

## GL101 UNVEILED!

Chicago Freight Car Leasing Australia (CFCLA) officially unveiled the first 3000HP GL Class locomotive at the Powerhouse Museum on the evening of Tuesday 28 January.

Over 100 invited guests from all facets of the rail industry attended the function to celebrate the arrival of GL101. Fred Sassar, President of Chicago Freight Car Leasing Co (CFCLA's parent company), and Mike McGee (also from the parent company), travelled from the United States to attend the unveiling.

The \$30M GL Class project involves the extensive rebuilding of 12 ex-FreightCorp 442 Class locomotives by United Goninan at Broadmeadow into 3000HP, 132 tonne gross heavy-haul units. The first 10 locomotives will be delivered by the end of 2003.

Fred Sassar spoke of how excited he was in CFCL's 75th year to be able to continue to support the growth of the Australian rail industry. Aptly, GL101 has been named 'Think Big', continuing CFCLA's tradition of the 'Australian Horsepower' theme with its 3000HP fleet. It was originally intended to name this locomotive 'Sunline', but this horse

**Right:** Invited guests engage in discussions, with GL101 looking on.

**Below:** The Powerhouse Museum put on a dazzling lighting set-up to show off the new locomotive in all of its glory.

**Opposite page:** President of CFCL, Fred Sassar (at the controls), Mike McGee from CFCL in the US (middle), and Ian Gibbs, head of CFCLA in Australia (left), pose in the No 1 end cab of GL101.

**All photos by Jamie Fisher**



name will now adorn GL102. GL101 has been rebuilt from 44207.

Chris Huggins, Executive General Manager of Manufacturing for United Goninan, officially handed the locomotive over to Fred Sassar. Mr Huggins expressed his delight with United Goninan's involvement in a project that provides its customer with what is effectively a brand new locomotive at a fraction of the cost of building from scratch.

Ian Gibbs, who heads CFCLA in Australia, detailed the company's impressive growth record to date. At the completion of current locomotive and wagon builds, CFCLA's rollingstock assets in Australia will total nearly \$110M. With the recent transfer of much of the Great Northern fleet of locomotives to CFCLA, the CFCLA locomotive fleet will number 49 units at the conclusion of the GL project.

CFCLA's impressive list of customers includes Lachlan Valley Rail Freight, Pacific National, Patrick Rail, GrainCorp, Interail, Australian Railroad Group, ATN Access, Freight Australia, Silverton Rail, Great Northern and BHP Iron Ore.

Also on display at the function were locomotives EL57 and FL220, new 100t gross grain hopper CGAY859V, and new 60ft intermodal wagon CQGY553H.

*The GL Class locomotives will be named as follows:*

- GL101 Think Big**
- GL102 Sunline**
- GL103 Brew**
- GL104 Jezabeel**
- GL105 Let's Elope**
- GL106 Subzero**
- GL107 Rogan Josh**
- GL108 Rain Lover**
- GL109 Just A Dash**
- GL110 Tawriffic**
- GL111 Galilee**
- GL112 Jeune**

GL101 made its maiden journey from United Goninan's Broadmeadow facility on Monday 27 January, when Lachlan Valley Rail Freight's train number D448 departed the site with FL220 and KL81 hauling GL101 to Eveleigh, in preparation for transfer to the Powerhouse Museum.

