

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 1 | Issue 2 | 7 April 2014**



## Letter from Secretary

### No to cash collection



**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

On Friday 28 March the Rail Tram and Bus Union attended the first consultation meeting in relation

to the implementation of penalty fares. The consultation left the RTBU with a number of unanswered questions because neither the Minister for Public Transport nor Public Transport Victoria (PTV) had bothered to send a representative to the meeting.

Instead they sent representatives from Metro, Yarra Trams and Bus Vic. Naturally, the operators were unable to answer a number of vital questions. It is a disgrace that there was no representative from either PTV or the Minister's office.

The State Government and PTV are trying to implement a half-baked idea which will raise additional money, but they have given no thought to the finer detail.

They are treating our members with contempt. The lack of consultation and detailed planning is unacceptable.

One thing that was made clear at the meeting was that the State Government & PTV are adamant that they will in-fact proceed with their risky plan for Authorised Officers (AO's) to collect cash as part of the penalty fare implementation.

The RTBU was clear in expressing our concern with this proposal. The RTBU supports in principle the introduction of on the spot penalty fares, including the use of handheld EFTPOS devices, but it is simply unacceptable to expect our AO's to walk around on trains and trams with wads of cash in their pockets.

Cash collection will make our AO's a target for theft and assault and we will not accept it. This idea is an unnecessary risk to AO's health and safety.



### Rail Divisions Committees of Management April Meeting

I have written to Minister Mulder expressing disappointment with this first consultation meeting and I have also reiterated that the RTBU has grave concerns with cash collection.

Fare evasion is an important issue confronting our public transport system. The RTBU has no opposition in principle to penalty fares as long as there is no cash handling component and that the fares collected are returned to the system.

Organiser Darren Galea and I will be visiting all Authorised Officers and presenting members with a motion calling on PTV to review their proposal of cash collection. We have also called on Metro to conduct an independent risk assessment.

Members need to support our AO's in this fight against cash collection. The safety of our members has always been the Unions number one priority and that is what we are fighting for. ■

**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**





# 2014 RTBU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



**Kath Larkin**  
RTBU Women's Officer

RTBU Women held its fourth Annual Women's conference on March 27. We had many union activists from a variety of workplaces coming together to celebrate

the achievements of the union movement for women's rights and to discuss how to overcome the current challenges faced by women in the workplace.

Fellow Unionist from the National Tertiary Education Union, and Labour history archivist at Melbourne University Katie Wood presented a slide show with images of women from a variety of unions throughout Australian history. Some of the highlights were the stories of women in public transport unions such as the women in the tramways who fought for the right to be tram drivers and the images of railway women on strike for Equal Pay.

Belinda Tkalczevic, Women's Officer for the Australian Council of Trade Unions talked about the challenges faced by women today and the campaigns to improve working conditions for women. In particular we discussed the challenge of balancing family and work commitments and the need for employers to be understanding of these commitments.

CEO of Metro Trains Andrew Lazala visited our conference and members were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns over a number of issues. We talked about issues around safety, bullying, access to appropriate amenities, carers leave, infrastructure and much more.

After the presentations we broke up into groups to discuss what we felt were the biggest issues in

our workplaces and brainstormed ideas to begin overcoming these challenges.

It was great to see the coming together of RTBU members who with enthusiasm challenged our employers on where they are failing their staff in particular women, voiced their workplace gripes, shared and debated out how we as a union movement can move forward to real equality for women both within the workplace and within society as a whole.

Thank you to all the fantastic men and women members of our union who have supported 'RTBU Women' and big congratulations to all those who participated in the conference.

We hope to build on this fantastic energy, so now is the time to get involved. ■

## 2014 RTBU Women's Committee Meeting Dates

Our regular RTBU Women's Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 11.30am at the RTBU office Level 2, 365 Queen St, Melbourne

- May 6th 11.30 am
- June 3rd 11.30am
- July 1st 11.30am
- August 5th 11.30 am



**Members questioning Metro CEO Andrew Lazala**



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## Around The Traps



**Darren Galea**  
Secretary

### V/Line:

Over the past few weeks  
I have travelled to a  
number of regional V/Line  
stations. Whilst visiting  
these stations I spoke to  
many members about

any concerns they have. I have since taken these  
issues back to management and am dealing with  
them one by one.

V/Line Conductors at Geelong raised with me  
concerns they were having with not being issued  
fair and balanced rosters. After meeting and  
discussing the rosters with the members in  
Geelong I called a meeting with V/Line managers.  
The managers are now reviewing their processes  
and working to get a more fair and balanced  
roster to our members. Although we don't get to  
the regional areas as much as we would like to,  
members need to remember that the union is  
here for them 7 days a week and we are only ever a  
call away. We are always available for members.

