

# West Australian Rails

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Bowgada-bound 5BT3 ballast passes through Moonyoonooka behind CBH025, 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Photo: Phil Melling

November saw the recommencement of ore trains between Kooyanobbing and Esperance for new mine owner Mineral Resources. Startup was two rakes of 106 hoppers each led by triple MRLs; following the derailment they became rakes of 84, one with double MRLs, one with MRL + NR. Eventually more NRs were sent to Esperance, and the rakes were increased to 110 hoppers with triple heading, any combination of MRLs and NRs. In early December, a third rake was introduced, with more NRs; several MRLs have been back and forth between West Kal and Perth for servicing or modifications. Occasionally a loco is out of action for a trip or two, with one or two trains reverting to two locos and 84 hoppers for the duration. The first shipload of 105,517 tonnes of Mineral Resources iron ore departed Esperance at 1am on 20<sup>th</sup> December, aboard the MV Birte Oldendorff.

Plenty more has happened in recent weeks – extra services running for the pre-Christmas peak; two of CFCLA's CF class off-hired from the Pilbara have been hauled back east, with the other two to follow, rumours circulate that all six ACBs will do the same. Two VL class with a rake of 66 NGXH hoppers have arrived from NSW for GrainCorp; Q4003 has emerged from overhaul and repaint... but that's December's news, photos in next month's edition.

Finally, with Christmas only days away, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. May the trains be plentiful and photogenic!



NRs 2, 89 & MRL005 prepare to depart Kewdale with 5PM5, 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Photo: Charles De Bruin



Under leaden skies close to sunset, 5PM5 hurries through Woodbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



An unusually short 6445 Esperance empty fuel train waits to depart West Kalgoorlie on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, NRs 89 and 2 hauling MRLs 002 & 005 to join the Kooly ore fleet. Q4014 has just arrived on 6438 empty nickel (left background of photo) from Hampton. Photo: Peter Donaghy



NR40 hauls 46 MHPY hoppers for Esperance amongst the loading on 7PX4, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Page 3 of 28

Photo: Jim Bisdee



S3301 leads train 7224 to Alcoa at Kwinana, 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Photo: Simon Barber



NRs 63 & 22 race 6MP4 through the sands around West Merredin, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Charles De Bruin



TransPerth B set #123 on its delivery run at the rear of 5MP2, South Guildford, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



NRs 68 & 99 haul 8165 away from Parkeston on 6SP7, 4/11. The 81 was destined for Esperance shunt duties but only spent a couple of days there, returned to West Kal/Parkeston then was sent back to NSW a month later. Photo: Peter Donaghy



CBHs 011 & 025 work 1BT2 ballast through Millendon Junction, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Simon Barber



8165 is shunted off 6SP7 at West Kalgoorlie, as Q4007 & AC4306 prepare 1426 to Perth, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



8165 with hoppers ex 7PX4 and tanks on 2445 empty fuel to Esperance, West Kalgoorlie, 5<sup>th</sup> November.



Train locos NRs 89 & 2 have been attached to 8165 and the loading for 2445, 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



Q4006 loading nickel concentrate beneath the spray dryers at BHP Redmine (Kambalda).

All three photos: Wal Rowe





CBHs 009 & 006 sandwich DBZ2302 on 3K02 from Beverley to Forrestfield at Woodbridge, 6<sup>th</sup> November.



Watco's DRs 1565 & 1564 run 3WL1 light engine trial from UGL Bassendean to CBH Kwinana through Woodbridge, 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Jim Bisdee



PA2819 crosses the Southwest Highway south of Pinjarra, 6<sup>th</sup> November.



ACN4174 crosses the Southwest Highway at Picton, 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Peter Chandler



It's 0445 on 7<sup>th</sup> November at West Kalgoorlie and the sun starts to rise on NRs 66 & 68 with 3PS6 which the photographer has just driven overnight from Perth.  
Photo: Charles De Bruin



DRs 1565 & 1564 head 4BT1 loaded ballast through Herne Hill, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Simon Barber



Prospector set 1 on 4085 ex Perth crosses Chapple St into the dock at Kalgoorlie, 7<sup>th</sup> November.



SCTs 006 & 001 race uphill from Binduli with 2MP9, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Charles De Bruin



Q4008 on approach to West Kalgoorlie yard with 4438 ex Redmine/Hampton, 7<sup>th</sup> November. Both photos: Charles De Bruin



Immediately after 438's arrival, AC4301 on 4C74 approaches the other end of West Kal yard on its return from Parkeston, 7/11.



