

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 2 | Issue 12 | 6 July 2015**



## Letter from Secretary

### RTBU GEARS UP FOR BATTLE



#### Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

The RTBU is actively striving to ensure members are not taken for a ride - ramping up the EA campaign to

demand the collective voice be heard.

Members covered by the current MetroRail Operations Enterprise Agreement (EA) would be aware that their existing EA has now reached its nominal expiry date, as at 30 June 2015. The RTBU has spent the past few months in bargaining discussions with Metro management to negotiate a replacement EA, however Metro have not been fair dinkum about reaching a fair agreement for our members.

The RTBU believes that any replacement EA must not only deliver a fair wage outcome, but also factor in a number of long-standing claims and enshrine existing conditions and matters of safety that are important to our members in the railways.

Despite our team's best efforts to genuinely try and reach an agreement, Metro management has stonewalled in

negotiations and has not offered a deal conducive to our members' wellbeing.

As a consequence, and following depot meetings, as well as a mass meeting of delegates from the Rail Divisions, this week the RTBU lodged a Protected Action Ballot Order application with the Fair Work Commission (FWC). This means that each member covered by the Metro Rail Operations Division EA will get a vote on whether they want to take industrial action.

Should the FWC approve our application for a ballot to be held, all RTBU members to be covered by the Metro Rail Operations Division EA will receive a ballot asking them whether they wish to pursue protected industrial action.

It is absolutely critical that a majority of members vote 'Yes' to all proposed actions in the ballot. A strong return in favour of industrial action will be a huge counterweight in itself against Metro's stubborn bargaining position and will show management that its own workforce means business when it comes to decent rights and conditions.

Our membership coverage in Metro is something the RTBU is proud of, so the impact of any work stoppages on the rail network would be felt. In any case, the consequences of not downing tools would be much greater. Metro, like all companies in our industry at present, is looking to squeeze its workforce of pay and conditions in the pursuit of a higher profit in what they believe is a good climate to do so. If we allow them

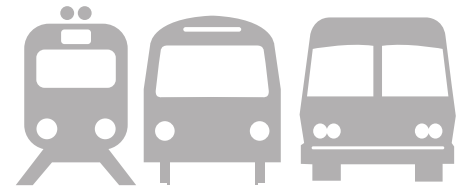
to carry too much away this time, they will be back for even more in 3 years.

Should we take protected industrial action, its purpose will not be to create inconvenience for commuters or make the everyday use of public transport untenable, but to defend our members' right to a fair day's pay as would any other workforce. We have always worked on the principle of 'one out, all out', and that will continue to be our mantra.

The RTBU and its members are more than capable of rising to this challenge, and seeing off any employers' threat to our sacred rights and conditions.

**Luba Grigorovitch**

State Secretary





WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

The compensation meant  
**I wasn't also hurt financially.**

**Slater Gordon**  
Lawyers

# V/LINE REGIONAL VISITS CONTINUE



**Jamie Porter**  
Organiser

It has been great meeting V/line members at a number of locations over the past few weeks. Visits have included

the Bendigo Line, Geelong, Swan Hill, Watergardens, Box Hill and Echuca stations.

These visits have certainly been useful, with members continuing to raise a variety of concerns with me - particularly around rostering arrangements and bargaining for the upcoming renewal of V/Line's Enterprise Agreements.

Visits will continue across the network as reported in the last issue of RTBU Express. I appreciate members and Delegates making themselves available to me during my visits.

If you have any queries or questions please contact me on 0403-863-869.



**RTBU members at Albury**

# METRO OPERATIONS EA UPDATE MEETINGS

RTBU Union Officials will be visiting a location near you.

Please ensure you are in attendance to get a full update about your Enterprise Agreement:



DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday 13 July	Sandringham Station	12.00pm
Monday 13 July	Frankston Station	3.30pm
Tuesday 14 July	Caulfield Station	3.30pm
Wednesday 15 July	Dandenong Station	11.00am
Wednesday 15 July	Pakenham Station	1.00pm
Wednesday 15 July	Glen Waverly Station	3.30pm
Thursday 16 July	Camberwell Station	3.30pm
Friday 17 July	Craigieburn Station	12.00pm
Friday 17 July	Upfield Station	2.00pm
Monday 20 July	Hawthorn Station	11.00am
Monday 20 July	Newport Station	12.00pm
Monday 20 July	Malvern Station	12.30pm

