

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch

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**Luba Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

## WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THIS HARD?

How often have we heard from management of the need to adopt to change? Or of the exciting world that awaits us under the guise of new technology and new ways of working?

Well under Public Transport Victoria's (PTV) new technology, the need to adopt to change has more froth and bubble than a spilt café latte.

Take for example the current whizz bang myki system which replaced the old out of puff metcard system.

Under myki, a whole raft of promises were made about the importance of new technologies, upgrades to the ticket office machines, to new barrier arrays and much more. Yet some of the essential upgrades that would add value to the new catch phrase of "passenger experience" have gone missing in action.

One of these entails the rather basic task of matching staff operated Booking Office machines (TOT's) to the need of having paywave facilities for EFTPOS and credit card transactions.

How often have we seen a passenger in a queue forget their PIN number, or remark "do you have paywave?" only to be told no we don't.

Paywave has emerged as a payment system that is very popular with the younger generation and it continues to grow across all age groups in society. PTV with all their mystery shoppers, surveys and whatever else surely would have noticed this simple, but basic omission and rectified it, however it seemed not be a priority to them.

In fact, back in 2016, the RTBU wrote to PTV raising concern around Booking Offices not having paywave technology. PTV responded to the RTBU in 2016 advising that they had commenced works to have paywave installed in Booking Offices. Two years later, and

numerous follow up letters and emails from the RTBU we finally received a response from PTV.

PTV have now advised that they have secured funding for a replacement TOT and in their own words "*We are in the final stages of issuing a Variation Request to the ticketing service provider to explore and research the marketplace for a next generation Ticket Office Terminal*".

Just like the new stealth fighter jet, this issue appears as a small dot on the PTV radar.

Compare this to the bells and whistles of PTV jumping at the "mobile myki" and trialling it across the network.

The mobile myki trial has been developed to operate with android smart phones and uses technology that enables the myki to be read through the phone rather than using a myki card.

RTBU members must be gob-smacked at the hypocrisy displayed by PTV.

A hypocrisy that seeks to undermine jobs and limit Station Staff skills in order to feed some hipster style phone fantasy at the expense of passengers basic travelling needs and requirements.

The RTBU continues to defend our rapidly growing public transport system that relies on accessibility to transport for all. On one side we have many unstaffed stations requiring proper disability access and maintenance to poor platform conditions, we have PTV turning a blind eye to the requirements of an expanding network and failing to address key issues. Spending time and money on a technology that is not only restrictive to a minority of the population, but is far less productive than other options in the market is unacceptable.

The RTBU will continue to put pressure on PTV to ensure that they keep to their promises to install paywave and ensure proper consultation with the RTBU. The RTBU will also ensure that continuation training is provided for our members around new technology, in order for improved accessibility and staffing across the network for all our passengers.

A handwritten signature of Luba Grigorovitch.

**Luba Grigorovitch**

- State Secretary

## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

### Have you changed jobs or moved house recently?

Please let us know if your details have changed by

calling us on **8630 9100** or emailing us at [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)





**Joe Maisano**

Organiser

## AROUND THE TRAPS

Between the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRA), Skyrail constructions and the extension of the South Morang line to Mernda, there have been several stations with new buildings and facilities being built recently. While this is a step in the right direction, these things unfortunately always come with some pitfalls.

One of these pitfalls is the removal of Safeworking from stations. Recently I attended an on the job meeting regarding the removal of Safeworking from the Pakenham signal panel. The meeting was well attended, however understandably, many members are feeling anxious regarding their future at Pakenham Station.

Many questions were raised with Metro management around rostering and financial disadvantage if the Safeworking Panel is to be removed. This is the first of many meetings to occur regarding the process of removing the Safeworking Panel. I will continue to update the members as this progresses.

In V/Line the internal recruitment pool dispute was developing and we were close to signing off on it, however unfortunately V/Line have caused further issues and it still remains outstanding. This current recruitment process is one that disadvantages many members on a regular basis and it needs to be resolved to ensure that no members are disadvantaged anymore.

I say to V/Line, let's get back to the negotiation table and have this resolved so everyone can move forward. If not, then the RTBU will lodge at the Fair Work Commission (FWC).

We will continue to update members with further details when they are available.

If you have any questions, please call me on 0421122437.

## RTBU DELEGATES CONFERENCE

If you are a Delegate, Women's Advocate or a HSR you should have received an invitation to the RTBU Delegate's Conference happening on Wednesday 5 September 2018.

Please RSVP to [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au) as soon as possible to ensure your release is arranged and for catering purposes.



# WINTER BEANIES

DON'T LOSE  
YOUR HEAD



**Darren Galea**

Organiser

## CHANGES IN CATEGORY MEDICALS FOR METRO

Back in Issue 11 of RTBU Express I wrote about Metro's proposal to change the category medicals for Train Controllers, Fleet Controllers, PIDs operators, Signallers, TSOs and Safeworkers from a category 2 to a category 1.

Despite the RTBU pointing out to Metro that such a change would breach the Rail Safety National Law, Metro has decided to go against the RTBU and our members and implement the change.

