

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6705	-20	-0.3
NZX 50	12400	71	0.6
DJIA Futures	32647	28	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	3934	4	0.1
NASDAQ Futures	13084	13	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with positive overnight international equities trade leads, continued severe flooding in NSW and south Queensland amid further weather warnings, and an overnight broadening of international tensions.

The European Union and China swapped sanctions against entities and individuals overnight, as others continued to bemoan a South China Sea territorial stoush impacting The Philippines since earlier this month.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) issues a new report entitled *Automotive Fuel in the CPI*.

No major economic indicators are due regionally today.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** continued higher, but just slightly so.

US **gold** futures turned lower.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) fell further, this time by \$US4.38/t to \$US157.01/t.

LME **copper** (indicative) settled slightly higher. **Nickel** continued to rally. **Aluminium** extended Friday's run higher with a moderate gain.

The **\$A** rose to ~US77.45c after trading at ~US77.25c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets.

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	32731	103	0.3
S&P 500	3941	27	0.7
NASDAQ	13378	162	1.2
FTSE 100	6726	17	0.3
DAX 30	14657	36	0.3
Shanghai Comp	3443	39	1.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets opened higher or soon trended so overnight, gains by mid-session trade never looking seriously threatened.

This, despite some economic warnings and disappointing data releases.

Also overnight, the European Union and China each announced sanctions against each other, targeting select entities and

* Online outsourcing market listing – 11am AEDT – ART *

Today's Stock Watch
Kathmandu Holdings (KMD)

Resuming dividends with a NZ2c fully franked (Aus) interim payment.

\$NZ22.3M interim NPAT, against \$NZ7.6M a year ago.

12.9% higher, \$NZ410.7M sales revenue. \$NZ10.1M net debt.

A teleconference was scheduled for 8.30am AEDT.

Sigma Healthcare (SIG)

1c fully franked final dividend, against nil dividend last year.

\$59.76M full year NPAT, from a \$12.33M net loss a year ago.

4.8% higher, \$3.40B sales revenue. 35.6c NTA, from 32.2c.

Respiri Ltd (RSH)

US FDA clearance in hand for RSH to market and sell wheezo as a medical device, and also the wheezo App, in the US.

A webinar was scheduled to commence 9.30am AEDT.

RSH is resuming from a trading halt having last traded at 17c.

Pushpay Holdings (PPH)

15.67% PPH shareholder Christopher & Banks has reportedly sold its entire PPH holding to investment firm Sixth Street, which will likely hold 17.8% of PPH.

Quickstep Holdings (QHL)

QHL has initiated a formal protest to the US and Australian Departments of Defence following a decision to reject a proposal for QHL to provide Chemring Australia with MJU-68B flare housings.

QHL recouped 2.9c yesterday, settling at 7.1c.

Carsales.com Ltd (CAR)

Trading ex-dividend (25c) today.

Resources
Strike Resources (SRK)

Lithium and graphite assets spin-off planned via an ASX listing of subsidiary Lithium Energy, which will conduct a \$9M IPO at 20c per share. SRK proposes to retain 43% of Lithium Energy.

Vulcan Resources (VUL)

Agreement secured for VUL to use Circular's traceability and CO2 measurement for VUL's zero carbon lithium to be used in batteries. Details lodged this morning.

Energy
New Hope Corporation (NHC)

4c fully franked interim dividend from 6c a year ago.

\$55.38M interim net loss, from a \$69.78M profit.

34.4% lower, \$405.53M revenue.



individuals.

Yesterday, the US (32,000 participants) trial results of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine included 100% efficacy against severe or critical illness and hospitalisation, and 79% efficacy against symptomatic illness.

Moreover, of the 20% of trial participants aged over 65, 80% efficacy was reported.

Meanwhile, the UK PM warned a possible 'third wave' of Covid-19 infections in Europe could impact the UK.

Central bank news and commentary featured overnight.

US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell again shared the central bank's view that the domestic economy was 'much improved', but a long way from 'complete' recovery.

