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Market Opener

Monday, 7 December 2020

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Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6682	42	0.6
NZX 50	12710	79	0.6
DJIA Futures	30198	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3698	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	12526	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens a new week's trade with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor speaking publicly, material domestic and regional data due, and new positive domestic data already in hand pre-trade.

International geopolitical and Covid-19 developments also remain in focus, following largely positive overnight Friday key commodities and US equities trade.

Since overnight Friday international trade, key manufacturing and trading nation South Korea has reintroduced stricter restrictions in the face of rising Covid-19 case tallies, and warned of further likely containment measures for select areas.

Early-weekend, UK-EU trade negotiations were again addressed by a virtual meeting between the UK PM and European Commission president, before yesterday's continuation by each side's top negotiators, this time in Brussels.

The PM and president warned in a joint statement that key issues continued to mean it was possible no agreement would be reached by the year-end deadline, and that they had agreed to review the status of talks this evening (European time).

As the UK continued preparations to commence Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccinations this week, Indonesia reported receiving its first batch of vaccine doses from China's Sinovac Biotech.

Locally this morning, RBA governor Philip Lowe has been speaking on *Innovation & Regulation in the Australian Payments System*.

Also pre-trade, the AiG has released a 52.9 **services sector** activity index for November, from 51.4 in October.

ANZ is due to publish its monthly job **advertisements** report **11.30am** AEDT.

The RBA publishes a monthly cards activity report at the same time.

In addition, **CGL** and **CKF** trade **ex-dividend**. Please see p4 for a comprehensive list.

Regionally today, **China** is expected to release November **trade** figures **2pm** AEDT.

Foreign reserves are also anticipated, anytime from post-ASX trade

In overnight Friday commodities trade, **oil** extended a run of gains. US **gold** futures turned to settle slightly lower.

Iron ore (Nymex 62% Fe) jumped further, to trade beyond \$US141/t.

LME copper traded decisively higher. Nickel turned and rallied.

RBA – governor Philip Lowe - Innovation & Regulation in the Australian Payments System - 9am AEDT

China – trade balance – 2pm AEDT

* Neuro-communications listing - 11am AEDT - CBL *

Today's Stock Watch

Metcash Ltd (MTS)

8c fully franked interim dividend, against 6c a year ago.

\$125.1M interim NPAT, following a \$151.6M 1H FY20 net loss. 12.2% higher, \$7.06B sales revenue.

Reporting 2.4% higher first-five-weeks 2H FY21 food sales, 16.9% higher liquor sales and a 25.3% jump in hardware sales.

MACA Ltd (MLD) / Downer EDI (DOW)

In response to media speculation, MLD confirms it is considering potentially purchasing DOW's Mining West division. DOW has also confirmed talks. MLD added 5.7% Friday, settling at \$1.11 after closing out the previous week at 99.5c.

Mesoblast Ltd (MSB)

Positive Remestemcel-L paediatric response and survival data lodged this morning, with MSB also presenting these overnight to the American Society of Hematology.

Harris Technology (HT8)

\$729,000 worth of sales recorded across the four-day Amazon Australian Black Friday/Cyber Monday sales event.

In addition, HT8 has leased an additional warehouse. Further, HT8 is planning to launch new customised gaming PC systems and has consequently employed a PC system specialist.

MGC Pharmaceuticals (MXC)

Anticipating ArtemicC phase II clinical trial results within the next seven days. Meanwhile, MXC is working on registration documentation for ArtemicC to be re-classified as an investigation medicinal product (IMP).

Noxopharm Ltd (NOX)

Heralding the NOX discovery of molecules for potential use in treating hard-to-treat cancers. Details lodged this morning. Webinar scheduled for 2pm AEDT tomorrow.

Monadelphous Group (MND)

Ausindustry has reversed a 2019 determination that certain 2015 and 2016 MND activities were ineligible for R&D tax incentives. MND will look at reversing a consequent \$7M net provision and request ATO refunds.

Control Bionics (* CBL)

Neuro-communications technology specialist scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEDT, following a \$15M IPO at 60c per share. 49.56M quoted shares.



Aluminium also swung to record a positive settlement.

The **\$A** declined to ~US74.25c after trading at ~US74.35c early Friday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	30218	249	0.8
S&P 500	3699	32	0.9
NASDAQ	12464	87	0.7
FTSE 100	6550	60	0.9
DAX 30	13299	46	0.4
Shanghai Comp	3445	2	0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy trade continued to feature across major European equities markets overnight Friday, but sentiment remained relatively stable across key US indices amid further positive talk of possible progress on US stimulus funding.

