

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 2 | Issue 15 | 14 August 2015**



## BALLARAT REGIONAL DINNER

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary



The RTBU held a regional dinner in Ballarat for members on Thursday 13 August. The dinner was organised by RTBU officials and Ballarat delegates from all operators. It was a good opportunity to recognize the hard work and commitment of regional members to our Union.

Members from UGL, Alstom and V/Line attended the dinner. The guest speaker was Member of Parliament Sharon Knight. It was a good opportunity to hear her speak of the struggles which Ballarat are currently facing. Further it was reassuring to hear that she is adamant that fighting for work in Ballarat is a priority for her. Having the State Government on side to ensure work load is spread is paramount to the success of our regional workshops.

Our regional rail is an essential part of the history of our industry and our Union. Our members in V/Line - in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and across regional Victoria - have loyally stood by the RTBU over many years and have consistently lent their support and solidarity to RTBU comrades in all

other sections of our industry through thick and thin. Regional rail has connected Victoria for over 150 years.

The regional dinner gave our members a chance to commemorate the RTBU's victories and reflect on where to next for our Union in Ballarat. It should come as no surprise then that the evening's proceedings took place in a spirit of camaraderie. Going by the sentiments of our members on the evening, our regional membership in Ballarat are well placed to face the challenges of the coming months as we renegotiate the varied Enterprise Agreements which have either expired or are soon to expire. Because of the dinner's success, we now plan to make it an annual festivity and continue to host dinners for RTBU members in other regional areas.

On behalf of the RTBU Victorian Branch I would like to thank Brett Edgington, Secretary of the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council who was also a guest at the dinner. I am proud to warmly congratulate our Ballarat RTBU comrades for taking the initiative to organise such a successful RTBU regional dinner. May it be the first of many more to come.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

**METRO & YARRA TRAMS OPERATIONS RALLY FOR A FAIR DEAL FRIDAY 21 AUGUST**

**MEMBERS MEETING**  
11:30AM START, SHARP  
MELBOURNE TRADES HALL  
CNR VICTORIA ST & LYGON ST  
12:00PM MARCH TO FSS

**PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION**  
12:15PM START  
FLINDERS STREET STATION STEPS

**UNITED WE STAND.**

RTBU MEMBERS NOT PROTECTED BY THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHO ARE NOT ROSTERED FOR DUTY OR ARE ON APPROVED LEAVE ACROSS OUR INDUSTRY ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.



**RTBU**  
The power of Union

Operations | Infrastructure | Workshops | Salaried  
[rtbuvic.com.au](http://rtbuvic.com.au) | (03) 9600 3030

Level 2, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 E [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au) F 03 9600 3363



# UNION ORGANISES IN SALMAT



**Jamie Porter**  
Organiser

Many people wouldn't know, but PTV's call centre is actually contracted out to a company called Salmat.

There are close to 200 PTV workers currently working in the Salmat Call Centre on Franklin Street. All Salmat workers are currently covered by an Enterprise Agreement (EA) called the "Rainbow Connection" – this so-called EA has no union rights or wage increases, places all employees except management on the minimum wage and provides for only the bare minimum if not non-existent working conditions. The Call Centre's award is en par with this EA.

Over the past 12 months the RTBU has been campaigning for Salmat to renew their well over due and expired EA to bring it up to scratch with industry practice. After the threat of a Majority Support Determination application by the joint unions Salmat finally agreed to bargain for a new agreement.

The first bargaining meeting for a new EA was held on 10 July. The three unions, the RTBU, ASU and NUW presented the log of claims. This is a big step forward for the unions as this is the first time Salmat has ever bargained for an EA, but there is still more work to do to secure an acceptable EA that delivers a fair and reasonable outcome for our members.

Regular meetings have been scheduled as we continue to negotiate for an immediate pay increase, better working conditions, fairer key performance indicators and union rights. We will not stop this fight.

**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**

# V/LINE'S HEAD IN THE CLOUD WITH CASUALS



**Bryan Evans**  
Organiser

It has been nearly 2 months since the V/Line Infrastructure Enterprise Agreement (EA) expired on 30 June. V/Line has been surprisingly slow to

negotiate a new EA with its workforce, even by its own remarkable standards in this area.

At the same time, V/Line have submitted a number of claims for the next EA that are of serious concern for the RTBU. The worst of these is a move to casualise work in Infrastructure.

V/Line must be going mad if they think that our Union will stand by quietly as they attempt to casualise jobs in V/Line Infrastructure. Any attempt by the company to scale back permanent work will shed jobs, scale down wages and threaten the future of Infrastructure in V/Line. We will have no hesitation in putting V/Line on notice if they persist with this claim.

It's time for management to stop dragging their heels in renegotiating our members' EAs. We are on to their game and not about tolerate shoddy claims being dragged in through the back door. V/Line needs to renegotiate a new Infrastructure EA for its workforce on decent terms and conditions.

If you have any queries about the expired V/Line EA please call your Organiser in 9600 3030.



WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

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



## Contact us

**rtbuvic.com.au**  
**(03) 9600 3030**

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)  
F 03 9600 3363

**State Secretary**  
Luba Grigorovitch

**Rail Operations / Administration**  
Organiser: Grant Wainwright

**Infrastructure Division**  
Secretary: Kevin Killender

**Admin & Salaried Division**  
Secretary: Steven Kozmевski

**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

