

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDST)	5752	-10	-0.2
NZX 50	7165	-12	-0.2
DJIA Futures	20858	11	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	2367	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	5382	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-week trade on uninspiring international equities and mixed commodities leads ahead of key northern hemisphere events later today and tonight.

In overnight commodities trade, US **gold** futures settled effectively flat. **Oil** fell further. **Copper** continued to gain. **Iron ore** (China port, 62% Fe) settled a little lower.

The **\$A** was pushed higher after slipping to ~US75.50c yesterday evening.

Locally today, the Melbourne Institute and Westpac monthly consumer sentiment report is due.

January lending finance figures, February new vehicle sales and an employment indicator are also due.

Large-cap stocks trading ex-dividend today include: **BRG**, **COH**, **CSL**, and **REH**. Please see p3 for a detailed list.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	20837	-44	-0.2
S&P 500	2365	-8	-0.3
NASDAQ	5857	-19	-0.3
FTSE 100	7358	-9	-0.1
DAX 30	11989	-1	-0.0
Shanghai Comp	3239	2	0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets mostly traded lower on opening overnight: amid a storm in north-east US and yet lower oil prices; ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy announcement tonight; and following a legislative green light for the UK to begin the process of separating from the European Union.

In addition, a government department report estimated individual US health insurance premiums would increase 20% next year.

US February producer prices rose 0.3%, following a 0.6% gain for January.

Across the Atlantic, a centre-right candidate for the April-May national election in **France** was placed under formal investigation.

The **Netherlands** holds a national election later today and tonight.

In **euro zone** data releases, January industrial production was reported 0.9% higher for the month, following a 1.2% drop in December.

Late Monday, the **UK** House of Lords enabled legislation to pass covering the UK's triggering of

* Health foods specialist listing **11am** AEDST – **WHA** *

* Lithium explorer listing **1.30pm** AEDST – **MQR** *

Today's Stock Watch

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

CBA has issued ¥13.3 trillion worth of notes in support of Tier 2 capital. Details lodged this morning.

Tower Ltd (TWR) / Suncorp Group (SUN)

SUN has secured 19.99% of TWR at \$1.40 per share. Last month, SUN approached TWR with a non-binding \$1.30-per-share offer. TWR traded at \$1.21 - \$1.285 yesterday.

Hunter Hall International (HHL) / Washington H Soul Pattinson (SOL)

Confirming Peter Hall AM has sold the balance of his HHL holding into the SOL offer. HHL independent directors recommend shareholders reject the SOL offer, however, in favour of a merger with Pengana Capital (co-founded by Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull). SOL now holds 44.2% of HHL.

National Storage REIT (NSR)

Paying a total \$14.75M with Leyshon group to acquire a 6900sqm Bundall, Gold Coast property for joint development. NSR 25%; Leyshon 75%.

As part of the deal, NSR will pay Leyshon \$13.4M to buy back a Brooklyn site.

iSelect Ltd (ISU)

ISU co-founder and non-executive director Damien Waller will retire from the ISU board at the end of the month. Mr Waller is also a former ISU CEO, MD and chairman.

GPT Group (GPT)

Credit Suisse has reassessed GPT as outperform.

Wattle Health Australia (* WHA)

Health food and drinks specialist scheduled to list 11am AEDST following an \$8M IPO at 20c per share. Selling baby formula. Proposing to sell other nutritional supplements and drinks. Wattle Trading holds 19.2%.

Resources

Neometals Ltd (NMT) / Mineral Resources (MIN)

A second shipment of WA Mt Marion lithium project concentrates is on its way to Ganfeng Lithium Co, China.

Australian Mines (AUZ)

Commencing Flemington cobalt and scandium project pre-feasibility following positive scoping study results. Details lodged this morning, including an estimated 45-year mine life and \$A47M processing facility capex.

Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) / Western Areas (WSA) / Alacer Gold Corporation (AQG)

FMG and WSA have been re-rated as outperform by RBC Capital Markets and Macquarie respectively. Macquarie has also reassessed AQG as outperform.

Marquee Resources (* MQR)

Lithium explorer scheduled to list 1.30pm AEDST following a \$3.5M IPO at 20c per share. US exploration assets. Force Commodities holds 11.32%.

negotiations to leave the European Union.

