

Markets

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|------|
| SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT) | 6737 | -12 | -0.2 |
| NZX 50 | 12350 | -9 | -0.1 |
| DJIA Futures | 32363 | 44 | 0.1 |
| S&P 500 Futures | 3886 | 5 | 0.1 |
| NASDAQ Futures | 12808 | 14 | 0.1 |

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade following weak overnight international equities sentiment and a strong oil price bounce, with a continuing lower \$A, and as eastern Australian communities and governments assess the extent of damage from this past week's floods.

Locally today, no major economic indicators are due for release.

Companies scheduled to trade **ex-dividend** today include: **COH, GOR, HLS, SSM, SVW** and **VTG**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.

Regionally today, no key data releases are anticipated.

Overnight, EU and US officials agreed to co-operate on improving dialogue with China.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** rebounded.

US **gold** futures settled higher for the first time this week.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) declined by US41c/t to \$US161.39/t.

LME **copper** (indicative) continued to fall. **Nickel** and **aluminium** turned higher, however, aluminium in rally mode.

The **\$A** fell earlier this morning to ~US75.80c, after trading at US75.95c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets.

| INDEX | CLOSE | +/- | % |
|----------------------|-------|------|------|
| Dow Jones | 32420 | -3 | -0.0 |
| S&P 500 | 3889 | -21 | -0.6 |
| NASDAQ | 12962 | -266 | -2.0 |
| FTSE 100 | 6713 | 14 | 0.2 |
| DAX 30 | 14610 | -52 | -0.4 |
| Shanghai Comp | 3367 | -44 | -1.3 |

Overseas Markets Commentary

Overnight European, UK and US equities trade again demonstrated vacillating sentiment, key US indices trending lower towards settlement.

Considerations included a batch of traditionally influential data releases and ongoing Covid-19 containment concerns, with economic recoveries and international relations also remaining in focus.

US secretary of state Anthony Blinken and EU foreign affairs head Josep Borrell met to discuss a range of issues, including relations

Today's Stock Watch
Suncorp Group (SUN)

SUN has received 5400 flood-related claims, 80% of these from NSW customers.

Brickworks Ltd (BKW)

22.4% higher \$71.195M interim NPAT.

3.77% lower, \$431.71M revenue.

21c fully franked interim dividend, from 20c a year ago.

Washington H Soul Pattinson & Co (SOL)

35.2% higher, \$68.9M interim NPAT. 8.0% lower, \$85.3M investments net cashflows.

26c fully franked interim dividend, from 25c a year ago.

Dimerix Ltd (DXB)

A clinical study has confirmed nasogastric delivery of DMX-200 for ICU patients with Covid-19 pneumonia is 'acceptable and appropriate'.

Nine Entertainment Co (NEC)

NEC has appointed CEO Mike Sneesby as MD. In addition, NEC has appointed WIN Corporation and Kirketu CEO Andrew Lancaster as a non-executive director.

Each appointment is effective 1 April.

McPherson's Ltd (MCP)

Gallin has launched an unconditional on-market \$1.34 cash-per-share offer for MCP.

MCP has traded at \$1.20 - \$1.27 over the past five sessions.

Incannex Healthcare (IHL)

Pre-IND meeting secured with the US FDA regarding the potential use of IHL-675A as a preventative for acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and SAARDS.

MedAdvisor Ltd (MDR)

\$US4.7M, three-month health program agreement extension in hand.

Resources
Resolute Mining (RSG)

RSG is seeking legal advice following notice of a Ghana government termination of the Bibiani gold project mining lease and an order for all site activities and operations to cease.

The company was proposing to sell Bibiani to Chifeng Jilong Gold mining Co.

RSG is resuming from a trading halt having last traded at 63c.

Renascor Resources (RNU)

MoU secured to supply up to 10,000tpa of purified spherical graphite, for up to 10 years, to Japan-headquartered Hanwa Co.

with China and Russia.

