

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7437	-42	-0.6
NZX 50	12073	-38	-0.3
DJIA Futures	34701	83	0.2
S&P 500 Futures	4541	10	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	14911	42	0.3

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens June quarter trade on a Friday with several material domestic and regional reports due from pre-trade through early afternoon, ahead of material data out of the US and euro zone tonight, and a virtual European Union – China summit scheduled to commence later today.

Since yesterday's ASX trade, Ukraine's president has addressed the Australian parliament via video link, seeking additional military equipment and advocating further sanctions against Russia.

The Ukraine and US presidents also spoke together (virtually) overnight.

Meanwhile, international equities markets fell.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases February **lending** figures, including for residential property, at **11.30am AEDT**.

Pre-trade, the AiG has reported a **55.7** March **manufacturing** index. This, following 53.2 for February.

Post-ASX trade, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reports March **commodity prices**.

Overnight, CoreLogic published its March **home prices** report.

Regionally today, Caixin is due to release its March **China manufacturing PMI** at **12.45pm AEDT**.

South Korea is scheduled to report March **trade** figures at 11am.

Japan commences a new fiscal year with quarterly **Tankan manufacturing and non-manufacturing indices**.

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

US **gold** futures settled higher for a second consecutive session.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) recorded a further slight gain.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly fell early on China data concerns. **Nickel** and **aluminium** were reported to have swung intra-session. *Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.*

The **\$A** rose to ~US74.85c after trading at ~US74.75c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34678	-550	-1.6
S&P 500	4530	-72	-1.6
NASDAQ	14221	-222	-1.5
FTSE 100	7516	-63	-0.8

Daylight saving ends this weekend

From **Monday** (4 April), **ASX trade commences** local time in:
Western Australia at 8am;
Queensland at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

Today's Stock Watch
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)

The ANZ-Worldline JV ANZ Worldline Payment Solutions commences today, enabling POS and online payments.

ANZ flagged the JV in December 2020 and holds 49%.

In association, ANZ has sold its merchant acquiring business to the JV, boosting Level 2 CET1 by 0.08%.

Synlait Milk (SM1)

338% higher, \$NZ27.9M interim NPAT. 19% higher, \$NZ790.6M revenue. \$NZ391.8M net debt, down 19%.

Elders Ltd (ELD) / Heartland Group Holdings (HGH)

HGH is proposing to acquire StockCo Holdings 2 from StockCo Australia Holdings (holds 70%) and Elders Rural Service Australia (holds 30%), for \$A143M.

In association, ELD will secure a new five-year exclusive distribution agreement for StockCo Australia products.

Resources
Metal Hawk (MHK)

Heralding WA goldfields Berehaven nickel project air core drilling results. RC drilling underway.

EV Resources (EVR) / European Lithium (EUR)

Geological consultancy appointment and drilling plans lodged for EVR-EUR lithium projects in Austria. EVR 80%; EUR 20%.

OceanaGold Corporation (OGC)

Resources and reserves update lodged pre-trade.

Energy
Norwest Energy (NWE)

WA onshore Perth Basin Lockyer Deep-1 gas well extended flow test completed yesterday.

Following a shut-in to monitor pressure build-up, the well will be suspended for future completion as a producer.

Paladin Energy (PDN)

Resuming from a trading halt having completed a \$A200M, 72c-per-share placement in support of the planned restart of the Langer Heinrich uranium mine in Namibia.

A \$A15M SPP, at the same price, is scheduled for 6 – 26 April. PDN traded at 76.5c – 89.5c over the five sessions immediately prior to calling the halt.



DAX 30	14415	-191	-1.3
Shanghai Comp	3252	-14	-0.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets opened slightly higher at best overnight, with most key indices soon trending lower and all settling end-of-quarter trade at or near session lows.

Fuel costs and international economic growth prospects proved forefront, amid reports **Russia** was regrouping in Ukraine.

In addition, Russia's president announced 'unfriendly nations' would need to open rouble accounts with Russian banks (Gazprombank has not been sanctioned, so euro and \$US payments can be made into this bank) and pay for Russian gas in roubles from today.

The president also ordered existing contracts in currencies other than roubles to be terminated, but assured supply would continue for those who complied with the roubles payments requirement.

Overnight, the **US** president ordered the release of 180MMbbl of oil from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), to alleviate supply concerns and hence bring down fuel costs.

This followed **Japan's** announcement earlier in the day to invoke emergency measures to enable national supply of seven materials it considers material, but for which supply issues have been exacerbated by Russia's war on Ukraine.

