



ONTRACK

October 2015

TRANSPORT WORKERS WIN: CONDITIONS DEFENDED WITH IN-PRINCIPLE AGREEMENTS FOR METRO TRAINS AND YARRA TRAMS



RTBU
The power of Union

RAIL DIVISIONS
Level 2, 365 Queen St,
Melbourne VIC 3000
P 9600 3030 | F 9600 3363
E rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au
W rtbuvic.com.au

rtbuvic.com.au | (03) 9600 3030

TRAM & BUS DIVISION
Level 2, 365 Queen St,
Melbourne VIC 3000
P 9600 3410 | F 9600 3610
E trambus@bigpond.net.au
W rtbuvic.com.au

LOCOMOTIVE DIVISION
Level 6, 1 Elizabeth St,
Melbourne VIC 3000
Toll Free 1800 134 095
P 9682 1122 | F 9682 3344
E reception@rtbuvicloco.com.au
W rtbuvic.com.au

FIRST INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN 17 YEARS COMES TO WINNING CLOSE

Secretary's Report | Luba Grigorovitch

The RTBU has had a significant year on the industrial front with members in the Rail Divisions, Locomotive Division and Tram & Bus Division voting for and taking protected industrial action in pursuit of their respective Enterprise Agreements (EAs). Our Union has been front and center in the battles with both Yarra Trams and also Metro Trains.

The protected action ballots saw resounding support for the Industrial Action with over 98% of both Metro and Yarra Trams members voting in favor of industrial action. This overwhelming result was a striking confirmation of the unity and frustration of members who were ready to make a stand and fight to secure important workplace rights, conditions and a fair wage outcome.

Despite attempts by both Yarra Trams and Metro to stifle the right of RTBU members to take protected industrial action, applying to the FWC to terminate our 4 hour strike action, the FWC dismissed the companies'

applications on both occasions. Members in the Operations Divisions at both Metro and Yarra Trams went out on strike for the first time in 17 years.

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”

Hit with another round of industrial action, including further work stoppages, indefinite uniform bans, overtime bans and other work bans across Metro and Yarra Trams, the tune of bargaining changed and the companies were now all ears.

As members know, an in-principle agreement has now been reached at Yarra Trams in the Operations Division and with Metro Trains in the Operations Division.

Voting should take place for both workplaces in coming weeks.

Negotiations still continue with other companies, but employers now know that an industry standard has been set.

Members from across the entire RTBU should be thanked for their solidarity which they showed during this dispute. It was your unity that allowed a strong outcome which we can all be proud of.

United we stand – Divided we fall. **R**

HomeSafe

Members should be aware that HomeSafe is an initiative of the newly elected Andrews Government. The proposal of 24 hour public transport is in theory a winner, however the State Government, PTV and the Operators have gone about the roll-out in a very strange way.

The Government's August announcement to introduce HomeSafe, with only 35 of the 78 premium stations being staffed, was utterly unacceptable. The RTBU publicly opposed this proposal.

We demanded that at a minimum all Premium stations needed to be staffed and I am pleased to report that this commitment has now been given by Metro.

The RTBU will remain open during the Christmas break this year to ensure members needs are attended to in case there are any disruptions during the implementation of HomeSafe.

Across V/Line, Yarra Trams and Metro there have been major issues around questions going unanswered. Although we have now received a

response to some of the important questions, many still await a response. The RTBU and the relevant companies have each established a HomeSafe working party. If you have any further queries please call your Organiser. **R**



Luba Grigorovitch
Branch Secretary





National Secretary Bob Nanva speaking at RTBU National Council

Building a stronger Union

Bob Nanva | RTBU National Secretary

The RTBU National Council has met in Sydney to set the course for our Union's future.

The National Council is the highest decision making body of the RTBU and comprises around 80 elected Council Delegates from around the country.

Our focus was on building a stronger union by investing in the skills and capacities of our army of Workplace Delegates.

The National Council agreed on five key proposals.

The first was the creation of an online Delegates Portal, which will be an addition to our new national website (www.rtbu.org.au) and will provide Delegates with instant access to critical information.

We'll be employing a National

Delegates Training Coordinator within National Office. This new role will have responsibility for ensuring all of our Workplace Delegates have access to a consistent and comprehensive training syllabus.

The third initiative was the introduction of a national Delegate of the Year Award to recognise the outstanding achievements of our Workplace Delegates and highlight the importance of their role.

