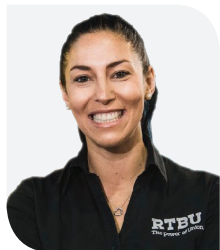


# RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 6 | Issue 14 | 09 September 2019**



**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

## ALSTOM BALLARAT WORKSHOPS

The Alstom Ballarat Rail Workshops has been an integral part of the regional Ballarat community for over 100 years now and employs around 70 local workers at the site.

For those of you that don't know, the Alstom Ballarat workshops have been building and maintaining trains in Ballarat for over 100 years, having delivered more than 600 X'Trapolis rail cars in recent years. Unfortunately, lack of work and inaction from the Andrews' Labor Government threatens the closure of the workshops.

The Andrews' Labor Government has the power to change this by committing that the new order of X'Trapolis trains be built in Ballarat at the Alstom workshops, however the Government has remained cowardly in this indecision.

Part of Labor's platform prior to the 2014 election was around job security, not just ad-hoc work and it is disappointing that 5 years later, under a Labor Government, Alstom are close to shutting the gates.

The X'Trapolis 2.0 project will guarantee that Alstom Ballarat manufactures up to 40 new X'Trapolis trains with passenger capacity of 1200 passengers. This would see the future of the Alstom Ballarat workshop secured until at least 2023, giving the workers better job security and assurance.

Not only will X'Trapolis 2.0 give certainty to Alstom Ballarat, but it will also secure jobs at the Metro Trains Craigieburn maintenance facility beyond 2020. This is a huge investment in Rail in Victoria, and we need to ensure that these jobs are retained.

On Wednesday 28 August, a rally was held at the Ballarat workshops in support of the workers, and to put pressure on the Victorian Government to commit to these trains being



built in Victoria at Ballarat workshops.

While the weather in Ballarat certainly didn't show up for us that day, the local community did, and you could see just how important this is to the community in Ballarat.

At that meeting, workers, Delegates, Members, Union Officials and supporters, passed the below motion unanimously:

*"That Premier Daniel Andrews seek an immediate meeting with the Combined Union Shop Committee at ALSTOM (AMWU, ETU and RTBU) Delegates to discuss the future of the North Workshop ALSTOM past May 2020.*

*That the Premier deliver on his promise made on several visits to the ALSTOM site in 2014 and 2018 - that the ALSTOM workshops would never close under his government."*

The motion has since been communicated with Premier Andrews and no response has been received. I have also written to the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Public Transport twice, urging them to take action and protect these regional rail jobs.

We are yet to receive a response to either letter.

Keeping jobs in Victoria and retaining a skilled workforce must be a priority for the State Government. Trains built by Victorians, for Victorians, is the way that it should be.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
- State Secretary



**Leonie Henderson**

V/Line Delegate

## INTRODUCING LEONIE

“Help me to help you!”, is not just a great line from Jerry McGuire, but my life’s mantra. I’m not a particularly altruistic person by nature but I am here to get us the best deal possible during my secondment at the RTBU, because collective bargaining works and we are the face of V/Line.

Because it’s the morally just thing, because we get up at “ridiculous o’clock” to get our passengers to where they need to be, and because a work group with a good EA functions better with clear guidelines and boundaries.

Over the past two weeks I have met with, spoken to and generally badgered people to find out exactly what we want from this upcoming Enterprise Agreement bargaining round.

I have spoken to staff from Control, IOC, CARS Office, Station Staff, Conductors and Shunters. No one is off limits and we want to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard.

Everyone has something to share, an insight into their job, an opinion, an idea and all of that is valuable. Within that, we are narrowing down exactly what we want from this bargaining round to get the best deal for members.

Over the last few years in my role as a Delegate, I have spoken to hundreds of staff members about the upcoming EA bargaining round and the main concern that I hear is work-life balance.

With the guidance of Jeff Ford, Mick Fairbrother,

Tim Ashcroft and Vik Sharma, this is exactly what we are aiming for with this agreement. Time!

Public holiday credits, Time in Lieu (actually functioning), an extra week annual leave and better parental entitlements are just some of our key claims for this upcoming bargaining round.

I look forward to working with you all and assisting in negotiating the best possible agreement for all of our V/Line members. If anyone has any questions regarding the EA or the Log of Claims (LOC) please don’t hesitate to get in contact with me on 0417 544 745.



**Joe Dennis**

Organiser

## AROUND THE TRAPS

Recently I made the trip to Mildura and Swan Hill Stations to meet with and update our members of the progress on the V/Line Enterprise Agreement (EA). Members were happy to meet with me and discuss issues around the EA and it was great to visit our members in the further regional areas of Victoria.

In the coming months, Organisers will be out and about to update all members on the progress of the negotiations. From Mildura to Bairnsdale, Maryborough and Albury, we will attempt to visit all locations and speak to as many members as possible. Obviously with the nature of shift work, it will be impossible to catch every member, so if there are any V/Line members that have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call me, one of the other Organisers, or the RTBU office on 8630 9100.

Members in the timetables and rostering area of Metro Trains have recently had an issue regarding backpay for unpaid overtime. These discussions have been ongoing for some time and we have made progress with getting some

of the members their backpay. We are still in discussions with Metro to get the remaining members the backpay that they are entitled to, and we will not stop until everyone has been paid what they are owed.

Probe (PTV Call Centre) still have not come to the table to begin negotiations for their EA which expired in April this year. Members at Probe are getting increasingly frustrated at the company for not recognising their hard work.

The members at the PTV call centre are grossly underpaid for the work they do and are constantly on the receiving end of verbal abuse. The RTBU will continue to push Probe to come to the table and begin bargaining in order to get the members the pay and conditions they deserve.

Box Hill station staff have been trialling a seat at the barriers for over 2 years now and recently Metro trains supplied an “Aero seat” to also trial. The best way to describe the new “Aero seat” is a floating bar.

This seat does not take any weight off the members feet and is not suitable for what the members are after. Health and safety experts from the Victorian Trades Hall recently attended Box Hill station to assess the seating situation, and as a result we were able to gain clarity in pushing the issue to management. Members are asking Metro managers for a meeting to discuss the best way forward.

In the recent weeks I have also been travelling to various Metro stations to give members an update on the EA progress. Members have been welcoming and are relieved to hear that the negotiations are now progressing quite quickly. Following the latest offer, we have arranged further meetings to update members as we continue to gear up the campaign for a fair deal.

As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me on 0403 863 869.

### Contact us

**rtbuvic.com.au**  
**(03) 8630 9100**

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)  
F 03 8630 9122

### State Secretary

Luba Grigorovitch

### Infrastructure Division

Secretary: Jon Saw

### Admin & Salaried Division

Organiser: Joe Dennis

Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

### Rail Operations Division

Organiser: Darren Galea

### Workshops Division

Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

### Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire

Organiser: Bryan Evans

### Industrial Officer

Vik Sharma

