

Markets

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT) | 7290 | 106 | 1.5 |
| NZX 50 | 12008 | 134 | 1.1 |
| DJIA Futures | 34067 | 8 | 0.0 |
| S&P 500 Futures | 4360 | 2 | 0.0 |
| NASDAQ Futures | 13962 | 9 | 0.1 |

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with an \$A appreciation, influential domestic economic reports due late morning, a US interest rate increase in hand and another northern hemisphere interest rate rise anticipated tonight, this time from the Bank of England.

International equities markets traded higher in concert overnight.

Key commodities price moves moderated, results proving mixed.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reveals **February employment** statistics **11.30am** AEDT.

At the same time, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes its first **quarterly bulletin** for 2022, plus February foreign exchange transactions and official reserve assets.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **CRN, FBV** and **PWH**. Please see p3 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally today, **New Zealand** has reported 3.0% December quarter **GDP** growth, following a 3.7% drop for the September quarter and forecasts a 3.8% final 2021 quarter rise. Annual GDP growth came in at 3.1%.

Overnight, a significant earthquake off the north-east coast of (Honshu) **Japan** disrupted power supplies and sparked a Fukushima region tsunami warning.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** continued lower, but more modestly so.

US **gold** futures also fell further, trading below \$US1910/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) swung higher, above \$US145/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly turned ~1.5% higher. **Aluminium** was reported to have fallen ~0.5%. **Nickel** resumed LME trade overnight, but not without a hitch, prices subsequently reported to have fallen by ~1.5% for the session.

Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.

The **\$A** was pushed to ~US72.90c after trading beyond US72.30c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

| INDEX | CLOSE | +/- | % |
|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| Dow Jones | 34063 | 519 | 1.6 |
| S&P 500 | 4358 | 95 | 2.2 |
| NASDAQ | 13437 | 488 | 3.8 |
| FTSE 100 | 7292 | 116 | 1.6 |

Group opening times will be extended today, as follows, due to ASX24 SPI 200TM quarterly futures contracts expiring:

Group 1 (A – B) 10.00 am +/- 15 secs

Group 2 (C – F) 10.04 am +/- 15s

Group 3 (G – M) 10.08 am +/- 15s

Group 4 (N – R) 10.12 am +/- 15s

Group 5 (S – Z) 10.16 am +/- 15s

Today's Stock Watch
Good Drinks Australia (GDA)

Partnership secured with C&C International (Wm Magner) whereby GDA will distribute Magner's Irish Cider range on an exclusive basis within Australia.

Veris Ltd (VRS)

Sydney M6 Motorway project network control and survey contract secured from project contractors CGU (CPB, Ghella and UGL JV).

VRS estimates the work will be worth \$5M - \$8M.

Resources
Tambourah Metals (TMB)

WA Pilbara Russian Jack project tenements granted, enabling exploration of 320sq km of ground prospective for lithium, tin and tantalum.

Arrow Minerals (AMD)

AMD has renegotiated the terms of its WA Malinda lithium project sale.

Electrostate will purchase 90% of the project for \$A500,000 cash. AMD will hold a 10% free-carried interest through to any decision to mine.

AMD intends to focus on its gold interest in West Africa.

Energy
Ampol Ltd (ALD) / Z Energy (ZEL)

The New Zealand Commerce Commission (NZCC) has conditionally cleared ALD's proposed acquisition of ZEL.

Under NZCC direction, ALD must commit to selling its New Zealand Gull business within nine months of completing the acquisition.

Outstanding acquisition conditions include approval from the Overseas Investment Office and ZEL shareholders.

A ZEL shareholder vote is scheduled for 25 March (Friday next week).

Earlier this week, ALD revealed a binding agreement to sell the group's New Zealand Gull business to Allegro.

ALD anticipates the sale will complete well within the NZCC timeframe.



| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-----|-----|
| DAX 30 | 14441 | 523 | 3.8 |
| Shanghai Comp | 3171 | 107 | 3.5 |

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets opened higher overnight, never looking like receding into negative territory, on hopes from Tuesday that a resolution would be forged ending Russia's attacks on Ukraine.

In second-half US trade, the US Federal Reserve concluded a two-day policy meeting and announced a 0.25% rise for key interest rates, to 0.50%, also indicating rates could reach 1.9% before the year is out.

