

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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NR18 on 4004 empty Indian Pacific cars to East Perth at Woodbridge October 5th.

Photo Jim Bisdee

Following the sale of South Spur Rail to POTA operation of a second tier small third operator in this state ended as the few remaining infrastructure contacts wound down. Greentrains now own what was the South Spur Rail locomotive fleet with it stabled/stored in the old SSRS yard at Bellevue. K210, D48, D49 and D51 together with D47 that only ever hauled one service in WA before failing are not seeing use. On the narrow gauge R1902, KA212, ZB2120, ZB2125 and ZB2129 are in the same compound with Indonesian built GE U20C U201 that has never seen mainline use. Stored in Port Hedland are DR8401, DR 8402, DR8403 and DR8404 rebuilt C636Rs lettered FMG in blue and white livery. DR8405 in Greentrains livery that has never seen use and incomplete DR8406 are stored in Engenco yard Maddington. Only K205 and K206 are in use operating ballast trains on the Karara line in the Mid West. All the locomotives at old SSRS yard Bellevue are fully operational being started regularly and are available for use. These locomotives except U201 are English Electric models built in Rocklea Qld being incompatible with EMD, Alco or GE units.



W920 runs a Forrest Ranger train nearing Dwellingup on September 11th.

Photo Sean McGarraghy



DC2215 & LZ3109 on 5443 Esperance freight at West Kalgoorlie with loaded rail train for upgrading of the Esperance line, wheel wagon, repaired ore cars and empty tankers on October 6th.

Photo Peter Donaghy

ACN4150 and ACN4152 were loaded at QRN Redbank Workshops on September 26th onto road floats to be hauled to Forrestfield. They departed Redbank on 27th at Port Pirie on October 1st arriving in Forrestfield on October 5th being unloaded on the 6th.



6001 & 6012 on 6MP1 with ACB4402 on its delivery run at Binduli October 2nd. Photo Peter Donaghy

First two ACN locomotives to run to Narngulu ACN4148 and ACN4147 departed Forrestfield on 4755 light engine movement for the overnight run on October 5th. From Marchagee to Narngulu the locomotives were hauled by P2516 arriving mid morning on 6th.

8112 returned interstate on 7PX4 on October 1st following return of yard shunter 8039 after maintenance.

2011 sees the 20th anniversary of electric trains running to the Royal Show at Claremont it commenced on September 28th 1991 and was their first revenue use. All services on Midland Fremantle line are four car sets supplemented with some B series cars on show specials from October 1st to 8th.

DC2213 former Forrestfield workshop shunter has been repainted into QRN livery as part of its overhaul but is yet to return to service.

ACB4404 ran its light engine train with ACB4403 Chullora to Penrith NSW on October 6th.

025 Forrestfield Kalgoorlie and 426 Kalgoorlie Forrestfield freight are now worked with Q class AC class combinations, multiple Q class or even multiple AC class locomotives. L, LZ or LQ class have only worked this service once in last few weeks. ALZ3208 often remote unit on this train has not run on it in recently.



NR104 & NR36 on 6PM6 intermodal climbs the grade at 636km peg on October 1st. Photo Peter Donaghy



DAZ1901 on 7RT1 rail train the first run of the upgraded train at Muchea on its way to Narngulu for use on Mullewa Tilley line upgrading October 8th. Photo Wayne Andrews

2305 grain train of 42 XT grain hoppers ran from Avon yard to Broomehill on October 3rd to load then continued south to Albany to unload then reload with grain for domestic market. Departed Albany about 2030 on the 4th as 3306 grain hauled by P2506 & 2512 for MGC Forrestfield arriving about noon on 5th.



P2516 hauling ACN4148 & ACN4147 light engines at North Dongara October 6th. Photo Phil Melling

AK inspection car train PK82 hauled by 2212 departed Rawlinna for Parkeston on October 3rd arriving in afternoon to stable overnight. 2212 on 3C12 ran Kalgoorlie to Avon Yard to overnight on 4th then ran to Forrestfield on 5th and back to Kalgoorlie as 4C11. 2212 was detached and DC2215 ran Kalgoorlie Leonora on 6th returning to Kalgoorlie 7th then running Kalgoorlie to Esperance on 8th.

Following tier three lines will open for forthcoming 2011/2012 grain harvest; West Merredin to Trayning that will need considerable work done in Trayning yard to repair flood damage sustained earlier in the year, West Merredin to Bruce Rock, Bruce Rock to Yilliminning, York to Quairading. These lines will be open till October 2012 when will close but be on care and maintenance as upgraded area roads will then be able to handle road trains transporting grain.

DPU iron ore trains have ramped up with all trains in late September early October having, two locomotives 63 cars then one locomotive and 63 cars. Further DPU trial took place on October 3rd with 2416 empty was AC4308 and 42 wagons, Q4014 and 42 wagons, Q4005 and 42 wagons with 3413 loaded from the mine being same configuration. This trial was conducted as it's believed some communication issues were experienced on earlier locomotive 53 wagons, locomotive 53 wagons and locomotive 20 wagons trial. DPU operations on Esperance Koolyanobbing ore trains were again suspended on October 5th after it's believed the brakes on rear portion of 3417 loaded unexpectedly releasing. All DPU operations have been suspended till this incident is fully investigated.



MA1862 on 4UB3 ballast train at Byford on October 5th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



Q4012 on 6029 sulphur train departing West Kalgoorlie on October 1st.

Photo Peter Donaghy



ACN4150 & ACN4152 nearly at bottom of the steep Darling Scarp at Greenmount on October 5th.



ACN4152 with huge bank up of traffic as must come down the hill at 40kmph. Both photos Brendan Cherry



Q4001 & Q4009 on 1416 empty iron ore train at Binduli October 2nd.

Photo Peter Donaghy



P2516 hauling ACN4148 & ACN4147 on 4755 light engines at Dongara on October 6th. Photo Phil Melling



New two car rotary tipper arrived on October 6th and still in protective covering awaiting installation at Port of Geraldton October 7th. Photo Phil Melling



B series EMU sets #68 and #67 on Royal Show special at Subiaco on October 3rd. Photo Brendan Cherry

QUS wagon rail train has been given an extensive rebuilding above the wagon floor at flashbutt yard Bellevue by Gemco Forrestfield during first week in October. New improved lifting cranes and other fittings were fabricated and bolted onto the wagons floor. This wagon set will see use on upgrading the Mullewa Tilley line scheduled to commence shortly.



2212 on 4C12 the AK car track inspection train at Bellevue on October 5th.

Photo Jim Bisdee

Ballasting of Armadale Mundijong Junction line together with tamping and lifting of the track recommenced on October 5th with the morning Australind service from and to Bunbury again terminating at Mundijong. The afternoon service operates through to Perth but is often late owing to speed restrictions on track work.

Q4007 suffered minor fire damage working a loaded ore train from Koolyanobbing to West Kalgoorlie on evening of October 6th. Locomotive was detached then stabled at West Kalgoorlie to await repair.