

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7230	16	0.2
NZX 50	11575	-26	-0.2
DJIA Futures	34133	116	0.3
S&P 500 Futures	4022	31	0.8
NASDAQ Futures	11840	128	1.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-week trade with the \$A at ~US68.55c, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) governor addressing a payments-focused conference, and a major domestic bank hosting an AGM, ahead of a US Federal Reserve interest rate decision and UK CPI update tonight.

US equities markets settled higher for a second consecutive session overnight.

Locally today, pre-trade, **RBA governor** Philip Lowe was scheduled to deliver a keynote address entitled *An Efficient, Competitive & Safe Payments System* at the AusPayNet annual summit, Sydney.

Later today (from 2.50pm AEDT), RBA payments policy department head Ellis Connolly will moderate the (digital currencies) *Big Debate* panel at the summit.

Regionally today, the Bank of Japan's December quarter Tankan indices are due at 10.50am AEDT.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** continued higher, Brent crude trading above \$US80.5/bbl.

US **gold** futures swung higher to trade beyond \$US1825.00/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) settled slightly lower for the session.

Coal (ICE-GC Newcastle) turned higher.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** was reported up 2.1% for the session ~10 minutes following the release of November CPI figures for the US. **Nickel** was reported down 1.4% and **aluminium** up 0.5%.

Last night's LME final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected from IRESS at 11.30am AEDT.

The \$A was pushed to US68.55c after trading at ~US67.65c - ~US67.75c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34109	104	0.3
S&P 500	4020	29	0.7
NASDAQ	11257	113	1.0
FTSE 100	7503	57	0.8
DAX 30	14498	191	1.3
Shanghai Comp	3176	-3	-0.1

Today's Stock Watch
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)

Today's AGM materials lodged.

Orica Ltd (ORI)

ORI has appointed recent Marquard & Bahls CEO Mark Garrett as an independent non-executive director.

Two ORI directors retire from the ORI board at the conclusion of today's AGM.

Mobilicom Ltd (MOB)

\$100,000 purchase order in hand from a tier-one Asia-based small-sized drone manufacturer for MOB's MCU mesh networking, SkyHopper datalinks and mobile ground control stations products.

Medibank Private (MPL)

Maurice Blackburn has confirmed to MPL that it has lodged a representative complaint, regarding the recent data breach, with the Office of the Australian Information Commission.

Oncosil Medical (OSL)

Distribution agreement secured for the OncoSil device to be sold in select markets in China. Details lodged this morning.

Invex Therapeutics (IXC)

European Medicines Agency (EMA) approval in hand for the development of Presendin for treating idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) in sufferers less than 18 years of age.

Resources
Patriot Battery Metals (PMT)

Heralding Quebec Corvette lithium project drilling results. Assays lodged this morning.

Red Dirt Metals (RDT)

Non-binding MoU negotiated for potential WA Mt Ida project spodumene concentrate supply to VIngroup's VinES Energy Solutions Joint Stock Company.

Energy
Santos Ltd (STO) / Strike Energy (STX) / Talon Energy (TPD)

New gas supply agreement secured by STO with the WA Perth Basin Walyering JV (STX 55%; TPD 45%).

STO will purchase 36.5PJof Walyering gas over five years from first-half 2023. The gas is destined for delivery by STO to the WA domestic market.

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets gained in concert overnight, although all major indices settled below intra-session peaks.

Earlier yesterday, November business confidence was reported lower in Australia but consumer confidence for December to have improved.

In addition, commentary continued to speculate on China's economic growth prospects.

Despite the signs of ongoing concern regarding broader international economic progress, overnight equities sentiment was buoyed by US data which pointed to the **US Federal Reserve** being able to ease interest rate increases.

Specifically, the US November CPI reading represented 0.1 inflation growth against expectations for 0.5%, following a 0.4% October increase.

On an annualised basis, this lowered the US inflation rate to 7.1% from the 7.7% recorded for October.

Meanwhile, the **Federal Reserve** commenced a two-day policy meeting overnight.

