

RTBU EXPRESS

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

Shame Naphthine Government



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

The RTBU has recently put together a public transport budget submission which has been handed to both the

State Government and the Opposition. This paper is what the RTBU consider to be the priority program for infrastructure and service investment in Victoria's public transport system.

We take into account the high increase in patronage levels over the last decade which has put Victoria's public transport system under extreme pressure. This pressure combined with projected increases in patronage, population growth, and urban sprawl will equate to a system that will not cope with the demands placed on it unless further investments are made. Funding needs to be allocated to the four key areas of rolling stock, infrastructure and customer service across the metropolitan train, tram, the regional rail networks as well as rail freight.

The Naphthine state government has recently announced just over \$2 Billion over 5 years for a number of projects including investment in the Pakenham corridor but the Naphthine announcement falls dramatically short not only in financial terms but also largely when looking at the difficulties that the system will face in the future on the metropolitan, regional and freight systems.

There is no mention at all of funding for the Metro rail link, but then this should be no surprise to members as the Abbott federal government has washed its hands of any funding for state based public transport systems.

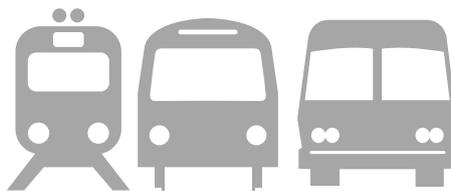
Both the Naphthine and Abbott governments need to commit serious long term funding to address the issues raised by the RTBU.



Failure to do so will only mean that future governments will face a near 'Hurricane' task in righting the wrongs of the current seat warmers in both state and federal parliament.

The RTBU will continue to lobby both the state government and the opposition as we believe that it is vital to fight for additional funding. Unless these measures are put in place quickly, public confidence in service reliability, customer service, safety and security will fade away. ■

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**

Farewell Michael Magill, Welcome Paul Ferraro



Michael Magill
Organiser Infrastructure and
Workshops Divisions

After just over a year working for the RTBU as the Infrastructure and Workshops organiser I will be returning to the

workshops at Epping. Although I will no longer be an Organiser for the union I do plan on remaining an active delegate to further strengthen the Unions position. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with fellow Organisers at the RTBU as I see day in and day out the long hours which our Organisers put in for the betterment of our union. I have also appreciated the many delegates and members who worked closely with me over the past 12 months. We have battled a number of disagreements with the company working toward the best outcome possible and without your time and support we would not have achieved such favourable outcomes.

Paul Ferraro has taken over as the new RTBU Workshops and Infrastructure Organiser. Paul comes from a railway and union family with his father being on the railways for many years. Paul has been working at Epping Workshops as a skilled labourer for six years and before that he was in the construction industry. As an active delegate and a member of the roster committee during the workshops roster dispute Paul knows what hard work is required to achieve outcomes for members. All members should feel free to contact Paul on **0403 863 869** if they have any issues or concerns.

Please extend the respect and courtesy that you all showed me while I was trying to fill the previous shoes left by Calvin Harvey.

Over the next few weeks Paul will make his way around the networks to introduce himself to as many of you as possible.

I hope to see you all out there in the trenches -
UNITED WE STAND DEVIDED WE FALL. ■



New Organiser - Paul Ferraro

Financial membership is everything

The importance of being a financial Union member surfaced again recently. One of our members who had been with the Union for over four years was facing redundancy with one of the smaller rail sub-contractors. In total the six employees were given one weeks' notice and four weeks redundancy payment. After a phone call to the Union and negotiations with the employer we were able to secure our member a total redundancy package of 10 weeks and accrued entitlements.

Whether you are working for a small sub-contractor or one of the larger companies being a financial union member gives you access to union services and allows the union to fight for bettering your conditions. ■



Tony Matuszak
Organiser Infrastructure Projects

Station Proposition Update



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

Recently Metro took major steps to fix the massive problems inside the Station grade caused by the Station Proposition linked

with attempts to ram proposed new rosters down station staffs throats.

Following those changes Union officials and representatives from Metro met to begin building a process that would enable a new roster to be built that took in the concerns from individual stations. This included a set of guidelines and the parameters that would form the basis for changes moving forward.

We still face the rather larger problem of the so called "Merit List" which affects many RTBU members working in the station area. The Merit List needs to be scrapped and any positions that become vacant following the finalised station proposition should be advertised and filled in the normal way.

Metro Management has agreed to a meeting late this week to discuss this most pressing issue. Let's hope that once again common sense will prevail and Metro will change its current practice.

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



1800 555 777

Workers
Compensation

**Slater &
Gordon**
Lawyers

Not a problem.

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State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

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