Gold – an ~0.2% \$US pullback benefited overnight gold interest, Comex futures maintaining a post-\$US1300/oz settlement.

The US Federal Reserve is due to announce policy meeting outcomes, and new GDP and CPI forecasts, early tomorrow morning AEDT.

Base metals – pushed and pulled overnight by a softer \$US, corporate industry developments, and reports China-US trade talks were not as smooth as some perceived.

Aluminium traded at three-month peaks, and a workers' union threatened industrial action at the Sierra Gorda *copper* mine, Chile.

In addition, the Chilean government announced Codelco's copper smelter upgrade work was taking longer than anticipated and a recommencement, initially expected by the end of March, would be delayed to an as yet undetermined date.

Yesterday, major aluminium producer Norsk Hydro revealed a cyber attack from late Monday had forced the group to suspend operations at several sites which convert aluminium ingots into vehicle components, and to manually operate smelters in Brazil, Norway and Qatar.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7087	-0.0002	-0.03
EUR – USD	1.1352	0.0002	0.02

Australian Data Today

Westpac/MelbInst	Leading index	Feb
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also following an investment conference in Hong Kong Wednesday next week.

Syrah Resources (SYR)

SYR's Mozambique Balama graphite operations, including logistics, have not been impacted by cyclone Idai.

Energy

AGL Energy (** AGL)

AGL has appointed former Gas Market Company CEO Patricia McKenzie as a non-executive director, effective 1 May.

Ms McKenzie is also a former AGL general counsel and a recent APA Group (ASX: APA) non-executive director.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Centaurus Metals	CTM	20 Mar
Eclix Group	ECX	20 Mar
Estrella Resources	ESR	20 Mar
LiveHire Ltd	LVH	20 Mar
Paringa Resources	PNL	20 Mar
Roto-Gro International	RGI	20 Mar
Symbol Mining	SL1	20 Mar
Alt Resources	ARS	21 Mar
Armour Energy	AJQ	21 Mar
Cynata Therapeutics	CYP	21 Mar
Impression Healthcare	IHL	21 Mar
Spectrum Metals	SPX	21 Mar
Universal Coal	UNV	21 Mar
Venus Metals Corporation	VMC	21 Mar

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
American Patriot Oil & Gas	AOW	14 Mar
Blackham Resources	BLK	15 Mar
Elk Petroleum	ELK	1 Mar
Environmental Clean Technologies	ECT	15 Mar
Gascoyne Resources	GCY	18 Mar
IOT Group	IOT	13 Mar
Medigard Ltd	MGZ	8 Mar
Meteoric Resources	MEI	19 Mar
MZI Resources	MZI	20 Mar
Niuminco Group	NIU	21 Feb
Range Resources	RRS	20 Mar
Serpentine Technologies	S3R	6 Mar
Skin Elements	SKN	18 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ACF	Today	1	0	4.23



Dept of Jobs Internet-advertised job vacancies Feb

US Data Tonight

Federal Reserve policy statement Mar
MBA mortgage applications 15 Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	BoJ monetary policy meeting minutes	Mar
Japan	Tankan index	Mar
Japan	Leading economic index (final, 4pm AEDT)	Jan
UK	CPI	Feb
UK	PPI	Feb
UK	CBI industrial trends	Mar
Germany	Producer prices	Feb

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AEG	Today	2	100	4.62
CEN	Today	14.41	0	5.08
CGR	Today	1	100	3.40
CWN	Today	30	60	5.09
EAI	Today	1	100	2.01
KPG	Today	1.1	100	4.83
KSC	Today	2	100	2.52
PPK	Today	1	100	1.31
RXP	Today	1.75	100	7.58
SNL	Today	6	100	3.73
VLS	Today	2.25	100	4.29
WEB	Today	8.5	100	1.37
AGG	Tomorrow	1.53	0	0.40
AIA	Tomorrow	10.53	0	2.68
CII	Tomorrow	1.5	100	4.30
CIW	Tomorrow	0.75	100	4.79
CUP	Tomorrow	1	100	3.57
FBU	Tomorrow	6.54	0	1.43
FLT	Tomorrow	209	100	3.74
HUO	Tomorrow	3	50	1.72
PGC	Tomorrow	1.1	100	6.89
PPC	Tomorrow	2	100	5.15
QMS	Tomorrow	1	100	2.95
XIP	Tomorrow	3.25	100	4.26
BGA	Mon	5.5	100	2.35
BGP	Mon	11.59	0	5.72
BRI	Mon	2.2	100	4.22
COH	Mon	155	100	1.76
CWP	Mon	18	100	6.23
GAP	Mon	1	0	5.88
SEK	Mon	24	100	2.52
SVW	Mon	21	100	2.25