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday 20 July	Werribee Station	2.30pm
Tuesday 21 July	Sunbury Station	3.30pm
Wednesday 22 July	Broadmeadows Station	9.30am
Wednesday 22 July	North Melbourne Station	11.00am
Wednesday 22 July	Transport House AOs	12.30pm
Wednesday 22 July	Clifton Hill Station	12.00pm
Wednesday 22 July	Hurstbridge Station	3.30pm
Thursday 23 July	Footscray Station	3.30pm
Friday 24 July	MMAOs	1.00pm
Friday 24 July	Southern Cross Station	1.30pm
Friday 24 July	Essendon Station	12.00pm
Friday 24 July	Sunshine Station	3.30pm

# DELEGATES ESTABLISHED

I recently held a meeting of Sunstone members. It was great to see so many members in attendance especially given the major changes currently happening at Sunstone.

At this meeting I reinforced the importance of delegates. Delegates are the back bone of the RTBU and it is important that Union Officials have a point of contact in each workplace. At this meeting 5 delegates were elected. This is a step in the right direction and I thank the members who put their hand up to be a delegate.

The battle with Sunstone will continue but I am hopeful that we will be in a stronger place going forward ensuring members are treated with dignity, safe at work and conditions are upheld.

The Sunstone EA has now expired and having clear lines of communication with the membership is imperative. Negotiations for Sunstone will commence on July 14 and I look forward to working with delegates to ensure we get the best outcome possible.

Members with questions or queries shouldn't hesitate to contact the union office on 9600-3030.



# RTBU COMRADES RECOGNISED



**Darren Galea**  
Organiser

I recently had the honour of presenting plaques to three RTBU members for their long-standing loyalty and service to our Union.

I presented loyalty plaques last June to Jeff Burke (a Driver Allocation officer at Flinders St Station), Eardly Carroll (also a DA

officer at Flinders Street) and George Kamarinos (an Authorised Officer at Southern Cross). Jeff, Eardly and George have maintained continuous membership with the RTBU for 30 years.

Last month I also attended a Union induction for signallers and safe workers at Flinders St Station on Friday 26 June. The induction was well-attended and those present asked engaging and useful questions about the Union's role in their workplace. It is a cause for optimism that workers continue to commit to the RTBU.

As we gear up for a fight in Metro this month, we should remember the example shown by our long-serving RTBU members. Thanks to their hard work and commitment to the collective Union cause, we all have firm ground to fight on today.

Congratulations to Jeff, Eardly and George for their outstanding example of loyalty to the Union cause.



**Eardly Carroll**



**Signallers & Safeworkers**



**George Kamarinos**



**Jeff Burke**



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## METRO INFRASTRUCTURE EA UPDATE



### Bryan Evans

Organiser

When it comes to the Metro Infrastructure Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations, Metro

have had a single agenda since day one; that is to delay the process for as long as possible.

Instead of bargaining in good faith Metro have been offering sweetheart deals to any of the bargaining agents who will listen. Thankfully the membership could see through the Company's offers.

The Company's latest attempt saw Metro offer a 2% pay increase in exchange for a 6 month delay on negotiating the EA. Once we learnt of this offer, a delegates meeting was called immediately and followed by scheduled mass meetings at E-Gate to

allow all members to have their say and make a collective decision. The motion put forward by members covered by the EA was unanimously and proudly adopted by all in attendance. The motion, in part, is as follows:

'...reject the offer put forward by management to delay the Enterprise Agreement by 6 months for a 2% wage increase and instruct the RTBU to force the company back to the bargaining table as a matter of urgency so that we can negotiate this EA in good faith...'

Furthermore following some emotional and potentially heated outbursts from the floor a second motion was unanimously supported, as follows:

'That the members covered by the Metro Infrastructure Enterprise Agreement (EA) reject any proposal by either management or the ETU to split the scope of the current EA. We are stronger together and want all grades who work in infrastructure to remain under the one agreement''

The concept of splitting the membership on the floor regardless of union or affiliation is against everything the union movement should stand for. It is a fact that we are stronger united and need to stand together under the one agreement.

All three meetings were well attended by all grades of infrastructure from engineering, track, Safeworking, signals and overhead and it was encouraging to hear both strong outspoken opinions and well thought out questions being discussed prior to both votes.

In Unity  
Bryan Evans – 0457 006 739

**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**

### Contact us

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### State Secretary

Luba Grigorovitch

### Rail Operations / Administration

Organiser: Grant Wainwright

### Infrastructure Division

Secretary: Kevin Killender

### Admin & Salaried Division

Secretary: Steven Kozmევski

### 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

