

# RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
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**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

## CALLING ALL OFF-DUTY MEMBERS – AUSTRALIA NEEDS A PAY RISE

In May this year, the Union movement brought Melbourne to a stand still in one of the largest rallies in history. It was a rally that saw 120,000 workers from across the state walk off the job. It was a rally that saw 120,000 people marching to change the rules that are broken in this country. It is time that we do it again.

On Tuesday 23 October 2018, Victorians will once again walk off the job to march in the 'Australia needs a pay rise' rally. This rally stems from the ACTU's Change the rules campaign, which I'm sure you will have heard of by now.

The rules in Australia are flawed and while big business continues to earn more profits and not pay tax, the average Australian worker struggles to make ends meet. Big businesses continue to cut wages and provide less security by casualising the workforce.

There are too many workers on minimum wage and while the cost of living continues to rise, wages have flat-lined.

In 2015, the RTBU lodged and undertook protected industrial action in the fight for a fair and reasonable Enterprise Agreement for employees of Metro Trains Melbourne and Yarra Trams. Unfortunately the Government of the time attempted to stop this Industrial Action taking place. Thankfully through the strength of the RTBU and our members, we were able to stop this occurring and the industrial action went ahead. Which allowed us to get the outcome we did.

This is a perfect example of why the industrial laws need to be changed. The laws are in favour of the companies and against unions and workers. This needs to change.

Corporations have too much power. CEOs, Executives and Managers are out of touch and the attacks on workers and their unions must stop.

The RTBU and the wider union movement is

**AUSTRALIA NEEDS  
A PAY RISE  
RALLY!**

**10:30AM | 23 OCT 2018**

**TRADES HALL**

**RTBU Members meet 10:00am  
at RTBU HQ 2/365 Queen St Melbourne**

**Union Loud.  
Union Proud.  
Now. Always.**

fighting for your right to strike to protect your fundamental rights at work. It is time to change the Rules! Join the campaign and rally with us on Tuesday. If you are Rostered to work and want to attend the rally speak to your manager about being released or contact the RTBU to see if we

can arrange a release on 8630 9100.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
- State Secretary





## Joe Dennis

Organiser

# INTRODUCING JOE DENNIS

I have been working in the Rail industry for almost 20 years as an Authorised Officer. During this time I have always been an active Union member. I became a Delegate over 15 years ago as I wanted to help members and fight to receive the best outcome possible.

Over the years I have been involved in EA negotiations, MYKI introduction, several risk assessments, increasing AO numbers, roster changes and Night Network introduction.

I have now started full time as an Organiser of the Administrative, Supervisory, Technical and Professional division of the RTBU. I look forward to getting out in the workplace and meeting as many members as I can in the coming weeks.

I look forward to protecting members' conditions that we have all fought so hard to get in the place, and working towards improvement of those conditions as well.

Continuing to improve your workplace and conditions is at the top of my list, but I will need the support of the Members in order to get the best possible outcomes in the future.

I look forward to working with you all and please feel free to email me on [joe.dennis@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:joe.dennis@rtbuvic.com.au) or call me on 0403 863 869, even just for a quick catch up.



## Joe Maisano

Organiser

# CLEANING DISPUTES IN METRO

We are currently in dispute with Metro over their continued fobbing off of cleaning duties onto station staff. This issue is getting ridiculous and something must be done.

In this latest issue of the saga, Metro is asking staff to pick up litter, suggesting that you are part of the team if you do. It therefore follows that you are not part of the team if you don't "volunteer" to pick up the rubbish.

Of course, this is yet another cost saving strategy by Metro. We all know that Metro is penalised under the MR4 contract if there are more than ten pieces of litter that are larger than the size of a credit card on the stations. However, rather than employing appropriately trained cleaners, Metro is again attempting to shift the onus onto station staff.

It is completely inappropriate for Station Staff to be picking up cleaning duties in this sneaky

way by the company, but unfortunately it is also entirely consistent with Metro's tendency to impose cleaning duties on Station Staff.

I am, of course, referring to the previous articles I have written about the fact that the cleaning inside station offices, amenities area and locker rooms is only done by the contract cleaners once daily in a 24-hour period inside station offices, amenities area and locker rooms.

This situation has become so bad that the Station Staff feel forced to clean inside the offices, including the internal toilets, due to the complaints made by other staff and the smells and hygiene issues that result from a lack of cleaning.

The PSOs complain to the Station Staff about the mess and hygiene. Often there are comments on the smells and the hygiene when they are inside the station office building.

Satellite locations and Driver's meal rooms are other problem areas of the station office building and Drivers' meal rooms can go for days without a clean.

The complaints coming through to the RTBU office centre on the lack of hygiene and that it is becoming a safety issue. Reports to our Officials and office include that the bins inside the station are over flowing and are attracting rodents, the sanitary bins in the female toilets are full, the station garden beds and car parks are filthy and the syringe containers are full and not being replaced.

We have lodged disputes with Metro over both issues and our advice to our members is not pick up cleaning duties as it is not necessarily safe to do so. Metro must do the right thing and hire appropriately trained and resourced cleaning staff or contractors.



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Luba Grigorovitch

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