

Market Opener

Wednesday, 7 April 2021

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this document

Markets

	CLOSE	23	0.3
S&P 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6826	23	0.3
NZX 50	12450	-39	-0.3
DJIA Futures	33444	29	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	4073	5	0.1
NASDAQ Futures	13617	32	0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade on a Tuesday, with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) convening a policy meeting from which outcomes will be known before close-of-trade, a key domestic jobs report and new material data for China by late morning, and an appreciating \$A.

Overnight US equities trade proved decidedly positive and commodities trade mixed.

In addition, a speech from the US treasury secretary outlined the new administration's views on corporate tax policy and relations with China.

Locally today, the RBA holds a **policy** meeting from which outcomes will be published **2.30pm AEST**.

The monthly **job vacancies** report as put together by the ANZ is due **11.30am**.

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases a **jobs and wages** report for the week ending 27 March.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **MA1** and **SIG**. Please see p4 for a comprehensive list.

Regionally today, Caixin is due to release its March **services PMI** for **China** 11.45am AEST.

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

US gold futures settled just US40c/oz higher for the session.

Qingdao iron ore (CFR 62% fines) was last reported at \$US168.48/t, up US88c/t for the day but with China observing a public holiday.

Nymex (CFR China, 62% Fe) iron ore headed slightly higher, towards \$US164.90/t.

The **LME** last traded Thursday last week, and will resume trade tonight.

Copper and **nickel** continued higher, and **aluminium** turned so.

The **\$A** has mostly traded at ~US76.50c - ~US76.60c this morning.

Overseas Markets.

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33527	374	1.1
S&P 500	4078	58	1.4
NASDAQ	13706	225	1.7
FTSE 100 (1 Apr)	6737	24	0.4
DAX 30 (1 Apr)	15107	99	0.7
Shanghai Comp (2 Apr)	3484	18	0.5

RBA – policy meeting outcomes – 2.30pm AEST

* Flora display specialist listing – **12.30pm AEST – LGL ***

Settlements

Trades executed **Wednesday last week** will settle **today**

Trades executed **Thursday last week** settle **tomorrow**

Daylight saving ended over the weekend

From **today**, ASX trade commences local time in:

Western Australia at 8am;
Queensland at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

Today's Stock Watch

Incitec Pivot (IPL)

The Waggaman ammonia plant will not commence production until mid-month, following equipment failure during start-up activity last month.

Consequently, FY21 EBIT is expected to be reduced by \$A36M pre-tax, and \$A28M post-tax.

IPL has estimated an \$A80M turnaround cost and plans to depreciate this over four years.

IPL anticipates lodging interim results 17 May.

Perenti Global (PRN) / Panoramic Resources (PAN)

PRN subsidiary Barminco has secured a development and production works LoI for PAN's (re-starting) Savannah nickel project, WA Kimberley region. PRN anticipates \$280M revenue over four years from this work.

NRW Holdings (NWH) / Panoramic Resources (PAN)

NRW subsidiary Primero has secured an operations and maintenance LoI for PAN's Savannah nickel project.

NWH estimates the work to be worth \$A35M.

Alliance Aviation Services (AQZ) / Santos Ltd (STO)

AQZ has secured another five years' work with STO in the Cooper Basin.

Titomic Ltd (TTT)

HoA agreement secured with NEOS International covering a planned JV to manufacture and sell Invar 36 faceplates and other products in the UK for the aerospace, defence, automotive and nuclear industries.

The JV will utilise TTT's kinetic fusion technology.

Aroa Biosurgery (ARX)

FDA clearance in hand for a new format of Myriad Matrix, known as Myriad Morcells. Details lodged pre-trade.

Overseas Markets Commentary

US equities markets were propelled higher on opening overnight, supported by some better-than-anticipated domestic economic indicators.

With other markets closed yesterday and overnight, including in China, the UK and Europe, there was plenty else to consider.

US treasury secretary Janet Yellen spoke at a Chicago Council on Global Affairs online event, calling for an international corporate minimum **tax** and promoting an ‘end’ to ‘the pressures of tax competition’, in order to restore ‘stable tax systems’.

Regarding relations with **China**, Ms Yellen offered that the new US administration was intending the US economic relationship with China to be ‘competitive where it should be, collaborative where it can be and adversarial where it must be’.

On broader global economic cooperation, Ms Yellen warned the **Covid-19** pandemic continued to pose risks and that additional support was needed so that poorer nations could access vaccines in sufficient quantities.

