

RTBU EXPRESS

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DELEGATES FROM ACROSS DIVISIONS DISCUSS WHAT MATTERS TO MEMBERS:



**Luba
Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

The annual RTBU Delegates conference was held on Thursday 27 October. Last year was the first conference of its

kind and following the success we decided to extend the invitation to all Divisions of the RTBU. I am pleased to announce that comrades from a number of companies and Divisions attended the day.

This year's theme was 'Supporting our members' with the key focus being on how the RTBU can better support the members they represent. There were a number of good ideas discussed and I plan on implementing as many of these ideas as possible over the coming months.

I thank each and every Delegate who not only continues to work tirelessly for the interest of the membership, but also for taking the time to attend the conference and participate in both discussion and debate.

The day was quite informative with speakers including Ged Kearney, President of the ACTU who spoke about how to be a more active Delegate and be in-touch more often with the membership. Marcus Clayton, Slater and Gordon's National Practice Group Leader who led the battle we had last year against Metro Trains Melbourne and Yarra

Trams during our enterprise agreement negotiations and protected industrial action where we bought the city to a standstill, and also John Setka, State Secretary of the CFMEU who spoke about the importance of being a Union member and how he at his Union engages with the membership.

The Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan and the Public Transport Parliamentary Secretary, Ros Spence Member of Parliament also attended and it was great to see that Delegates spoke up and took the opportunity of voicing their many concerns about working under a company like Metro. It was made very clear in-front of the Minister that RTBU members did not want Metro to be rewarded with another 7 year contract.

Since the Delegates conference a further meeting has been held with one Delegate per Division and both the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministers office.

I am pleased to say that this meeting provided the opportunity for Delegates to truly have their say in-front of the Minister about what they believe about the current Rail Franchise being operated by Metro.

I have now spoken to the Minister and she has looked into a number of issues that have been raised; from track condition, through to fatigue issues, through to how members are being treated. I thank the Delegates who came to this meeting and spoke so frankly. I look forward to reporting on this at the upcoming Committee of Management meeting and Branch Executive meeting.

One other thing that should be reported on is in relation to the work-groups that took place on the day.

During this time delegates split off into two groups to workshop ideas of how the RTBU can better support our members. Some great ideas were raised through this time, and I look forward to developing some of them further.

Thank you to all the Delegates for attending the conference and making it such a productive day. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary



RTBU Members at the Delegates Conference

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V/LINE EA VOTE AND ROADSHOW



Jamie Porter

Organiser

As many will be aware, the V/Line Enterprise Agreement (EA) has been agreed in-principle. Over the past 2 weeks, RTBU officials

and V/Line Management have been all over the state to conduct the roadshow and vote for the new Enterprise Agreement.

It was great to get out to all locations and discuss the EA in detail so all members knew what they were voting for.

The long and extremely drawn out negotiations was a battle worth fighting. We stepped up to the plate with V/Line management and to the Government and stuck our heels in until we could safely say we have achieved a good EA for all members.

The below conditions were all fought hard for and won with some minor concessions;

- A 14% wage increase
- A 6% of one off payment
- Retrieved public holidays payments

- Returned Signaller EDO's
- Vastly improved consultation procedures
- Improved Dispute Settlement Procedure (DSP)

The RTBU and our Delegation believe that our goal which was to get a fair wage increase, retain conditions and to win back previously lost conditions was reached.

We accomplished this purely because our membership stuck together during the entire process.

The Enterprise Agreement was successfully voted up with 99% of members voting in favour of the new EA.

This is a great win for V/Line and our members deserve it. ■



Organisers Jamie Porter and Darren Galea with V/Line members at Albury

APPLETON DOCK REDUNDANCIES



Darren Galea

Organiser

Last week, it was announced that Pacific National (PN) had made numerous members redundant in Victoria and New South Wales.

It is something that is happening much more often and has unfortunately happened to these workers from Appleton Dock.

These members are hardworking and loyal with experience spanning over decades.

The RTBU is disputing the decision to make these workers redundant and is doing everything possible to save these jobs.

The decision to make the workers redundant followed from Pacific National's process of internally reviewing their operations and deciding that the jobs of these workers were no longer required. The circumstances leading up to this decision concerned the RTBU and we have engaged

in discussions with management to ensure job security for our members.

The formal dispute process is now underway and the RTBU will do everything in its power to ensure a fair outcome is achieved for our members.

I hope to update you with good news on the matter once it is finalised.

Please always make sure to contact us if there are any decisions of this nature, as the Union is always in a position to take the matter on. ■

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