

West Australian Railscene e-Mag

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West Australian railscene e-Mag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian railroads.

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NR74 leads NR on 4WP2 Pacific National Steel train through Midland on Sunday morning April 26th as it is about to cross the turnouts that run into flashbut and Gemco/Rail SSRS depot. Photo Brendan Cherry

During the last few of weeks there seems to have been an epidemic of failures on all lines with all manner of problems besetting the EMU fleet. A few instances are on Friday May 7th a failure on train number 5548 at Beckenham caused severe disruption that even saw wrong line running Beckenham Junction to Cannington and services turned round at Cannington during the morning peak. Train number 5608 failing at Seaforth with bogie problems in mid afternoon on May 13th. Most of these A series EMU are now some 15/16 years old and have had a half life overhaul so wonder if so called government efficiency drives and cost cutting measures is having the effect of running a deferred maintenance programme of these railcars to cut costs.

42211 last of the unmodified 422 class locomotives in service was withdrawn and stored on April 24th, AB1502 and AB1501 both require some workshop attention were stored on April 28th.

Converting and modifying the ex BNSF SD70MACe to be lead units continues at BHPBIO Nelson Point.



DAZ1901, P2505 & P2515 on grain train at Irwin on May 10th that is another instance of three locomotives being on a train three different colours Westrail yellow, G&W orange and ARG yellow. Photo Phil Melling



A rare sight at Woodbridge of Pacific National Kewdale yard shunter running a train on the main line with 8112 on 4P26 wagon transfer from Midland to Kewdale on April 29th. Photo Jim Bisdee



AC4303 being shunted from one part of Goninan Yard Broadmeadow plant to another on May 15th showing the large flared radiators on the long end hood. Photo Brad Coulter



AC4303 being towed away from test area with UGR Track Mobile #4650 as AC4302 remains idling in test area with CFCLA GL locomotives to be used on mainline tests in the background. Photo Brad Coulter

MV Jumbo Vision was tied up at Eastern Gap in Toronto Ont. harbour where the final nine SD70MACe locomotives built by EMCC in London Ont. for BHPBIO will be loaded for export. These SD70MACe locomotives were loaded onto the heavy lift ship on May 9th and 10th following securing the cargo in the hold and the ship prepared for sailing MV Jumbo Vision departed overnight May 10th/11th for Port Hedland. The loading of these locomotives could be easily observed from adjacent Cherry Beach. BL [Ca]

New ARG locomotives AC4302 and AC4301 underwent further static testing between May 11th and 13th at United Group Rail Broadmeadow yard. AC4301 entered paint shed for painting on May 13th. AC4302 together with GL110, GL105 and GL112 departed United Group Rail 1715 on May 15th to undertake further road testing in Narrabri area of north west NSW. BC

ALZ3208 the last jolly green giant running on ARG in WA was second unit behind LZ3119 and in front of late 6426 Kalgoorlie freight on May 16th, with LZ3119 lead engine and ALZ3208 remote loaded 1056 wheat train at Metro Grain Centre in morning May 17th and ran 1056 to CBH export terminal at Kwinana in evening for unloading returning to Forrestfield as 1053 empty.

3102 Wagiman that had been stored since arrival from NSW in December 2008 has been moved and has been sitting outside paint shed at Forrestfield minus engine/alternator set since May 15th appears engine could be getting a rebuild.