In the meantime, a mix of officials and experts in Asia, Europe, India and the US reported difficulty in containing Covid-19.

Also overnight, investors reacted for the first time to **US March employment** statistics, which were reported overnight Friday during the US Easter Friday public holiday.

In addition, some material overnight data also pleased.

916,000 jobs were created in the US during March, against 468,000 in February and following forecasts for 680,000.

This was mostly attributed to a greater number of hospitality venues and schools allowed to reopen following Covid-19 – related closures.

The March employment rate was reported at 6.0% from 6.2%.

The participation rate rose 0.1% to 61.5%.

Average hourly earnings were reported 4.2% higher than for March 2020.

In **overnight data** releases, the ISM March non-manufacturing index was reported at 63.7, from 55.3, and following forecasts of 60.0.

Further, the employment, orders and prices component indices were each calculated higher.

February factory orders declined 0.8% for the month however, against a 2.7% January increase.

The ISM New York business activity index was reported at 37.2, from 35.5 and against expectations of 47.

Overnight Thursday, Germany’s retail sales, final euro zone March PMI estimates, the ISM (US) manufacturing PMI and US March vehicle sales had largely pleased.

Tonight in the US, February job openings, an economic optimism report and consumer inflation expectations are due.

Meanwhile, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Spring meetings are underway.

Paychex is listed to report earnings.

Pre-Open Announcements

Lynch Group Holdings (* LGL)

Floral and plant display specialist scheduled to list on the ASX **12.30pm** AEST, following an IPO at \$3.60 per share.

Trading will commence on a conditional and deferred settlement basis.

~122.07M quoted shares.

Fleetwood Corporation (FWD)

FWD has appointed recent Waco Kwikform CEO and MD Bruce Nicholson as CEO, effective 1 July.

Creso Pharma (CPH)

CPH has appointed former Supreme Cannabis and Blooms Farms CFO John Griese as director of US business development.

In addition, CPH expects to benefit from New York State legislation to legalise, tax and regulate recreational cannabis use.

CPH’s planned US OTC listing is anticipated by 30 June.

Centuria Capital Group (CNI)

Non-executive director Wee Peng Cho has resigned from the CNI board.

Joyce Corporation (JYC)

JYC has appointed Tim Allison as CFO and joint company secretary.

Tesserent Ltd (TNT)

20M shares are due to be released from voluntary escrow 9 April (Friday).

A further ~2.9M are due for release 25 May.

Resources

TechGen Metals (* TG1)

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$6M IPO at 20c per share.

~38.53M quoted shares.

Regis Resources (* RRL)

Ben Hur mineral resource boosted 34% to 10.3Mt @ 1.2g/t Au for 390,000oz of gold.

Maiden reserve also lodged pre-trade.

Reedy Lagoon Corporation (RLC)

WA Burracoppin gold project soil sampling has identified strong gold anomalies.

Details lodged post-trade Thursday last week.

Blackstone Minerals (BSX)

BSX has appointed Gaines Advisory MD and former Gerard Daniels CEO Alison Gaines as a non-executive director.

Peter Plakidis has resigned as a BSX non-executive director.

Strickland Metals (STK)

STK has appointed Silver Mines (ASX: SVL) MD Anthony

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1728.8	oz	0.4	0.0
Silver (NY) (May)	24.78	oz		-0.7
Gold (LON) (1 Apr)	1726	oz		
Platinum	1204	oz	24	2.0
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	58.65	bbl	-2.80	-4.6
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	62.15	bbl	-2.71	-4.2
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	163.89	t	0.21	0.1
Copper (LME Ind) (1 Apr)	8789	t		
Nickel	16216	t		
Aluminium	2230	t		
Lead	1966	t		
Zinc	2777	t		
Tin	25023	t		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices dropped overnight, potential over-supply concerns appearing to weigh.

Overnight Thursday, OPEC+ had expressed some optimism in oil market recovery during 2021, opting to allow a further lifting of the cap on production levels come 1 May.

Under a new agreement, the May OPEC+ output cap will increase by 350,000bbl/d, followed by another 350,000bbl/d rise in June and 441,000bbl/d in July.

In addition, OPEC's Saudi Arabia planned to gradually ease its voluntary curbs of the past three months.

Further, a possible easing of US sanctions on Iran and hence a potential resumption of regular, 'official' petroleum exports, added to views supply could exceed demand.

This, as nations were reimposing, or threatening to reimplement, Covid-19 containment restrictions, the US alone reporting three consecutive weeks of rising diagnoses, and as reports emerged Iran had exported crude to China at a rate of 1MMbbl/d during March.

