

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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DBZ2301 runs 1273 lime train to Worsley Alumina through a state forest as it climbs the steeply graded Brunswick Collie line on March 21st. Photo Simon Barber

Former QR 2819 that was converted to standard gauge and saw use on QR National intermodal services interstate has been converted back to narrow gauge at UGR Bassendean together with modifications to suit it operating on ARG in WA. 2819 has been classified PA but retains its old QR number now being PA2819 and has been repainted into ARG [QR] yellow livery was outside erecting shed at UGR on April 10th.

JRA6 former Overlander sleeping car that was converted into a crew car for Australia Southern Railroad and its last use has been on now very irregular Cook fuel train operated out of Kalgoorlie. This fuel train with the two vans of supplies for the big pastoral leases at Naretha and Rawlinna last ran out of Kalgoorlie to Cook on March 4th. With the operation of this fuel train out of Kalgoorlie now appearing to be very uncertain with it likely to remain running out of Forrestfield on QR National intermodal services. JRA6 could be better utilised operating for G&WA in SA so it was hauled to Forrestfield on 5426 freight on April 2nd then hauled to SA on 7PA1 QRN intermodal on 3rd.

Three QRN 6000s ran on QRN intermodal 3PA1 on March 30th, then two 6000s ran the intermodal service on April 3rd, 6th and 10th in what appears will now be the regular motive power for this train.



Australind railcars ADP103, ADQ121 & ADP102 run through Harvey on March 17th these cars have now run this twice daily service between Perth and Bunbury for over 22 years. Photo Evan Jasper



Only time AN locomotives ever get to lead a train is on the engine turns on Woodbridge triangle AN5, NR22 & NR54 run 6P23 turn at West Parade South Guildford on March 26th. Photo Alex Mackay



DBZ2302 & DBZ2307 run 1584 coal train out of Collie on March 21st past what was once the very extensive yards where little remains and large Collie loco depot that's all but abandoned. Photo Simon Barber



6008, CLP9 & 6001 run a very late QR National intermodal 7API through Toodyay Road at Stratton on March 26th with only a few kilometres to run before reaching QRN terminal at Forrestfield. Photo Alex Mackay

The final Indian Pacific passenger service of Summer Season to arrive in Perth on Saturday and return interstate on Sunday arrived on March 27th hauled by NR27 that also ran the return service on 28th. Twice weekly Indian Pacific services between Sydney and Perth will resume for the Spring Wildflower Season with departure from Sydney on August 31st that will continue till final twice weekly service departs Perth on November 28th.

Long awaited naming process of BHP Billiton Iron Ore SD70ACe units has commenced with 4341 being out-shopped on April 9th named “Oroville”. It is probably coincidence but the naming of first of these locomotives after where original car dumper and ore cars were obtained by then Mt Newman Mining does have historic significance. These name plates are not cast plaques as are applied to all previously named locomotives in BHPBIO fleet but is a stainless steel plate with black lettering mounted on cab side below window sill above the road number. While 4331 had the name “Withnell” applied on April 10th.



Avonlink railcar set WEB031 and WEB041 stabled at high level platform Merredin Station on April 7th following its run from East Perth Terminal on Avonlink wheatbelt service that operates three times per week. Photo Jim Bisdee

Withdrawn BHPBIO SD40-2 units that were stored at Finucane Island have been hauled over to workshop at Nelson Point with 3085, 3082, 3083, 3084 and 3092 stowed on wash road behind tarped 4300, 3081 is coupled to ex SP 8335 SD40T-2 along with 3090, 3086, 3093 and 3088.