Tonight in the US, the **Federal Reserve** announces the outcomes of this week's policy meeting.

An interest rate rise is anticipated, together with clues on the likely pace of any further expected moves.

February CPI and retail sales, home builders' sentiment and New York region manufacturing indices, and January business inventories are also due, together with weekly mortgage applications.

Guess and Oracle are among companies due to report results.

In overnight corporate news, **Volkswagen** comments sparked speculation of a future partnership with **Fiat Chrysler**.

Earlier, **Toshiba** revealed it was again delaying releasing results and was considering selling its US nuclear interests.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1203	oz	-0.04	-0.0
Silver (NY) (Mar)	16.9	oz	-0.1	-0.6
Gold (LON)	1205	oz	0.4	0.0
Platinum	935	oz	-3	-0.3
WTI Crude (Apr)	47.7	bbbl	-0.7	-1.4
Brent Crude (Apr)	50.9	bbbl	-0.5	-0.8
Iron Ore <small>(CHN port 62%)</small>	88.1	t	-0.2	-0.1
Copper (LME)	5820	t	24	0.4
Nickel	10230	t	60	0.6
Aluminium	1860	t	-21	-1.1
Lead	2224	t	-52	-2.3
Zinc	2750	t	6	0.2
Tin	19970	t	520	2.7
CBT Wheat (May)	4.31	bshl	-0.005	-0.1

Commodities Commentary

Oil – OPEC revised its 2017 non-OPEC output forecast higher, but predicted demand for OPEC oil would rise beyond current production levels to a daily 32.35MMbbl.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia reported producing an additional daily 263,000bbl of oil in February (than for January), pushing the daily average to ~10MMbbl.

The weekly EIA US petroleum inventories report is due tonight.

Gold – comparatively low-volume, swinging trade again reported, ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy announcement tonight. The \$US traded higher again.

Base metals – **China's** industrial production, retail sales and fixed asset investment figures, reported yesterday, were considering neither exciting nor concerning.

Production suspensions at three major *copper* projects also helped support copper prices in the face of a strengthening \$US. China's *aluminium* production concerned at least one analyst.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7558	-0.0002	-0.02
EUR – USD	1.0607	-0.0001	-0.01

Pre-Open Announcements

Brickworks Ltd (BKW)

Planning to release interim results Thursday next week (23 March), after yesterday revealing it was assessing whether to move manufacturing activity offshore in order to save on energy costs. BKW subsequently appreciated 7.4% for the session, settling at \$14.05 after trading at \$13.18 - \$14.10.

Admedus Ltd (AHZ)

Acting CEO Wayne Paterson has accepted a three-year appointment as AHZ CEO. Mr Paterson earlier this week stepped down as chairman, to satisfy ASX governance principles. He had been acting CEO since May last year. John Seaberg is AHZ's chairman.

Stargroup Ltd (* STL)

The proposed Indue acquisition has failed to settle and STL has forfeited a \$325,000 deposit. However, STL says it is still pursuing the proposed purchase. STL slipped 8.6% to 3.2c yesterday.

Search Party (SP1)

MD and CEO Ben Hutt has resigned. Major SP1 shareholder Joshua Rogers has taken on the interim SP1 CEO role, effective yesterday. Mr Rogers will also be appointed as an SP1 director.

Resources

Gascoyne Resources (* GCY)

WA Murchison region Dalgaranga gold project resource boosted to 1.23Moz of gold, due to a new Gilbeys deposit resource of 27.6Mt @ 1.3g/t Au, for 1.13Moz.

White Cliff Minerals (WCN) / Liontown Resources (LTR)

Anticipating first assays from WA Lake Percy lithium project RC drilling mid-late April. LTR is earning 70%.

Buxton Resources (BUX)

Duketon Mining (ASX: DKM) MD and former BHP North and South Americas exploration manager Stuart Fogarty has been appointed as a BUX non-executive director.

Metalicity Ltd (MCT)

Heralding Kyarra cobalt project Kyarra West historical data ahead of the commencement of fieldwork.

Eclipse Metals (* EPM)

Heralding Queensland Mary Valley manganese project sampling indications.

Moreton Resources (MRV)

Texas, Queensland approvals and exploration planning update lodged post-trade yesterday.

Energy

New Age Exploration (* NAE)

A Lochinvar coking coal project scoping study update has boosted predicted NPV and IRR. Details lodged this morning.