The pair vowed to recommence 'bilateral dialogue' with China and to co-operate in managing 'challenging behaviour' from Russia.

The \$US rose modestly, reaching ~four-month highs, this again attributed in part to safe-haven interest, in turn put down to economic impacts from renewed and tightened Covid-19 containment restrictions and in part to a reference overnight Tuesday to a potential US tax review.

US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell and **treasury secretary** Janet Yellen met with the US Senate banking committee, again promoting expected US economic strength.

The treasury secretary had mentioned the tax review the previous session, with a House of Representatives financial services committee, but had also reiterated the US economy currently required strong support measures.

In Covid-19 developments, Germany cancelled the planned Easter general lockdown, citing too short a timeframe for implementation, following reports religious communities, business groups and State leaders had protested the move.

Meanwhile, the EU and UK spoke of co-operation ahead of an EU leaders' decision tonight on Covid-19 vaccine export allocations.

In a swag of overnight **data** releases, the **UK's** CPI was reported 0.1% higher for February, representing 0.4% inflation over 12 months.

The UK had reported 0.2% deflation for January.

February core inflation was flat for the month, but 0.9% higher than for February 2020.

Initial March PMI estimates for the UK proved both mixed and a little surprising, the services PMI falling to a contractionary 49.5 from 51, and the manufacturing PMI estimated 0.1 higher, at 55.1.

The services PMI had been expected to rise to 51.5 and the manufacturing activity index to slip to 54.6.

In the **euro zone**, a consumer confidence reading improved, albeit to -10.8, from -14.8.

Euro zone preliminary March PMIs, proved as in the UK – surprising and mixed.

The services PMI was estimated at 45.7, from 46, following forecasts of a rise to 46.6.

The manufacturing sector activity index rose by 0.2 to 57.9, against forecasts of a 0.3-point decline to 57.4.

In **Germany**, the initial March manufacturing PMI jumped to a decidedly robust 66.6 from 60.7.

The services PMI was estimated at 50.8, returning to expansion mode territory from February's 45.7.

A 10-year German bond auction produced a -0.36% yield, from -0.32%.

In the **US**, February durable goods orders fell 1.1% for the month, following a 3.5% January rise and forecasts of a new 1.1% increase.

Markit's initial March PMI estimates came in generally in line with expectations, the services PMI rising by 0.2 to 60, and the manufacturing PMI by 0.4 to 59.

Weekly mortgage applications fell again, this time by 2.5%.

The mean 30-year mortgage rate was calculated at 3.36%, from 3.28% the previous week.

Pre-Open Announcements

Starpharma Ltd (* SPL)

Viraleze UK sales and distribution agreement secured.

ECS Botanics (* ECS)

Subsidiary Murray Meds has secured a \$590,000, 18-month dried cannabis flower product supply agreement.

Atlas Arteria (* ALX)

Paying a A13c distribution for the six months to 31 December.

Elixinol Global (EXL)

Products can remain on sale in the UK.

WestStar Industrial (WSI)

WSI subsidiary Alltype Engineering has secured \$10M worth of new or extended contracts.

Airtasker Ltd (* ART)

ART gained 70% yesterday, settling at \$1.75 after completing an enviable ASX listing Tuesday, closing day one at \$1.05 following an ~\$83.65M IPO at 65c per share.

137.2M shares were traded yesterday and ~66.85M Tuesday.

ART has ~392.9M quoted shares on issue.

Wisetech Global (WTC)

47.367 WTC shares are due to be released from escrow 4.15pm AEDT 8 April.

Resources

Vulcan Energy (VUL)

VUL has appointed Evonik VP production and technology Heidi Gron as a non-executive director.

In association, executive director Horst Kreuter is retiring from the VUL board.

Dr Kreuter will remain with VUL's project development company in Germany, as an executive director.

In addition, Dr Kreuter will advise the VUL board on geothermal project development.

Manuka Resources (* MKR)

Mt Boppy and Wonawinta operations were shut down during the recent extreme wet weather in eastern Australia.