In addition overnight, the **Bank of England** (BoE) released a financial stability report, following which BoE governor Andrew Bailey underscored warnings of increased unemployment, falling incomes and higher interest rates for 2023.

The BoE's December policy meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night, as is one for the European Central Bank.

In overnight energy news, scientists confirmed reports from Monday, that they had produced energy from nuclear fusion, a process that produces relatively small amounts of radio-active waste that also is deemed to have a relatively short half-life.

The process requires an inordinate amount of energy input, but the recent resultant energy output is considered a breakthrough and research will continue to investigate lower input potential.

Among overnight data releases, **UK** unemployment claims rose by 30,500 during November.

October quarter average earnings, excluding bonuses, came in 6.1% higher than for the October quarter 2021.

The October unemployment rate was calculated at 3.7%, on par with forecasts and up 0.1% for the month.

Germany's November CPI was finalised as representing 0.5% deflation for the month and 10% annualised inflation, in line with expectations.

The ZEW December economic sentiment index for Germany rose by more than anticipated, albeit to -23.3, from -36.7 for November.

The current conditions component index came in at -61.4 from -64.5, undershooting expectations.

The **euro zone's** ZEW December economic sentiment index improved to -23.6 from -38.7 for November.

In the **US**, in addition to the CPI reading, the NFIB small business optimism index was reported at 91.9 from 91.3, defying forecasts for a fall to 89.

The IBD/TIPP economic optimism index also improved, estimated at 42.9 from 40.4. Economists had anticipated a slighter increase,

Pre-Open Announcements

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

Suzannah Fletcher has resigned as a CBA company secretary.

Perpetual Ltd (PPT)

Planning to pay a 35c special dividend for the September quarter in association with the proposed PPT acquisition of Pental Group (ASX: PDL).

Cadence Capital (CDM)

November gross performance came in at -1.4% for the month against +6.1% for the All Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

Alphabetically-ordered top 20 portfolio positions lodged post-trade yesterday.

Resources

Richmond Vanadium Technology (* RVT) / Horizon Minerals (HRZ)

Explorer RVT completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$25M IPO at 40c per share.

Opened at 35c, the company's day one high, and traded as low as 31.5c before settling back at 35c.

~582,000 shares changed hands across 63 transactions.

~86.2M quoted shares.

HRZ holds 8.94%.

HRZ announced the planned demerger of the north west Queensland Richmond – Julia Creek oxide vanadium project with JV partner Richmond Vanadium Technology Pty Ltd November last year.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
DW8 Ltd	DW8DD	14 Dec
Frugl Group	FGL	14 Dec
Genesis Minerals	GMD	14 Dec
Genmin Ltd	GEN	14 Dec
Investigator Resources	IVR	14 Dec
Pursuit Minerals	PUR	14 Dec
St Barbara	SBM	14 Dec
Terrain Minerals	TMX	14 Dec
Asra Minerals	ASR	15 Dec
C29 Metals	C29	15 Dec
Classic Minerals	CLZ	15 Dec
Flynn Gold	FG1	15 Dec
The Food Revolution Group	FOD	15 Dec
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	15 Dec



to 41.0.

Meanwhile, a 30-year US bond offer delivered a 3.513% yield from 4.08%.

Earlier, a 10-year UK treasury gilt auction resulted in an also notable 3.333% yield from 4.109%.

Tonight in the US, the US Federal Reserve concludes a two-day policy meeting and announces outcomes (early tomorrow AEDT). In addition, the central bank is due to publish a new set of economic projections.

Regular US data releases expected tonight include November import and export prices, together with weekly mortgage applications and rates.

Elsewhere, the UK's November inflation rate is due.