For its part, **OPEC+** determined market fundamentals remained sufficient for international demand and voted overnight to continue to gradually ease production curbs, as previously planned, meaning from May, combined daily output could tally 432,000bbl/d from the recent 400,000bbl/d.

Meanwhile, **the International Energy Agency** (IEA) called an emergency meeting, scheduled to commenced midday GMT.

In the UK, an energy supply price cap remained set to be raised today, as scheduled prior to this past week's budget update, for England, Scotland and Wales.

Earlier yesterday, **China's** official March manufacturing and services PMIs each indicated contraction mode.

In the meantime, a video-link **European Union** (EU) and China summit remains scheduled to go ahead later today.

Among overnight **data** releases, the **UK's** final December quarter GDP reading represented 1.3% growth for the three months and 6.6% on an annualised basis.

The initial three-month growth rate had been estimated at 1.0%, following 0.9% growth during the September quarter 2021.

Germany's February retail sales rose 0.3%, just half the forecast amount, and following a flat result for January.

Against February 2021, sales were up 7%.

In the **euro zone**, February unemployment was reported at 6.8% from 6.9% for January.

In the **US**, February personal income and spending rose by 0.5% and 0.2% for the month respectively.

Forecasters had anticipated respective 0.6% and 0.4% increases.

Income had grown by 0.1% in January, but spending by 2.7%.

The February PCE (personal consumption expenditure) index was calculated 0.6% higher for the month and 6.4% higher than for

Pre-Open Announcements

SHAPE Australia Corporation (* SHA)

Proposing to outlay \$10.7M for Victoria-headquartered modular construction business KLMSA.

The purchase is expected to boost SHA's annual income by \$25M.

Healius Ltd (HLS)

HLS has appointed former Genomics England CEO John Mattick AO as an independent, non-executive director.

CIMIC Group (CIM) / Ventia Services Group (VNT)

CIM's VNT investment will be included as a financial asset in CIM accounts, due to changes CIM is making to avoid conflicts of interest.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Electro Optic Systems Holdings (EOS)

The EOS annual report lodged yesterday includes revisions to some key full year figures lodged in the unaudited report 28 February.

EOS outlined the revisions in an announcement lodged post-trade yesterday.

ikeGPS Group (IKE)

Non-executive director and former IKE chair Rick Christie is remaining on the IKE board, after announcing an intention to retire from the board come 31 March.

IKE is promising a financial performance update 3 May and expects to announce full year results 31 May.

Eureka Group Holdings (EGH)

EGH has completed the sale of two properties in Townsville, Queensland for a combined gross \$3M.

In addition, EGH has completed the acquisition of management and letting rights for three south east Queensland villages operated by Oxford Crest.

Further, EGH has acquired four units in one of the villages.

Resources

Caravel Minerals (* CVV)

WA Caravel copper project initial reserve estimated at 553Mt @ 0.25% Cu, for 1.36Mt of copper.

Proven and probable reserves also lodged pre-trade.

Project Dasher deposit drilling results confirm significant copper mineralisation extends a minimum 500m south of previous drilling.

Dasher drilling details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Castillo Copper (CCZ)

CCZ has appointed non-executive director Ged Hall as chairman, and CEO Dennis Jensen as MD, effective today.

Former CCZ chair Rob Scott retired yesterday.

Boab Metals (BML)

Access and stevedoring services agreement secured with



February 2021.

A March job cuts report estimated 21,387 planned layoffs, against predictions for 17,000 and following February's 15,245.

Weekly new unemployment claims in the meantime tallied 202,000 from the previous week's 188,000. Economists had expected 195,000 new claims.

The March Chicago PMI surprised on the upside, jumping to 62.9 from 56.3, following forecasts of a slight increase to 56.5.

Tonight in the US, March national employment statistics are keenly anticipated.

Also tonight, the ISM's March manufacturing index, S&P's final March manufacturing PMI and February construction spending are due for release.

Elsewhere, the euro zone releases an initial March CPI estimate, following some sobering member nation readings over the past two nights.

Meanwhile, the European Union and China will convene a virtual summit.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1954	oz	15	0.8
Silver (NY) (May)	25.13	oz		
Gold (LON)	1934	oz	30 Mar	
Platinum	980	oz	-10	-1.0
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	100.28	bbbl	-7.54	-7.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	107.91	bbbl	-5.54	-4.8
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	150.84	t	0.23	0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	10372	t	30 Mar	
Nickel	32895	t		
Aluminium	3553	t		
Lead	2425	t		
Zinc	4157	t		
Tin	42766	t		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices dropped overnight on the **US** president's order to release up to 180MMbbl of strategic reserves oil over six months, commencing May. The president also promoted measures to boost domestic production.

