

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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P2501 runs 6761 empty ore car movement with all the Sinosteel Midwest KHBF ore cars that were stored at Tilley siding north of Morawa into Narngulu yard on March 11th. Photo Phil Melling

Megellan Metals who recently were allowed to resume lead shipments through Fremantle again had them halted on 14th. It was discovered that its rail contractor ARG had run 10 trains with a total 159 containers of lead concentrate on a 12km line that was not part of its authorised route between November 2010 and January 2011 these trains had run to Kwinana from there to Fremantle. Magellan disavowed any knowledge of any route change from the authorised one and following an investigation lead exports were allowed to resume on March 17th with these lead concentrate trains to be run only on the authorised route.

Fortescue Metals will now get nine SD90MAC-H locomotives to be numbered 901 to 909 were formerly run by Union Pacific in the USA but were withdrawn and returned to the leasing company. Four locomotives so far have been completed and are on the high seas on the way to Port Hedland. A further five are at Norfolk Southern Juniata Shops Altoona Pa undergoing repair and maintenance prior to export.



ALZ3208 & LZ3117 on 1478 nickel train stabled at Leonora on March 13th.

Photo Don Copley



Q4016 on 6478 nickel train rounds the curve beside Sons of Gwalia mine on March 11th. Photo Don Copley



R174 is being lifted out of the pit at Cetrepoint Midland on March 13th where it had been for past 39 years.



R174 departs Cetrepoint on low loader on way to RHWA Museum March 13th.

Both photos Jim Bisdee

Hotham Valley Railway recently announced that for the 2011 steam season it will run from Dwellingup to Isandra the first time it has fully run these services on its own line. These Dwellingup steam trips originally run from Perth to Dwellingup, then Armadale to Dwellingup following changes at Perth station and finally Pinjarra to Dwellingup in recent years. With changing operating environments it has become increasingly difficult to run on WestNet track owing to increasing insurance and access costs. Late in 2010 HVR ran equipment to Dwellingup to be in a position to commence this reverse running. It is envisaged that HVR will run two return trips to Isandra each operating day.



LZ3117 on 6442 empty fuel train departing Leonora on March 11th.

Photo Don Copley

ARG have a number of narrow gauge locomotives stored owing to the very poor crop in 2010/2011 grain season. NJ1605, AB1502, AD1520 and DAZ1902 are stored in vicinity of narrow gauge loco at Forrestfield while, AB1501, AB1503, AB1504, AD1521, DAZ1903 and DAZ1906 are stored at Avon Yard Northam, DC2203 is stored at West Merredin.

Fleet of CFCLA ballast hoppers that were last used on construction of Southern Suburbs Railway from Perth to Mandurah since that lines completion have been stored beside old silo at Bellevue. Over last couple of weeks they have been moved into a more accessible area near SSRS compound with bogie and wheel work being undertaken on a number of these hoppers. A number of them have also had their bogies removed and are sitting on the ground adjacent to SSRS compound.

Five JP caustic tankers and 11 of the 16 XF alumina hoppers constructed by Gemco Forrestfield for BHP Billiton Worsley have been delivered with final two JP tankers and 11 XF hoppers hauled from Forrestfield to Kwinana on 4122 empty wagon movement on March 15th.



DBZ2304 & DD2359 on 3312 empty wagon movement through Thornlie March 15th. Photo Brendan Cherry



Q4012 on 5029 sulphur train arriving at Malcolm to unload March 11th.

Photo Don Copley



Q4016 & Q4007 on 2025 Kalgoorlie freight at Woodbridge on March 7th.

Photo Brendan Cherry



P2504 & recently overhauled P2502 on 4303 empty grain at Swan View on March 2nd. Photo Simon Barber

QR National rail grinder MMY32 has recently been repainted into latest QRN corporate livery at flashbutt rail yard in Bellevue where it also received a heavy maintenance and was reconverted to standard gauge to continue the rail grinding programme for 2011.



Q4003 on 5023 empty wagon movement at Woodbridge on trial run of recently converted fleet of AGWF grain wagons from Jumperkine to Forrestfield on March 3rd.

Photo Jim Bisdee

P2509 on 2642 a 45 wagon empty grain train from Albany to Hyden failed just south of Kendenup during morning March 7th with crew being able to get 2642 into station limits. ZB2125 & ZB2120 were running ballast train to north in Tambellup area, were contacted to assist P2509 ran light engine to Kendenup assisted 2642 grain train to Cranbrook stabling in loop. ZB2120 & ZB2125 then ran light engine back to Tambellup to resume ballast working. P2510 ran 2LE2 light engine in evening from Albany to Cranbrook attached P2509 hauling it as 2LE5 back to workshop Albany for repair.

DD2358 had earlier been hauled out of Albany to Wagin then DBZ2308, P2516 & DD2358 ran light engine to Avon on March 6th. DD2356 and P2510 had been running the woodchip service.

RC701 narrow gauge track recorder car was stabled at rear of Albany workshop on March 7th.

RA212 that was damaged in a derailment north of Cranbrook late last year having spent some time stored in cripple road at Cranbrook then stored at SSRS yard Bellevue following being hauled back by R1902. It was transferred to Gemco Forrestfield around March 16th to repair derailment damage.

Front bogie on AC the lead loco on 5415 ore train derailed over level crossing inside Cliffs siding at Koolyanobbing when it is believed the bogie rode up on an accumulation of ore in the flange grooves derailing all six wheels. The train was clear of EGR main line causing no disruption to services but 5416 empty ore was stabled in West Kalgoorlie and three further ore trains stabled at Esperance till AC was re-railed and services resumed. Only front bogie of AC lead locomotive on 5415 was derailed and none of the crew was injured in this incident.



DAZ1905 on 3137 rail train propelling from flashbutt to Midland loop on March 15th. Photo Jim Bisdee

8039 is again the yard shunter at Pacific National Kewdale having returned from repair interstate around March 17th.

ARG are again running works trains that saw DAZ1905 run 3137 rail train to Avon Yard on March 15th. DAZ1905 also worked rail train 4RT1 to Geraldton and was distributing rail in Geraldton port area March 17th then returning to Forrestfield as 5RT2 empty rail train on 18th.