Operations at both sites resumed yesterday.

MKR is anticipating record gold production for the March quarter.

The company also expects to provide a Wonawinta silver oxides resource upgrade within a week.

Energy

Strike Energy (STX) / Warrego Energy (WGO)

Positive West Erregulla 4 update lodged pre-trade.



A \$61B five-year notes auction delivered a 0.850% yield, from 0.621%.

Meanwhile, US 10-year bond yields continued a little lower.

Tonight in the **US**, the final (and third) December quarter GDP estimate and the Kansas City Fed March manufacturing index are due, together with weekly new unemployment claims.

In addition, the US treasury conducts a \$US62B seven-year notes auction.

Elsewhere, the **European Central Bank** (ECB) publishes its monthly bulletin.

Several central bank heads, including ECB president Christine Lagarde, are scheduled to speak at a Bank for International Settlements event.

Commodities

| COMMODITY | CLOSE | \$US/ | +/- | % |
|--|---------------|-------|------|-------------|
| Gold (NY) (Apr) | 1733.2 | oz | 8.1 | 0.5 |
| Silver (NY) (May) | 25.23 | oz | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Gold (LON) (22Mar) | 1736 | oz | | |
| Platinum | 1166 | oz | 6 | 0.5 |
| WTI Crude (NYMEX May) | 61.18 | bbl | 3.42 | 5.9 |
| Brent Crude (ICE EUR May) | 64.41 | bbl | 3.62 | 6.0 |
| Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (23 Mar) | 167.01 | t | -36 | -0.2 |
| Copper (LME Ind) | 8899 | t | -84 | -0.9 |
| Nickel | 16185 | t | 38 | 0.2 |
| Aluminium | 2254 | t | 35 | 1.6 |
| Lead | 1955 | t | 7 | 0.3 |
| Zinc | 2803 | t | -35 | -1.2 |
| Tin | 25275 | t | -985 | -3.8 |

Commodities Commentary

Oil – a large, grounded container ship blocking the Suez Canal into a second day was cited for most of the overnight sharp swing higher for oil prices.

US government agency the EIA published a weekly petroleum inventories report overnight, this including a 1.912MMbbl increase for crude stocks and 203,000bbl rise in stored petrol.

Petrol production was reported to have fallen by 300,000bbl/d, however.

Net crude oil imports rose by 338,000bbl/d.

Post-US trade overnight Tuesday, the American Petroleum Institute released a report which estimated a 2.927MMbbl rise in stored crude last week.

Meanwhile, OPEC+ is expected to meet late next week to review oil production curbs. This will prompt more supply-demand commentary anytime from late-week.

Gold – overnight gains were attributed to some safe-haven interest, despite another \$US rise.

A December quarter US GDP reading tonight, together with weekly new unemployment claims, could influence some late-week sentiment.

Base metals – overnight trade was pushed and pulled by largely positive international manufacturing PMI readings, a strengthening \$US, Covid-19 containment concerns and inventory

Trading Halts

| Company | Code | Resuming |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|
| Calidus Resources | CAI | 25 Mar |
| Sayona Mining | SYA | 25 Mar |
| Shree Minerals | SHH | 25 Mar |
| Australian Strategic Metals | ASM | 26 Mar |
| Bass Metals | BSM | 26 Mar |
| Creso Pharma | CPH | 26 Mar |
| Genex Power | GNX | 26 Mar |
| Kopore Metals | KMT | 26 Mar |
| Lotus Resources | LOT | 26 Mar |
| Rewardle Holdings | RXH | 26 Mar |
| SG Fleet Group | SGF | 26 Mar |
| Computershare Ltd | CPU | 29 Mar |

Suspensions (select)

| Company | Code | Since |
|------------------------|------|--------|
| Australian Potash | APC | 25 Mar |
| Oliver's Real Food | OLI | 26 Feb |
| Roto-Gro International | RGI | 17 Mar |
| Story-I Ltd | SRY | 24 Mar |

