Rowley Yard to put Fortescue yards ahead in car maintenance

The Fortescue Rail Line expansion will feature a state-of-the-art automated wheel shop and a sophisticated management system, a first in the Pilbara.

The wheel shop is part of the Car Maintenance Workshop at Rowley Yard, located 17 kilometres along the Fortescue Rail Line. Once operational the car maintenance workshop will maintain a fleet of over 3,000 ore and ancillary cars.

Our engineers Parsons Brinckerhoff are well underway with construction on site. Simultaneously, international automation, robotics and technology companies Gudel, Hegenscheidt and Niles-Simmons (NSH Group) are manufacturing the specialised machinery in Pennsylvania and Albany (NYC) in the USA and Germany.

The workshop automates machining and maintenance of wheels and axels, with capability to include bogies in the next five years. The workshop has two through roads with a car progression system, each with two stations which will complete full car maintenance procedures.

The maintenance of standardised ore cars, with standardised schedules, has made it possible to use automation and treat the maintenance workshop as similar to an automated manufacturing line.

An automated progression system will move vehicles to flexible workstations for different work types. Ore cars will automatically move through the shop using a computer-based progression system with millimetre accuracy.

Ore cars are maintained based on a combination of predictive and experiential time-based preventative maintenance schedules which will do away with manual maintenance record keeping. Information about the vehicle’s required maintenance tasks will be delivered directly to the company’s internal SAP system.

Once operational the car maintenance workshop will operate six days per week to maintain 60 cars and workshop maintenance will be carried out on the seventh day.
The Rail Expansion Project will allow Fortescue to achieve its ambitious growth plans. It is a critical link between our growing iron ore mining operations and the Herb Elliott Port where we export by ship.

We are responsible for installing 111 turnouts, 4 bridges, nearly 300 kilometres of additional track, 400,000 sleepers, and the list goes on. Every component of the rail line that you work on contributes to this important infrastructure expansion project.

I am pleased to see that as the project progresses we continue to make improvements and enhancements to the way we work, this ingenuity helps us to achieve our collective goal.

We have some 1500 people working on the Rail Expansion Project. We are spread across 300 kilometres, over 15 contracting companies and more than 10 accommodation sites. Unfortunately, there is no simple solution that will see us gather together to share our stories of success and challenge. Instead this newsletter will help us do just that.

I often hear about great work achievements and initiatives, interesting events and fine examples of mateship that should be shared. I encourage you to embrace the newsletter by contributing newsworthy story ideas and photos via email at T155communications@fmgl.com.au.

Our number one priority is your safety and I would like to highlight in this first edition my pride in our overall project safety performance. Our Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate across the whole project is 3.2. As is always the case with safety, statistics are just numbers and do not reflect the true cost of unsafe behaviour. It is critical that our diligence and attitude towards safe work remain paramount. That said, 3.2 at this stage of the project is excellent and well ahead of industry averages (8-12).

On another note, I would like to personally extend my gratitude to Mike Berry, Rail Expansion Project Manager, who is taking some time away from the project. We wish you the very best, Mike, and we look forward to a visit from you to the site in the not-too-distant future to make sure we are keeping in line.

Jim Douch, Project Manager Works and Jean Espach, Project Manager Services have stepped up to take on Mike’s responsibilities. They will no doubt continue to bring strong leadership and exceptional knowledge and expertise to the Rail Owners Team.

I thank you for your tireless efforts and on-going support in this exciting time in our company’s history. Let’s continue on our journey together and achieve great results.

Peter
Matt Gresham dubbed a hit and there’s more to come

Fortescue has a jam-packed schedule of exciting entertainment planned for its camps in 2012 following the success of Matt Gresham’s roadshow in February.

Matt performed at Briney, Airey, 195, 145 and Hamilton Motel across five nights and received rave reviews. Fortescue’s Doug Banfield, who organised the tour, said Matt’s performance was excellent and really engaged the residents.

“Our residents thoroughly enjoyed it with Matt even getting some up to dance,” Doug said. “Events like these really help to break up the monotony of camp life and we are planning more events, more frequently across all our camps.”

The new event line-up will kick-off in March and include comedians, hypnotists, pool trick shot show and challenges from a World Player of the Year champion, financial and wealth management advice and more musical performances.

Check out the posters at your camp for more info.
Brierty gets on board with Itec

Brierty is building on its long-standing partnership with the Clontarf Foundation, an organisation that aims to improve the education, health, life-skills and employment opportunities of Australia’s Indigenous youth, with a partnership with Port Hedland firm, Itec.

Itec Employment see themselves as having a key responsibility and accountability for how Indigenous people engage with the labour market and wider society and believe that education and employment play crucial roles in enabling this.

This month Brierty welcomed local Port Hedland resident Joseph Seden to the team, who hails originally from the Torres Strait Islands. The company is hopeful other local residents will follow in his footsteps.

Brierty currently have eight Indigenous employees working on the Rail Expansion Project where they are constructing a new fuel facility. The fuel facility will include building a rail siding for the loading of fuel and realigning the existing access track to allow for provisioning building and other associated infrastructure.

The employees are traffic controllers John Blurton and Brendan Burnell, labourer Jeremy Ryder, flagman Tristan Cole, plant operators Robert Harris, Lyndsay Fitzgerald and Joseph Seden and site administrator Katie Te Hemara. All are doing a great job and have achieved or are looking forward to achieving a level of certification or training since joining the project.

Shout out for a great turnout

A big shout out to Fortescue, Calibre and MacDow for a great collaborative effort to install ET04 turnout during a six hour rail shut.

The turnout is at the 23.7 kilometre and was completed on Monday 20 February.
My job, in a nutshell is… exciting and challenging at times, however very enjoyable.

