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\$1.50 including GST

Workshops roll ahead

Mayor praises firm as regional success story

Story and photos
By LEON OBERG

GOULD BURN Mulwaree Council Mayor Geoff Kettle has described Goulburn's Railway Workshops as an "inspiration" and a perfect example of successful regional decentralisation.

Cr Kettle was speaking after its USA owners and Australian clients visited the workshops late last week, where it was revealed another apprentice intake was planned for later this year.

Given some general engineering firms had closed in Goulburn in recent times, Cr Kettle said the dedication and commitment by the company, Chicago Freight Car Leasing (Australia), in sourcing local goods and services wherever possible, along with local staff, was "gratifying".

"And a move to further upgrade workshop equipment and employ more apprentices is testament to that commitment," Cr Kettle said.

Late last week, the company's USA-based president Fred Sasser brought some 70 CFCLA clients and friends to the workshops by special train for an inspection of the facilities, and the business' capabilities.

Since opening its doors on September 1, 2010, with a staff of six, guests were told the business today employs more than 40, with two tradesmen and a trades assistant set to start work later this month.

The workshop's recently-appointed manager Mick Cooper said it was the company's intention to employ apprentices in both the electrical and fitting disciplines from this year's crop of school leavers.



VISIT: Goulburn's deputy Mayor Bob Kirk (second from left) pictured inspecting the CFCLA's Australian Horsepower Service Centre's Goulburn workshops with the company's USA-based president Fred Sasser (left) and his chief financial officer Luke Lukins (right). Also pictured is the recently-appointed Goulburn workshops manager Mick Cooper. A CFCLA-owned heavy haul locomotive is undergoing heavy maintenance behind them.

In addition, he was already developing a separate annex to undertake freight rollingstock and locomotive bogie overhauls and the space this function currently occupies within the building will be turned over to intricate locomotive traction

motor repairs.

A locomotive 'wheel table' which makes it possible to drop individual wheelsets out of heavy 134-tonne locomotives had already arrived on the property and would be installed inside the main erecting shop in

coming weeks.

"All of this is aimed at improving the work through-flow and with this equipment which allows individual wheels to be removed from bogie frames without jacking an entire locomotive up, we will be able to accommo-

date the heaviest mainline locomotives well into the future," Mr Cooper said.

Mr Sasser said every time he visited Goulburn (this being his fourth trip), he had seen continued expansion.

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