

West Australian Rails

NUMBER 12

A free monthly photo e-Mag of railway happenings in WA during December 2020



Ps 2514, 2516 & 2505 on 5720 empty Mt Gibson ore approach Narngulu East to fuel, 3rd December.

Photo: Phil Melling

The three ACBs from NSW returned to WA on a day-late 2MP9 through Kalgoorlie on 28th January. After a week in Gemco Forrestfield, ACBs 4401 and 4405 commenced working x048/x049 Mt Walton - Kwinana iron ore services. ACB4403 was outshopped a week or so after the other two.

CF4407 and MRL004 have emerged from UGL Bassendean with Distributed Power modules installed; this means all Q, AC, ACB, ACC, MRL and the four leased CF locomotives now have this capability on the standard gauge.

Mt Gibson ore haulage to Geraldton ceased on 29th December 2020; they have commenced work on their new mine but it's much further north than their Perenjori site, and closer to Karara's mine and line. Rail haulage ex Karara appears to be the preferred option, using only one consist of triple P class on a single rake of hoppers.

Bushfires in the northeast of Perth closed the tracks between Perth and Northam from late on February 1st to mid morning on February 7th. Intermodal trains were parked at various locations across the country to await reopening.

Watco have won the contract to provide rail services to BHP Nickel West in WA, they will shortly take over running of the Leonora and Redmine nickel trains as well as the sulphuric acid trains between Hampton and Kwinana. It is anticipated they will use a pool of six GL, three C, four T and the one GML class to work the various trains. The Hampton ballast/rail yard has been completely cleared, to be rebuilt as Watco's base of operations in the region.



Leased CFs 4410 & 4403 accelerate a late 4PM9 through Parkeston, 3rd December. Photo: Peter Donaghy



A Northern Gully bushfire backdrops Ps 2515, 2502 & 2508, 6721 Mt Gibson, Old Grants, 4/12. Photo: Phil Melling



Qs 4014, 4003 & 4007 approach West Kal with 6025, generally just double Qs, 5/12.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



7767 Karara ore arrives at Geraldton Port behind two current-schemed ACNs 4151 & 4168, 5/12. Photo: Phil Melling



ACNs 4146 & 4148 on 7762 empty Karara ore at Bringa, 5th December.

Both photos: Phil Melling



7763 loaded Karara ore climbs towards Nola loop behind ACNs 4141 & 4178, 5th December.



NRs 39 & 61 ease 6SP5 through Woodbridge, 6th December.



Double A series sets depart Woodbridge for Perth/Fremantle, 6th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



1S56 standard gauge grain from Avon to Kwinana rolls through Woodbridge behind CBHs 122 & 120, 6th December.



Narrow gauge empty 1K53 Kwinana-Marchagee, CBHs 008 & 024, Woodbridge, 6/2. Both photos: Graham Saunders



NRs 100, 50 & 51 approach Woodbridge on 1PM5, 6th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



CBHs 005 & 025 at Woodbridge with narrow gauge empty grain 1K63, Kwinana to Jennacubbine, 6th December.



Qs 4016 & 4005 lead AC4305 ex workshops on 1025 to Kalgoorlie, Woodbridge, 6/12.

Photo: Graham Saunders



NRs 95 & 92 with fuel pod and coach ex 3MP5; NRs 45 & 36 off 4PM4; Parkeston, 10/12.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



4PM4 collects 4MP5's coach due to failure of their own, Parkeston, 10th December.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



Ps 2516, 2504 & 2515 unload 6721 Mt Gibson at Geraldton Port to form 6722 empty, 11/12.

Photo: Phil Melling



7720 empty Mt Gibson at Wilroy, south of Mullewa, behind Ps 2502, 2515 & 2508, 12/12.

Photo: Phil Melling



Freshly refurbished crew coach RZDY103, 7MP7, Parkeston, 13th December.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



1PM5 led by NRs 8, 117 & 29 approaches Kalamunda Rd (above) and enters Millendon Junction (below), 13th December.
Both photos: Graham Saunders





1MP2 approaches Forrestfield behind NRs 104, 50 & 7, 12th December.



