

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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Q4004 hauls failed NR95 out of Swan View to clear failed Pacific National service 5MP5 on July 25th on one of the very few occasions an ARG locomotive has worked a P/N train. Photo Simon Barber

The rake of WOAX gondola wagons that South Spur Rail Service had used on the North Port container train before this traffic was taken over by ARG and the wagons stored at Grass Valley out of use following SSRS sale they were repainted and repaired. Reclassified SOAX and painted orange these wagons attached to the five SQVF flattops that D49 hauled to Grass Valley as 5S65 on July 22nd then worked to West Kalgoorlie arriving on evening of 23rd as was 80km train that had mandatory crew rest period at Southern Cross. K210, K207 and K206 had earlier arrived at Parkeston and stabled, they ran to West Kalgoorlie that night attached the empty wagons returned to Parkeston made up the train and departed as 8822 to Boonderoo for crew mandatory rest period then to continue east.

Upgrading of Esperance line with new 50 kg rail has been completed from Kambalda to 208km peg and from Salmon Gums to Esperance. This leaves section between 210km peg and Salmon Gums still with old 41kg rail to be upgraded that has suffered numerous broken rails in last few months with track gang also having to replace a number of suspect welded joints.

AC class are now regular feature on West Kalgoorlie Leonora services usually on 029/430 sulphur train.



NR95 a failure on 5MP5 sits at Swan View on July 25th awaiting rescue locomotive it is very unusual for westbound intermodal services to only have one locomotive hauling them. Photo Simon Barber



W903 & W920 at Dwellingup on July 18th on Hotham Valley Railway double header. Photo Murray Rowe



DFZ2405 is reflected in a puddle at Narngulu on July 10th.

Photo Phil Melling



004 & 001 on empty car rake departing FMG port unloader at Boodardie on run to Rolly Yard passing track on July 20th.

Photo Toad Montgomery



AB1501 about to enter the loop on 5464 empty grain train at Corrigin on July 15th as AB1504 on 5463 loaded grain waits in the yard before heading north to Merredin.

Photo Simon Barber



DFZ2407 & P2516 run empty grain to Mingenew through Bootenal on July 15th.

Photo Phil Melling

NR95 failed on an already some four hours late 5MP5 just north of busy Morrison Road grade crossing in Swan View about 1200 on July 25th. ARG rescued the failed service with Q4004 that ran wrong line from #28 signal Midland, to the failed service. Q4004 hauled 5MP5 from Morrison Road to long arrivals in Forrestfield where 5MP5 was stabled before Pacific National hauled it over to Kewdale intermodal yard during the evening. Return 1PM5 departed about 12 hours late in early hours of morning on 26th.

In order to make ascent of the grade at 108km peg in Widgemooltha Higginsville section easier a speed ramp with increased speed from 50kmh to 60kmh has been authorised following track upgrading. This commences at 102.5km and runs to 106km allowing loaded ore trains to increase speed to crest the grade.



CM40-8M 5649 runs the daily Yarrie ore train of Goldsworthy line to join Newman main line on its way to Nelson Point to unload on July 19th. Photo Toad Montgomery

With the nickel kibble traffic ending ARG will introduce a new roster commencing August 8th of only three freighters [fuel] trains per week between Esperance and West Kalgoorlie. The freighter will still convey small amount of internal traffic like ore cars requiring repair at Kalgoorlie or Forrestfield, sand tankers, wheel wagons and ballast cars.

PA2819 ran on 4305 with P2504 & P2506 Avon to Wagin on July 28th departing 2130 arriving Wagin around 0400 on 29th PA2819 was detached and stabled. P2504 & P2506 ran 5664 to Dumbleyung and Tarin Rock to load returning to Wagin as 5663 with out of zone load of grain for Metro Grain Centre. PA2819 was attached to lead running on 30th as 6306 grain to Avon where PA2819 was detached with P2506 and P2504 running the service to MGC and return to Avon Yard. At Avon PA2819 was attached ahead of P2404 & P2514 on 6305 empty grain Avon to Wagin on night of 30th arriving in early hours of 31st. This was the first run of PA2819 in revenue service in WA.



SD70ACel/c #4316 and #4352 remote units on empty ore train at Bing at sunset await departure on July 19th
note name plates both the locomotives.

Photo Toad Montgomery



S3303 on loaded bauxite train entering the triangle at Pinjarra East on July 4th.

Photo Don Copley



S3307 on ballast train departing the Keysbrook ballast siding on July 19th.

Photo Don Copley



MA1862 about to run under the wires with EMU set #92 at Midland on July 16th.

Photo Jim Bisdee



D49 on 5S65 propels out of flashbut into Midland loop with flattops on July 22nd.

Photo Jim Bisdee



ZB2129 & ZB2125 on empty ballast train at Highbury on July 26th.

Photo Don Copley



D49 on 5S65 empty wagon movement departs loop at Grass Valley on July 22nd with the CBH silo road now empty for the first time in years.

Photo Jim Bisdee

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