

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDST)	5772	7	0.1
NZX 50	8354	-34	-0.4
DJIA Futures	23906	46	0.2
S&P 500 Futures	2614	6	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	6503	26	0.4

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens the last ASX trading day for the March quarter and this week following largely vacillating overnight international equities sentiment, and on mostly negative key commodities leads, as another batch of high-profile domestic stocks pays out dividends.

Trade volumes could well dwindle this afternoon.

In overnight commodities trade **oil** continued this week's pull back. **Gold** futures were pushed lower for a second consecutive session.

LME **copper** added a little to Tuesday's gain. **Nickel** rallied.

Iron ore (China port, 62% Fe) swung into a decisive tumble, to almost \$US63/t.

The **\$A** effectively trod water after falling below US76.60c early yesterday evening.

Locally today, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reports February financial aggregates, including private sector credit, at **11.30am** AEDST.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases February quarter job vacancies.

ABC is among companies trading **ex-dividend** today. *Please see pp3-4 for detailed information.*

Large-cap stocks paying dividends today include **ASL, BPT, IAG, MND, RHC, RWC** and **TLS**.

Regionally today, China publishes final December quarter current account details.

Japan reports February retail sales **10.50am** AEDST.

Hong Kong's markets are scheduled to be closed tomorrow.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	23848	-9	-0.0
S&P 500	2605	-8	-0.3
NASDAQ	6949	-60	-0.9
FTSE 100	7045	45	0.6
DAX 30	11941	-30	-0.3
Shanghai Comp	3122	-44	-1.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Most major European and US equities markets chopped and swung throughout overnight trade, indicating heightened lack of conviction heading into the end of March the quarter and Easter holiday season.

The FTSE 100 proved a notable exception, however. Among new data releases, a third and final reading of US December quarter GDP surprised, coming in

March quarter –last ASX trading day

State One wishes readers a safe and peaceful Easter

ASX - closed tomorrow and Monday

Settlements - trades executed today settle Wednesday 4 April
Yesterday's trades settle Tuesday 3 April

Your Market Opener will resume Tuesday

Daylight saving ends over the weekend

From **Tuesday, ASX trade commences** local time in:
Western Australia at 8am; **Queensland** at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

Today's Stock Watch

The Star Entertainment Group (SGR)

\$490M placement at \$5.35 per share to Gold Coast JV partners Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Far East Consortium International, delivering each group 5% of SGR.

SGR has traded at \$5.24 - \$5.48.5 over the past five trading sessions.

Reece Group (REH)

Acquiring the New Zealand business of Heatcraft from Sweden's Beijer. Completion is anticipated in early May.

Blue Sky Alternative Investments (BLA) / Blue Sky Alternatives Access Fund (BAF)

BLA says the Glaucus Research report contains 'a large number of factual inaccuracies'.

BLA also points out that the report contains the following statement: "You are reading a short-biased opinion piece. Obviously, we will make money if the price of Blue Sky stock declines. The report and all statements contained herein are the opinion of Glaucus Research Group, LLC, and are not statements of fact."

BLA is promising to lodge a response prior to the lifting of BLA and BAF trading halts.

Before calling the trading halts yesterday, BLA dropped 9.0% and BAF 5.65%.

Cimic Group (CIM)

CIM's Thiess has secured a three-year \$240M contract extension after implementing an innovative mining plan for the Satui coal project, South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Thiess will provide mining services at the Hanoman West pit.

In addition, Thiess has been awarded a 2.5-year \$150M contract extension at the Senakin coal mine, South Kalimantan.

Resources

Rio Tinto (RIO)

RIO's euro cash tender offer has attracted €431.64M worth of notes at an offer price of €1046.74 for 2020 notes and €1152.03 for 2024 notes.

Energy

Carnarvon Petroleum (CVN)

Phoenix South-3 drilling expected to commence ~10 April.

at 2.9% growth following the previous 2.5% estimate and expectations of 2.7%.

US GDP growth was calculated at 3.1% for the June quarter 2017 and 3.2% during the September quarter.

February pending home sales were reported 3.1% higher for the month following a 5% fall in January. Pending sales were 4.1% lower year-on-year, however.

Tonight in the US, weekly new unemployment claims are due, together with February personal income and spending, a Chicago PMI update and University of Michigan March consumer sentiment reading.

Elsewhere, a final December quarter GDP reading is due for the UK and an initial March CPI estimate for Germany.