Participating in a Bank for International Settlements webinar, the Fed chair also offered that the central bank continued to work on a payments system facilitating quicker money transfers, and that a final product could be launched within two years.

The Fed chair also stated his view that cryptocurrencies were more like a substitute for gold rather than for the dollar, while confirming the Fed continued to review the necessity and practicality of developing its own digital coin.

He pointed to cryptocurrencies' current volatility, and general lack of a backing and described the currencies as 'not really useful stores of value'.

Meanwhile, US 10-year bond yields eased further overnight, to ~1.679%.

Turkey confirmed its president had dismissed the central bank governor on Saturday and replaced him with someone viewed as one to likely rapidly reverse recent rate rises.

This pushed Turkey's currency (lira) down as much as 15%, impacting Istanbul Stock Exchange trade and forcing a temporary suspension.

Not only had Turkey's borrowing costs returned to favour, but gold purchases were also seen as being likely reduced

Also overnight, **Germany's** central bank the Bundesbank, published a monthly report which retreated from the previous month's optimism of a spring recovery, predicting March quarter GDP would likely fall significantly due to a renewal of stricter Covid-19 containment measures.

The bank refrained this time from nominating Covid-19 vaccination programs as an economic recovery catalyst.

Among sparse overnight **data** releases, the **US**, the Chicago Fed's February national activity index dropped to -1.09 from 0.75, defying expectations of a rise to 0.78.

February existing home sales tumbled 6.6% following a 0.2% January gain, and against expectations of a more moderate 1.5% decline.

Tonight in the **US**, **Federal Reserve** chair Jerome Powell and **treasury secretary** Janet Yellen are scheduled to meet with a US House of Representatives financial services committee.

US February new home sales, the Richmond Fed manufacturing index and December quarter current account figures are also due tonight.

A \$US60B auction of two-year treasury notes is also scheduled.

Elsewhere, the UK is due to host a 30-year treasury gilt auction.

Pre-Open Announcements

Airtasker Ltd (** ART)

Online outsourcing market scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEDT, following an ~\$83.65M IPO at 65c per share. ~392.9M quoted shares.

Telstra Corporation (TLS)

Transcript of yesterday's analyst and media briefing regarding TLS corporate restructure plans lodged post-trade yesterday. TLS settled 1.35% higher for the session, at \$3.25.

CV Check (* CV1)

Reporting record February sales and strong March sales. February booked 12-month annual recurring revenue (ARR) also proved a record.

360 Capital REIT (TOT)

Paying a 1.5c March quarter distribution, and trading ex-distribution 30 March (Tuesday next week).

Good Drinks Australia (GDA)

GDA has successfully negotiated a cash advance facility boost from \$4.8M to \$12.5M.

GDA plans to use the facility to fund the A-Shed development, Fremantle WA.

Details of other existing credit facilities, maintained through the negotiations, also lodged post-trade yesterday.

Resources

Tietto Minerals (* TIE)

Heralding significant-width, high-grade intersections from Abujar gold project drilling.

Assays lodged this morning.

Resource update anticipated by 30 June.

Core sample assays expected within the next week or two.

Xanadu Mines (* XAM)

Due to lodge Red Mountain copper-gold JV drilling results.

XAM traded at 5.7c – 7.5c yesterday, settling 32.1% higher for the session, at 7.4c.

This prompted an ASX price query.

Lucapa Diamond Company (LOM)

Statistics supporting a Lulo diamond JV 35% resource increase lodged this morning.

Medallion Metals (MM8)

Multi-mineral explorer completed a successful ASX listing yesterday, following a \$12.5M IPO at 25c per share.

Opened at 29c and traded at 27c – 30c before settling at 27.5c.

737,209 shares changed hands, across 81 transactions.

80.18M quoted shares/units. 25M options.

Holds two projects in Western Australia.



Adobe, China Molybdenum, GameStop, Porsche and Yunnan Aluminium, are among companies listed to report earnings later today and tonight.

