



## Surging rail work boosts employment

STORY AND PHOTO BY LEON OBERG

DUE to the volume of work at Chicago Freight Car Leasing's Australian HorsePower Service Centre in Goulburn, four local apprentices have been employed.

Facility manager Alan Gardner told the Goulburn Post on Monday three of those apprentices were learning fitting and machining skills while the fourth was undertaking a boilermaking trade.

Mr Gardner described their employment as a "milestone" in the business' steady Goulburn growth which "firmly reinforced CFCLA's long term commitment to the city".

"We started here on September 1 with a staff of just two and today 17 people are now attached to the facility," Mr Gardner said.

"During those four months, work has exploded for not only are we undertaking scheduled maintenance on CFCLA's own rollingstock, we have, as initially predicted, become something of a 'main southern line service station' for the railway industry."

Mr Gardner said the facility's property was large enough to cater for entire unit freight trains and while several from the mining, infrastructure and grains industries had already been attended to in recent months, there had been a huge growth in locomotive maintenance, servicing, painting and repairs.

"This locomotive work has already exceeded all initial expectations and the overall order books for that, and rollingstock maintenance are already full well into February," Mr Gardner said.



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