It was also agreed to hold a National Delegates Conference, bringing all of our Delegates together in one place to discuss the issues they are dealing with on the shop floor.

And finally, National Council agreed to develop a national growth campaign to increase our density, and therefore increase our strength.

Of course, we don't spend all this time and all this energy building a stronger union just for the sake of it.

The RTBU exists for one reason and one reason only – to advance the interests of its members.

And when you look across the country at what we've been doing, it's an incredible sight.

We've stood up to companies like Aurizon, Metro Trains Melbourne and Yarra Trams.

The RTBU is showing Australia, showing the world, that there's power in a union. **R**

INTERNATIONAL MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY



ITF House
49 - 60 Borough Road
London SE1 1DR

Telephone +44 (0)20 7403 2733
Fax +44 (0)20 7357 7871

International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération Internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Internationale Transportarbeiders-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортных
التنظيم عالميا، التضامن من أجل حقوقنا

Luba Grigorovitch
Rail, Tram and Bus Union
Level 2, 365 Queen St
Melbourne
VIC 3000

Our ref: MU/apr
21 September 2015

Dear Luba,

Rail, Tram and Bus Union – Victorian Branch

I am sending this message of solidarity to our brothers and sisters in the Rail Tram and Bus Union – Victorian Branch who are campaigning to protect and promote the wages and conditions that you and your predecessors have won over the years through their struggles.

On behalf of 4.7 million transport workers that the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) represents in 151 countries, we firmly state that public transport workers play a vital role in the socio-economic activities of the communities that they serve and their work should be well-remunerated collectively.

We support your union's efforts to improve wages and conditions of the members in Metro Trains through collective bargaining negotiations and express our disappointment that the management as well as the state government continue to obstruct the RTBU pursuing your genuine claims.

They should know that the London Mayor's plan to introduce night services to its Underground is currently stalled due to their lack of consultation with the trade unions concerned. It is unacceptable that Metro Trains seek paying overtime of their part-time workers at ordinary rate or undermining the existing roster conditions of their workforce.

The ITF congratulates the RTBU for organising successful strike actions as governments around the world attempt to limit the workers' right to strike. Your fight certainly enlightens those who are under the same threats.

Please convey this message of solidarity to your members and let it be made clear that the ITF and its affiliates around the world are firmly behind you and your members as RTBU seeks for a fair enterprise agreement with Metro Trains in Melbourne.

Yours in solidarity




Mac Urata
Section Secretary
ITF Inland Transport Sections

President Paddy Crumlin
E-mail: mail@itf.org.uk

General Secretary Stephen Cotton
Web: www.itfglobal.org





香港交通運輸業職工聯合會
Federation of Hong Kong Transport Worker Organizations

香港九龍彌敦道 557-559 號永旺行 19 樓
19/F, Wing Wong Commercial Building, 557-559 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China
Tel.: (852) 2770 8668 Fax: (852) 2384 0261 / (852) 2770 7388

25th September 2015


Luba,

I am writing to you this message of solidarity from Hong Kong to sisters and brothers of Rail Train and Bus Union – Victoria Branch who are seeking fair and just wage and service conditions.

On behalf of Federation of Hong Kong Transport Worker Organizations, we strongly condemn Metro Trains put profit before people and labour rights. We also disappointed that the state government collude with corporate to put pressure on the union.

Please pass this message to your members that Hong Kong railway workers are behind you and your members who fight for a fair and just collective agreement.

Yours in solidarity,



Wong Yu Loy
Secretary

Pushing through our recent industrial disputes, solidarity has poured in from our international brothers and sisters – not only from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), but also from our Comrades who work on the Hong-Kong urban metro network for Metro's major shareholder MTR.

The ITF is an international federation of transport workers' trade unions. Globally, the ITF membership is constituted of 700 unions representing over 4.5 million transport workers. The

following aims are set out in the ITF constitution:

- To promote respect for trade union and human rights worldwide.
- To work for peace based on social justice and economic progress
- To help its affiliated unions defend the interests of their members
- To provide research and information services to affiliates
- To provide general assistance to transport workers in difficulty.

The RTBU Victoria has long proud history of working closely with our comrades in our fellow transport unions – the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the Transport Workers Union (TWU) – in the pursuit of international transport workers' solidarity in the ongoing global battle for better workplace conditions. **R**

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