

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Letter from Secretary

2015 RTBU BRANCH COUNCIL



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

The Rail Tram and Bus Union Victoria held its biennial Branch Council meeting on

Thursday 17 September.

Branch Council is made up of delegates from all Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch and meets once every 2 years to hear reports from the RTBU leadership and officials on the state of our Union. Over 40 RTBU delegates met at Trades Hall on the day. They heard report-backs from our Organisers in Rail Divisions, including Grant Wainwright, Darren Galea, Bryan Evans and Jamie Porter on the progress and achievements that have been made in each of their areas. Assistant Branch Secretary Phil Altieri also gave a report-back on behalf of the Tram and Bus Division and Paris Jolly reported back on behalf of the Locomotive Division, as did myself on behalf of the entire Victorian Branch.

Branch Council was also lucky enough to host as guest speakers our RTBU National Secretary, Bob Nanva and Tasmanian Branch Secretary, Samantha Simonetis. Bob Nanva spoke to us on the imperatives of maintaining a strong industrial front and continuing the political fight against the Federal Coalition Government, telling Branch Council: "We know that whenever unions have a reduced role, or take a lifeless approach to their cause, there is no pay; no guaranteed hours; no paid holiday, people get sacked...; vulnerable workers get exploited and many tragically get



killed...We can't allow (Turnbull's) sweet smile and impressive vocabulary extend the life of what is a toxic, anti-worker government."

Sam Simonetis reported on her recent solidarity trip to South Korea, where the RTBU maintains fraternal links with the Korean Railway Workers' Union. We also used Branch Council as an opportunity to unveil our new RTBU recruitment video to be launched on social media, which features many of our stalwart members and officials.

It was evident during Q&A's on the day that our Union's most recent dispute with Metro & Yarra Trams was very much on the minds of all delegates, regardless of their Division. The solidarity shown by comrades in the room was resounding.

I would like to warmly thank all delegates who attended Branch Council on behalf of their respective Divisions. I would also like to thank Victorian Trades Hall Council on behalf of the RTBU for allowing us to use of their premises. I would also like to thank our Branch President, Darren Lamont for chairing Branch Council throughout the day. We have faced many challenges and adversaries in fighting for our members' basic right to dignity at work - we have always stood and fought back. The RTBU has made great strides over the last 2 years. May there be many more to come.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

A FAIR OUTCOME FOR ALL – METRO OPERATIONS EA

I am pleased to report that the RTBU has secured an in principle agreement with Metro Trains for the Rail Operations Enterprise Agreement (EA).

As members know this dispute was a long and gruelling dispute which forced the union to take protected industrial action for the first time in 18 years, a decision which was not made lightly. With your strength and unity and dedication to getting a strong agreement I am pleased to announce that this outcome is what we have.

Thank you to all members who supported the campaign for a fair deal.

We will be coming to a location near you shortly to run through what is in the proposed EA. As soon as a schedule is prepared this will be emailed and faxed to members. In the meantime please contact your local Delegate or your Organiser for any further information.



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

METRO INFRASTRUCTURE NEGOTIATIONS



Bryan Evans
Organiser

Metro has seen fit to pull the carpet out from under negotiations for a new Infrastructure Enterprise

Agreement (EA) with its employees. This comes after nearly 6 months of efforts by the RTBU to bargain in good faith.

Metro's highest priority claims for the Infrastructure EA were Homesafe, rosters and remunerations. After lengthy delays around responding to our own claims, the company

decided to attempt to bypass the Union and force their claims in outside of negotiations, scrapping a trial of Homesafe and trying to jam wages in for just 2 percent.

This disgusting and shameful behavior is only the latest in a long list of deceptive behavior from the company. Metro have so far backflipped on:

- Collaborating with the Union on rosters, which they said they wished to tie into the EA
- Trial of rosters
- Compensating on overtime

Metro has now backflipped on their promise to come back to negotiations with an offer that was reasonable to their workforce.

We need to be sure when voting on Metro's proposed roster that we don't accept their outrageous behaviour as the bottom line. This isn't just about track workers – this is a taster for how all Infrastructure employees are going to be treated in their bargaining by the company. The Union is not about to accept the conditions imposed on our members by Metro in this round – Metro will have to show some humility and respect for its members in Infrastructure if it wants to see a workable EA any time soon.

HSR CONFERENCE – TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER



Jamie Porter
Organiser

Comrades,

I am happy to announce that Victorian Trades Hall Council will be hosting its first

HSR conference at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre on Tuesday October 27th from 8:30 am-4 pm.

I urge all HSR's to attend as this is a great opportunity to skill up and network with HSR's from all different unions.

Topics include:

- How to raise and resolve OHS issues in your workplace – practical strategies and advice
- OHS indicators for workplaces
- Risks to psychological health (including bullying and stress)

The conference has been approved by Worksafe under the Fair Work Act, therefore HSR's will be released from work with full pay when your employer has been notified a minimum of 14 days in advance.

This entitlement does not extend to deputy HSR's, but they are most certainly welcome

and I strongly advise deputy HSR's to speak to your employer to make arrangements to attend.

If you are wanting to attend please visit and ensure to register as all attendees must register as soon as possible at <http://worksafeweek.worksafe.vic.gov.au/registration-form-ie7/>. If you are having any difficulty registering online, being released to attend or for deputy HSR's making alternate arrangements to attend please contact me on 0403 863 869. Please let me know if you are planning to go to the HSR Conference – I look forward to seeing you on this great day.



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Luba Grigorovitch

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Infrastructure Division
Secretary: Kevin Killender

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmetski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire

Organiser: Bryan Evans

