

West Australian Railscene e-Mag

Issue sixty five February 1st 2010 free electronic railway magazine number 65/10
West Australian Railscene e-mag is published weekly by Jim Bisdee on rail happenings on West Australian Railroads.
WWW.WESTERNRAILS.COM Copyright Jim Bisdee © 2010



EMU set #87 second last set delivered from builders in Queensland hauls EMU set #88 last new EMU set delivered on its delivery run to Nowergup through McIver Station on January 22nd. Photo Brendan Cherry

Albany woodchip train is being worked by NJ1605 hauling loaded train to port unloader with DD2359 hauling empty train to mill following return of NJ1605. NJ1602 ran trial with P2516 on 5364 wheat train from Avon yard to Kwinana and return on January 14th. Following this successful trial NJ1602 ran as 7305 light engine on January 16th Avon Yard to Wagin arriving about 1130 with NJ1602 then was hauled on wheat train to Albany arriving overnight. There was now NJ1602 and NJ1605 both in Albany both facing same way then with DBZ2303 long end leading running with NJ1605 on woodchips on 18th. NJ1602 was swapped with NJ1605 to run woodchips on January 21st with NJ1605 stabled. P2502 & P2505 bought fresh set of grain wagons to Albany with DBZ2308, P2504 & NJ1605 being hauled from Albany to Avon Yard over weekend of January 23rd/24th. NJ1605 was hauled to Forrestfield on wheat train from Avon yard to Kwinana being dropped off in early hours of January 26th. NJ1605 is to receive further workshop attention.

The work being undertaken at Mandurah over recent weekends resulting in line closures from Rockingham to Mandurah is progressing faster than was originally anticipated and the last line closure was from Friday evening January 29th till departure of first train on Monday February 1st. Closure on evening of February 5th till first train on Monday 8th will not take place much to pleasure of Mandurah business.



Finally after crossing a continent and being hauled more than 4800kms EMU set #88 is now at last on PTA track as it crosses Helena Street at Midland on January 22nd. Photo Brendan Cherry



MA1862 runs 6UW2 empty railcar movement with EMU set #88 through East Guildford on January 22nd on the PTA dual gauge Midland line now laid with concrete sleepers. Photo Brendan Cherry



DBZ2305 & DBZ2301 on loaded VAOW former QR woodchip wagons on export coal train just east of Brunswick on January 7th note new rail ready to be placed in this heavy traffic line. Photo Phil Melling



DBZ2307 runs empty Soundcem coal train with former Queensland Rail coal wagons through Harvey on South West Main line on January 7th. Photo Phil Melling



DBZ2303 & DBZ2313 shunting wheat train in Albany yard on January 23rd multiple unit DBZ locomotives on wheat trains and not that common on GSR services its usually DBZ and P class. Photo Stew Winston



NJ1602 shunts in Albany Yard with three woodchip and four XU wheat wagons to be attached to wheat train on January 23rd its not often that NJ class locomotive is ever a yard shunter. Photo Stew Winston



DFZ2405 & P2508 run empty grain train past the now closed CBH wheat bin at Gutha as it heads for Morawa to be loaded on January 5th.

Photo Phil Melling



P2503 & P2502 loading a wheat train at the large fast loader CBH wheat bin at Mukinbudin on January 5th where this train will soon depart for the coast and export terminal.

Photo Phil Melling



DD2356 & only D class in service and last un-renumbered locomotive D1652 provide interesting contrast as they run empty Worsley Alumina hopper train through Brunswick on January 6th. Photo Phil Melling



DBZ2313 & P2504 on 632 empty wheat train crossover from Wagin Lake Grace Newdegate line to Hyden line at CBH Lake Grace grain terminal on January 17th as it continues its run north. Photo Don Copley

Following the Narngulu coal train dying a slow death over the last few months of 2009 with road transport taking over this haulage as back loading there is now for the first time no regular through train running on Midland Railway between Forrestfield and Geraldton. With the Coomberdale quartz train now on road transport the Picton Kwinana container train has also been cancelled with it now on road. The Perth to Bunbury South West Railway also has no through freight services but still has the Australind passenger as a through train. There is hasn't been through services on Avon to Albany Great Southern Railway for about 20 years with at one stage Narrogin to Wagin section was allowed to decline to such an extent as to have severe speed restrictions for light locomotive or empty wagon movements.

Tree lopping and improving line of sight for signalling continues in Avon Valley with crews having cut back trees from Jumperkine to beyond remote crossing loop at Moondyne.

Following a heavy ballasting programme track machines have been in Avon Valley tamping and regulating the recently ballasted track from late week ending January 24th onto 27th.



AB1502, AB1501 & AB1503 run 1462 empty mainly XNW with few XW grain wagons through Midland on January 24th after its long run from Merredin to go through Millendon Rail Bam. Photo Jim Bisdee

LZ3103 that was withdrawn from service and stored at Merredin in late November 2009 owing to turbo failure has been returned to Forrestfield workshop and repaired returning to service on January 25th.