Inditex (includes Zara) and Trip.com are among companies listed to report earnings later today and tonight.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Feb)	1825.5	oz	33.2	1.9
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	23.99	oz	0.59	2.5
Platinum	1031	oz	33	3.3
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	75.39	bbl	2.22	3.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	80.68	bbl	2.69	3.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	109.23	t	-0.24	-0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (12 Dec)	8373	t	-171	-2.0
Nickel	29531	t	78	0.3
Aluminium	2415	t	-68	-2.7
Lead	2180	t	-16	-0.7
Zinc	3270	t	29	0.5
Tin	23955	t	-358	-1.5
Coal (ICE-GC Newcastle; IRESS)	405	t	4	1.0
Wheat (CBT Mar; IRESS)	750	t	-4.8	-0.6

Commodities Commentary

Oil – a lower-than-anticipated annualised November inflation rate for the US pushed the \$US lower overnight, this in part propelling oil prices higher by the most in one day since early November.

Some analysts however, noted positioning also, amid broad international market speculation in the lead-up to the end-of-year holiday period.

OPEC's monthly market report, also released overnight, included an unchanged forecast for 2.25MMbbl/d (~2.3%) global oil demand growth in 2023.

Despite an expected growth in demand from China next year, OPEC noted an international economic slowdown was becoming evident.

OPEC estimated the organisation's November production had fallen by 744,000bbl/d for the month, to 28.83MMbbl/d.

Demand expectations and timelines also remained in focus due to reports China's administrators had pushed back an economic policy meeting due to a jump in Covid case numbers.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) monthly oil market report is expected **tonight**.

Also tonight, US government agency the IEA releases a weekly

Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
Copper Strike	CSE	13 Dec
Meteoric Resources	MEI	12 Dec
Security Matters	SMX	12 Dec

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
FZR	Today	0.5	100	0.00
PL8	Tomorrow	0.55	100	5.33
KPG	Mon	0.4	100	1.37
MTS	Tue	11.5	100	5.01
GLE	28 Dec	2.14	0	0.00
AOF	29 Dec	2.5	0	9.00
BWP	29 Dec	9.02	0	4.50
CHC	29 Dec	20.84	45	3.09
CIP	29 Dec	4	0	5.24
CLW	29 Dec	7	0	6.65
CMW	29 Dec	1.38	0	9.06
COF	29 Dec	3.52	0	9.92
GDF	29 Dec	1.8	0	5.14
GDI	29 Dec	2.5	0	10.00
HPI	29 Dec	9.2	0	5.77
MGR	29 Dec	5.2	0	4.62
NSR	29 Dec	5.5	0	tbc
RCT	29 Dec	22.37	0	9.21
RFF	29 Dec	2.93	0	4.79
RGN	29 Dec	7.5	0	5.61
TCL	29 Dec	26.5	0	2.93

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ORI	AGM
	WBC	AGM
Tomorrow	ANZ	AGM
	ELD	AGM
Fri	NAB	AGM



domestic petroleum inventories report.

Overnight post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included an estimated 7.819MMbbl increase in US crude stocks last week. This, against broader expectations for a fall.

Gold – tonight’s outcomes from the US Federal Reserve’s policy meeting are expected to influence gold trade for the remainder of the week.

The US November inflation update, released overnight, helped propel intra-session prices to five-month peaks.

Central bank policy meetings are also scheduled for the UK and euro zone overnight tomorrow.

Base metals – a fall in the \$US index following the release of the November US inflation rate supported overnight buying.

Commentary continued to speculate on the likely timing of any economic pickup in China, following ongoing reports of Covid spread.

A raft of material November economic data due out of China tomorrow is expected to influence some late-week trade, perhaps more so than normal, due this being the last full week of trade this calendar year for several markets.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6855	0.0106	1.57
EUR – USD	1.0630	0.0089	0.84

US Data Tonight

Federal Reserve policy meeting outcomes (incl new rates)	14 Dec
Import & export prices	Nov
MBA mortgage applications	9 Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	(BoJ) Tankan indices	Dec Q
Japan	Machinery orders	Oct
Japan	Industrial production (final; 3.30pm AEDT)	Oct
UK	CPI	Nov
Euro zone	Industrial production	Oct
Russia	GDP (final)	Sep Q

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