MEC Resources (MMR)

Chasing \$2.8M in a two-for-one rights issue at 2.8c per share. MMR directors intend to apply for their full entitlements. MMR recorded one trade at 3.1c yesterday, recouping 6.9%. MMR was also forced to respond to an ASX query regarding activity and finances.

**Australian Data Today**

Wstpc/MInst	Consumer sentiment	Mar
ABS	Lending finance	Jan
ABS	New vehicle sales	Feb
DEWR	Employment indicator	Feb

US Data Tonight

Federal Reserve policy statement	Mar
CPI	Feb
Retail sales	Feb
NAHB housing market index	Mar
NY Fed (Empire State) manufacturing	Mar
Business inventories	Jan
MBA mortgage applications	Feb

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	FDI (6pm AEDST)	Feb
Japan	Industrial production (final)	Jan
UK	ILO unemployment	Jan
UK	Average earnings	Jan
Euro zone	Employment	Dec Q

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Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Elysium Resources	EYM	15 Mar
MetalsTech Ltd	MTC	15 Mar
Oilex Ltd	OEX	15 Mar
Rhinomed Ltd	RNO	15 Mar
Surefire Resources	SRN	15 Mar
Global Value Fund	GVF	16 Mar
Magnetite Mines	MGT	16 Mar
Nzuri Copper	NZC	16 Mar
Prairie Mining	PDZ	16 Mar
Segue Resources	SEG	16 Mar
Seymour Whyte	SWL	16 Mar
Ultracharge Ltd	UTR	16 Mar
TTA Holdings	TTA	17 Mar

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
1-Page Ltd	1PG	10 Mar
Cott Oil & Gas	CMT	3 Mar
Ephraim Resources	EPA	13 Mar
GB Energy	GBX	14 Mar
Mobilarm Ltd	MBO	15 Feb
Paladin Energy	PDN	13 Mar
Pixie Group	PEG	22 Feb
Range Resources	RRS	14 Mar
Tiger Resources	TGS	22 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Fr (%)	Yield (%)
ADA	Today	1.75	0	1.61
BRG	Today	15.5	60	2.87
COH	Today	130	100	1.87
CSL	Today	83.78	0	1.38
CWY	Today	1	100	1.49
DWS	Today	5	100	6.08
JYC	Today	5.5	100	3.96
LMW	Today	2.25	100	8.09
PAF	Today	2	100	4.52
REH	Today	29	100	2.26
RWH	Today	2.5	100	3.85
RXP	Today	1.5	100	4.49
SSM	Today	1.5	100	2.83
TOP	Today	0.6	100	1.71
AHG	Tomorrow	9.5	100	5.42
ASL	Tomorrow	2	100	1.52
BAP	Tomorrow	5.5	100	2.06
BWF	Tomorrow	1.8	100	4.00
BWR	Tomorrow	4.5	0	7.02
DTL	Tomorrow	3.35	100	5.21
EBO	Tomorrow	~24.84	95.77	3.03
EMB	Tomorrow	19	100	3.42
GFY	Tomorrow	2.5	0	8.63
LAU	Tomorrow	0.8	100	5.28
LBL	Tomorrow	0.2	100	2.86
LGD	Tomorrow	0.6	100	5.58
MEQ	Tomorrow	~1.79	0	0.00
MTO	Tomorrow	7.5	100	1.69
MWY	Tomorrow	9	100	3.57

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ONT	Tomorrow	11.25	100	3.22
PGR	Tomorrow	2.6	100	7.48
PSI	Tomorrow	2	100	2.37
SIV	Tomorrow	12.9	100	4.57
SMX	Tomorrow	1.5	100	2.73
SNL	Tomorrow	4.5	100	4.20
SPK	Tomorrow	~11.65	0	6.22
VSC	Tomorrow	2.25	0	3.13
ZGL	Tomorrow	0.15	0	2.41
CIW	Fri	1.5	50	8.04
GAP	Fri	1	0	4.82
PRY	Fri	4.8	100	3.35
QVE	Fri	2	100	2.83
RFG	Fri	14.75	100	5.22
SVW	Fri	20	100	3.78
SWM	Fri	2	100	8.28
TRS	Fri	24	100	5.24
XIP	Fri	1.6	100	3.84