Qs 4004, 4001 & 4011 beside AB1504, Forrestfield, 13th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



Stored LZ3111 and DC2205, Forrestfield, 13th December.



Stored LZ3109, LZ3107 and two other Ls plus a DC, Forrestfield, 13th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



Stored former Queensland units DFZs 2403 & 2402, Forrestfield, 13th December.



Due to skidded wheels on two Australind driving cars the third ADP driving car towed them to Bellevue for bogie change/repair. All three were photographed there, 13th December. Both photos: Graham Saunders

Page 14 of 29



The new Bellevue railcar manufacturing facility takes shape, 13th December.

Photo: Anne Honimus



Ps 2505, 2504 & 2516 ease 2721 loaded Mt Gibson ore through Separation Point, 14/12.

Photo: Phil Melling



Speno HRR8-6A road-rail switch grinder RRVS085 / SG01 waits for trains to pass, Binduli, 15th December. It spent several days grinding points in and around West Kal yard before working westward. Both photos: Peter Donaghy





A block of XT grain hoppers was retrieved from storage in Kwinana and transferred to Geraldton on contract to assist Watco, joining a block stored up there for the past few years. ACN4152 hauls train 4755 through Millendon Jn, 16/12 (above) and near Narngulu, 17/12 (below). Photos: Simon Barber (above), Phil Melling (below)





A late 5PS6 behind NRs 19 & 106 conveys six RTHYs of diesel for Cook, Parkeston, 18/12.

Photo: Peter Donaghy



Qs 4013 & 4019 haul MRLs 006 & 001 ex DP fitout on 6025 to Kalgoorlie, Cockburn Jn, 18/12.

Photo: Simon Barber



6025 nears West Kal, Qs 4013 & 4019 haul MRLs 006 & 001, 19/12. Compare p14, Nov issue. Photo: Peter Donaghy



DRs 1565 & 1564 lead 7BT2 ballast train into Mingenew (to ballast Dongara-Mingenew), 19/12. Photo: Phil Melling



G511 & HL203 lead 1145 North Quay to Forrestfield through Beckenham, 20th December. Photo: Simon Barber



XA1411 stored at Hotham Valley Railway, Pinjarra, 20th December. Photo: Graham Saunders



Former TransWA shunter MA1862 and steam loco G123, Hotham Valley Railway, Pinjarra, 20th December.



ACN4145 leads 1833 empty alumina from Bunbury to Hamilton near Burekup, 20/12. Both photos: Graham Saunders



1844 alumina powered by ACN4150 between Beela and Brunswick East, 20th December.



Contrasting cab fronts, ACN4150 & P2517, Picton, 20th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



P2507 departs Picton with 1875 loaded alumina, 20th December.



P2513 stabled at Picton, 20th December.

Both photos: Graham Saunders



2863 alumina is hauled to Worsley's facility at Bunbury by ACN4144, 21st December. Both photos: Graham Saunders



Graffitied ACN4145 unloads 2842 alumina at Worsley, Bunbury, forming 2843 empty to Hamilton, 21st December.



Tramcars 2 & 3 at Cascades station (above), and back at Pemberton (below) with tramcar 4 and other carriages and locomotives awaiting eventual restoration, 21st December. Both photos: Graham Saunders





State Saw Mill SSM #2 (above); diesel-hydraulic “Plymouth” (below), along with carriages hopefully awaiting restoration and the tourist tramcars, Pemberton, 21st December. Both photos: Graham Saunders





A group of Y class locos await eventual restoration: 1102, 1107, 1114 & 1115 (above); Y1115 and a Comeng diesel-hydraulic (below), 21st December.
Both photos: Graham Saunders





Comeng diesel-hydraulic and the four Ys (above); V1213 awaiting next steam season (below), Pemberton, 21st December.
Both photos: Graham Saunders





State Saw Mill SSM #7 preserved in a park at Pemberton, 21st December.

Photo: Graham Saunders