

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7581	47	0.6
NZX 50	11860	24	0.2
DJIA Futures	34796	-45	-0.1
S&P 500 Futures	4440	-19	-0.4
NASDAQ Futures	14068	-149	-1.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences Wednesday trade with key domestic and regional economic reports due this morning, amid Russia's concerted and intensifying attacks on eastern Ukraine.

Overnight, US equities markets rallied. Futures have turned lower this morning, however.

Locally today, the Westpac-Melbourne Institute monthly leading index report is due **10.30am** AEST.

Meanwhile, **national** parliamentary **election** campaigning continues, ahead of a debate scheduled for the PM and national opposition leader in Brisbane this evening.

Regionally today, the People's Bank of **China** is due to announce prime **rates** for one and five-year loans **11.15am** AEST.

Japan reports March **trade** statistics just prior to the ASX open.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** turned and tumbled, but Brent remained above \$US105/bbl and WTI above \$101/bbl.

US **gold** futures also swung to record a decisive decline, trading beneath \$US1960/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) fell below \$US154.60/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **aluminium** turned variously lower. **Nickel** rallied to a further gain.

The **\$A** declined below US73.80c, after trading at ~US73.85c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34911	500	1.5
S&P 500	4462	71	1.6
NASDAQ	13620	287	2.2
FTSE 100	7601	-15	-0.2
DAX 30	14153	-10	-0.1
Shanghai Comp	3194	-1	-0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Marked swings featured across major European and UK equities markets overnight, but key US indices headed higher early and rallied, in part due to some positive results and commentary from high-profile corporates.

UK and major western European markets were trading for the first time since Thursday last week, reacting to a plethora of data

Settlements

Trades executed **Thursday** last week (14 April) settle **today**

The **ASX** will be **closed** again **Monday** next week for ANZAC Day

Today's Stock Watch
Ramsay Health Care (RHC)

In receipt of an \$A88.00-per-share indicative scheme of arrangement takeover proposal from a KKR-led consortium. Providing non-exclusive due diligence. RHC has traded at \$63.79 - \$65.15 over the past five trading sessions.

Envirosuite Ltd (EVS)

March quarter new sales orders tallied \$3.7M, pushing annual recurring revenue (ARR) to \$2.0M.

Year-to-date ARR reached \$5.5M, 23.6% higher than for a year ago. Breakdown figures lodged this morning.

Resources
Rio Tinto (RIO)

Describing March quarter production as 'challenging'.

WA Pilbara iron ore output fell 6% year-on-year and 15% for the quarter, to 71.7Mt. RIO shipped 71.5Mt, down 8% and 15% respectively.

RIO produced 2.4Mt of IOC iron ore pellets and concentrate, up 3% year-on-year and down 4% against the December quarter 2021.

Bauxite production came in flat against the March quarter 2021 but rose 4% for the quarter, to 13.6Mt. Aluminium output fell 8% and 3% respectively to 736,000t. Mined copper rose 4% and declined 5% respectively, to 125,000t. Titanium dioxide slag fell 2% and rose 20% respectively, to 273,000t.

Energy
Cooper Energy (COE)

March quarter production tallied 0.88MMboe, pushing year-to-date output to 2.45MMboe, up 24% year-on-year.

Year-to-date sales volumes are up 45%, despite March quarter volumes falling by 8% for the quarter to 0.91MMboe.

Year-to-date revenue is up 71%, at \$144.6M, boosted by \$49.2M for the March quarter. \$92.5M cash and equivalents.

In addition, COE and APA Group (ASX: APA) have again extended the deadline for a transition agreement relating to COE Sole gas sales to APA's Orbest gas processing plant, this time from 1 May to 30 June.

Santos Ltd (STO)

Proposing to buy back up to \$US250M worth of shares on-market from early May through to 30 December.

In addition, implementing a new dividends and additional shareholder returns policy. Details lodged this morning.

releases, including from China on Monday.

Overnight, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published a new World Economic Outlook report which included a 3.6% forecast for 2022 global economic growth, this representing a 0.8% drop from the IMF's January prediction.

The IMF also estimated 5.7% 2022 inflation for advanced economies and 8.7% for emerging and developing economies, up 1.8% and 2.8% respectively from the January forecasts.

