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Rail Divisions RTBU

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RTBU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

On Tuesday, 28 September the RTBU held its very first Women's Conference at the ACTU office in Queen Street. It was well attended and close to 50 RTBU members turned up. Bridgid Walsh facilitated the workshop and did a sensational job! Guest speakers included a solid and interesting line-up. Kicking off proceedings was Trevor Dobbyn, the State Secretary of the RTBU, followed by Brian Boyd, secretary of the Victorian Trades Hall Council and Jennifer O'Donnell-Pirisi, the Women's Officer at the Victorian Trades Hall Council. Rail Operations Divisional Secretary Victor Moore spoke and finishing off was the CEO of Metro, Andrew Lezala.

There was an opportunity in part of the workshop to have an open discussion about varied issues faced by women everyday in the workplace. All of the women in the room outlined their workplace problems frankly and in detail. These included training, career progression, carers leave, discrimination, lack of consultation, women's facilities on the job, uniforms, lack of networks for women and many many more... these issues raised will give the RTBU Women's Committee a great platform to begin discussion and to allow us to overcome each issue, one by one.

At the end of the conference I faced the women in the room to thank them for their participation, and also endorse resolutions.

I think it is fair to say that the first RTBU Women's Workshop was a success; however it is only the start, now the real work begins!

Again thank you to everyone who came to the workshop. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the next RTBU Women's meeting on **Tuesday, 19 October at 11.30am at the RTBU head office, level 2, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne.**



Luba Grigorovitch
RTBU Women's Officer



Collage of Women who attended the first RTBU Women's Workshop

EPPING TO SOUTH MORANG STARTS UP

The first major extension of the metropolitan rail network since the Darling to Glen Waverly project in 1930 is now underway and is expected to be completed in 2012.

The \$650M South Morang Rail Extension Project involves 5 km of track duplication between Keon Park and Epping, 3.5 km of new double track between Epping and South Morang, new stations at Thomastown, Epping and South Morang and an upgrade and expansion of the Epping Train Maintenance Facility.

The Project is being carried out through an alliance between John Holland, DoT, AECOM, MTM and Vic Roads. The John Holland Group is the principal contractor and is still in a process of determining how the work will be allocated.

The most likely result is that John Holland will carry out a substantial amount of work in-house and contract out the rest.

In terms of track work which has traditionally been performed by the RTBU, we are currently finalising a new EA with John Holland which will cover their maintenance work on track in Victoria and potentially have application through "jump up" clauses to give us coverage of track work on this project. Otherwise a new project specific agreement will be required with the RTBU, the CFMEU and other construction unions.

This should be done sooner rather than later to ensure a smooth delivery of what is a historic and long overdue extension to the metropolitan rail system.



Trevor Dobbyn
State Secretary

METRO STATIONS PROJECTS UPDATE

PARKDALE AND UPWEY

Portable facilities have been placed at these locations to allow a station staff presence on a part time basis whilst the upgrade works to premium status happen.

The facilities at Parkdale and Upwey include toilet, kitchen, lockers and basic office fixtures.

WESTALL

The premium upgrade at Westall is almost complete with ongoing site visits to ensure the station is ready for its opening date of October 10, following on from Nunawading the Westall upgrade sets a great benchmark for what we would like to see from all station upgrades.

SOUTH MORANG

Two weeks ago the Rail Divisions of the RTBU viewed early draft drawings of the proposed new stations at Thomastown, Epping and South Morang. These facilities look to be state of the art and something the outer northern suburbs members are really looking forward to working in.

Members will be kept informed as more information comes to hand. If any member would like more information on these or other projects please do not hesitate to contact myself at the union office.



Grant Wainwright

Branch Senior Vice President



Thomastown Station 3D image.

Have you moved house or changed jobs recently?

Please let us know if your details have changed by calling us on **9600 3030** or send us an email on the address below.

Do you have an email address?

send us an email: rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

PACIFIC NATIONAL STAFF

Pacific National Bulk are about to start negotiations for a new EA Agreement.

The 2007 Agreement covered Drivers, Shunters and Train Examiners employed by Pacific National.

Parts of this company were broken up when Pacific National came under the Asciano banner with some staff placed at Patrick's Port Link.

This has been a problem from the start as staff at the Patrick's site have always been Pacific National staff but when you ask Pacific National or Patrick's who is staff the answer is "we don't know".

How can Pacific National say they are not their employees when they clearly are? They are part of the Pacific National Victorian General Freight and Industrial Division UCA Agreement and are part of the Pacific National work force at the docks.

If this is how Pacific National treats their employees, what's next?

Members will be kept informed of developments around the new EA negotiations.



Calvin Harvey

Organiser Infrastructure / Workshops

DELEGATES CONTINUE TO PROGRESS ISSUES

Across the operation network in Metro, RTBU delegates have been busy representing member's interests on a range of issues. A series of site inspections have recently taken place at the new Metro staffed stations of which 22 are currently being opened.

The RTBU has raised a number of issues including a lack of facilities and training around emergency evacuation etc. and how management resolve these matters will be reported back to members shortly. Further site inspections occurred at Brighton Beach signalling and siding upgrades with management to respond to a number of concerns raised by station staff. At Dandenong, a large scale renovation of the station and signaling box is occurring with a new site being developed for the signal box.

A range of OH&S issues and amenities issues were identified however the greatest concern was the lack of coordination and consultation on the site. To this end the RTBU has written to management to setup a formal consultative process along the lines of the North Melbourne project to ensure our members concerns about the works are addressed and all the parties are made aware of the scope of works, site impacts, OH&S issues and passenger impacts.

In Metlink the RTBU has successfully concluded negotiations around the Metlink Collective Agreements. Currently the document is being distributed on the job with voting on the Agreement due to occur shortly.

The agreement provides for 15% wage increase over 3 years (made up 13% wage increase and a further 2% upon delivery of initiatives).

Metlink has also incorporated a number of new areas to the organisation including the Central Pass Office and the Southern Cross Information booth and these will be covered by this new agreement.



Victor Moore

Secretary Rail Operations

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