Earlier, **OPEC+** had decided to boost combined member production from May, as previously planned to a maximum 432,000bbl/d, citing satisfactory market fundamentals, despite geopolitical pressures on prices.

In addition, earlier yesterday, **China** had announced official PMIs, the manufacturing and services sector indices each undershooting expectations and indicating contraction mode.

WTI crude traded as low as \$US99.66/bbl intra-session.

Nonetheless, Brent closed out the March quarter 38% higher and WTI up 34%.

A US weekly petroleum drill rig report is due tonight.

Brent May futures expired on settlement overnight, the June delivery contract closing at \$US105.16/bbl, down 5.6% for the session.

Gold – prices fell early overnight, but were soon pushed higher, in

Cambridge Gulf for BML's WA Kimberley region Sorby Hills Pb-Ag-Zn project concentrates at Wyndham Port.

Stelar Metals (SLB)

Webinar presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

SLB is presenting 12.30pm AEDT.

Energy

Bass Oil (* BAS)

Indonesian oil fields net reserves and contingent resources update lodged post-trade yesterday.

Stanmore Resources (SMR)

Solar-to-water contract secured with SOURCE Global Australia, to initially provide potable water to the Isaac Plains and Isaac Downs projects.

Top End Energy (* TEE)

Oil and gas explorer scheduled to list on the ASX 1pm AEST **Monday**, following \$6.4M IPO at 32c per share.

36M quoted securities.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
TasFoods Ltd	TFL	1 Apr
Akora Resources	AKO	4 Apr
Buxton Resources	BUX	4 Apr
Cannindah Resources	CAE	4 Apr
Delorean Corporation	DEL	4 Apr
New Residential Investment Corp	NRZ	4 Apr
Tennant Minerals	TMS	4 Apr
Zenith Minerals	ZNC	4 Apr
Jaxsta Ltd	JXT	5 Apr

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Sprintex Ltd	SIX	29 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
GOR	Today	0.5	100	0.31
NBI	Today	0.8	0	6.33
PGF	Today	5	100	2.91
BCN	Mon	0.13	100	3.57
CYC	Mon	0.50	0	0.61
SIG	Mon	1	100	3.88
WAR	Mon	1	100	0.00
WAX	Mon	5	100	5.55
WMA	Mon	2	100	2.65
WMI	Mon	5	100	4.03
CAM	Tue	1.28	100	5.68



part due to safe-haven demand, but also attributed to bargain hunting following four sessions of declines over the past week.

Trader considerations included the Russia-Ukraine conflict and implications, which looked set for a new escalation, a China – European Union (virtual) summit for later today and tonight land looking set to include some intense discussion, and tonight's US monthly employment statistics.

Base metals – general LME trade sentiment was impacted overnight by new data out of China.

In addition, the Russia-Ukraine conflict was reported to be set for escalation, together with implications for commodities supplies.

Hence, prices were pushed and pulled intra-session.

China's official PMIs, reported yesterday, indicated contraction for both the manufacturing and services sectors.

The manufacturing PMI was calculated at 49.5 from 50.2 for February.

For the services sector, the estimated 48.4 represented a 3.2-point drop for the month.

Caixin's March **manufacturing PMI** for China is anticipated **today**.

China's markets are scheduled to be **closed Monday and Tuesday** next week.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7495	0.0013	0.18
EUR – USD	1.1074	-0.0088	-0.79

Australian Data Today

AiG	Manufacturing PMI	Mar
RBA	Commodity prices (4.30pm AEDT)	Mar
ABS	Lending indicators	Feb
CoreLogic	Home prices	Mar

US Data Today & Tonight

Employment (incl jobs, wages, unemployment)	Mar
Construction spending	Feb
ISM manufacturing	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Caixin manufacturing PMI	Mar
Japan	Tankan surveys	MarQ
Japan	Jibun Bank manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
South Korea	Trade balance	Mar
South Korea	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
UK	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
Germany	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
Euro zone	CPI (initial)	Mar
Euro zone	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
Russia	GDP	DecQ

PIC	Tue	2.8	100	4.12
CLV	Wed	0.5	100	0.73
TRA	Wed	5.56	85	4.67
ARB	Thu	39	100	1.64
GOW	Thu	4	100	1.97
OMH	Thu	2	0	0.00
RBD	Thu	29.7	0	0.00
RIC	Thu	3.4	100	1.18
SDI	Thu	1.5	100	3.58

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	SM1	Interim (tele 9am)
Thu (7 April)	ERA	Mar Q
	SCG	AGM
Fri (8 April)	OZL	AGM
	RIO	(Plc AGM)



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