The IMF cited Russia's war on Ukraine, and its direct impact on pushing food and fuel prices higher.

The World Bank, hosting Spring meetings with the IMF in Washington, lowered its global growth forecast for 2022 from 4.1% to 3.2%.

For his part, the US Fed Atlanta president promoted caution with US rate increases this year, pointing to risks for continued US economic strength. This, as the IMF reduced its 2022 US growth forecast by 0.3% to 3.7%.

US treasury secretary Janet Yellen hosted a meeting with IMF, World Bank, G7 and G20 leaders, discussions highlighting food security risks and social destabilising consequences, in particular for poorer nations.

In overnight data releases, **US** building permits rose by 0.4% in March, defying forecasts for a 3.0% tumble following February's 1.6% decline.

Housing starts rose by 0.3%, also against expectations of a drop (2.3%) after jumping 6.5% in February.

Tonight in the **US**, the Federal Reserve's district-by-district economic roundup 'beige book' report is due, together with March existing home sales and weekly mortgage applications.

The IMF-World Bank Spring meetings continue through the week in Washington.

In addition, the US hosts a 20-year bond auction.

Elsewhere, Russia reports March producer prices and Germany hosts a 30-year bond auction.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include Abbott Labs, Alcoa, ASML Holding, CSX, Danone, Procter & Gamble, Tesla and United Airlines.

In overnight corporate news which could well impact some of tonight's trade sentiment, **Netflix** reported post-US trade, subscriber figures falling for the first time in a decade and expected to continue to decline during the June quarter. The revelations pushed prices more than 20% lower post-settlement.

IBM Corp also reported after close of US trade, sales revenue appearing to please.

Earlier, **Johnson & Johnson (J&J)** withdrew 2022 sales forecasts, citing lower-than-expected take-up of the company's single-dose Covid vaccine. The J&J medical devices division had been performing well however, supporting a dividend boost.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1959	oz	-27.40	-1.4
Silver (NY) (May)	25.39	oz	-0.76	-2.9
Gold (LON) <small>(14 Apr)</small>	1963	oz		
Platinum	990	oz	-22	-2.2

Pre-Open Announcements

Washington H Soul Pattinson & Co (* SOL)

Trading ex-dividend (29c) today.

Integrated Research (IRI)

IRI has appointed IRI legal and compliance head William Witherow also as an additional company secretary.

Respiri Ltd (RSH)

Non-executive director Thomas Duthy has resigned from the RSH board.

Resources

Medusa Mining (* MML)

Resources at 31 December 2021 estimated at 3.443Mt @ 8.32g/t Au, for 921,000oz of gold.

Reserves were calculated at 1.874Mt at 5.50g/t Au, for 331,400oz of gold.

Philippines Co-O mine measured and indicated resources are recorded at 1.5Mt @ 10.2g/t Au, for 482,000oz of gold.

Syrah Resources (SYR)

Boosting the remuneration package for MD and CEO Shaun Verner, effective 1 March.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

SYR traded as high as \$1.91 yesterday before settling at \$1.795, 14.33% higher for the session.

~18.37M shares changed hands across 16,303 transactions.

Pre-trade yesterday, SYR announced potential substantial US Department of Energy support for the Vidalia graphite facility expansion, Louisiana, US.

St George Mining (SGQ)

SGQ's 5.2c-per-share SPP attracted applications for ~12.75M shares in support of WA exploration activity.

SGQ is looking at placing the shortfall.

The company recently raised ~\$5M in a placement at the same price.

SGQ has traded at 4.6c - 4.9c over the past five trading sessions.

Metro Mining (MMI)

\$5M six-month unsecured bridging loan initially announced in December 2021, but not taken up, re-established on the same terms and drawn.

Belararox Ltd (BRX)

Quizzed by the ASX on when the company became aware of the results of the first diamond drill hole, BRX has replied that information was available 5 April, from which date a draft ASX announcement was prepared for management and board review. Competent person consent for the announcement was provided 7 April and an ASX announcement was lodged 9.13am that day.