Among new forecasts published by the Fed, US GDP is expected to grow by 2.8% this year, against 4.0% forecast in December 2021.

The Fed also anticipates inflation growth to reduce to ~4.3% by year's end. In December, the Fed had predicted 2.6% for late 2022.

US markets initially fell on the Fed's announcements but soon recovered to settle almost at session highs.

Earlier, Ukraine's president implored the US for further assistance in an address to the US Congress. Over the past two weeks the president has highlighted his country's plight to the European, UK, Canadian and US parliaments.

Overnight however, a Russian strike on a civilian shelter (in a dramatic arts theatre) in Mariupol reportedly killed dozens, a refugee convoy from Mariupol was attacked, residences continued to be bombarded in several cities including Kyiv and aid was again prevented from reaching Mariupol.

Meanwhile, Covid management restrictions continued in China and growing case numbers and/or hospitalisations continued to be reported in some parts of the UK and Europe.

Among overnight **data** releases, **US** February retail sales were reported just 0.3% higher following forecasts for a 0.7% rise to follow January's 4.9% jump.

Against February 2021 however, sales were up 17.6%.

February export and import prices rose 3% and 1.4% respectively for the month, against expectations of 2% and 2.1% appreciations.

Prices were respectively 16.6% and 10.9% higher year-on-year.

January business inventories were estimated 1.1% higher following a 2.4% December increase.

A home builders' housing market index slipped to 79 from 81.

Weekly mortgage applications fell 1.2% following an 8.5% jump the previous week.

The mean average 30-year mortgage rate rose to 4.27% from 4.09% the previous week.

In the meantime, **Germany** hosted a 10-year bond auction which resulted in a 0.38% yield from 0.31%.

Tonight in the US, weekly new unemployment claims, February housing starts and building statistics, the March Philadelphia manufacturing index and February industrial production are due.

Elsewhere, the Bank of England convenes a policy meeting, immediately after which it will announce outcomes.

Companies scheduled to report earnings or provide trading updates later today and tonight include Accenture, Deliveroo,

Pre-Open Announcements

Quickstep Holdings (QHL)

Today's investor day presentation lodged pre-trade. Webcast scheduled to commence **11.10am** AEDT.

Fonterra Shareholders Fund (FSF)

Fonterra Co-op interim results, including a 7% profit fall and 10% revenue rise, lodged pre-trade. Paying a NZ5c interim dividend.

Tamawood Ltd (TWD) / AstiVita Ltd (AIR)

TWD is planning to launch an agreed off-market one-for-five takeover offer for AIR, valuing AIR at 64c per share. 67.94% AIR shareholder Lev Mizikovsky has agreed to support the offer. Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Resources

Helix Resources (HLX)

Investor webinar scheduled to commence 11.30am AEDT. HLX dropped 13.3% to 1.3c yesterday, having resumed from a trading halt after receiving commitments for an \$11M placement at 1.2c per share. A \$2M SPP at the same price is planned for 28 March – 6 May.

MinRex Resources (MRR)

MRR has appointed George Karageorge as MD and CEO, taking over from Pedro Kastellorizos who is continuing with MRR as a non-executive director.

Medusa Mining (MML)

MML has appointed Andrew Charles Hunt as a non-executive director.

Many Peaks Gold (* MPG)

Gold explorer completed a successful ASX listing yesterday, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share. Opened at 22.5c and traded at 22c – 26c before settling at 24.5c. 2.23M shares were traded across 180 transactions. ~32.1M quoted shares.

Stelar Metals (* SLB)

Explorer scheduled to list on the ASX midday AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$7M IPO at 20c per share. 37.5M quoted shares.

Trading Halts

| Company | Code | Resuming |
|-----------------------|------|----------|
| Classic Minerals | CLZ | 17 Mar |
| E2 Metals | E2M | 17 Mar |
| Golden Mile Resources | G88 | 17 Mar |
| Golden Rim Resources | GMR | 17 Mar |



Dollar General, FedEx, Gamestop, Ocado and Veolia.

