

# RTBU EXPRESS

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

### SAFETY CAMPAIGN FOR FRONT-LINE STAFF



**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

Tragically violent behaviour from passengers is an all too familiar experience for front-line staff,

who often place themselves in harm's way to protect commuters from an unruly minority of the traveling public. This hazard to your safety at work is unacceptable - members deserve to be treated with nothing short of respect and courtesy from passengers. Everyone has the right to go to work and return home safe.

It is obvious from members' feedback that each company is not providing members with basic training to ensure they have every tool possible to make their workplace as safe as possible. This is simply not good enough. Front-line staff must be equipped with every tool possible when dealing with the traveling public. It is incumbent on the State Government and Public Transport Victoria to ensure that each operator is responsible for enforcing training and making sure that members have the opportunity to attend. Further it is the responsibility of the network operators to continually review and improve safety for all staff and commuters.

For this reason I recently wrote to Public Transport Victoria and every network operator to raise the unions concerns about the lack of staff safety. I also requested that they implement the following training measures as a matter of urgency:

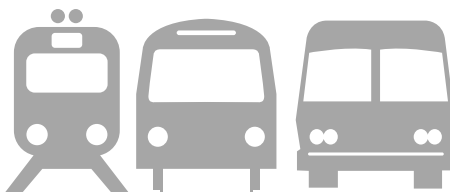
- First Aid Training – crucial given front line staff are constantly dealing with the public.
- Evacuation Training – this should already be happening at every site but isn't. There must be a schedule of evacuation training for every site.

- Conflict Resolution Training – front-line members should be given basic self-defence/conflict resolution training, should they be put in a vulnerable position.
- Annual Refresher Training for Authorised Officers – AO's receive training on commencement of their role however there is no follow up. Training needs to occur annually at a minimum.

It is not enough for management just to pay lip-service to staff safety. These concrete measures need to be implemented to ensure our members' basic right to feel safe at work is met. Skylarking, vandalism and intimidating behaviour is a frequent occurrence on the network with sometimes tragic consequences. Station staff work tirelessly to protect commuters from such behaviour. The traveling public must understand the unacceptable strain that such foolish behaviour places on members.

If you ever encounter violent or reckless behaviour or any other issue around safety at work, please do not hesitate to contact the union office on 9600-3030. Further, I encourage you to report all incidents to management as soon as possible. The safety of our members is and always has been our first priority. ■

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary



## V/Line Update



**Grant Wainwright**  
Organiser

### New positions in V/Line

V/Line has announced the creation of 17 full-time station positions and 10 new full-time conductor positions. The station positions consist of 5 positions at the new Wyndham Vale station (classification to be confirmed), 6 station office positions at the newly completed Waurin Ponds Station, 5 positions at the newly completed Tarneit Station and 1 annual leave position tied to Wyndham Vale and Tarneit. The 10 conductor positions are directly relating to the RRL project with 7 in the Melbourne depot at Southern Cross and 3 in Geelong. These positions will be advertised internally - interested members are advised to get their resume in ASAP. Confirmation of the staffing levels of these stations is a great result - our last conversation was that these stations were not going to be staffed at all or on a part-time basis. Any members wishing further information on these positions should speak to their local delegate or myself ASAP.

### New roster for V/Line conductors

Conductor delegates have been working hard to resolve issues surrounding the planned new roster for conductors to commence on July 27. Delegates have done a great job bringing issues to V/Line management and have been locked in a room with V/Line for a period of 3 days in an effort to resolve as many issues surrounding the introduction of the new roster. At time of writing this article, most issues have been resolved with most outstanding issues being around shift lengths and other EA issues. We remain hopeful that by the 27th of July we will be in a position to endorse the new rosters and ensure that a proper consultation process is endorsed and in place to guarantee consultation problems don't arise in future roster rollouts. As always members should feel free to contact the union office on 9600 3030 or myself on 0421 122 437. ■





# MEMBERS MAKE A STAND FOR SAFETY

State Secretary Luba Grigorovitch and Organiser Bryan Evans with members at Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.



**Bryan Evans**  
Organiser

RTBU members cover all areas of the public transport industry from the workshop floor all the way to the Department of Transport, Planning and local infrastructure (the former DOT). Within the department you will find the Regulation Governance and Law (RGL) section which is made up of more than forty staunch, unwavering RTBU members that handle all things from RONCS to CCTV.

These members have been extremely hard done by courtesy of the Napthine government and their unwillingness to support Public Transport or the Public Service. Having suffered major staff cuts over the last 18 months RGL lost up to 50% of its workforce. Short term contractors were

employed to address immediate essential tasks, which further added to our member's woes. With no adjustment to workloads or KPI's the situation was dire, members were stressed, morale was low and the future uncertain. Unfortunately for Napthine he didn't count on the responsiveness and persistence of RTBU members in turning the situation around.

Declaring enough is enough the members led by RTBU delegates demanded the immediate election of Health and Safety Representatives (HSR) given that the position had been vacated. With the support of Union delegates and members the HSR's were able to get stress related hazards on top of the agenda with the department. Springing into action the newly elected HSRs engaged Health & Wellbeing and together ordered a business unit wide risk assessment focusing on workloads and subsequent stress related illness in conjunction

with risk assessments on repetitive tasks and manual handling.

Although the risk assessment focused on stress is currently in progress, DTPLI last week announced the approval of 6 new roles to commence shortly. There are also plans being implemented to minimize manual handling and introduce heavier controls around repetitive works. These actions are a direct result of pressure applied by our members, delegates and HSRs, at DTPLI.

The situation at RGL is still far from ideal, the issues that face our members are being seen right across the Victorian Public Service but RTBU members have been able to break through the barriers and achieve results in dark political climates.

Hats off to these members! ■



the compensation  
meant I wasn't also  
hurt financially

1800 555 777

Slater & Gordon

Workers Compensation ▶ Lawyers

Not a problem.

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**State Secretary**  
Luba Grigorovitch

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