

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7734	38	0.5
NZX 50	11788	-33	-0.3
DJIA Futures	38992	-5	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	5205	-2	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	18186	-10	-0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with the Reserve Bank of Australia due to announce monetary policy meeting outcomes this afternoon, another major bank reporting earnings and one trading ex-dividend, and further detail expected regarding next week's national budget, amid Hamas-Israel conflict uncertainty.

US equities markets settled higher in unison for a third consecutive session overnight, this time by 0.5% - 1.2%.

Locally today, the RBA concludes a two-day **monetary policy meeting**, releases an **outcomes** statement at 2.30pm AEST and hosts a media conference ~one hour later.

At 11.30am, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is scheduled to release a final version of the March quarter retail sales report published last week.

At the same time, the RBA provides various March and March quarter reports covering retail payments, merchant fees and deposit rates.

Post -ASX trade, the RBA reports April official reserve assets.

Meanwhile, major domestic stocks commence presentations at Macquarie's annual three-day investor conference.

Also today, **NAB** trades **ex-dividend**. Please see p3 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, a final April services PMI is due for Japan at 10.30am AEST, the initial estimate having indicated ongoing expansion at an increased pace.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** turned 0.5% higher.

US **gold** (Comex) futures gained 1%, settling beyond \$US2330/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) was pushed decisively higher, closing above \$US119.50/t.

US **copper** futures rose by US6c/lb to \$US4.62/lb.

LME base metals were not traded due to a UK public holiday.

The **\$A** was pushed below US66.25c after approaching US66.30c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38852	177	0.5
S&P 500	5181	53	1.0
NASDAQ	16349	193	1.2
FTSE 100	8213	Public	Holiday

Today's Stock Watch
ANZ Group Holdings (ANZ)

Planning an up to \$2B buy-back, and paying an 83c, 65%-franked interim dividend, from 81c, fully franked a year ago. 4% lower, \$A3.407B interim NPAT. 7% lower, \$3.552B cash profit. Essentially flat \$10.145B operating income. 13.4% level 1 CET1 ratio and 13.5% level 2.

1.56% net interest margin (NIM), down 0.19%.

'Challenging' environments, domestically and internationally.

Sims Group (SGM)

Anticipating a slight six-month fall in 2H FY24 underlying EBIT. Divisional commentary lodged this morning.

SKS Technology Group (SKS)

Electrical and communications contracts worth a combined \$11M secured with the Australian Defence Force, for the Northern Territory RAAF base, Tindal.

GQG Partners (GQG)

\$US142.0B FUM at 30 April from \$US143.3B at 31 March.

Trading ex-dividend tomorrow.

HMC Capital (HMC)

HMC has appointed former Australian PM Julia Gillard AC as chair of HMC Capital's Energy Transition Fund.

The fund, yet to be launched, will be supported by an initial up to \$2B fundraising.

HMC conference presentation lodged this morning. HMC is presenting today at the Macquarie Investor Conference.

Auckland Airport (AIA) / Breville Group (BRG) / Cleanaway Waste Management (CWY) / Lifestyle Communities (LIC) / Maas Group Holdings (MGH) / Mirvac Group (MGR)

Conference presentations lodged. AIA, BRG, CWY, LIC, MGH and MGR are presenting today at the Macquarie conference.

Resources
Auric Mining (AWJ)

A combined 54.68kg of Jeffreys Find JV gold, in six bars, delivered to Perth Mint. Initial gold sales imminent. 30,300t milled during 17 - 30 April.

Northern Star Resources (NST)

Macquarie conference presentation lodged.

Bellevue Gold (BGL)

WA Bellevue gold project commercial production underway, with positive free ash flow achieved February through April. Eastern Australia and US roadshow presentation lodged.

Brazilian Critical Metals (BCM)

Heralding Brazil Ema project metallurgical test work results.