The RTBU **does not** support this move because it has the potential to discriminate against people who are completely capable of doing a job on the basis of an overly excessive health assessment.

The RTBU currently has this matter in dispute and status quo will remain until we get an appropriate outcome.

The RTBU is basing our argument on the fact that the National Standard for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers clearly states that:

**"Health assessment standards cannot be simply set at the highest level for safety's sake. They must be set and applied carefully to match the risks associated with the tasks to be consistent with anti-discrimination and privacy laws."**

Safety is incredibly important to the RTBU and the safety of our members must be appropriately balanced with their right to privacy and their rights not to be discriminated against.

We believe that Metro is currently requiring new Train Controllers, Fleet Controllers, PIDs operators, Signallers, TSOs and Safeworkers to undertake category 1 medical assessments.

It is the RTBU's view that this is a breach of the National Standard and must cease.

Metro's conduct is completely unacceptable and we advise all Train Controllers, Fleet Controllers, PIDs, Signallers and Safeworkers to notify the RTBU as soon as possible if you are requested to complete a category 1 medical.

Metro's behaviour makes a mockery of the National Standard and the Rail Safety National Law.

We will continue to fight against this and will update members as this progresses.

### DELEGATES MEETING DATES - SEPTEMBER 2018

- 5 September – **V/Line Central** – 1130 – 1230hrs
- 5 September – **Metro Caulfield** – 1300 – 1400hrs
- 5 September – **MMAOs – B & D Delegates** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 6 September – **V/Line Shunters – Geelong** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 7 September – **V/Line Western** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 11 September – **Metro Central – Flinders Street** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 11 September – **Metro NSS / CCTV** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 12 September – **North Melbourne AOs – A & B Delegates** – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 12 September – **TPH AOs – A & B Delegates** – 1200 – 1300hrs
- 17 September – **Malvern AOs – A & B Delegates** – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 17 September – **Hawthorn AOs – A & B Delegates** – 1200 – 1300hrs
- 19 September – **Metro Clifton Hill** – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 19 September – **Metro CEU, CPU & CIU** – 0900 - 1000hrs
- 20 September – **Metro Burnley** – 1230 – 1330hrs
- 20 September – **V/Line Northern** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 26 September – **Metro Northern** – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 26 September – **Wilson Security** – 1400 – 1500hrs
- 27 September – **V/Line Southern Cross** – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 27 September – **Metrol, Timetables, Rosters & Signallers** - 1000 – 1200hrs
- 27 September – **Metro Drivers Allocation** – 1330 – 1430hrs





**Alice Dunn**

Industrial Officer

## EA BARGAINING SURVEY - OUT SOON

### Metro and V/Line

In my last couple of articles, I have either touched on or written about the upcoming 2019 bargaining round. I am pleased that members are already sending emails to the office or providing feedback through Delegates about what they want to see on the log of claims. As I have stated in previous articles, I am collating all the feedback to ensure it can be addressed.

As well as compiling the emails and engaging with you through meetings, we will also be sending out a survey to all members working for Metro Trains Melbourne and V/Line. The survey is extremely important in assisting the RTBU bargaining team to set priorities for the log of claims and negotiations.

The survey will only take around five minutes and I cannot stress enough how important participating in the survey is.

The purpose of the survey is to provide data which will assist us to prioritise which entitlements we need to add or strengthen.

I want to be clear that our position is always that there be no reduction to current entitlements. The focus will be to strengthen or add to the entitlements we already have. For this reason, the survey is designed to assess the relative importance of issues other than pay.

Finally, please don't be alarmed that we haven't included pay in the survey. Previous surveys and ongoing feedback has made it clear pay is most important! We will be canvassing views on pay related issues during mass meetings. You can also email the office directly.

### YOUR MY HEALTH RECORD

As you would be aware, over the last few months there has been significant debate regarding the Federal Government's new online system for recording personal medical histories, called *My Health Records*. This system will allow individual users to authorise various health professionals to access and share their medical records.

The RTBU has significant concerns over the rollout of the *My Health Record* project.

In theory, this is an important health initiative. But the failure to adequately safeguard private information means that workers could be vulnerable to pressure from employers to reveal personal details that have nothing to do with safety at work.

As you know, RTBU members working in the public transport industry are subject to strict medical standards to ensure your own safety and the safety of the wider community. Many members have to frequently submit to medical testing to ensure that you are fit to perform your role in safety critical industries.

**For that reason we are advising members to consider opting out of *My Health Records* until privacy concerns are fully addressed.**

As far as the RTBU is concerned, there is no justification for employers to have access to personal health information that does not directly relate to workplace safety and under the *My Health Records* system, this is a risk that rings true.

### AUGUST COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT - PLAQUE PRESENTATIONS

**Thank you to Tony O'Leary and Jhonny Thorogood for your 50 and 46 years of service to the RTBU. It is members like Tony and Jhonny that is the reason why the mighty RTBU continues to go from strength to strength.**

**We wish you both all the best in your retirement.**



### Contact us

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### Admin & Salaried Division

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