

RTBU EXPRESS

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

A 'HEALTHY' WAY TO KEEP PASSENGERS MOVING

RTBU members in front line roles would be aware of a media release from the Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos and the new Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne. The media release outlined a new plan to have ill passengers removed from trains in order to minimise delays and inconvenience to the travelling public.

In this proposal, Authorised Officers, public transport staff, Protective Service Officers and Victoria Police are asked to help unwell passengers off the train.

While the media release advises there has been a review into this, the RTBU has not been involved in the review, nor have we been consulted at any point. The media release goes on to say that the review "found it is safer to treat sick passengers on the platform or station where there is more space and privacy, better access to water, toilets and medical equipment such as defibrillators and a higher likelihood first-aid trained staff and bystanders will be on hand to help."

This all sounds well and good in theory, however front line members know that it is still far from sunshine and daisies.

The facts are that:

- The RTBU has been given no information as to the proposed timeline towards implementation and how they plan to engage with the RTBU moving forward.
- The RTBU has been given no information as to on who's authority a passenger would be moved and where will liability rest in the event of further injury or complication.
- The RTBU has been given no information as to who was involved in conducting the review and why the RTBU was not included, nor has a copy been made available.
- The proposal is based on the assumption that sick passengers will have access to essential facilities if they are moved onto a station, however the vast majority of stations across Victoria remain unstaffed without basic amenities.
- Defibrillators are available only at a handful of stations.
- Not all front line public transport staff are trained in first aid.
- No clear policy and procedure has been discussed with the RTBU that would provide members with the confidence required to facilitate such a change in practice.
- The network is currently under resourced to meet current and growing demand before consideration is given to the additional duties demanded by this proposal.

After discussion with members around this, I have written to both Ministers highlighting the above concerns and asking for clarification.

I have also requested that the review document be made available and that the RTBU and our Delegates are engaged in consultation to ensure any issues can be resolved.

I have also written to the CEOs of both Metro and V/Line to get some information as to whether they have agreed to this proposal. It will be extremely disappointing if the companies have agreed to this new procedure with the Government without any consultation with the people who are expected to perform this task, the members.

We are yet to receive a response from the letters and we will update members as further information becomes available. Until then, status quo will remain.

This is our last edition of RTBU Express for 2018. Have a safe and enjoyable festive season and see you in 2019. I look forward to another year standing shoulder to shoulder with each and every one of you.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

Have you moved house or changed jobs recently?

Please let us know if your details have changed by calling us on 8630 9100 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 to update your details: rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au





Darren Galea

Organiser

PACIFIC NATIONAL EA BARGAINING

We have been in negotiations for some time now about a new Pacific National Enterprise Agreement for Terminal Operators. Delegates and representatives from across each Branch of Australia have been involved in the negotiations for this National agreement.

Negotiations between the RTBU and Pacific National have occurred regularly over the last nine months. Our Delegate from Victoria Adam McGrath has been part of the negotiations with our Industrial Officer Alice Dunn to get the best agreement possible for our members.

Throughout the negotiations we pursued many claims on behalf of our members. Unfortunately Pacific National would not agree to some of our most important claims including fair wage increases, full remuneration for all sick leave and wage parity across the country.

Pacific National's proposed agreement has now been voted down by 78% of members nationally and it has sent a clear message to management that the RTBU will not sit down and accept a shonky agreement.



A negotiation meeting has occurred on Wednesday 12 December after the agreement had been voted down and it was clear that Pacific National clearly heard the no vote from the membership. We are yet to reach an agreement with the company but I am hopeful that this will occur early in the New Year.

We will continue to fight to get the best deal possible for members, and I look forward to pushing forward in 2019.

Enjoy the holidays and be safe.



Joe Dennis

Organiser

AROUND THE TRAPS



2018 has finally come to an end, what a year it has been! Since becoming an Organiser, I have had the pleasure of meeting with members all over Victoria, from Bairnsdale to Bendigo and everywhere in between. Members have welcomed me to the Union with open arms, thank you for your support.

Looking forward to 2019 we have numerous enterprise agreements up for negotiation, Metro, V/Line and Probe. This will make for some exciting times ahead. We have met with Delegates from all providers and compiled a log of claims to move forward in negotiating a fair agreement for all rail workers, improving conditions and increasing pay rates in line with the cost of living.