A good day at work would involve… completing some of the challenges including ensuring there is CLO (Construction Liaison Officer) coverage for each of the work fronts along the rail network.

My work site is… full coverage of the rail network, however the majority of the day is chained to my desk at the Ch6.2 offices (I also step in as Acting Office Manager to keep the Owners Team in line when the Manager is away).

My hometown is… Perth.

Roughly five years ago I… was working in Pacific National, Perth as a Driver Trainer.

When this song comes on I turn up the volume… I'm All Out of Love, Air Supply.

If I could have a BBQ with anyone in the world, my top 5 guests would be…
1. Jennifer Hawkins (I believe she would be very interesting to talk to);
2. John Travolta (such an interesting life, actor, pilot);
3. Jim Henson (creator of The Muppets);
4. Catherine Zeta-Jones (again, she would be interesting to talk to);
5. Shania Twain (I'm sure Shania could sing us a couple of tunes to get the night happening).

My best memory as a kid is… when I fell off my bike and I had to have stitches, which I thought at that age was very cool.

When I’m on R & R my favourite thing to do is… answer my telephone and associating with work colleagues over a couple of cold beverages.
NRW launch A Safe day. Every day. campaign

NRW have introduced a cornerstone initiative in their efforts to ensure its workforce keeps safe.

NRW General Manager HSE Jim McCristal said safety innovation was a key focus for NRW and the new campaign was designed to encourage the workforce to make safety a number one priority.

"When younger people join our projects, they don’t have the experience and knowledge of our guys with grey hair," Jim said. "This program is all about getting what's in our heads into theirs and ensuring safety knowledge is shared."

Jim said that reinforcing a positive and consistent safety culture takes time and effort, and cannot be viewed as a stand-alone campaign that runs separate to the rest of the business.

"Every NRW project site across Australia has now had a senior management representative launch the A Safe day. Every day. campaign on site," he said. "Our organisational commitment to improving our safety performance, plus our workforce's incredibly positive response to that, has already led to significant improvements in our performance and we look forward to seeing this trend continue."

The civil and mining contractor recognises outstanding safety behaviour by issuing on-the-spot Safety Recognition Cards worth $50 each to its workforce and has committed to donating $20,000 each quarter to a charitable organisation on behalf of the two winning sites recognised for the NRW Projects of the Quarter award. The Projects of the Quarter award is judged on sites’ consistent safety performance and behaviour. Civil sites and mining sites each have an opportunity to win one award. NRW will make a further one-off annual charitable donation of $30,000 as part of its innovative safety campaign.

The company’s HSE Recognition Program also includes weekly Hazard Card Awards, which aim to improve the quality and quantity of submitted hazard cards and the standard and timeliness of closeouts.

Each site conducts a weekly hazard card review and the best three hazard reports for that week are rewarded with a $50 Safety Recognition Card. The weekly winners go into a pool for quarterly awards.

Birds eye view

In mid-February you may have noticed a helicopter circling the sky above the main rail line. If you looked closely you may have seen a photographer on board shooting some impressive aerial snaps of the project. So don't forget to look up, wave and say 'cheese' the next time you see a helicopter!
Heidi hiding

Tropical Cyclone Heidi may have been downgraded to a category one cyclone but she certainly didn’t hold back from delivering record rainfalls across the Pilbara region.

Cyclone Heidi dumped around 600 millilitres of rain after crossing the coast in early January. Nearly a month later many of the previously dry creeks in the region still hold water.

Cyclone Heidi delivered one of the heaviest rainfall events ever experienced at Camp 1 (145 kilometres).

Cyclones are part and parcel of the Pilbara experience. With careful planning and rigorous safety precautions we all can thrive in spite of these dramatic shows of nature.

On this day in history...

19 March 1877

Australia def. England in first cricket test match

Played between two teams of eleven at the MCG, March 15, 16, 17 and 19, 1877.

Australia, with Charles Bannerman 165 retired hurt (including the first “five” in Test cricket) defeated England in what became known as the first ‘Test’ match.

In those days a batsman got five runs for a hit over the MCG fence. Bannerman only played three Tests, and retired in 1879/1880 to become coach of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Australia won the first Test by 45 runs, Billy Midwinter taking 5/78 in England’s first innings. Midwinter also played for England.

(Courtesy of www.mcg.org.au)

March 2012 dates to remember

4 Clean up Australia Day

5 Public Holiday (WA)

8 International Women’s Day

15 – 17 World’s Greatest Shave

22 Close the Gap day

31 Earth Hour

(Courtesy of www.ourcommunity.org.au)
Camp News

Camp 25a

Building contractor Decmil has mobilised two weeks ahead of schedule to build 514 rooms at Camp 25a.

Work is underway to shift 60,000 cubic metres of earth, which will be completed on 8 March. The installation of services and building foundations will commence in early March with the first buildings being lifted into position on 27 March.

The first rooms will be available on 15 April along with central facilities.

On completion 25a will include a wet mess, gymnasium, recreational facilities and an administration office.

Camp 1

An expansion was completed at Camp 1 last month. Through the wet weather and red dust APC and Action Industrial Catering pushed on, with the doors opening for the new Dining Hall and an additional 150 rooms in mid-February.

Perth Rail Expansion team sundowner

This month the Fortescue Rail Expansion team based in the Perth office held their first monthly sundowner.

All team members young and old, "short and tall" enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the office and into the Friday afternoon sunshine.

Your stories

TRACKTION is a great way for all employees of Fortescue and all contractors on the Rail Expansion Project to share stories and photos of great work or great fun. Anyone is welcome to contribute – this is your newsletter. Email T155Communications@fmgl.com.au.

www.fmgl.com.au