DAX 30	18175	174	1.0
Shanghai Composite	3141	36	1.2

Overseas Markets Commentary

Sentiment strengthened from early trade across most major European and US equities markets overnight. The DJIA proved the exception, with some marked vacillations, these in part attributed to varying corporate earnings and outlooks.

UK markets were closed due to a public holiday.

Central bank commentary continued to support the prospects of the commencement of interest rate reductions this year, although timing and the number and magnitude of likely cuts varied.

Trade considerations also included reports Hamas had agreed a ceasefire proposal, but that Israel had launched new Rafah airstrikes, while reiterating it would commence a more comprehensive Rafah attack.

In other geopolitical developments, China's president began a state visit to France, with trade appearing to be a priority agenda item, hours after reports emerged of a China-Australia altercation during exercises in the South Sea region.

Russia announced planned simulated military drills involving nuclear weapons.

Earlier yesterday, Caixin's April services PMI for **China** declined in line with expectations, remaining in expansion territory, but indicating slower growth for the month.

Among overnight **economic data** releases, **euro zone** March producer prices declined by 0.4%, in line with consensus, and mostly attributed to reduced energy costs, following a 1.1% February fall.

Against March 2023, prices were down 7.8% from February's annualised 8.5% drop.

A Sentix investor confidence reading for May improved further, albeit to -3.6 from -5.9, surpassing expectations for a smaller improvement to -4.9.

Both the current conditions and expectations component indices came in higher than for April.

A final April services PMI for the euro zone came in at 53.3 from the initial 52.9, confirming an improved pace of expansion than in March, when the services PMI was finalised at 51.5.

Germany's April services PMI was finalised at 53.2 from an initially estimated 53.3, still representing notably faster growth than indicated by March's 50.1.

In the **US**, a Federal Reserve senior loans officer survey confirmed a combination of tightened standards and weakened demand for commercial loans, including for real estate.

Tonight in the **US**, an economic optimism index and March consumer credit report are due.

Elsewhere, the Bundesbank president is again scheduled to speak publicly.

Companies listed to report earnings later today or tonight include: BP, Duke Energy, Ferrari, Korea Zinc, Nintendo, Novatek Micro, Occidental Petroleum, Ricoh, UBS and Walt Disney.

Pre-Open Announcements

DroneShield Ltd (* DRO)

\$40M worth of SPP applications received for the SPP that had been capped at \$15M.

PEXA Group (PXA)

March quarter update and divisional commentary lodged pre-trade.

Good Drinks Australia (GDA)

Own-brand beer sales, by volume, have grown 9% year-to-date. Presentation lodged this morning.

G8 Education (GEM)

Today's AGM materials lodged, together with pre-AGM proxy votes.

QANTM Intellectual Property (QIP)

Extending the exclusivity period related to Adamantem's indicative minimum \$1.817-per-share QIP acquisition proposal, again, this time from tomorrow morning until 10am AEST 15 May (Wednesday next week).

QIP has traded at \$1.55 - \$1.74 over the past five trading sessions.

MoneyMe Ltd (MME)

MME non-executive chair Peter Coad plans to retire from the MME board, effective 1 June.

MME has selected recently-appointed MME non-executive director Jamie McPhee to take over from Mr Coad.

Mr McPhee is a former ME Bank CEO and previous Bendigo and Adelaide Bank (ASX: BEN) executive director.

Resources

Walkabout Resources (* WKT)

WKT's Tanzania Lindi Jumbo graphite operation survived the weekend arrival of Cyclone Hidaya with no reported personnel injuries and 'a brief grid power disruption'.

Trucking distances for graphite concentrate exports are significantly longer to Dar es Salaam, however, due to the coastal road to the town of Lindi having suffered damage to several bridges.

The Mtwara port remains open as does a road essential for product deliveries to the mine.

St Barbara (* SBM)

St Barbara Simberi FY25 – FY27 gold production target set at 70,000t – 75,000t, against 60,000t – 70,000t predicted for FY24.