BRX appreciated 54.93% 6 April, settling at \$1.10 after trading as high as \$1.19 intra-session and settling at 71c 5 April. 6



WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	102.56	bbf	-5.65	-5.2
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	107.25	bbf	-5.91	-5.2
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	154.58	t	-1.04	-0.7
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	10304	t	-11	-0.1
Nickel	33765	t	595	1.8
Aluminium	3261	t	-25	-0.8
Lead	2448	t	12	0.5
Zinc	4498	t	87	2.0
Tin	43075	t	37	0.1

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight prices ultimately dropped following the IMF’s warning of inflation as ‘a clear and present danger’ for numerous nations and a cut in forecast global economic growth.

Further, many traders were active for the first time since China’s raft of material data releases, issued Monday.

In the meantime, OPEC+ members were reported to have undershot their combined March production target by 1.45MMbbl/d.

Russia’s March output was estimated 300,000bbl/d below target, at 10.018MMbbl/d.

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

Overnight post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included a 4.496MMbbl draw on US crude stocks last week.

Gold – prices at five-week peaks on Monday prompted some overnight profit-taking, in favour of liquidity.

The \$US continued stronger (ICE \$US up ~0.2%).

Among the forecasters, Bank of America revealed it retained expectations of a strong mean price in the medium-term, although it qualified its commentary.

Base metals – the LME traded for the first time since Thursday last week overnight, expectations of stimulus in China helping support early *copper* prices to two-week highs.

\$US strength, a warning from the IMF, accompanied by a cut in anticipated global growth, and a rise in LME-registered warehouse stocks ultimately impacted copper trade, however.

Meanwhile, the MMG-operated Las Bambas copper operation in Peru was reported to be suspending operations from today, due to ongoing community protests. This, as the Southern Copper Peru operations remain suspended for a sixth week, due to civil disruptions.

Today, the People’s Bank of **China** is expected to announce one- and five-year loan prime rates.

Overnight LME trade reacted for the first time to China’s GDP, industrial production, retail sales, fixed asset investment, home price and employment updates, released over the weekend.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7389	0.0018	0.24
EUR – USD	1.0789	0.0014	0.13

April, 1.69M shares changed hands across 537 transactions.

7 April, BRX traded as high as \$1.22 before settling 3.64% lower for the session, at \$1.06. 1.32M shares were traded across 490 transactions.

8 April, BRX settled at \$1.26, 18.87% higher for the session, 1.87M shares having changed hands across 311 trades.

Larvotto Resources (LRV)

In response to an ASX price query, LRV is pointing to recent company progress announcements and a subsequent media article Thursday last week as a possible reason for increased trading interest in the company.

LRV traded as high as 37.5c yesterday after closing out last week’s trade (on Thursday) at 27c.

LRV settled at 34.5c yesterday, 27.78% higher for the session, ~5.17M shares were traded across 626 transactions.

Pure Resources (* PR1)

Exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX 12.30pm AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$4.65M IPO at 20c per share. ~25M quoted shares.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Aruma Resources	AAJ	20 Apr
AuKing Mining	AKN	20 Apr
Grand Gulf Energy	GGE	20 Apr
SSH Group	SSH	20 Apr
Adveritas Ltd	AV1	21 Apr
Auroch Minerals	AOU	21 Apr
Krakatoa Resources	KTA	21 Apr
MinRes Resources	MRR	21 Apr
Petratherm Ltd	PTR	21 Apr
Universal Biosensors	UBI	21 Apr

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Pathfinder Resources	PF1	8 Apr
Zebit Inc	ZBT	20 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
SOL	Today	29	100	2.15
PL8	Tomorrow	0.55	100	4.09
MFF	Fri	3.5	100	2.54

**Australian Data Today**

Westpac/Melb Institute	Leading index	Apr
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US Data Today & Tonight

Existing home sales		Mar
US Fed beige book		Apr
MBA mortgage applications		15 Apr

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Prime rates one-year and five-year loans	Apr
Japan	Trade balance	Mar
Japan	Tertiary industry index (2.30pm AEST)	Feb
Germany	Producer prices	Mar
Euro zone	Trade balance	Feb
Euro zone	Industrial production	Feb
Euro zone	New domestic vehicle registrations	Mar
Russia	Producer prices	Mar

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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	COE	Mar Q (audio w/cast 10.30am)
	EVS	Mar Q
	HIL	AGM (9.30am)
	RIO	Mar Q
Tomorrow	BHP	Mar Q; 9mths (8.30am)
	CGF	Mar Q
	GTG	Mar Q (w/cast 8am)

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