



# UNION EXPRESS

The Official Organ of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU

Victorian Branch

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OPERATIONS | INFRASTRUCTURE | WORKSHOPS | SALARIED

**Rail Divisions RTBU**

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## DELEGATE PROFILE: NORMA ANDERSON

Norma has been working in the rail industry for just on ten years. During this time she has always been a proud paid up member of the union. Just recently Norma was elected as a delegate for the union in her workplace. Along with being a delegate she is also a committee member of RTBU Women, and holds the position as the AO uniform representative with Metro.

The main reason Norma took on the position as delegate is because she is "very keen to help members, especially female members, to deal with issues affecting their working life".

Norma has been an effective delegate for RTBU members and the union. Norma is an Authorised Officer in the communications room at Southern Cross. The thing she loves most about this role is that it allows her to interact with all types of people.



### 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](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)

## ARMED PSO'S – COMING TO A STATION NEAR YOU

The election of the Victorian Liberal National Coalition will raise many challenges for the RTBU in the years ahead as it is fair to say that conservative governments are no friend of the union movement.

It looks like the first issue facing our union will be the introduction of 940 armed PSO's on to all metropolitan and some V/Line stations.

The RTBU has been campaigning for a number of years to re-staff all metro rail stations with Station Staff supported by additional AO's and police. In its last days of government Labor promised to re-staff all metro stations during its next term of government but as it wasn't elected this now means nothing at all.

We must therefore negotiate an agreement with the new government to make sure that the introduction of armed PSO's, which is a fundamental change to our working conditions, is done in the best and safest possible manner.

I have received a verbal assurance from the new Minister for Transport Terry Mulder that there will be no cuts to Station Staff or AO's as a consequence of the introduction of PSO's and I have asked for this to be provided in writing.

In addition, the RTBU wants a full Risk Assessment to be conducted before firearms are introduced into our workplaces.

We have already convened meetings of AO's and Station Staff which have endorsed a resolution which calls for both job guarantees and a Risk Assessment.

It will be an interesting four years with the new government. If we remain united and strong I have no doubt that we are more than up to this challenge.

I would like to thank all delegates, officials and staff for their great work during the year and wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



**Trevor Dobbyn**  
State Secretary

## UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL PAID PARENTAL LEAVE (PPL) SCHEME

PPL will be effective as of 1 January 2011.

PPL is funded by the Australian Government and is paid at the national minimum wage (December 2010, \$570 per week before tax). This payment is taxable and lasts for up to 18 weeks. PPL will not reduce and existing paid maternity leave entitlements paid for by the employer.

Eligible parents may receive PPL before, after, or at the same time as employer-provided paid leave such as maternity leave, annual leave and long service leave, and employer-provided unpaid parental leave.

Although PPL can be taken at the same time as any existing leave or after any leave, it cannot be taken before the birth.

To determine if you are eligible for Federal PPL you need to meet the PPL work test:

- 1) You must have worked continuously for at least 10 of the 13 months prior to the birth or adoption of your child,

AND

- 2) You must have worked for at least 330 hours in that 10 month period (eg, just over one day per week), with no more than an eight week gap between two consecutive working days.

A working day is a day you have worked for at least one hour. You do not need to be working full-time to be eligible for parental leave pay. You may meet the work test even if you are;

- Are a part-time or casual employee
- Have multiple employees, or
- Have recently changed jobs

PPL must initially be claimed by the mother, and is only for mothers who have been working prior to the birth of the child. If the mother returns to work early, the unused part of the PPL pay can be transferred to their partner if the partner meets the scheme's eligibility criteria. Please note that any work at all may be considered "a return to work" so casual or CRT work should not be undertaken during PPL.

The Federal PPL scheme starts on January 1, 2011. To register for the scheme visit a Family assistance Office (located at Medicare offices) or go online to [www.tinyurl.com.au/xxs](http://www.tinyurl.com.au/xxs)

For more information about the PPL Federal Scheme visit [www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au), or call the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50.

## RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING MEMBERS

The Retired Railway Employees Association is a 260 strong membership organisation especially for retired, redundant and any person that may have left the rail system through ill health or for personal reasons. There is no age barrier, someone may have left the industry at a young age, but wants to retain interests of railway personnel is eligible to join.

The Retired Railway Employees Association meets each month (except January) at the North Melbourne Town Hall, corner Queensberry and Errol Streets, North Melbourne on the first Thursday of each month. Members are kept informed of pass privileges, superannuation issues and financial advice for members on a superannuation and/or government pensions. There is also the social aspect of joining by being involved with fellow ex railway workers and social outings to some country locations to mingle with the local people of similar interest. Once a member, it is certain that you will enjoy the occasion and be back month after month.

Membership fees are \$20.00 per annum and due each year on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Applications to the Membership Co-ordinator, Mr Lindsay Jacgung Unit 3/318 Jones Road, Somerville 3912, Phone 5977 5935 for Lindsay to send you a membership nomination form. The Retired Railway Employees Association is not affiliated with any other social or membership organisation.

### Robert Philp

President, Retired Railways Employees Association

## UNITED GROUP LIMITED SPOTSWOOD

The United Group Spotswood agreement for rail is near completion with the RTBU, ETU and AMWU. Delegates and organiser's are working together to achieve the best outcome for members.

This agreement is similar to all other United Group Rail agreements with industry standards applicable.

The agreement will also cover the Storemen who were not covered in the last agreement.

### SKILLED RAIL SERVICE

This agreement is also near completion with just a few minor items to be resolved. We anticipate this agreement to be finalised by the end of the year.

Finally, I hope all members and their families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Calvin Harvey**

Organiser Infrastructure / Workshops

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Trevor Dobbyn

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Grant Wainwright

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### Organiser Infrastructure / Workshops

Calvin Harvey