Companies scheduled to report earnings or updates later today and tonight include CNOOC and Constellation Brands.

In overnight corporate news, Ireland's major pharmaceuticals manufacturer **Shire** gained more than 10% from revelations Japan's **Takeda Pharmaceutical** was considering putting together an offer.

S&P 500 favourite **Amazon** dropped but recovered some (to a 4.6% fall), amid reports the US president would consider containing the group's broadening influence.

Facebook recouped 0.7% after again assuring it would better facilitate user control of settings and personal information.

Major European and US markets will be closed tomorrow, due to Easter public holidays.

Major European markets will remain closed Monday.

Major US equities and commodities markets will trade Monday.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1324	oz	-18	-1.3
Silver (NY) (May)	16.3	oz	-0.3	-1.7
Gold (LON)	1332	oz	-9	-0.7
Platinum	935	oz	-6	-0.6
WTI Crude (May)	64.4	bbl	-0.9	-1.3
Brent Crude (May)	69.5	bbl	-0.6	-0.8
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	63.1	t	-2.1	-3.1
Copper	6665	t	16	0.2
Nickel	13130	t	130	1.0
Aluminium	2027	t	-18	-0.9
Lead	2425	t	19	0.8
Zinc	3284	t	9	0.3
Tin	20890	t	15	0.1
CBT Wheat (May)	4.46	bshl	-0.03	-0.8

Commodities Commentary

Oil – \$US strength, US sector figures, and reports some OPEC agreement participants are concerned at the extent price increases are bolstering competitor producers, contributed to overnight falls.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, released overnight, calculated a 1.6MMbbl rise for stockpiled crude, a 1.1MMbbl/d increase in imported crude, and another record for production, 10.433MMbbl/d.

A weekly US drill rig count is expected tonight.

The Brent May contract expires tonight. Overnight, June futures fell 70c to \$US68.76/bbl.

Pre-Open Announcements

CYBG Plc (CYB)

Non-executive director David Brown is planning to retire as a CYBG and Clydesdale Bank Plc director 30 June.

Gateway Lifestyle (GTY)

GTY has appointed Sally Evans as an independent non-executive director, effective today.

Platinum Asset Management (PTM)

PTM has appointed GBS Venture Partners founder and MD Brigitte Smith as a non-executive director effective immediately.

Ardent Leisure Group (* AAD)

AAD's bowling and entertainment division sale is expected to achieve completion by 30 June, but will not meet the initial 31 March target date.

Fletcher Building (↓ FBU)

Breach of financial covenants waivers extended.

Intiger Group (IAM)

IAM has appointed former Commonwealth Bank (ASX: CBA) wealth management executive George Jaja as IAM productivity and optimisation head.

Structural Monitoring Systems (* SMN)

Hazer Group chief development officer Terry Walsh has been appointed SMN corporate and legal affairs head and as SMN non-executive director.

SMN has also appointed an as-yet-unnamed sales and marketing VP. SMN says this new appointee is an aerospace executive.

Mayfield Childcare (MFD)

Westpac Banking Corporation (ASX: WBC) has agreed to extend MFD's debt facility by \$10M to an \$18.5M two-year interest-only, variable rate facility.

Resources

Tawana Resources (↓ TAW)

Heralding WA Bald Hill lithium-tantalum project commissioning, including the production of 6% Li₂O concentrates containing <1% mica. Details lodged this morning.

Battery Minerals (* BAT)

Mozambique Balama graphite project resources have grown 100% to 32.9Mt @ 10.2% TGC. The indicated component has tripled (ie up 200%) to 26.6Mt @ 10.3% TGC. BFS due to be completed by August. *Please also see the announcement below.*

Trek Metals (* TKM) / Battery Minerals (BAT)

Kroussou lead-zinc JV project partners TKM and BAT have reached agreement on terms for TKM to acquire 100% of the project.

TKM will pay \$US200,000 cash plus \$US200,000 worth of TKM shares.

In addition, a conditional indicated resource-related \$US2.5M payment may also be payable, plus a 2.5% net smelter royalty on gross sales revenue.

Further consideration details lodged post-trade yesterday.

First Graphene (FGR)

Resuming from a trading halt with the removal of various rates from the 26 March (Monday this week) announcement heralding improvements FGR has achieved in vein graphite mining in Sri Lanka.