Meanwhile, the \$US dropped and 10-year US bond yields rose.

UK-European Union (EU) trade negotiations were reported to have stalled ahead of weekend talks between the UK PM Boris Johnson and European Commission president Ursula von der Leven.

Optimism was bolstered however, by this week's planned commencement of Covid-19 vaccinations in the UK. Russia also confirmed Friday, that it had commenced a vaccination program, using Sputnik V doses.

Across the Atlantic, the US House of Representatives speaker spoke optimistically regarding talks aimed at negotiating legislated new economic support plus government funding required from 12 December.

Meanwhile, China-US relations were also in focus, with the US administration adding chip manufacturer SMIC and petroleum major CNOOC to its list of blacklisted companies headquartered in China.

Among mixed overnight Friday data releases, **US** November employment statistics included the creation of 245,000 jobs, against 610,000 for October and following forecasts of 500,000.

Average earnings rose at the same year-on-year rate as for October, 4.4%, but for the month, at 0.3% from 0.1% in October.

The unemployment rate fell to 6.7% from 6.9%, and the participation rate slipped 0.2% to 61.5%.

Also in the US, the October trade deficit was reported at \$US63.1B, from \$US62.1B at the end of September.

October factory orders rose 1.0% following a 1.3% September gain and expectations of a new 0.9% rise.

In other **data** releases overnight Friday, the **euro zone** construction PMI defied expectations, coming in at 45.6 from 44.9 and following forecasts of a drop to 41.5.

In **Germany**, October factory orders grew 2.9% for the month, after increasing 1.1% in September, and following forecasts of a new 1.2% rise.

The November construction PMI for the UK represented ongoing

Pre-Open Announcements

Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API)

API has appointed interim chair Kenneth Gunderson-Briggs as chairman.

In addition, API has appointed former Unilever Australia and New Zealand CEO Clive Stiff as an independent non-executive director.

Mr Stiff is also a former Australian Food & Grocery Council chair.

Premier Investments (PMV)

PMV recorded a 48.5% vote against the company's remuneration report at Friday's AGM.

Tilt Renewables (TLT) / Infratil Ltd (IFT) / Mercury NZ (MCY)

IFT is reviewing its 65.5% TLT holding following several inquiries from third parties regarding the potential purchase from IFT of TLT shares.

MCY holds 19.9% of TLT and says it is 'monitoring developments'.

Creso Pharma (CPH)

Anticipating additional industry investment following Friday's US House of Representatives approval (228 in favour to 164 against) of legislation to decriminalise cannabis nationally.

The US Senate will now consider the legislation.

Nuix Ltd (* NXL)

Software developer and supplier completed an enviable ASX listing Friday, following a \$953M IPO at \$5.31 per unit.

Opened at \$8.50 and traded at \$7.27 - \$9.00 before settling at \$8.01.

14.84M shares changed hands across 6149 trades.

Trading commenced on a conditional and deferred settlement basis.

Normal (T+2) trade is scheduled to commence tomorrow. 317.305M quoted shares.

MAAS Group Holdings (* MGH)

Construction materials, equipment and services provider completed a decidedly successful ASX listing Friday, following a \$145.6M IPO at \$2.00 per share.

Opened at \$2.40 and traded at \$2.30 - \$2.80 before settling at \$2.71.

2.596M shares changed hands across 1175 trades. 264.95M quoted shares.

Doctor Care Anywhere Group (* DOC)

Virtual GP services provider completed a successful ASX listing Friday, following a \$102M IPO at 80c per CDI/share.

Opened at \$1.10 and slipped to 93c, the company's day one settlement price.

20.93M shares were traded across 3537 transactions.

178.82M quoted CDIs/shares.



expansion, calculated at 54.7 from 53.1, and following expectations of a fall to 42.5.

November new domestic vehicle sales in the UK tumbled 27.4% year-on-year, however.

Tonight in the **US**, October consumer credit figures are due.

In overnight Friday news, Glencore CEO Ivan Glasenberg announced he was planning to retire in 2021, and revealed Glencore coal head Gary Nagle had been appointed to take over.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Feb)	1840	OZ	-1.1	-0.1
Silver (NY) (Mar)	24.20	OZ	0.12	0.5
Gold (LON)	1843	OZ	11	0.6
Platinum	1051	OZ	26	2.5
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	46.26	bbl	0.62	1.4
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jan)	49.25	bbl	0.54	1.1
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	135.66	t	5.87	4.3
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	7761	t	82	1.1
Nickel	16403	t	444	2.8
Aluminium	2047	t	16	0.8
Lead	2031	t	-5	-0.3
Zinc	2759	t	0	0.0
Tin	18948	t	61	0.3

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices appeared buoyed overnight by the OPEC+ compromise on the easing of production curbs and the group's plans for close revision.