Commodities

| COMMODITY | CLOSE | \$US/ | +/- | % |
|--|---------------|-------|--------|-------------|
| Gold (NY) (Apr) | 1909.2 | oz | -20.5 | -1.1 |
| Silver (NY) (May) | 24.71 | oz | -0.45 | -1.8 |
| Gold (LON) | 1914 | oz | 15 Mar | |
| Platinum | 1014 | oz | 32 | 3.3 |
| WTI Crude (NYMEX Apr) | 95.04 | bbbl | -1.40 | -1.5 |
| Brent Crude (ICE EUR May) | 98.02 | bbbl | -1.89 | -1.9 |
| Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe) | 148.85 | t | 4.08 | 2.8 |
| Copper (LME 3mth Evening) | 9904 | t | 15 Mar | |
| Nickel | 47986 | t | | |
| Aluminium | 3278 | t | | |
| Lead | 2242 | t | | |
| Zinc | 3798 | t | | |
| Tin | 43101 | t | | |

Commodities Commentary

Oil – Libya urged OPEC+ overnight to boost supply at a faster rate than planned, as supply and demand scenarios continued forefront in ongoing volatile trade, in part due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and China's Covid spread and management measures, but also to US crude use.

Brent crude traded as low as \$US97.55 and as high as \$US103.70 intra-session.

The International Energy Association's (IEA) monthly market report, published overnight, warned of the potential for a 'global oil supply shock', 'the biggest supply crisis in decades' from Russia's war on Ukraine and associated sanctions.

US government agency the EIA's weekly domestic petroleum inventories report, also released overnight, included a 4.345MMbbl increase in stored crude and 3.616MMbbl draw on petrol stocks.

Petrol production declined by 197,000bbl/d.

Net crude imports fell by 438,000bbl/d.

Overnight Tuesday, post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute released a report which included an estimated a 3.754MMbbl increase in US crude stocks last week.

Gold – improved risk sentiment across international equities markets again detracted from gold interest overnight.

The US Federal Reserve's policy meeting outcomes statement and subsequent commentary were delivered after gold prices had settled lower for the session, but the prospects of rates reaching 2.9% by year's end and predictions of inflation reducing by not as much as anticipated are likely to push and pull gold sentiment beyond today and tonight.

The **Bank of England** holds a policy meeting **tonight**, from which another interest rate increase is anticipated. This means tonight's gold trade could well swing on reactions to both the US Federal Reserve's moves and also to Bank of England policy.

The **Bank of Russia** and **Bank of Japan** are due to convene policy meetings tomorrow.

Base metals – overnight trade appeared buoyed by indications out of China of new stimulus

LME **nickel** trade resumed overnight, but under new rules, bids

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|
| Laneway Resources | LNY | 17 Mar |
| St George Mining | SGQ | 17 Mar |
| Aurumin Ltd | AUN | 18 Mar |
| Boss Energy | BOE | 18 Mar |
| Middle Island Resources | MDI | 18 Mar |
| Poseidon Nickel | POS | 18 Mar |
| Simble Solutions | SIS | 18 Mar |
| Vango Mining | VAN | 18 Mar |

Suspensions (selected)

| Company | Code | Since |
|------------------------|------|--------|
| Macarthur Minerals | MIO | 15 Mar |
| Mindax Ltd | MDX | 1 Mar |
| Roto-Gro International | RGI | 1 Mar |

Ex-Dividends

| Code | Ex-Div | Div (c) | Franking (%) | Yield (%) |
|------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| BOL | Today | 0.5 | 0 | 8.33 |
| CRN | Today | 8.75 | 0 | 0.00 |
| CUP | Today | 1.5 | 100 | 3.90 |
| DDH | Today | 2.51 | 100 | 2.10 |
| EMB | Today | 15 | 100 | 1.72 |
| FBU | Today | 16.73 | 0 | 2.39 |
| GNE | Today | 7.89 | 0 | 6.10 |
| MEZ | Today | 5.34 | 0 | 3.18 |
| PWH | Today | 3.5 | 100 | 0.95 |
| CAR | Tomorrow | 25.5 | 100 | 2.24 |
| HUB | Tomorrow | 7.5 | 100 | 0.35 |
| VLS | Tomorrow | 3 | 100 | 2.42 |
| ADH | Mon | 8 | 100 | 3.55 |
| AHX | Mon | 1.2 | 100 | 2.94 |
| KSC | Mon | 4.5 | 100 | 3.71 |
| NWH | Mon | 5.5 | 100 | 4.07 |
| PGC | Mon | 0.6 | 100 | 2.22 |
| BBL | Tue | 1 | 100 | 0.69 |
| BKL | Tue | 63 | 100 | 0.92 |
| CIW | Tue | 1 | 100 | 2.61 |
| EHL | Tue | 1.25 | 100 | 1.47 |
| KPG | Tue | 0.36 | 100 | 0.96 |

