

RTBU EXPRESS

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FROM UNION TO UNION: HOW SOLIDARITY MAKES US STRONGER



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Maintenance workers at Carlton & United Breweries (CUB) have been out on the grass fighting for their jobs for over 9 weeks.

At the start of June, CUB management decided to sack 55 members of their dedicated workforce and then offer them the exact same jobs for 65% less pay. In what has been described as an act of greed and shame, these workers have stayed strong and demanded justice through the coldest months of the year.

Backed in by their Unions, the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) and the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), these workers have been engaging with the community, friends, families numerous politicians and the broader union movement in a struggle against the corporate power of the big end of town. The picket, taking place at the brewery in Abbotsford, routinely attracts crowds in their hundreds with donations pouring in from different workgroups, unions and individuals which are beyond impressive.

Like numerous companies in the rail industry, CUB is owned by a parent company (SAB Miller) who is a big multinational company with billions of dollars in turnover. With the excessive amount of financial power that

is directly at odds with the sacked workers, it is becoming ever more common and recognisable that this power is being used to try break these workers along with their unions, looking to crush the wages and conditions of ordinary working people.

But with the support of the whole movement, these fights against multinational corporations become possible. Emotionally, financially, politically and industrially, it is the support from those around you that makes it possible and keeps you motivated to keep fighting for what is right.

Many RTBU members who were involved in the Metro Operations industrial action of 2015 may be familiar with the feeling of support and bolstered strength that we get through these alliances which is critical. It is through these alliances that we become bigger and stronger than we can ever be standing alone.

It is this inter-union, international, and community solidarity that allows us to pull together, share our story and influence the type of society we want to live in. With one broad and united voice against the injustice of concentrated power, these 55 workers have the support to fight and the strength to win. From the multitude of communication channels, to consolidation of resources (from strike funds to pay the bills for the family, through to the sausages that feed the hungry and cold picket line), corporations can pile on the court injunctions while Victorians continue to grow angry.

Since the sacking of these workers, production of beer from the brewery has continued to plummet. From producing over 1.4 million cases per week, the brewery output is now as low as 400 thousand with the AFL grand final around the corner. With a lack of skilled labour able to do the work, replacement labour used by the company to beat the sacked workers are not trained nor have they experience with the machinery.

Not only is supply choked, but consumption continues to drop as a growing number of individuals are beginning to boycott CUB beer (VB, Carlton, Melbourne Bitter, to name a few). But that was just the start. A growing list of pubs around the city are increasingly turning off their CUB taps in protest, and the momentum continues to build.

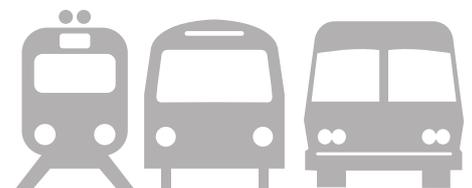
While we fight for these 55 workers in what are completely indiscriminate sackings, we fight for the whole movement. We fight for every worker who is on an Enterprise Agreement that gives them collective working conditions better than the basic industry Award. If the corporations win this there is no doubt they will continue to go after more sackings and dodgy wage cuts. Now more than ever, people power must prevail.

This is a lesson to the private companies who believe they know it all. The reality is that it is the hundreds of thousands of Union members that keep Australia moving. As we have seen in the Rail, time and time again, companies come and go – but it is you who keeps the network running.

Many Unions supported the RTBU last year in our dispute against Metro and we now stand shoulder to shoulder with our comrades in this dispute.

United we stand, divided we fall. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary



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SAFETY BETWEEN LAVERTON AND WERRIBEE STATIONS



Joe Maisano

Recently there have been numerous safety concerns for staff and the broader public in the vicinity of Stations between Laverton and Werribee, as well as the

Werribee Bus Terminus. These concerns have arisen in relation to an increased presence of groups of youths loitering in the areas, alongside several reports of assault.

