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Victorian Branch

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Rail Divisions RTBU

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V/LINE - INDEPENDENCE FOR H & S REPS

Recently there have been attempts by V/Line management to interfere in the proper election of Health and Safety (H&S) Representatives on the job.

This is done by management stating that they are required to conduct elections every three years which is not the case.

By controlling the election of H & S reps management are able to influence the process to try to elect individuals who are more sympathetic to them.

What should be occurring is that the members of a defined work group should control the election of a H & S rep independent of management. If there is a problem with a H & S rep then this group should also be able to deal with this independently of management.

Current "elected" representatives are trained by V.E.C.C.I. (Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry). Needless to say the result is that you have more "friendly" H & S reps. The whole rationale behind the election of H & S reps by the respective workgroup is that it functions with the true interests of the workers in that group. Members should be aware of the provisions of the H & S Act 2004 regarding the election of reps. (sec 54).

- A H & S rep is to be nominated and be elected by the members of the respective workgroup
- A H & S rep has a term of three years, however if no other member of the workgroup challenges the rep at the expiry of that time, they can continue to be the H & S rep without any election or nomination taking place
- A newly elected H & S rep cannot be challenged until they have completed 12 months in that position
- A H & S rep can be removed by a majority vote in writing, by the members of the workgroup.
- A H & S rep determines and selects which training course they will attend. This union supports our members attending Victorian Trades Hall and associated country Trades Hall, Health & Safety courses backed by the resources of the A.C.T.U.

If you require advice about H & S representation or courses available to you through this union, then contact your job delegate. If there are attempts being made in your workplace to have management control the effective operation of your health and safety representation then have the matter addressed by the union. They have no right to be involved in this process.

Bob Bassett

President - Rail Operations



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

TUF THE RIGHT STUFF

Our focus has always been building membership numbers and the strength of the RTBU but it is also important to recognise the need for alliances with other unions who face the same pressures from the same sources.

In particular, the alliance between the RTBU, MUA and the TWU known as the Transport Union Federation (TUF) is of vital importance to our union.

The three TUF unions between them substantially control almost every stage of the movement of freight from ports to warehouses through to factories and retail outlets.

Members of TUF unions also play a major role in moving passengers in mass transit.

Past experience has found that when we all work together industrially we can use our combined strength to make a point should we need to do so.

TUF is a national and state based alliance which is strategically powerful particularly when the need arises for us to unite around the common cause. It allows us to work on joint campaigns to share resources and to go to government to present our case for improvements in infrastructure and legislation to benefit our members and our industries.

Major corporates are constantly maneuvering to cover the whole of the logistics supply chain and to increase their share in the growing mass passenger transit market.

It makes a lot of sense for TUF unions in the same market place to do likewise through smart strategic alliances such as this.

It is for these reasons that TUF will remain an important strategic initiative for the RTBU in the future.



Trevor Dobbyn

State Secretary

WIN FOR ALL WOMEN IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY!

A win for all women in the Rail Industry has been gained with Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) recently agreeing to provide all pregnant employees with a maternity work uniform during their pregnancy. Equality in the workplace is paramount in today's society and this recent implementation by MTM shows that the management have started to move in the right direction. Jodie Chatfield, an Authorised Officer and RTBU Women's committee member was the first to receive the MTM maternity uniform.

This is a direct result of the hard work and lobbying that the RTBU Women's Committee did to address this issue. Jodie Chatfield who is currently 26 weeks pregnant said, "By providing a maternity uniform I believe that MTM are acknowledging the importance of giving working pregnant women the right to remain in the workplace during their pregnancy. In today's society women are able to maintain a balance between their careers and their family life".

Any woman wishing to access maternity wear should speak to their Manager to arrange for a fitting through the uniform supplier.

If you have any trouble or need further advice feel free to contact the union on 9600 3030 and speak to Luba Grigorovitch, Industrial, Campaigns and Women's Officer or come to the next **RTBU Women's Committee meeting which will be held on Tuesday, 15 February at 11.30am.**



Pictured: Jodie struts her stuff.



Luba Grigorovitch
RTBU Industrial, Campaigns and Women's Officer

MYKI UPDATE

Following the November elections of the Liberal/National Coalition Government a stack of the former Labor Governments projects were put on ice. One such project is myki. This process was to allow the new government time to do the numbers and decide if each project was worth the money and had merit to continue. Myki is one such project.

All new works on the myki project have been placed in a holding pattern awaiting an auditors report (Deloitte) to a Government committee made up of five senior ministers including the Premier Ted Baillieu. This report was delivered to the committee this week.

The key components of the project that are most affected are the Ticket Office Terminals (TOT's) roll out scheduled for late February and the Retail Solution rollout which was also to be rolled out in February/March 2011. Station Staff have continued to support the myki project by selling "Starter Packs" at the rate of over 2,000 units a week and supporting those sales by proactively showing members of the public how to use the ticket vending machines to top up their myki's.

The Authorised Officers are also more than doing their share by continuing on with the Hand Held device trial which this week was given a further software improvement.

Our members in the myki mates team have suffered most by the freezing of this project as all work for these casual employees has been placed on hold until at least the end of January.

The take up rate for myki continues to rise with the latest figures showing that over 15% of all trips made on the system are made using myki. This number, even though the project is on long service leave, continues to grow.

We expect the Government to make an announcement regarding the future of myki before the end of January. Most of the hard work on this project is done. It would be a shame if it was all for nothing.



Grant Wainwright
Branch Senior Vice President



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