In overnight corporate news, **semiconductor** stocks were in focus, and the fortunes of **vehicle manufacturers**, following semiconductor manufacturer Renesas's confirmation that a fire at one of its facilities in Japan on Friday likely meant the company's ability to fill orders had been 'massively impacted'.

Renesas also confirmed it had a one-month stockpile of computer chips for vehicle manufacturers.

Renesas's clients include Honda, Nissan and Toyota.

Meanwhile, **Volkswagen** warned the already existing chip shortage meant the company was likely to be reducing shifts.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1738.1	oz	-3.6	-0.2
Silver (NY) (May)	25.77	oz	-0.55	-2.1
Gold (LON) (19 Mar)	1735	oz		
Platinum	1177	oz	-9	-0.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr)	61.55	bbbl	0.13	0.2
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	64.62	bbbl	0.09	0.1
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (19 Mar)	168	t		
Copper (LME Ind)	9081	t	19	0.2
Nickel	16475	t	176	1.1
Aluminium	2275	t	8	0.4
Lead	1977	t	18	0.9
Zinc	2876	t	38	1.4
Tin	25730	t	-445	-1.7

Commodities Commentary

Oil – Covid-19 containment warnings and restrictions appeared to mostly dampen overnight sentiment.

In addition, many buyers were trading for the first time since the US reported overnight Friday that nine additional oil rigs were in operation.

The WTI April delivery contract expired overnight. The May contract rose 12c for the session, settling at \$US61.56/bbl.

Gold – overnight prices were pulled lower by Turkey's lira drop, as Turkey topped the World Gold Council's 2020 buyer list, boosting national reserves by 134.5t.

In addition, international equities generally returned to favour overnight, further detracting from gold interest.

Gold price falls, however, were seen as contained by a 0.2% fall in the ICE \$US index.

Base metals – overnight LME trade appeared to benefit mostly from generally positive equities sentiment and a slightly lower \$US index.

Yesterday, China retained its one- and five-year loan prime rates at 3.85% and 4.65% respectively.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Alta Zinc	AZI	24 Mar
Element 25	E25	24 Mar
Invictus Energy	IVZ	24 Mar
K-Tig Ltd	KTG	24 Mar
Red River Resources	RVR	24 Mar
Rightcrowd Ltd	RCW	24 Mar
Story-I Ltd	SRV	24 Mar
Torian Resources	TNR	24 Mar
White Cliff Minerals	WCN	24 Mar
Wiluna Mining	WMX	24 Mar

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
333D Ltd	T3D	26 Feb
Helios Energy	HE8	18 Mar
Oliver's Real Food	OLI	26 Feb
Roto-Gro International	RGI	17 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BBL	Today	0.5	100	2.02
BGP	Today	12.55	0	2.06
CAR	Today	25	100	1.35
FSF	Today	3.95	0	0.83
CCV	Tomorrow	1	100	0.00
CII	Tomorrow	2	100	0.00
EGH	Tomorrow	0.59	0	0.94
PSQ	Tomorrow	2.4	100	0.00
RYD	Tomorrow	3	100	1.67
SNL	Tomorrow	8	100	1.39
VRT	Tomorrow	12	100	2.04
BOL	Thu	0.5	0	3.45
BSA	Thu	0.5	100	3.45
COG	Thu	0.12	100	1.45
COH	Thu	115	0	0.78
GLE	Thu	1.25	0	0.00
GOR	Thu	1.5	100	0.00
HLS	Thu	6.5	100	0.64
LAU	Thu	1.2	100	4.05
MYE	Thu	0.75	100	10.34
SSM	Thu	2.5	100	4.20
SVW	Thu	23	100	1.87
VTG	Thu	5.6	100	2.53

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7740	0.0014	0.18
EUR – USD	1.1936	0.0042	0.35

Australian Data Today

ABS	Automotive fuel in the CPI	Mar
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US Data Tonight

New home sales	Feb
Richmond Fed manufacturing	Mar
Current account	Dec Q

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	Unemployment claims	Feb
UK	Average (mean) earnings	Jan
UK	Unemployment rate	Jan
UK	CBI industrial trends orders	Mar

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