Brent crude traded as high as \$US49.92/bbl intra-session, and WTI at \$US46.68/bbl.

Over the weekend Iran was reported to have been preparing to boost production and exports in January, on expectations some US sanctions could be eased with the pending US administrative change.

Meanwhile, a weekly US petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included five additional operational oil rigs, bringing the tally to 246, the highest since May.

Gold – overnight Friday trade was pushed and pulled by hopes for new legislated US stimulus, sobering Covid-19 diagnoses, deaths and hospitalisation tallies and material data.

US employment statistics surprised with a much lower-thananticipated jobs creation tally.

This week's gold sentiment is expected to be influenced by a bevy of factors, including key data such as GDP updates for the euro zone, Japan and the UK, plus the commencement of UK Covid-19 vaccinations, UK-EU trade negotiations and a European Central Bank meeting.

Base metals — a \$US drop, amid US stimulation commentary helped buoy overnight LME trade.

China's November **trade** statistics, expected **today**, will influence at least some of tonight's trade.

Booktopia Group (* BKG)

Online retailer scheduled completed a successful ASX listing Thursday, following a \$43.1M IPO at \$2.30 per share.

After settling at \$2.72 on day one, BKG added 7.35% Friday, to close at \$2.92.

Resources

Nexus Minerals (* NXM)

WA eastern goldfields Wallbrook gold project Crusader prospect drilling has returned several significant-width, high-grade intersections.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

Calidus Resources (CAI)

WA Department of Mines and Petroleum project management plan approval in hand for the east Pilbara region Warrawoona gold project.

OM Holdings (OMH)

Pleading ignorance in response to an ASX query regarding Friday's trade.

OMH added 14.93% for the session to settle at 38.5c, and traded as high as 43.5c, in relatively high-volume trade.

Prospech Ltd (PRS)

Minerals explorer completed a successful ASX listing Friday, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 23.5c and traded at 21c – 23.5c before settling at 22c.

1.89M shares changed hands across 163 transactions.

~65M quoted shares.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Amaero International	3DA	7 Dec
Big River Gold	BRV	7 Dec
Eden Innovations	EDE	7 Dec
Gladiator Resources	GLA	7 Dec
Latin Resources	LRS	7 Dec
Money3 Corporation	MNY	7 Dec
Wildcat Resources	WC8	7 Dec
Andromeda Metals	ADN	8 Dec
Home Consortium	HMC	8 Dec
Incannex Healthcare	IHL	8 Dec
Primero Group	PGX	8 Dec
Skin Elements	SKN	8 Dec
Tali Digital	TD1	8 Dec
Wide Open Agriculture	WOA	8 Dec
Tesoro Resources	TSO	9 Dec



Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7432	0.0000	0.00
EUR – USD	1.2122	0.0001	0.01

Australian Data Today

AiG	PSI	Nov
ANZ	Job advertisements	Nov
RBA	Card transactions	Nov

US Data Tonight

Consumer credit	Oct

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Trade balance	
China	Foreign reserves (6pm)	Nov
Japan	Leading economic index (prelim; 4pm)	Oct
Germany	Industrial production	Oct
Germany	Sentix investor confidence	Dec
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence D	

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Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Cirralto Ltd	CRO	30 Nov
Dotz Nano	DTZ	20 Nov
Duxton Broadacre Farms	DBF	4 Dec
Ovato Ltd	OVT	4 Dec
Salt Lake Potash	SO4	3 Dec

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CGL	Today	20	100	1.89
CKF	Today	10.5	100	1.92
SHV	Thu	4	100	5.33
UMG	Fri	3.9	0	0.00
CLF	17 Dec	1.5	100	4.71
RFF	30 Dec	~2.82	0	4.38

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	MTS	Interim
Tomorrow	BOQ	AGM
	BID	AGM (12.30pm)
	NOX	Investor webinar (2pm)
Wed	FMG	Investor briefing
	PPT	Investor day
	SOL	AGM (midday)
Fri	MYQ	AGM (2pm)
	PDL	AGM
	TNY	AGM; Innovation session
	WBC	AGM