CommSec Daily Report

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Evening Report | 14 April 2020

Latest News

- After a shaky start to the new week, the Aussie market has managed a strong finish to the session, closing near/at the best levels of the day and currently sits at the highest level in a month. The ASX 200 rallied 100 points or 1.9% to 5488 with a similar improvement for the broader All Ordinaries.

- Gains were rather broad based with only the real estate sector closing in negative territory. A number of stocks in more beaten down industries saw some of the biggest improvements, signs that there further optimism returning to the market. Some of the best performers included media, retail and tech names. While heavyweights such as materials and financials also added weight to advances.

- Media stocks such as Southern Cross Media (SXL) which owns radio (Hit Network & Triple M) and regional television stations soared 27% SXL raised close to $170 million last week and is still ~70% weaker in 2020. Seven West Media (SWM) also jumped 33%. Retailers were led by a 29% increase for jeweller Michael Hill (MHJ). Kathmandu (KMD) also lifted 13.8%. Flight Centre (FLT) gained 15% with another travel business Corporate Travel (CTD) closing 21% higher. There is still appetite for defensive names with gold stocks also in demand. The price of the precious metal has recently hit fresh seven year highs. Some of the larger listed gold miners, such as Northern Star (NST) advanced 14% and Newcrest Mining (NCM) rose 12%.

- In other news, Westpac (WBC) turned around early losses to lift 1.9% even as the bank expects a hit to its first half earnings of roughly $1.4 billion, with over $1 billion of that related to the AUSTRAC investigation into Anti-Money Laundering (AML) allegations. All four major banks advanced with National Bank (NAB) the standout, up 2.9%. Elsewhere, Afterpay (APT) share surged 29% as the buy-now pay later provider released a March quarter update APT managed to nearly double underlying sales and new customers over the quarter. The business also felt comfortable with its current position and is unlikely required to raise funds from investors in a prolonged downturn.

- Although, the likes of insurer, QBE Insurance (QBE) and funeral home operator InvoCare (IVC) are looking to tap investors for further funds. QBE is looking to raise around $1.3 billion while IVC looks to raise $200 million. Both stocks are in a trading halt alongside Virgin Australia (VAH) which will release further details of its funding position in the coming days as it discusses a possible government bailout.

- The Aussie dollar has managed to hold above 64 US cents on strength for commodity currencies, following some better than expected Chinese trade data for March. This overcame the record drop in local business confidence and conditions for March as surveyed by NAB. Today, 4.2b units traded hands worth $9.2b with 848 stocks higher, 390 weaker and 295 unchanged.

Latest Prices	4.30pm	AEST	
	Level	*Previous*	*% chg*
All Ords	5,542.5	5,439.4	1.9
ASX 200	5,488.1	5,387.3	1.9
Shanghai	2,815.0	2,783.0	1.1
Japan Nikkei	19,638.8	19,043.4	3.1
US Dow Jones	23,390.8	23,719.4	-1.4
US Nasdaq	8,192.4	8,153.6	0.5
UK FTSE	5,842.7	5,842.7	0.0
Dow Futures	23,617.0	23,313.0	1.3

	Last	*Previous*	*% chg*
Consumer Discretionary	2,080.1	2,051.3	1.4
Consumer Staples	12,224.7	11,910.3	2.6
Energy	7,015.5	6,944.5	1.0
Financials	4,375.2	4,293.8	1.9
Financial-x-A-REIT	4,879.8	4,789.0	1.9
Health Care	44,722.7	44,531.1	0.4
Industrials	5,343.2	5,202.7	2.7
Information Tech	1,213.3	1,146.9	5.8
Materials	11,937.6	11,542.6	3.4
ASX200 A-REIT	1,146.0	1,166.9	-1.8
Telecommunications	1,094.6	1,079.7	1.4
Utilities	7,773.2	7,604.8	2.2

	Last	*Day Move*	*% chg*
BHP	$31.66	$0.16	0.5
RIO	$90.83	$1.44	1.6
CBA	$62.75	$0.99	1.6
ANZ	$16.78	$0.24	1.5
NAB	$16.54	$0.46	2.9
WBC	$16.27	$0.31	1.9
TLS	$3.16	$0.02	0.6
WOW	$36.14	$1.04	3.0
WES	$37.81	$0.31	0.8
WPL	$22.00	$0.16	0.7
CSL	$325.97	-$3.03	-0.9
COH	$197.56	$8.06	4.3
NCM	$28.82	$3.18	12.4

	Current	*Aust 4pm*	*% chg*
AUD/USD	0.6404	*0.6385*	0.29
AUD/EUR	0.5855	*0.5852*	0.05
AUD/JPY	68.979	*68.797*	0.27

11am Official Cash	0.25	*0.50*	-50.00
Aust 90 day futures	0.18	*0.21*	-14.29
Oil Nymex ($US/b) US Close	22.59	*22.41*	0.0
Gold futures($US/oz) US Close	1765.80	*1761.40*	-0.1

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