Ex-Dividends

| Code | Ex-Div | Div (c) | Franking (%) | Yield (%) |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| BOL | Today | 0.5 | 0 | 3.57 |
| BSA | Today | 0.5 | 100 | 3.33 |
| COG | Today | 0.12 | 100 | 1.45 |
| COH | Today | 115 | 0 | 0.75 |
| GLE | Today | 1.25 | 0 | 0.00 |
| GOR | Today | 1.5 | 100 | 0.00 |
| HLS | Today | 6.5 | 100 | 0.62 |
| LAU | Today | 1.2 | 100 | 4.11 |
| MYE | Today | 0.75 | 100 | 10.26 |
| SSM | Today | 2.5 | 100 | 4.15 |
| SVW | Today | 23 | 100 | 1.87 |
| VTG | Today | 5.6 | 100 | 2.55 |
| CWP | Mon | 13 | 100 | 0.88 |
| LYL | Mon | 10 | 100 | 3.78 |
| NCC | Mon | 3.75 | 100 | 3.07 |
| REH | Mon | 6 | 100 | 0.35 |
| ADI | Tue | 4.35 | 0 | 5.65 |
| AOF | Tue | 3.75 | 0 | 6.42 |
| AQR | Tue | 5.47 | 0 | 6.33 |
| ARF | Tue | 3.73 | 0 | 4.57 |
| CIP | Tue | 4.25 | 0 | 5.57 |
| CLW | Tue | 7.3 | 0 | 6.08 |
| COF | Tue | 4.13 | 0 | 8.49 |
| COS | Tue | 0.5 | 100 | 0.00 |



figures.

LME-registered warehouses were reported to contain the most *copper* since December 2020, 129,950t, against 74,000t 3 February.

Yesterday, Japan's initial March manufacturing PMI estimate came in at 52, from 51.4. The preliminary services sector activity reading represented a 0.7-point increase to 46.5, still indicating contraction, but at a three-month high.

Overnight PMI releases for the euro zone, UK and US generally pleased.

Exchange Rates

| CURRENCIES | LAST | +/- | % |
|------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| AUD – USD | 0.7584 | -0.0017 | -0.22 |
| EUR – USD | 1.1810 | -0.0036 | -0.30 |

US Data Tonight

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| GDP (final) | Dec Q |
| Kansas City Fed manufacturing | Mar |
| Initial jobless applications | 20 Mar |

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| UK | Domestic vehicle production | Feb |
| UK | CBI distributive trades | Mar |
| Germany | GfK consumer confidence | Apr |
| Euro zone | ECB bulletin | Mar |
| Euro zone | Lending to businesses & households | Feb |

Need More Information?

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|-----|-------|------|-----|------|
| GCI | Tue | 0.75 | 0 | 4.21 |
| GDF | Tue | 1.8 | 0 | 4.76 |
| GVF | Tue | 3 | 100 | 5.18 |
| ITG | Tue | 1 | 0 | 0.00 |
| KLA | Tue | 20.4 | 0 | 1.58 |
| MEZ | Tue | 5.16 | 0 | 3.11 |
| MGH | Tue | 2 | 100 | 0.00 |
| QRI | Tue | 0.82 | 0 | 6.06 |
| RDC | Tue | 1.83 | 0 | 4.03 |
| RFF | Tue | 2.82 | 0 | 4.69 |
| TGP | Tue | 1 | 0 | 4.35 |
| TOT | Tue | 1.5 | 0 | 8.29 |
| WPP | Tue | 4.4 | 100 | 0.00 |
| APE | Wed | 25 | 100 | 0.77 |
| HVN | Wed | 29 | 100 | 3.08 |
| MOT | Wed | 1.01 | 0 | 7.19 |
| MXT | Wed | 1 | 0 | 4.60 |
| CYC | 1 Apr | 0.5 | 0 | 0.40 |
| EP1 | 1 Apr | 2 | 100 | 3.73 |
| PFG | 1 Apr | 0.3 | 100 | 4.50 |

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