

RTBU EXPRESS

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Letter from Secretary

TRANSPORT UNIONS UNITED



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

Comrades from the RTBU joined our brothers and sisters from the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and Transport Workers Union (TWU) at a joint function on 20 May in the name of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). This night was a good opportunity for delegates from all Divisions of the RTBU to network with the MUA and TWU.

The ITF is a global federation of trade unions representing transport workers in more than 150 countries worldwide. The ITF was formed over 100 years ago with the objective of joining all transport workers together on a global level to advance their standing. Today the ITF is made up of over 700 unions from rail, public transport, trucking and maritime industries. The RTBU, TWU and MUA are all ITF affiliates in Australia.

Over 150 people were in attendance on the night from all three unions. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews was the evening's guest speaker. The sentiment of the ITF function, reflected by all its speakers that evening, was very much that of solidarity and the importance of maintaining strong alliances in the union movement - across borders, across industries and between workers.

Make no mistake: it is the strengthening and clout of these alliances that will see all unions in the transport industry, including our own, triumph in the industrial and political battles ahead. The old union chant of "The Workers,



United, Will never be defeated" is not just a sentimental slogan - it is a resolve that if workers combine their strength and stand as one against employers and hostile governments, there is no force that can move them.

The function was significant in demonstrating the strong alliances which the RTBU has with comrades in the Transport Industry. This function was the second Victorian ITF function, and I plan on making this an annual event in years to come if the TWU and MUA agree. Knowing that these unions will have our back if we do need to fight is priceless and something the RTBU is proud of.

In that spirit, it was pleasing to see RTBU delegates from all six divisions of our Union in attendance at the function. This display of unity was a small albeit noteworthy testament to the strong alliances being built between each section of our Union as we approach negotiations for Enterprise Agreements (EAs) this year. A number of EAs are set to expire by 30 June this year, and while EAs for different areas of our industry do not always overlap it will be critical that we work as one Union to see through enterprise bargaining with a united front.

In Rail Operations, we know that we must not only protect wages and penalty rates but ensure that reasonable working conditions are not cut

into. If you have any queries about enterprise agreement negotiations, do not hesitate to contact your Organiser or the office on 9600 3030.

Together as the RTBU we will see these negotiations through to the betterment of our members; members we have represented for over 100 years and well beyond the lifetime of any employer in our industry.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary





STATION ROSTERS



Joe Maisano
Senior Delegate

Over the past month I have been visiting stations to discuss roster changes with Metro and V/Line staff, including:

St Albans, Footscray, Newport, Williamstown, Watergardens, Sunbury, Frankston, Cheltenham, Mentone, Dandenong, Williams Landing

Some of these stations have since had new rosters implemented. These roster changes

will have a follow-on effect on planned staffing levels at each station. Metro are still of the mindset of looking to cut staffing levels at certain stations but the membership and the RTBU will resist any offer that significantly disadvantages current staff members.

It is vital that V/Line and Metro resolve individual concerns and issues and also oversee outstanding staff displacement – transferring staff from one location to another. The RTBU has been communicating with management to ensure that members' voices are listened to in the implementation of the new roster to protect a healthy work/life balance which has been a major concern for many members.

Report-back meetings with members for EA negotiations will be going ahead next month. There will be bi-monthly general meetings with members starting with Footscray Station on Monday 15 June at 10-11 am. A calendar will be circulated to all RTBU members in Metro and V/Line with dates, times and locations for general meetings. I encourage all members who have any questions about EA negotiations to attend these meetings at their stations.

By working as one Union we will be able to ensure that the reasonable hours and healthy work/life balance of station staff are protected in our next EA.

METRO EA CLAIMS LAID OUT ON TABLE



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

The following information has been circulated to members covered by the Metro

Operations Enterprise Agreement.

Your RTBU bargaining team has been attending formal negotiation meetings with Metro for a replacement EA since the first week of May.

Both parties have now had an opportunity to put their log of claims on the table.

The RTBU has asked Metro to deliver on the matters contained in our log of claims endorsed by members which includes a wage increase of 18% over 3 years, the return of RDOs for all full-time employees and a roster code to lock in important workplace conditions.

Not surprisingly, Metro has presented the RTBU with a full list of items that they would like to see cut from your EA and include the usual attacks on members' rights and conditions. The RTBU have been very clear in stating that these attacks are unacceptable and any agreement reached would need to respect the working rights and conditions of our members who work tirelessly to keep our public transport system running.

The key focus on the RTBU this week has centred around the scope of the agreement and those members that fall outside, with the RTBU pushing that members currently on workplace contracts in roles that should be covered by the EA have the opportunity to come back under the EA's umbrella.

Members will be kept up to date about significant developments.

If you have any questions please contact your Organiser.

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State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

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