Reach Resources (RR1)

Pleading ignorance in response to an ASX price and volume query.

RR1 traded as high as 2.1c yesterday before closing at 1.7c, hence recording an 88.89% gain for the session.

~13.2M RR1 shares were traded across 141 transactions.

**Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Jun)	2331.2	oz	22.6	1.0
Silver (COMEX 5000 Jul)	27.61	oz	0.92	3.4
Platinum	956	oz	1	0.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jun)	78.48	bbl	0.37	0.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jul)	83.33	bbl	0.37	0.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	119.56	t	1.53	1.3
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	9934	t	Public	Holiday
Nickel	19288	t		
Aluminium	2558	t		
Lead	2224	t		
Zinc	2909	t		
Tin	31983	t		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight prices were pushed and pulled by Israel's impending comprehensive Rafah offensive, further positive data for China, reports of a Hamas acceptance of a ceasefire proposal and a US administrative assertion of sufficient strategic reserves.

Also overnight, Saudi Arabia was reported to have increased its June delivery prices to Asia, parts of Europe and Mediterranean regions.

Gold – overnight price gains were mostly attributed by market watchers to improved global demand prospects given further commentary regarding broad interest rate reductions and the likelihood of these commencing this year.

Base metals – the LME was closed overnight, due to a UK public holiday.

During US Comex trade, copper was pushed US6c/lb higher, to \$US4.62/lb.

Yesterday, Caixin reported a 52.5 April services PMI for China, from 52.7 recorded for March. The slowdown in growth proved in line with expectations, however.

The outcome of Panama's national election, which had commenced overnight Sunday (AEST), is expected to further move some copper sentiment this week, pending any short-term decisions on how the Quantum Minerals dispute will likely be managed.

The nation's new president, Jose Raul Mulino, is a candidate who registered at a late stage of the election campaign period.

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs has boosted its 2024 copper price prediction to \$US12,000/t from \$US10,000/t.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6622	0.0009	0.13
EUR – USD	1.0767	0.0004	0.04

Australian Data Today

RBA	Monetary policy meeting outcomes	6 – 7 May
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RR1 closed out last week at 0.9c, last traded above 1.5c 19 March, and above 2.0c 13 March.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Caprice Resources	CRS	8 May
Firebird Metals	FRB	8 May
Hartshead Resources	HHR	8 May

Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
Arcadia Minerals	AM7	3 May
Nexion Group	NNG	26 Apr
Openn Negotiation	OPN	3 May
Scout Security	SCT	19 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
NAB	Today	84	100	4.82
GQG	Tomorrow	3.27	0	3.87
RMD	Tomorrow	5.15	0	0.62
FGX	Thu	3.35	100	2.83
UOS	Thu	2	0	6.45

Reports & Events*(selected; all times AEST)*

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ANZ	Interim
	GEM	AGM
	ILU	AGM
	PXA	Mar Q
Tomorrow	CAA	AGM
	GPT	AGM
	LTM	Mar Q (o/night Tue in US)
	SSR	Mar Q
Thu	ALD	AGM
	CBA	Mar Q
	ORI	Interim
Fri	360	Mar Q (o/night 9 May in US)
	QBE	AGM
	WAF	AGM



ABS	Retail sales (final)	Mar Q
RBA	Retail payments (incl cards, chqs)	Mar
RBA	Merchant fees	Mar Q
RBA	Deposit rates	Mar
RBA	Official reserve assets	Apr

US Data Tonight

RCM/TIPP economic optimism index	May
Consumer credit	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today and Tonight

Japan	Services PMI (final)	Apr
UK	Construction PMI	Apr
UK	BRC retail sales monitor (~11am AEST)	Apr
UK	New car sales	Apr
UK	Halifax house price index	Apr
Germany	International trade	Mar
Germany	Factory orders	Mar
Germany	Construction PMI	Apr
Euro zone	Retail sales	Mar
Euro zone	Construction PMI	Apr

Need More Information?

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