

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Letter from Secretary

MELBOURNE METRO RAIL PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

The RTBU welcomes the State Government's announcement of

the establishment of a Melbourne Metro Rail Authority to oversee the construction of the Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel.

The announcement of the Authority, is a step in the right direction for the Andrews Labor Government making good on its election pledge to build a world class rail tunnel network in Victoria. The Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel, which will run between the Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines and see the creation of five new underground stations in Melbourne's metropolitan zone, will relieve congestion throughout the City Loop and significantly increase the peak-time capacity of the Metro rail network.

Planning, construction and development of the Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel project will see the creation of 3,500 new jobs and a permanent expansion in the employment size of the public transport industry. The five new underground stations will be located at Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain.

This significant project, will:

- Create more opportunities for members.
- Significantly increase the capacity of the whole system, so more trains can run more often.
- Pave the way for the construction and extension of train lines in growth areas.

The project also links passengers to Melbourne's university and hospital precinct, and to major employment centres in Parkville and St Kilda Rd.

A number of members have called since the announcement asking when this will proceed. We are told that an Expression of Interest will be released in 2016 with major construction expected to commence in 2018. This will have significant affect to our members in the Labour Hire Division along with creating further opportunities for members who have been in the industry for some time and are keen to make a move.

The RTBU looks forward to ongoing consultation with the State Government and project stakeholders to ensure that the Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel proceeds in a quality and timely manner.

We will keep members informed as further information becomes available. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

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



WORKERS AT RGL LEAD THE WAY



Bryan Evans
Organiser

RGL (WHAT DOES THIS STAND FOR?) which sits in the former Department of Transport (now the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources as of January 1) underwent a significant restructure last year which left them severely under resourced in critical areas.

This has resulted in long standing issues regarding overwork and stress related concerns with members and the RTBU was

brought in to assist the RGL Department's health and safety committee last year at the request of their OH&S representatives. This committee ordered an independent risk assessment of the RGL and found that further resources were required to relieve the workload from other areas of the Department. As a result 9 new positions were created.

This however was just scratching the surface and many key areas remain under staffed. Late last year further areas were identified and applications made to create another 10 positions throughout RGL.

So far, one job in the Department has been approved and nine are still being processed.

There is still work to be done in ensuring these positions go ahead and serve a productive purpose in the Department. But the hard work put in by RTBU representatives, delegates and members in the Department on the ground to resolve the issue of overwork is an outstanding example of white collar unionism and what can be achieved by unionised workers in government departments. It is a model for corporate members everywhere, and I thank and commend RTBU members and elected representatives in the Department for this great outcome. ■

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS ON MARCH 4

The Australian union movement will be holding rallies across Australia on **Wednesday March 4** to protest the Abbott Government's ongoing attacks on workers' basic rights and conditions. The **Fight for Your Rights** rally in Melbourne starts from **10 am at Victorian Trades Hall on 54 Victoria Street.**

This rally is absolutely essential in the fightback against the Coalition. I urge all RTBU members who are not on roster that day to attend.

For more information, contact RTBU State Office. ■

OUR EA MEMBER SURVEYS – HAVE YOUR SAY

Bargaining for the next round of Enterprise Agreements with the major rail operators is around the corner and we are asking for your feedback.

All RTBU members in V/Line and Metro should have now received a survey in the mail asking members to provide feedback to be used to compile our log of claims and assist the RTBU team when negotiating your wages and conditions in this bargaining round.

We urge all members to get involved in your EA campaign by filling out the survey and returning it using the reply paid envelope provided or handing it to your delegate.

Remember to return your survey by **Friday 27th February 2015** to go into the draw to win a \$150 Coles Myer voucher.

If you do not receive a survey, please contact the RTBU office on **9600 3030** to arrange for a survey to be sent out to you. ■

KOREAN RAIL UNION WINS FIGHT AGAINST VICTIMISATION



The RTBU Victoria is delighted to learn that the leaders of our fraternal trade union in South Korea, the Korean Railway Workers Union (KRWU) have been vindicated in a court case that would have infringed the Union's right to strike.

On December 22 last year, the Western Seoul District Court found four leaders of the KRWU not guilty of obstructing a business in relation to the union's hard fought strike against the planned privatisation of the Korea Railroad Corporation by the South Korean Government in 2013. Victorian RTBU members would remember Ho-joon Song

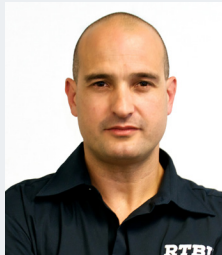
(pictured above), the KRWU's representative abroad, visiting us in Melbourne from June-August last year to draw attention to the dispute.

This 23 day strike, in which around 15,000 rail workers walked off the job in protest against the privatisation plans, saw workers suffer police brutality and victimisation from their employers and the KRWU's union building raided by state authorities. The strike was ultimately successful, with the privatisation plans being put on hold.

Despite this victory, over 170 KRWU members remain on trial for obstruction of business. This represents a vital threat to the Union's right to organise and protest. The work of the International Transport Federation and International Labour Organisation in drawing attention to this case may have been decisive in its outcome.

We will continue to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in South Korea until this dispute has reached a just conclusion. ■

REMEMBER YOUR RIGHTS DURING WARM WEATHER



Darren Galea
Organiser

Another summer is upon us and once again we are receiving reports that members are not being provided

with appropriate working conditions during the heat. This is absolutely unacceptable.

A reminder of your rights:

- All members MUST have ready access to water, this means regular water runs

and being allowed to leave your work station to get your own water when necessary.

- In extreme temperatures Metro needs to provide extra heat exhaustion breaks.
- Once members become uncomfortably hot they should inform their supervisor that they are removing their ties and scarfs.
- Women do not need to wear stockings with their skirt in the heat if they are uncomfortable.

If at any point you feel your health and safety needs are not being met please contact the union immediately so that we may rectify the issue on the spot. Your health is the priority. ■





RTBU Women International Women's Day Annual Conference

We work in a male dominated industry in which women's voices are sometimes lost. 'RTBU Women' aims to encourage women to become more active in their union. The theme for this year's conference is

A Woman's Place is in her Union!

The conference will be dedicated to networking with other members, sharing your experiences and develop your activists skills. The conference is also an great opportunity to raise the issues that matter to you.

Key Note Speakers Include

- Rita Malia (CFMEU NSW Branch President)
- Caterina Cianni (NUW National President)
- Luba Grigorovitch (RTBU Vic Branch Secretary)

ALL Union Members Welcome

RSVP: Kath Larkin, RTBU Women's Officer

0420 273 939 women@rtbuvic.com

**Tuesday 10 March
10.00am- 2.30pm
RTBU Head Office
Level 2, 365 Queen St**



Contact us

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State Secretary

Luba Grigorovitch

Rail Operations / Administration

Organiser: Grant Wainwright

Infrastructure Division

Secretary: Kevin Killender

Admin and Salaried Division

Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division

Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division

Organiser: Bryan Evans

Workshops Division

Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Infrastructure / Workshops

Organiser: Paul Ferraro

Industrial Officer

Rima Tawil

Organiser Infrastructure Projects

Tony Matuszak