The second load of Mineral Resources ore (and the first from Koolyanobbing – the previous train was loaded from the Kwinana stockpile) charges away from Bonnie Vale behind MRLs 005, 003 & 002 on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Mt Burges dominates the background.



MRLs 005, 003 & 002 power 4031 ore past the 628km peg between Bonnie Vale and Binduli, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy



MRLs 005, 003 & 002 ease 4031 ore around the west leg of Binduli triangle, 7<sup>th</sup> November.



4031 creeps to a stand at Binduli for a crew change, 7<sup>th</sup> November. It was worked from the mine by a crew on secondment from Perth, and will continue its journey with former Aurizon Esperance drivers now employed by PN. Both photos: Charles De Bruin



The evening sun glints on MRLs 005, 003 & 002 on 4031 ore at Binduli, 7<sup>th</sup> November.



NRs 55 & 86 with a late 2SP7 wait on the loop at Hines Hill as an empty grain races past at sunrise, 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Charles De Bruin





2SP7 crosses CBH011 on an empty grain near Moondyne, 8<sup>th</sup> November.



X47 shunts the SCT yard at Forrestfield with stored DC2208 in the background, 8<sup>th</sup> November. Both photos: Charles De Bruin



SCT shunter X47 goes about its business at Forreestfield, 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Charles De Bruin



NRs 113 & NR20 haul B set 123 as 5P31 Kewdale - Bellevue Sth for gauge conversion, South Guildford, 8/11. Photo: Jim Bisdee



Q4006 transfers a rake of Aurizon QQWY wells from Avon Yard to Forrestfield through Hazelmere, 8<sup>th</sup> November. It is thought these may have been purchased by PN; SCT purchased thirty of the sixty pairs several months ago. Photo: Jim Bisdee



5K64 loaded grain runs through Toodyay West bound for Kwinana, behind CBHs 013 & 003. 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Kieran Wright



CBH025 loads 6K12 grain at Calingari, 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Kieran Wright



AC4304, ACB4402, Q4006 & Q4009 form 6158 light engine shunter to Kwinana, Thornlie, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Photo: Jim Bisdee



7PX4 conveys another block of MHPYs behind NR38 to West Kal, 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



A thunderstorm has just ended as Ps 2505, 2503 & 2507 on 7725 loaded Mt Gibson ore pass through Tenindewa, 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Phil Melling



7032 empty ore from Esperance approaches Binduli behind MRLs 006, 004 & 001, 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



ACC6032 and Q4001 bring a late 7426 from Kalgoorlie through South Guildford, 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Jim Bisdee



NRs 106 & 110 ease 6SP5 through Merredin, 11<sup>th</sup> November.



6SP5 overtakes CBH120 at West Merredin, 11<sup>th</sup> November.  
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Both photos: Charles De Bruin



New John Holland tamper on the engineer's siding at Parkeston for commissioning, 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Peter Donaghy







NR110 stabled on the Sadliers siding at West Kalgoorlie with Esperance fuel tanks, and a rarely-seen view of the “gantry roads” from shunt loco Q4007, 12<sup>th</sup> November. Shortly after these photos were taken, NR110 had to run light engine to Parkeston as 2P41 to rescue 7SP5 which had just suffered an NR failure and would not have been able to ascend Parkeston bank with a single unit. All three photos: Wal Rowe



G511 runs 3RT1 combined rail and ballast train through Swan View, 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Photo: Simon Barber



Southern Spirit NRs 84 & 85 on 3P57 cross CBH013 on 3K36 loaded grain at Woodbridge, 13<sup>th</sup> November. Photo: Jim Bisdee



The sole remaining all-yellow Q4017 off 3438 Redmine nickel arrival runs past stabled Q4015, West Kalgoorlie, 13<sup>th</sup> November.



AC4301 departs Parkeston with 3C74 to West Kalgoorlie, 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Both photos: Charles De Bruin



8165 and a block of MHPY hoppers stabled on the engineer's siding at Parkeston, 13<sup>th</sup> November. Photo: Charles De Bruin



4467 & 4428 approach Redbank on the outskirts of Hedland Yard with a load of ore, 13<sup>th</sup> November. Photo: Mark Bennett