

RTBU EXPRESS



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

PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROWS IN VICTORIA



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

The Victorian Government has now started construction on the Melbourne Metro

Rail Project. This is a welcome development for our public transport industry, with the State Government to spend around \$10 billion on the project as per its Budget forecast. Melbourne Metro will see the construction of two new underground rail corridors running the length of Melbourne's CBD between South Yarra and South Kensington stations.

In practice, this means the expansion of Melbourne's underground metropolitan network and the creation of a new train line from Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham. This will see five new underground train stations built – Arden, Parkville, CBD North, CBD South and Domain – as well as new train and tram interchanges along Swanston Street to service commuters.

From the perspective of the RTBU and the future of our industry, the Melbourne Metro Rail Project can only be welcomed as a much-needed overhaul of our public transport network.

Upon completion, the rail tunnel will service around 20,000 commuters during peak hours, guaranteeing improved access to public transport not just to residents of the inner-city but to all commuters who work in and transit through Melbourne's CBD. The tunnel will also go a long way to easing congestion both on the rails and Victoria's roads. This is clearly a huge upgrade to Victoria's world-class public transport system that both members and commuters can be proud of.

While contracts for Melbourne Metro are yet to be finalised, the Victorian Government looks set to commit to its promised timeline for completion of the project, with consultations and approvals to occur between now and 2016, and major construction works to begin by 2018.

According to the State Government's forecasts, construction of the Melbourne Metro will employ around 3,500 people at its peak, providing many more jobs in Infrastructure during the 3-5 year window in which the project is to be completed. Upon its completion, our Union can look forward to its ranks being bolstered with new members by the growth in all grades of the industry.

While the RTBU is strongly supportive of the Melbourne Metro Project, we will be just as keen to remind the State Government at all stages of the Project's development that it cannot progress without the consultation and participation of our Union. The last 12 months in our industry, and in particular our dispute with both Metro and Yarra Trams, has served to underline that the State Government must work with our Union and not against it to ensure our industry runs in the best interests of the public. The guarantee of safe working conditions will be our bottom line during any dialogue we enter into with government or employer bodies for the project's duration.

The RTBU will strive to ensure that the Melbourne Metro Rail Project is not only delivered in the best interests of our members, but one which our workforce can take pride in building and operating for the travelling public.

Luba Grigorovitch - State Secretary

FAREWELL TO RTBU COMRADES



Norm Milledge

Over the last few weeks I have been visiting regional depots at V/Line and ARTC to give report-backs to members regarding EBAs.

While at ARTC in Ararat I had the opportunity along with members on site to say farewell to John Hannett and David Pevitt who both retired in early November. I was also able to have a chat with John Spiller who retired in 2012. On behalf of the RTBU I would like to say thank you to John, David and John for their support. Between the three of them, they had 120 years of loyalty and support to the Union.

APOLOGY

The previous issue of RTBU Express carried an article, 'RTBU farewells two retiring legends'. Due to an editorial error, the article wrongly identified the retiring members, our comrades Bryan Clabby and Kevin Zanelli as 'Clabby Williams' and

'George Zanelli'. We apologise for this case of mistaken identity, but nonetheless wish Bryan and Kevin all the best into the future!



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AROUND THE TRAPS: METRO OPERATIONS EA



Darren Galea
Organiser

The bargaining team and Rail Operations Delegates came together last week to run through the new in-principle EA for all members in Metro

Rail Operations following the conclusion of the drafting stage. This meeting allowed the Union to inform the company to draft a schedule for the voting process of the EA to take place.

Members have since been provided with a copy of the EA, and we encourage all members to attend one of the proposed meetings to have your opportunity to ask questions and cast your vote.

KEY ITEMS FOR RAIL DIVISION MEMBERS IN THE IN-PRINCIPLE AGREEMENT ARE:

- 4 years Agreement – nominal expiry date 30 June 2019
- 14% wage increase back paid to 1 July 2015. This is over 4 years PLUS a 3%

one-off payment on the delivery of HomeSafe and Sectorised Running

- Secured job security provisions such as a supplementary labour clause
- Disciplinary Procedure now included in the EA
- Improved consultation clause
- Dispute resolution procedures
- Trauma leave
- Improved bereavement/compassionate leave clause
- A fairer deal for part-time staff around the payment of overtime

If have any queries about Your EA or would like to obtain a copy, please call your local Union delegate, Organiser or the Union head office on **9600 3030** or send us an email at rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

HOMESAFE ROSTERS A HOT TOPIC

Consultation has now begun in a number of areas of Metro Rail Operations due to

Homesafe (Night Network) being introduced on January 2 next year. With only 5 weeks until the rollout a number of working parties have been established to deal with the consultation process to ensure that Metro are following the correct process. The RTBU is also pushing for consultation to commence regarding fatigue across the board. Working parties have been established.

AUTHORISED OFFICERS UPDATE

In the past few months the Authorised Officers' Department have had plenty of issues up in DEDJRT regarding the Department wanting to change the current format for interviews and instead introduce voice recorders for formal records of interview. The RTBU have been fighting this issue for many years and have not allowed the Department to introduce it. We clearly have a fight on our hands if the current way forward is going to remain. We have let both the Department and the company aware of our concern with voice recorders. We continue to have the fight to keep these recording devices away, however we would like to thank our Authorised Officers for remaining staunch in the face of this unfair treatment.

REMEMBERING LLOYD TARRAN, 13 NOVEMBER 1951 - 22 NOVEMBER 2015



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

The RTBU was deeply saddened to learn of the passing away of our comrade, Lloyd Tarran,

who tragically lost his long battle with illness on 22 November this year. Lloyd served as Conductor with V/Line at Bendigo for around 5 years.

Lloyd was known to workmates and customers alike for his cheerful demeanour and keen singing voice – so much so that he was nicknamed 'The Singing Conductor'. His workmates relay the story of one regular

passenger on V/Line's Echuca service who would not show her ticket to Lloyd until he had hummed a tune to her.

Lloyd was a committed trade unionist his entire working life. Prior to joining V/Line he had worked at Telecom. During his time there, Lloyd proudly stood on a picket line as a CPSU member to demand a fair EBA for his workmates.

Earlier this year, Lloyd's workmates at V/Line Bendigo held a Shave for Lloyd as a fundraiser for Lloyd and his family, which saw people go completely bald to show their support for him.

Lloyd remained in strong spirits throughout his tragic illness, and kept his big warm smile which had defined him his entire life until

the very end. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and two grandchildren.

On behalf of the RTBU, I pass on our sincere condolences to Lloyd's family and friends. We will all miss him. Vale Lloyd Tarran.



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Luba Grigorovitch

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