

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 2 | Issue 20 | 16 November 2015



Letter from Secretary

V/LINE EA WELL OVERDUE



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

At the start of the year there was a lot of discussion around the

expiration of the three major operator Enterprise Agreements (EAs) being the three Metro EAs, the two Yarra Trams EAs and the two V/Line EAs along with a number of other industry wide EAs.

As members know there was a lot of colour and movement with the RTBU's recent industrial action that was taken for both the Metro Operations and Yarra Trams Operations EA's. This was the first industrial action that our union took in 17 years. We didn't do this without careful consideration or thought. We did this because we needed to do this in order to set an acceptable industry standard and ensure our members received a fair and decent deal.

I wish to thank all members who participated in the action. Members from all Divisions of the Union attended mass meetings and protest rallies - thank you!

We have now signed off on the Yarra Trams EA. We have a good deal on the table for the Metro Operations EA, which should be voted on by members shortly. But there are still a number of EAs yet to be negotiated.

These include Bombardier, Sunstone, Metro Rolling Stock, Metro Infrastructure, John

Hollands a number of Labour Hire EAs and then of course our third major operator EA; V/line, both Operations and Infrastructure EAs.

The V/Line EA's reached their nominal expiry dates on 1 July this year. After the initial excitement of V/Line finally coming to the table to commence the bargaining process, the months that followed have seen unnecessarily slow and drawn out negotiations between the Union and the company for these renewed EAs.

Given the industry standard has now been set and given not much progress has been made, I wrote to the V/Line CEO Theo Taifalos on Wednesday 6 November, seeking a commitment from V/Line to expedite the EA negotiation process for both EAs.

Theo was quick to reply and provide us with a commitment that these EA negotiations would be a priority to the company however only days after they did so they cancelled a bargaining meeting. On face value we would like to think that V/Line are committed to getting a deal and getting one quickly, however actions speak louder than words.

V/Line need to get a wriggle on and start bargaining properly and in good faith, or the only alternative for the RTBU will be to unite together, rally the troops and lodge for protected industrial action.

We are hoping this course isn't needed to be taken, but if we are provoked and we feel our members aren't being taken notice of and getting a fair deal in an appropriate time frame then we will not shy away from another industrial battle.

Members will be kept updated as negotiations develop.

Should you have any further queries, contact the union office on 9600 3030 or alternatively send us an email at rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au.

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



TRADES HALL HSR CONFERENCE



Jamie Porter
Organiser

As many of you are aware on October 27th VTHC hosted a HSR conference during work safe week at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

It was an outstanding result for all unions as over 1200 HSRs attended and now have a new

arsenal of knowledge that they can now take back to their workplaces. This can only be a good thing.

Key note speakers were Trades Hall Secretary Luke Hilakari and Worksafe CEO Claire Aimes

HSRs had the opportunity to listen and to learn from some of Australia's leading experts as well as Union OHS specialists, HSRs and WorkSafe. HSRs were given the opportunity to apply the lead indicators for OHS to their own workplace, learn how to raise issues and resolve them and very importantly had the

opportunity to meet other HSR's from a wide variety of industries.

This is an invaluable experience – I thank the RTBU members that attended on the day.

Certificates

WorkSafe have all of the left over certificates. If there are any members that didn't collect theirs please contact me on 0403863869 and I will arrange for them to be posted to you.

TRACK TRIAL ROSTERS SET PRECEDENT FOR NEW EA



Bryan Evans
Organiser

Metro Track Infrastructure members have voted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) which will see Track workers trial new rosters proposed by Metro. This trial will occur for three months between 4 January and 4 April 2016 and prior to its conclusion, workers will have the opportunity to again vote to accept or reject the full implementation of these rosters. Should the rosters be rejected, work practices will return to as they were prior to the commencement of the trial.

This trial is underpinned by an MOU between the RTBU and Metro that will deliver members

improved conditions throughout the trial (which would become ongoing should it be accepted). Under the terms, members will be able to populate their own rosters within operational requirements and will have access to improved penalties (including Enterprise Agreement (EA) claims that will see all overtime paid as doubletime), leave accrual and also have a further 3% implementation bonus should they choose to accept the rosters. Further negotiated was the creation of a safe working pool which will see more jobs brought in-house. This will cater for 18 displacements predominantly working for Track. This is another step in the right direction to decasualise safe working, improving job security and conditions.

Secondary to the rostering conditions around the trial, upon signing the MOU all members across Metro Infrastructure will receive the

back pay reflecting a 2% wage increase from July 2015. This will be paid in the coming weeks. EA negotiations will re-commence January 2016.

Members have voted to sign this MOU on the basis that these rosters are a trial. Should Metro attempt to move the goal posts or renege on any part of this agreement, the RTBU will not hesitate, industrially and legally, to take Metro head on and ensure that the good will of our members is not taken advantage of.

Track members have achieved this outcome through their strength and resolve to say NO to original demands made by Metro. The future of these rosters is in the hands of the workers who have to work them.

RTBU WOMEN INVITES YOU TO MORNING TEA

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER

11.30AM RTBU OFFICE

PLEASE RSVP FOR CATERING & TO BE RELEASED FROM WORK

BRINGING TOGETHER MEN AND WOMEN MEMBERS FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE RTBU

FUNDRAISE FOR THE BREAST CANCER NETWORK AUSTRALIA & PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

LEVEL 2, 365 QUEEN ST MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Contact us

rtbuvic.com.au
(03) 9600 3030

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au
F 03 9600 3363

State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

Rail Operations / Administration
Organiser: Grant Wainwright

Infrastructure Division
Secretary: Kevin Killender

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmевski

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