In the year ahead we welcome the new mobile myki which is currently in trial stage with the trial about to head into the second stage of testing. Body camera trials for Authorised Officers and Station Staff, due to the high possibility of being assaulted and the roll out of new VLocity trains, which pose a few issues requiring risk assessments to be done prior to them being rolled out into service.

Safety for our members will continue to be at the fore front of issues heading into the new year. We all agree that members should go home at the end of the day safely.

I will continue with the issues faced at the PTV call centre relating to pay and conditions and

continue to work with the Delegates to improve things so all members can have a safe and secure workplace.

In 2019 I intend to roll out more monthly Delegates meetings in areas that have never held meetings. These meetings are crucial in the workplace as they create accountability and communication channels to openly resolve issues.

Again thank you all for working with me in 2018 and I look forward to seeing you all in 2019. And for all members working over the Christmas and new year break, thank you all for hard work and efforts keeping our system moving.



Joe Maisano

Organiser

METRO STATION LAND

Recently it was brought to my attention that the inadequacies of the station cleaning in Metro have spread even further. Station staff at many stations across the network were being left with no choice but to clean the inside of the stations themselves. If staff did not clean inside the stations, they would be working in disgusting conditions until the cleaners finally arrived.

It became clear that the cleaners were not attending each station often enough and so we decided to put this in dispute under the pretence that cleaning the stations is not part of the station staff's PDs.

I am pleased to report that the professional cleaners are now cleaning inside the station more often which means that station staff are no longer forced to do it or work in an unclean environment.

This is a great win for members and if there is anyone who continues to have these issues at their station, please call me ASAP on 0421122 437.

We have also written a letter to Nicholas Sleight, General Manager Station Operations raising concerns about a number of issues that were

brought up through the RTBU Safety meetings that occurred in July, August and September of this year.

Some of the concerns raised with Nick Sleight were:

- **Station Staff staying back on late shifts after PSOs have left premises after last train**

This issue relates mainly to stations that close-up with one staff member working on their own at smaller sized Premium stations without Control desk facilities, examples include Boronia and Coburg among others.

- **Two-up staffing of station barrier arrays**

Station staff continue to report issues at barrier arrays across the network and the issue of staff assaults both physical and verbal.

- **Short Shunts**

Station staff at a number of stations have reported a number of unsafe scenarios due to short shunting of trains, and station

staff on their own assisting with detraining passengers, who often are aggressive and angry about their service being terminated or delayed.

- **C.A.N. Notices**

Station staff reported a number of safety issues relating to the issuing of CAN notices. This is especially the case for sustained long periods and during the night often having to give them to the driver after walking through subways on their own.

- **Station safety signage**

At a number of stations, members have requested that signage be provided in booking offices and public display areas around the issue of "Not verbally abusing or threatening station staff". Some of these posters and signs maybe station specific, but this issue needs to be addressed as we come into peak school holidays and the Xmas/New year period.

We are currently awaiting a response from Nick Sleight and will update members when we have further information.



RTBU Retired Members

It is important to remember the legacy of those that came before us.

Retired from the job, but not from the struggle! Thank you to all of our retired members for another great year.





Bryan Evans

Organiser

METRO INFRASTRUCTURE



Despite things being on the right path several years ago, morale in Metro Infrastructure is at an all-time low.

Whether it be the safeworking and sections of track that have been blatantly ignored when it comes to consultation requirements, increasing pressure on the motor fitters or just outright licensed bullying of members by some managers and HR alike, Metro's ever increasing belligerence would indicate that we are in for a

hostile Enterprise Agreement (EA) come 2019.

Interestingly enough, this has been heavily reflected in the log of claims universally throughout all EA meetings with Delegates, and member meetings out in the field. Restricting disciplinary clauses and incorporating clauses that force Metro to follow their own policies have in almost all instances featured as more prominent issues than wages to date, with many advocating to take industrial action on that

basis alone.

The RTBU will continue to hold meetings across all sections of infrastructure over the coming months to formalise the log of claims prior to negotiations next year.

I would like to thank all members and Delegates for their hard work throughout 2018 and I look forward to continuing that work throughout 2019.



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Women's Hoodies have landed!
Hoodies \$45 | Windcheaters \$40

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Luba Grigorovitch

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Organiser: Bryan Evans

Industrial Officer

Alice Dunn

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