

RTBU EXPRESS

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

'RTBU WOMEN' CONTINUE THE FIGHT



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Members would know that in 2010 the first RTBU Women's annual conference was organised. Following this the annual event

has gone from strength to strength. Now in 2016 RTBU Women have again organised the 6th annual conference. This year's theme is 'Women's rights at Work'.

Members from all Divisions of the RTBU are invited to join in the festivities and come-a-long to the conference. The conference which runs from 11.00am – 3.00pm is an opportunity to discuss issues industry wide and network. I encourage all members to make the effort to attend.

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on 8 March 2016. This is a day both for recognising the achievements of women in the union movement and for continuing the struggle to achieve equality.

While today International Women's Day may be a rather mainstream event, celebrated by many. The day was in fact initially called "International Working Women's Day" and was introduced by labour activists who understood that key to the advancement of workers' rights on the whole, was the inclusion of women in that struggle.

The First IWD rally in Australia occurred in 1928 in which the demands were for

an eight-hour day, for equal employment opportunities for women, no piece work, the basic wage for the unemployed, equal pay for women, and annual holidays on full pay.

This gives you a sense of the centrality to women's organising within the union movement as a whole. Unionists and working women have so much to celebrate in terms of the amazing gains we've made through struggle. And yet there is more work to do. The Australian Human Rights commission found that:

- The average weekly wage for a woman is 18.2% less than a man's
- On average the superannuation payouts for women are 57% of their male counterparts
- 1 in 2 women experience discrimination as a result of pregnancy, parental leave, or on return to work.

And these are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to considering inequality between men and women in Australia today.

Our industry is male dominated, and often women's voices are sometimes lost. 'RTBU Women' aims to encourage women to find their voices and become more active in their union. This annual conference is one aspect of that project and it is dedicated to networking with other members, sharing your experiences and developing your activists' skills.

All members are welcome to attend, we hope to see as many of you as possible. The major transport operators have been contacted and have agreed where possible to release women (to be paid

as per roster) to attend the conference-so an RSVP is crucial.

The theme for the conference is in line with the first ever "WRAW Festival" run by Victoria Trades Hall, a week-long festival for international Women's day.

As per tradition the union will be marching in this year's "International Women's Day Melbourne Rally" and I encourage all members to join us on Tuesday 8 March 5:30 pm at the State Library. If you would like to attend or hear more about the rally or the WRAW festival or the RTBU conference please get in touch with the RTBU head office on 9600-3030.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

RTBU Women

I am Woman, hear me...

WRAW

Women's Rights At Work

RTBU Women Annual International Women's Day Conference

Thursday 10 March
11:00am - 3:00pm
RTBU HQ: Level 2, 365 Queen St

RSVP (for release and catering purposes)
women@rtbuvic.com.au
8630 9100

WRAW FEST
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AT WORK
COME TOGETHER 6-11 MARCH '16

Come get together with other RTBU women across the public transport industry to discuss issues facing our working lives. Including an opportunity for Q&A with CEO's from the transport industry.

Hear also from guest speakers from Victoria Trades Hall's 'We are Union Women' campaign and the Maritime Union of Australia's National Women's Officer Mich-Elle Myers and receive industrial updates from our own state secretary Luba Grigorovitch.



MELBOURNE METRO RAIL PROJECT – TIME FOR TURNBULL TO COMMIT



GRANT WAINWRIGHT
Organiser

On Wednesday 24 February I attended a briefing from the State Government around the release of

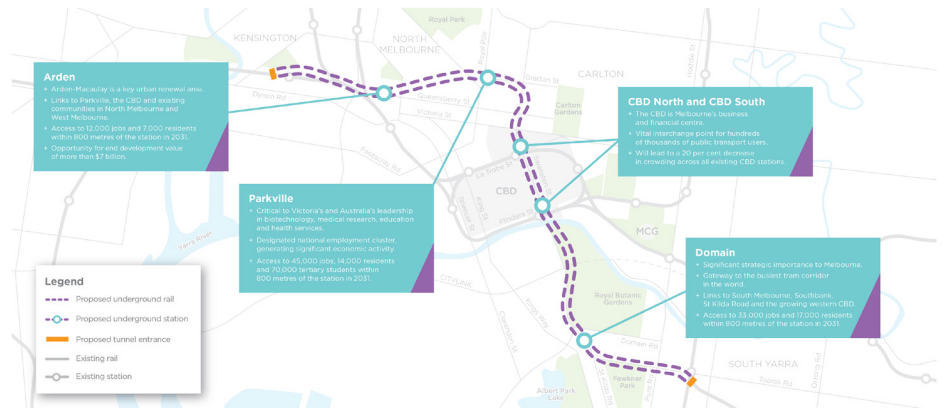
the business case for the funding of this essential project. It is refreshing to see a government getting on with delivering its election promises.

Although Victoria's population is over 25% of the Nation, the State receives less than 8% of infrastructure spending from the Federal Government. The Federal Government's commitment to this project is essential to ensure it is fully funded before the heavy machinery hits soil, which will be sometime in 2018.

Unlike the East-West Link that would have only delivered a return of 40 cents in the dollar back to the economy, this project at a conservative estimate will deliver at least \$1.10 for every dollar spent.

The knock on benefits of this project will

Station precincts



be felt across the Metropolitan Network, opening up space in the current City Loop for more services, as well as taking pressure off Flinders Street and the overcrowded tram network. Five new fully staffed stations speak for themselves - permanent jobs for future Victorian school leavers and career opportunities for current members.

The construction will provide almost 4000 jobs with added benefits to local businesses and the broader economy – the time for

contemplation is over! With the State Government committed to the project, the time is right for Malcolm Turnbull to make his first real decision as Prime Minister and back the project.

The next step for this project is the consultation phase where the project will be given feedback from stakeholders prior to formal approval. We look forward to working with the Government and the project team on this much needed infrastructure work.

DOING THE ROUNDS - V/LINE EA



Jamie Porter
Organiser

As all V/line members would be aware the negotiations for the new V/line Enterprise Agreement's (EA) have been dragged out and very little progress has been made.

The union has now requested that the VLINE interim CEO Garry Liddle ensures that EA negotiations get back on track as a matter of urgency.

It is imperative that all members are up to date with EA negotiations.

V/line EA updates have been held so far at Southern Cross station and Geelong station. It has been great to see that all members are willing and ready to stand together and protect our current conditions and fight for a fair deal.

Additional regional visits are now planned. Please note locations below to ensure all members are kept well informed. Please do your best to attend an update near you. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to call me on 0403863869 anytime and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Tuesday March 1st

Bendigo station (meal room) at 10am

Wednesday March 2nd

Ballarat Station (meal room) at 10am

Thursday March 3rd

Seymour station at 9am

Friday March 4th

Traralgon Line regional visit – Stopping all stations down the line commencing at 9am

Tuesday March 15

Southern Cross station (meal room) at 12pm and 3pm

Wednesday March 16

Southern cross station (meal room) at 12pm and 3pm

Contact us

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Infrastructure Division
Secretary: Jon Saw

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