Through the local Delegate and Station Members voicing their concerns, several steps have been taken to mitigate risks to members and the public. So far these include:

- All station staff have received access to the compound car park
- Staff not required to attend to outside job tasks if feeling unsafe
- Security guards to walk staff to their cars when on late shifts
- Re-issuing of Personal Panic Alarms where one is not on hand
- Metro Management and Station Delegate met with the Maori Warden (Volunteer Role) to better understand the issue.
- Transit Police are now based at Werribee Police Station patrolling between Werribee and Laverton Stations.
- Staff to call emergency 000 where any assistance is required
- All concerns/issues to be entered into the SIMS for data logging

A notice has been issued by the RTBU to the Station Members between Werribee and Laverton Stations advising them not to engage in any potentially unsafe activities.

Metro has been engaged in an ongoing manner around how further support can be offered to our members during this time of need.

Please feel free to contact me on **0411 819 267** if you are having any issues that you want to discuss. ■

WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP



Darren Galea

Organiser

Metro have recently employed a number of new staff from various departments within Metro and as always, the RTBU has been

involved in approaching new staff to answer

any questions, help them understand what the union does, and allow these individuals the opportunity to join the RTBU.

It is imperative that all of your colleagues are financial members of the Union. The RTBU not only fights for the rights of members during Enterprise Agreement negotiations, but can also help if a member is facing a difficult time at work.

I have attended various recruitments at Metro and V/Line within the last few weeks and have had great success in attracting new members, however sometimes, people slip through the cracks.

Please ensure that any new starts join the Union to become a member. Strength is in numbers. ■

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HEALTH & SAFETY

The Rail Industry is rife with dangerous interactions. Your health and safety is paramount and your voice **MUST** be heard.

Identified a potential hazard?

Feel unsafe performing a task?

Unsure and need advice?

8630 9100

Send a confidential email:
safety@rtbuvic.com.au

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V/LINE DELEGATES MEETINGS



Jamie Porter
Organiser

V/Line monthly and bi-monthly Delegates meetings have been scheduled across the network.

The meetings will be hosted at Southern Cross Station, Geelong, Bendigo, Traralgon and Seymour. In attendance will be an RTBU Organiser, relevant RTBU Delegate and relevant V/Line Management.

These meetings are a great tool to address all local issues which spread from workplace practices to OHS issues. All meetings will be chaired and minuted by the RTBU to ensure that all issues are continually progressed until a resolution is met.

Minutes will be distributed across the lines and put up at relevant stations so all members are kept in the loop.

The schedule for the meetings is listed below -

Traralgon - 17 August 2016

Seymour - 1 September 2016

Southern Cross - 7 September 2016

Geelong - 14 September 2016

Bendigo - 21 September 2016

Ballarat - 28 September 2016

Times for the meetings are yet to be confirmed, however if you would like to attend, please contact me.

To ensure we get the most out of these scheduled meetings, please pass on all relevant local concerns to Delegates or myself prior to the meetings so they can be raised and discussed.

For any issues, please feel free to contact me on **0403 863 869**. ■

MCCONNELL DOWELL NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY



Bryan Evans
Organiser

There has finally been some good news for the McConnell Dowell members who have inherited a non-union agreement through a

transmission of business.

McConnell Dowell who conduct track maintenance across Victoria and Australia have been operating under the non-union deal since they took over MVM rail.

Conditions that all rail workers take for granted such as standard hours that deliver a work life balance, rostering rights, construction jump ups, and fair and equitable disciplinary processes are notably absent from the old MVM agreement with wages lagging well behind par.

This is set to be rectified in negotiations that are pushing to deliver industry standard conditions for members where large inroads to achieving this have already been made. However, there is still much work to be done in order to deliver a fair deal for members, including work around competencies and classifications, travel allowances and pay parity.

If you see MCD members around the traps give them the encouragement they deserve as the RTBU will not settle for a sub standard deal. ■





WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

The compensation meant I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon
Lawyers





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Join rt health fund between 1 August 2016 and 31 October 2016 and we'll put you into the draw.

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*Terms and conditions apply.



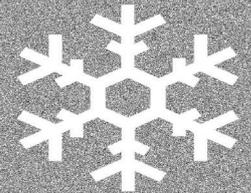
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rt health
FUND

(MEMBERS OWN HEALTH FUND)

WINTER...



HOODIES!

\$45

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Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