Volatile trade had featured overnight Thursday, before both Brent and WTI crude closed with strong gains.

Brent crude had traded at \$US62.45/bbl - \$US64.86/bbl and WTI at \$US58.88/bbl - \$US61.58/bbl.

Also overnight Thursday last week, the operational oil rig count for the US was reported at 337, from 324 the previous week, also indicating a lift in US production this year.

Gold – US equities were strongly in favour overnight, supported by economic indicators which in turn supported views of a better-than-expected economic pickup.

Gold had risen for a second consecutive session Thursday last week, with a slightly lower \$US and 10-year US treasury bond yields.

Comex futures had settled 0.8% higher for the session, at \$US1728.40/oz, meaning prices have notably not backtracked for three consecutive sessions.

Base metals – the LME last traded Thursday last week.

Copper was pushed to its lowest in ~one month, at \$US695/t.

This was attributed to reports China could start to reduce stimulus

McClure as non-executive chair, taking over from Andy Viner who has resigned from the STK board.

In addition, David Morgan has been appointed as an STK non-executive director.

Director Garry Powell has also resigned from the STK board. Further, STK has appointed Sleiman Majdoub as company secretary, taking over from Kevin Hart who has resigned.

Mr Viner will remain an STK consultant for six months.

Additional personnel appointments are anticipated 'in the near future'.

Latitude Consolidated (LCD)

Non-executive director Nick Castleden has resigned from the LCD board, effective 31 March (Wednesday last week).

Mr Castleden is Apollo Consolidated's (ASX: AOP) MD.

Energy**88 Energy (# 88E)**

Operations update lodged this morning, including difficulty accessing hydrocarbon samples from prospective zones within Merlin-1.

Samples from less prospective zones indicated low hydrocarbon saturations.

Flow-testing is being pushed back on seasonal considerations.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Nova Minerals	NVA	6 Apr
Sacgasco Ltd	SGC	6 Apr
Skyfii Ltd	SKF	6 Apr
Tietto Minerals	TIE	6 Apr
Xstate Resources	XST	6 Apr
Cycliq Group	CYQ	7 Apr
Environmental Clean Technologies	ECT	7 Apr
(The) GO2 People	GO2	7 Apr
Los Cerros	LCL	7 Apr
Silver City Minerals	SCI	7 Apr
Think Childcare Group	TNK	7 Apr

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Advanced Human Imaging	AHI	1 Apr
Aguia Resources	AGR	31 Mar
Alara Resources	AUQ	1 Apr
Roto-Gro International	RGI	17 Mar
SG Fleet Group	SGF	26 Mar
Story-I Ltd	SRY	24 Mar
Syntonic Ltd	SYT	25 Mar



spending, and Caixin's March manufacturing PMI (50.6 against 50.9) for China, which indicated activity had slowed to the least monthly gain in ~one year.

In addition, the Codelco-led Radomiro Tomic copper operation in Chile was reported to have avoided industrial action, due to workers agreeing to a new contract offer.

Traders have plenty of economic indicators to consider tonight, in addition to China's push to reduce industrial emissions.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7658	0.0053	0.70
EUR – USD	1.1816	0.0067	0.57

Australian Data Today

RBA	Policy meeting outcomes	6 Apr
ANZ	Job advertisements	Mar
ABS	Payroll jobs & wages	27 Mar

US Data Tonight

JOLTS job openings	Feb
IBD/TIPP economic optimism	Apr
Consumer inflation expectations	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Caixin services PMI	Mar
Japan	Household spending	Feb
Japan	Average cash earnings	Feb
UK	New domestic vehicle sales	Mar
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence	Apr
Euro zone	Unemployment rate	Feb

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Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
EDC	Today	2	0	7.33
MA1	Today	13	100	0.70
PIC	Today	2.8	100	4.84
SIG	Today	1	100	0.00
ABC	Tomorrow	7.25	100	2.75
CAM	Tomorrow	1.2	100	5.28
CLV	Tomorrow	0.5	100	1.37
HM1	Tomorrow	12	100	0.00
PIA	Tomorrow	1.25	100	5.12
WAX	Tomorrow	4.95	100	5.54
WMA	Tomorrow	1	100	3.06
WMI	Tomorrow	4	100	2.90
ARB	Thu	29	100	1.14
GOW	Thu	4	100	3.81
SDI	Thu	1.5	100	2.24
UNI	Thu	5	100	0.00

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