March quarter S&P/ASX indices re-balance

The following changes will be effective prior to the opening of trade **21 March**:

S&P/ASX 20

Out: BXB, SQ2

In: JHX, STO

S&P/ASX 50

Out: AZJ



were required to fit within a 5% range of the previous settlement, which for nickel, was recorded Monday last week.

However, prices immediately dropped by 5% and some trades went through outside the 5% limit, prompting the LME to halt electronic nickel trade. Trade remained suspended for six hours until 2pm GMT.

The range has now been lifted to 8%.

China's February residential property prices, reported yesterday, came in 2.0% higher than for February 2021, following expectations for a 2.2% increase.

Exchange Rates

| CURRENCIES | LAST | +/- | % |
|------------------|--------|--------|------|
| AUD – USD | 0.7290 | 0.0084 | 1.16 |
| EUR – USD | 1.1015 | 0.0047 | 0.43 |

Australian Data Today

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| ABS | Employment (incl jobs, wages, partcptn, unemployt rate) | Feb |
| RBA | Bulletin (quarterly; research articles) | Mar |
| RBA | Forex transactions; official reserve assets | Feb |

US Data Today & Tonight

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Initial jobless claims | 12 Mar |
| Housing starts | Feb |
| Building permits | Feb |
| Industrial production | Feb |
| Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index | Mar |

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| New Zealand | GDP | Dec Q |
| Japan | Machinery orders | Jan |
| UK | BoE policy meeting outcomes | Mar |
| Euro zone | CPI (final) | Feb |
| Euro zone | Domestic vehicle registrations | Feb |

Need More Information?

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In: BSL

S&P/ASX 200

Out: MSB, SKC, SPK, URW

In: AVZ, CCX, DEG, HMC

S&P/ASX 300

Out: CWP, EHL, EOS, MGX, MMM, OPT, PAR, PLL, SZL,

In: 29M, ABB, APM, AVZ, CXL, CXO, FFX, JDO, JRV, LKE, MAF, PWH, SDR, SYA, SYR,

S&P/ASX All Ordinaries

Out: AIZ, ANO, AUT, AVJ, BYE, CAI, CBR, CEN, CSX, CYC, CYL, DCN, DGO, DOC, DTC, EMV, EOF, EVS, FMS, FRI, FWD, GGG, GLL, GPR, GSS, HFR, HMY, IMR, IRI, KSL, LBY, LEG, LME, LVT, LYL, M7T, MCP, MEZ, MGV, MI6, MYD, NTU, NVA, OBM, OPY, PLT, PPH, RCE, SFG, SM1, SPT, SRL, ST1, SVY, TBR, TGP, TNT, TRS, VVA, WGO, WMC, WOT, YOJ, ZNO

In: 29M, 3PL, 88E, ACL, AGI, AGY, AIS, ALC, AMS, APM, ART, ARU, AXE, BBT, BCK, BFL, BLY, BMN, BOE, BST, CBO, CEL, CGS, COG, CXL, CXO, DDH, DGL, DVP, DYL, EGG, EGR, ENN, ERD, FFX, FZO, GLB, GLN, GMD, GNG, GQG, HCW, HLA, IHL, IPD, JAN, JDO, KED, LFS, LGL, LKE, LOT, LRK, MAD, MLX, MNS, NEU, NMT, NPR, NWF, ORR, PDI, PPM, PWR, PXA, QAL, QPM, REP, RHY, RNU, RTR, RWL, SDR, SLX, STA, STP, SYA, TIG, TRJ, VNT, VSL

S&P/ASX All Technology Index

Out: 3DP, DTC, M7T, NOV, ONE, RDY, YOJ

In: SDR, SYM, VR1

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