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Market Opener

Monday, 21 June 2021

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Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7168	-111	-1.5
NZX 50	12555	3.1	0.0
DJIA Futures	33141	-14	-0.0
S&P 500 Futures	4187	0	0
NASDAQ Futures	14107	0	0

Local Markets Commentary

Australian shares were set to start the week on a sharp downward trajectory after turbulence on Wall St in reaction to St Louis Fed president James Bullard's commentary on interest rates.

Bullard said he expected an interest rate hike in 2022, earlier than the Federal Reserve's earlier suggestion that a rates hike would be likely in 2023.

Bullard said a better than expected economic recovery from the COVID pandemic could cause inflation figures higher than the 3% for 2021 flagged by the Federal Open Market Committee, up 0.8% from March's estimate. The median expectation for inflation, which includes food and energy, is now up 1% to 3.4% for 2021.

In consequence, the Dow Jones and the S&P 500 posted their worst performance in months at close on Friday, having started the week at record levels and then falling by the highest numbers since late October and February.

Commodities and financials are expected to be under strain on the ASX today with growth stocks tipped to be more popular than value shares.

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy has flagged weaknesses in Western Australia's resources sector, saying another 40,000 workers will be needed over the next two years to fill demand.

This is according to a report by labour market analysts Pit Crew, which found that shortages in the trades and blue-collar workforce could not be met by apprenticeship and training entities.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33290	-533	-1.5
S&P 500	4166	-55	-1.3
NASDAQ	14030	-130	-0.9
FTSE 100	7017	-135	-1.9
DAX 30	15488	-279	-1.7
Shanghai Comp	3525	-0.5	-0.0

Overseas Markets Commentary

Please see pp**4-5** for details

Today's Stock Watch

S&P/ASX indices - quarterly rebalance revealed this morning.

Woodside Petroleum (WPL)

Asian LNG spot prices are trading five times higher than a year ago which, in tandem with rebounding oil prices, bodes well for energy stocks.

Mayne Pharma Group (MYX)

Will launch a new oral contraceptive into the world's largest pharmaceutical market in the United States, having received approval from the FDA in April.

Pre-Open Announcements

Commonwealth Bank (CBA) Has sold its Australian general insurance business, Comminsure General insurance, to Hollard for \$625 million.

Trustpower (TPW)

Has agreed to sell its gas, telecommunications and retail electricity supply business, to Mercury NZ for \$441 million and expects the deal to conclude in late 2021 or early 2022.

Bank of Queensland (BOQ)

Regulatory approval from the Treasurer gives BOQ 100% control of ME Bank, which it will acquire for \$1.3 billion with completion expected on 1 July.

Resources

Strike Energy (STX)

Says the West Erregulla 5 well has confirmed pre-drill expectations with a large high-quality gas resource in the North Perth Basin.

Sunstone Metals (STM)

Has intersected 505m of mineralised gold-copper at the Brama prospect in Ecuador and says latest assays and visuals indicate a potentially large resource.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
BetMakers	BET	21 Jun
Gold Mountain	GMN	21 Jun
Resource Development Group	RDG	21 Jun



The Dow Jones fell 533 points (1.58%) at close on Friday, the S&P 500 shed 55 points (1.31%) and the Nasdaq lost 130 points to end a wild week's rollercoaster ride on Wall Street.

The US dollar rose to its highest level since mid-April and US crude oil prices also strengthened after OPEC comments that limited US production growth is expected this year.

In the USA natural gas prices have soared with summer temperatures and a reopening of the economy from the COVID pandemic. On Friday natural gas futures were \$3.215 per million British thermal units, up 96% from a year ago and the highest price since 2017.

In Europe Dutch gas futures have more than doubled in the last 12 months and in ASIA liquefied natural gas is five times higher than a year ago.

Nevertheless, US energy stocks were the worst performer of the day on Friday and utilities and financial indexes fell by 2%.

Housing prices are rising in the USA faster than at any time on record, largely stimulated by the Federal Reserve buying \$40 billion of mortgage bonds each month, stoking fears of a housing bubble as the central bank deliberates over reducing its support. The median sale price for a home in the US hit \$341,600 in April, the highest since 1999.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY)	1772	OZ	-38	-2.1
Silver (NY)	25.88	OZ	-1.1	-3.9
Gold (LON)	1792	OZ	-14	-0.8
Platinum	1040	OZ	-14	-6.9
WTI Crude	71	bbl	0.6	0.8
Brent Crude	73	bbl	0.4	0.5
Iron Ore	217	t	-3.5	-1.6
Copper	9209	t	-63	-0.7
Nickel	17320	t	140	0.8
Aluminium	2373	t	-54	-2.2
Lead	2134	t	-11	-0.5
Zinc	2876	t	-85	-2.8
Tin	31635	t	-365	-1.1

Commodities Commentary

Oil – Energy producers could be feeling peckish at the start of the week after oil prices rebounded on Friday.

Gold – Might be feeling the jitters after gold fell again on Friday, dripping 0.3% to finish its worst week in over a year after the US Federal Reserves pushed forward rates hike plans.

Iron Ore – The spot price of iron ore fell 0.9% to \$218 a tonne and miners could feel some of the heat today.

Exchange Rates

Po Valley	PVE	21 Jun
Variscan Mines	VAR	21 Jun
Coda Minerals	COD	21 Jun
Immutep	IMM	21 Jun
Metalstech	MTC	22 Jun
Perpetual Resources	PEC	22 Jun
Montem Resources	MR1	22 Jun
TNT Mines	TIN	22 Jun
Atrum Coal	ATU	22 Jun
Strickland Metals	STK	22 Jun
Admiralty Resources	ADY	22 Jun
Ragnar Metals	RAG	22 Jun
Suda Pharmaceuticals	SUD	22 Jun

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Immuron Ltd	IMC	31 May
Metro Mining	MMI	27 May

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
MGR	29 Jun	0.05	0	9.8
FPP	25 Jun	0.03	0	9.8
KLA	29 Jun	0.18	0	9.8

Reports & Events

(selected)

When	Company	Report/Event



CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7506	0.0028	0.37
EUR – USD	1.1874	0.0051	1.84

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7168

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