Gold – some industry watchers cited North Korean engagement with China and South Korea as one reason gold appeared to suffer from a relative lack of interest overnight.

A final 2.9% US December quarter GDP growth reading, published overnight, bettered expectations, pushing the \$US higher (up 1.3% against the yen) and hence detracting from gold trade.

Base metals – positioning expected tonight (last trading session for some key markets for the March quarter; Japan's financial year closes 31 March).

Positive US economic data, but a stronger \$US toyed with overnight trade.

Margin fears, and yet fluid trade relationships, have been claimed as major factors for swinging *aluminium* and *steel* sentiment this week.

Official PMI updates for **China** are due over the weekend.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7659	-0.0002	-0.02
EUR – USD	1.2312	0.0002	0.02

Australian Data Today

RBA	Financial aggregates	Feb
ABS	Job vacancies	Feb Q
RBA	Reserves & forex liquidity (4.30pm)	Feb

US Data Tonight

Initial jobless claims	24Mar
Personal income and spending	Feb
PCE deflator	Feb
Chicago PMI	Mar
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (final)	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Current account (final)	Dec Q
Japan	Retail sales	Feb
UK	GDP (final)	Dec Q
UK	BoE consumer credit	Feb
Germany	CPI (prelim)	Mar
Germany	Unemployment	Feb

Need More Information?

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, advice@stateone.com.au.

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Energy

Liquefied Natural Gas (* LNG)

Magnolia project 20-year off-take agreement financial close date extended to 30 June.

Sino Gas & Energy (* SEH)

Record March quarter production rates achieved during the March quarter. Details lodged this morning.

In addition, Linxing PSC overall development plan approval is in hand from SHE's partner China United Coalbed Methane.

Senex Energy (SXY)

Project Atlas petroleum lease and initial environmental approvals in hand from the Queensland Government which is seeking to secure further domestic gas supply.

Armour Energy (* AJQ)

The Australian Government has awarded AJQ a \$6M grant under the 'gas acceleration program', designed to bolster domestic energy supply markets.

Strike Energy (* STX)

Acquiring 50% and operatorship of WA onshore Perth Basin EP 469 from Warrego Energy.

STX will pay \$A350,000 cash on settlement and a further \$A250,000 by 1 January 2019.

Warrego is retaining 50% of EP 469.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Allegiance Coal	AHQ	29 Mar
Aura Energy	AEE	29 Mar
Antisense Therapeutics	ANP	3 Apr
Apollo Minerals	AON	3 Apr
Blue Sky Alternatives Access	BAF	3 Apr
Blue Sky Alternative Invstmnts	BLA	3 Apr

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Alloy Resources	AYR	28 Mar
AssetOwl Ltd	AO1	29 Mar
Big Un	BIG	21 Feb
Buddy Platform	BUD	26 Mar
Chapmans Ltd	CHP	26 Mar
Clancy Exploration	CLY	13 Mar
Connected IO	CIO	15 Mar
Cudoco Ltd	CDU	15 Mar
eSense-Lab Ltd	ESE	23 Mar
JV Global	JVG	21 Mar
Matador Mining	MZZ	28 Mar
MyFiziq Ltd	MYQ	26 Mar
Poseidon Nickel	POS	22 Mar
Raven Energy	REL	7 Mar
Silver Mines	SVL	26 Mar
Tianmei Beverage Group	TB8	21 Feb
Tikforce Ltd	TKF	21 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Fr (%)	Yield (%)
ABC	Today	16	100	3.22
AEG	Today	2	100	4.25



consider whether that is appropriate having regard to your own objectives, financial situation and needs.

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GBT	Today	2.5	100	2.24
LYL	Today	12	100	4.21
MXT	Today	0.81	0	2.25
PFG	Today	0.45	100	6.67
CAM	Tue	1.25	100	5.75
EDC	Tue	1.93	100	7.50
FNP	Tue	2.25	100	0.86
ARB	Thu	17.5	100	1.79
AUB	Thu	13.5	100	3.17
FSF	Thu	7.97	0	4.27
GNE	Thu	7.49	0	6.76
HVN	Thu	12	100	6.63
MLB	Thu	7.5	100	3.26
NUF	Thu	5	0	1.51
SIG	Thu	2.5	100	6.21
SIV	Thu	10	100	9.44
SLK	Thu	6.5	100	3.58
ALR	Fri	1.25	100	4.23
CYC	Fri	0.5	0	0.84