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Rail Divisions RTBU

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DELEGATE PROFILE: CARMINE GUIDONE

Carmine Guidone has been working in the rail industry for 14 years. He holds the position of a Station Officer and is based at Reservoir station. Although Carmine has held varied positions over the years he has always worked on stations.

The thing Carmine loves about his job is the variety, and how every day is different. He also states that his workmates are fabulous and create a good enjoyable working environment.

Carmine often works varied hours as he is a shift worker. He only looks at the positives with this as well and takes it as a bonus and part of being in the rail industry.

Carmine has been a union member since day 1 of joining the industry. Over these years he has seen the employees get stronger and openly says that the protection of workmates, improvements on conditions and standards are the main reasons that he remains part of the RTBU.

Carmine initially became a delegate because there was an opening and Bill Anastardis encouraged him to put his hand up to be a delegate and provide even more representation to the members. Carmine hasn't looked back since taking on this position and says that he is 'proud to be an RTBU member and delegate and enjoys assisting members and protecting their rights, work ethics and principles!'

We commend Carmine for the 14 years of service that he has given to the RTBU.



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR 2012

With 2011 all but done and dusted it's probably not a bad time to reflect on the key things that the RTBU has dealt with this year and what lies ahead for the next one.

We finish the year with more Enterprise Agreements (EA's) that have delivered the industry standard in terms of wages and conditions. We have grown our membership, our union's finances are in good shape and we have trained more delegates to provide on the job assistance to members.

Our delegates and officials across all divisions have worked very hard on behalf of our members and for that I thank them. Whilst the union is not in the business of performing miracles as some things are unfixable, it is a matter of fact that during the course of the year thousands of matters big and small have been dealt with by our delegates and officials. That is what our union is all about.

While it is fashionable in some quarters to argue that unions have had their day, I think we should try to imagine our working lives without a union, individual contracts, a continuous erosion of important conditions and workplace rights and no job security at all.

The union protects all of the things we hold dear, decent wages, good conditions, a safe workplace and respect from management who know they are dealing with an organisation of 35000 members not just one isolated individual with whom they can do whatever they want.

Perhaps we sometimes take our union for granted but we have a lot to lose without it. That is why we need to keep the RTBU strong disciplined and united.

Next year we face some big challenges with 12 EA's up for re-negotiation including the Metro, Yarra and the V/line Operations and Infrastructure agreements. Backed by the Baillieu Liberal National Coalition we can expect management to come of the blocks more aggressively than in the recent past.

No doubt some of our employers are heartened by the election of a conservative government and also by the actions of Qantas bosses against transport unions and the state government against the nurses.

They may well see this as an opportunity to avoid paying decent wage increases next year so we will need to fight tough and smart to make sure they don't get their way. In any event there is sure to be fun and games and we will all do our best as always.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy, safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

Trevor Dobbyn
State Secretary



STATION VISITS

Over the past few weeks I have been attempting to visit as many Premium Stations as possible prior to the Christmas break, just to touch base with the delegates and to get a feel for local issues and how things are tracking for Metro in the suburbs. It always surprises me how many localised issues are solved on a daily basis by our Delegates. The major issues are still there and of a concern to members and Delegates alike such as, welfare checks and forced annual leave.

It's great to get back out to the stations and to be amongst the workforce that I was a part of for over twenty years. Stations Staff are also concerned about the introduction of PSO's and are wondering if they will be attempting to take part of their work. As stated in past editions of Union Express, the PSO's are a security force and will not in any way perform any Station or Authorised Officer roles. Premium stations are currently being inspected by representatives from Metro, the Victorian Police and the RTBU to find suitable locations for the PODs which the PSO's will work out of.

Next year is shaping to be bigger than Ben Hur with 12 Enterprise Agreements up for re-negotiation including Metro. I wish to thank all our Delegates for their tireless work throughout the year and for the support given to me in my first year as a full time official. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and delegates a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.



Grant Wainwright

Organiser - Rail Operations
Division & Administration,
Supervisory, Technical &
Professional Division

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?

Do you have a mobile phone number?

send us an email:

rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

ANOTHER YEAR ON FOR RTBU WOMEN

Reflecting on 2011 RTBU Women have again had a successful one! The first big win for RTBU Women came in early 2011 when it was discovered that Metro didn't have maternity wear for employees who were expected to wear uniform. Thanks to RTBU Women, with the backing of the union, we successfully lobbied Metro to put a maternity uniform system in place. I am proud to report that this system has been running smoothly since.

RTBU Women have continued to meet on a monthly basis and have battled many issues that are discussed at the monthly meetings.

Apart from discussing workplace issues at the meetings, RTBU Women try to attend as many events as possible.

Earlier this year a group of us went to two International Women's Day events to join in the festivities, in June a contingent of us supported the ASU in the equal pay rally, and we also supported the White Ribbon 'Say No to Domestic Violence' day in November. This was a fabulous march to be part of and we were joined by many of the blokes from both the Rail and Tram divisions.

We also held our second RTBU Women's workshop. It was well attended and a constructive day for all involved. This year we are proud to say that we had RTBU women from a number of companies, these included; Metro, V/Line, Met Link, El Zorro & Alternate Safe Working Solutions.

For any of you who haven't been to an RTBU Women's meeting I suggest you try to come-a-long to one of our future meetings. We are trying to make a difference for our members in the rail industry and make your workplace the best environment possible. We couldn't be doing this if we didn't have the support of the entire union, so for that we are grateful.

If you are keen to participate in the RTBU Women's committee please contact Luba Grigorovitch. Luba is the unions Industrial, Campaigns and Women's officer. You can call Luba on 9600 3030 or email: women@rtbuvic.com.au

2012 RTBU Women's Committee meeting dates:

February – Tuesday 7 at 11.30am
March - Tuesday 6 at 11.30am
April – Tuesday 10 at 11.30am
May – Tuesday 8 at 11.30am
June – Tuesday 5 at 11.30am
July – Tuesday 10 at 11.30am
August – Tuesday 7 at 11.30am
September – Tuesday 11 at 11.30am
October – Tuesday 9 at 11.30am
November – Tuesday 13 at 11.30am
December- TBC



Luba Grigorovitch

RTBU Industrial, Campaigns
and Women's Officer

Rail Divisions

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