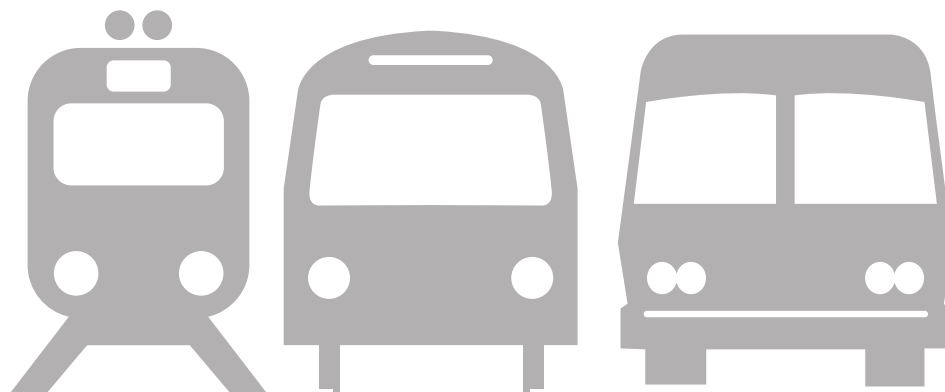
### Metro:

The RTBU was recently consulted about the  
introduction of 78 Multi-Modal Authorised  
Officer's (AO's). These AO's will be covered by the  
Metro Operations Enterprise Agreement. The rate  
of pay for these AO's is still being negotiated with  
the Union. The expected roll-out date for these  
AO's is July 1 2014.

I am also dealing with a number of other issues  
across other areas within Metro and around the  
network. If you have an issue or concern, or you  
have been called in by management please don't  
hesitate to contact your delegate or a union  
official on either their mobile or on the office  
number 9600-3030. ■



**Organiser Darren Galea with members at Geelong Station**



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# Station Proposition Update



**Grant Wainwright**  
Organiser

Currently Metro are approaching the final appointment for the one hundred position upgrades from part-time to full-time,

as part of the finalisation of this project some part-time staff will also be upgraded in classification, i.e. LSA to Station Officer. This process will begin shortly.

As part of this project some members have raised personal issues with their applications or appointments. These members will have their issues addressed on a case by case basis involving their Union representative, Metro management

and of course themselves in order to have their issues closed out. Any members with specific concerns should contact their delegate or the Union Office to ensure every issue is addressed before final sign off.

This will bring to a close the station proposition. Once that is done the work on any new proposed roster can begin. The RTBU is continuing to work closely with Metro to ensure the debacle of the previous roster rollout never happens again.

Our hard fought principles around the eight hour day and an Extra Day Off remain our key focus. Members will as always be kept fully informed of any developments.

As always members wishing for further information can contact myself (0421 122 437), your local Delegate or the Union Office. ■



**RTBU station members**

## Rail Safety on Track



**Tony Matuszak**  
Organiser Infrastructure Projects

I have made several trips up the North-Eastern corridor over the past few months. During my visits I stopped off at Seymour, Avenal,

Violet Town, Benalla, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Albury visiting members at depots and on the job in these locations.

The reception that I was given as a Union organiser was great to see and it was encouraging to have so many employees wanting to join the Union.

While speaking to members of multiple sub-contractor's at one site they raised with me concerns over the lack of standard of Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) they had been issued. The members were highly concerned that they were not meeting the rail industry standards. Once this was raised I made immediate contact with ARTC and advised them of member's safety concerns. After this contact I was advised by our members that the PPE items had been reissued by the companies.

Many members had an enterprise agreement (EA) with their company which also contained PPE requirements, which made it easier to resolve our members concerns. This case shows how important it is for members and the Union to have an EA's with sub-contractors.

Members can feel free to contact me confidentially about any industrial or OH&S issues and I follow up with the companies to get it resolved as quickly as possible on your behalf. ■

## Paving the beaten track

As an all grades Union the RTBU looks after members across all workplaces in the railway industry, including white collar members in DTPLI, VicTrack and PTV. The environments that these members work in are often more corporate and come with their own unique set of challenges including; restructures, job classifications, staffing issues to name a few.

These workplaces often include members of other Unions and often have larger numbers of non affiliated staff, simply due to the fact they have not been exposed to Unions and the good work that we undertake. This consequently gives employers the scope they need to divide and conquer, often leaving staff feeling as if they are alone. This is not the case, and breaking this fear and bringing members together to discuss issues will be one of my primary goals working within these workplaces.

It can be more intimidating to stand up for rights and values in these spaces that don't have high levels of membership, so hats off to all our members and delegates who do just that every day.

The organisers are here to support you. If you feel your colleagues would benefit from a visit, or you are not a member but would like to know more about the RTBU I would be more than happy to come and visit yourself and colleagues for a friendly informal chat.

Please contact me on 0457 006 739 confidentially to schedule a suitable time. ■



**Bryan Evans**  
Organiser

### Contact us

**rtbuvic.com.au**  
**(03) 9600 3030**

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Melbourne, VIC 3000

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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**  
Secretary: Darren Galea

**OH&S, Industrial and Administration Officer**  
Thomas Moorhead

**Admin & Salaried Division**  
Organiser: Bryan Evans

**Workshops Division**  
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

**Infrastructure / Workshops**  
Organiser: Paul Ferraro

**In-House Lawyer**  
Rima Tawil

**Organiser Infrastructure Projects**  
Tony Matuszak

