

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 6 | Issue 07 | 13 April 2019



Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS

With federal election day fast approaching and pre-poll well underway, candidates of all ilk across Australia are talking about fairness. Unfortunately, this tends to complicate the debate as we know too well that politicians will often say whatever it takes to get your vote. What they can deliver is another question.

While RTBU Members, Delegates and Rank & File Activists have worked tirelessly over decades to demand fairness and equality in the workplace, recent years have seen compounding legislation, bureaucracy, government policy and the appointment of commissioners all targeted at attacking your right to union representation at work.

When it comes to fairness and the best interest of RTBU members under the next government of Australia after this election, the RTBU looks to the historical record to cut through the spin. While there is no silver bullet to parliamentary representation, we can also look to our principles that guide the way, with policies to back them up.

While the RTBU has worked tirelessly to insulate Members in the transport industry from the attacks of the past 6 years, and Workchoices before that, we are facing the thin end of the wedge. As a strong, united industry with strong working conditions, we have a responsibility to our fellow Australians to support their fight for fairness and decency.

The RTBU urges members to consider the following key issues when voting this federal election:

1) Stop further attacks to penalty rates and reverse the cuts that have already been implemented by the Liberals. We need to reverse the trend and guard against these changes entering other industries. Our overtime, night loadings and weekend rates are too important to lose.

- 2) Change the bargaining system so that we can negotiate better outcomes for Members, diminish the overbearing power of employers to ram through changes, regain fair and reasonable right of entry and reinstate our right to strike.
- 3) End the illegitimate and indiscriminate casualisation of the workforce and better support casual workers fighting for job security.
- 4) Education for the next generation and job seekers, and a health care system for when we get ill or injured.
- 5) An end to Australia's wage stagnation and subsequent slowdown of our economy. We support a wage rise for all working Australians, and support measures that ensure that the minimum wage is a living wage. Workers need money in their pockets to spend at local shops and stimulate our economy.
- 6) Restore fairness and trust to Australia's banks and financial system. The banks must be held to account when dealing with our money and we must ensure big corporations pay their fair share of tax.

Taking a look at the track record of the Coalition government they have failed to address issues of major concern to unionists and RTBU Members. They have attacked our unions through the Hayden Royal Commission, Registered Organisations Commission and the ABCC. They have let the banks run a riot (and tried to avoid a royal commission into them) while freezing Medicare forcing more Australians to pay more to see the doctor. They have voted time and time again to cut penalty rates, worked hard to chip away at our healthcare system, consistently opposed fair funding for public schools, and failed to take action on insecure work.

They have cut Newstart payments for those

REMEMBERING
Clarrie O'Shea
FIGHTING FOR THE
RIGHT TO STRIKE

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

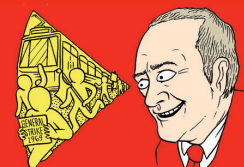
Wednesday 15 May
Doors 5:30PM, Speeches 6:30PM

THE SUBSTATION
1 MARKET ST, NEWPORT VIC

Tickets \$10

FINGERFOOD PROVIDED

RSVP: RTBUVIC.COM.AU/CLARRIEOSHEA



worst affected by unemployment while giving a tax cut to the top 1% at the big end of town. They have failed to take action on the climate emergency.

The RTBU supports the ACTU campaign to Change the Rules and more information is available here: changetherules.org.au

At this election, put yourself and your fellow workers first, vote for the next generation and for those without the luxury of a strong union to have their back!

If any Member would like to contribute their idea to the further formation of demands, please don't hesitate to send an email to rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

RTBU
The power of Union

Operations | Infrastructure | Workshops | Salaried
rtbuvic.com.au | (03) 8630 9100

Level 2, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 [Ertbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au) [F 03 8630 9122](tel:0386309122)





Joe Dennis

Organiser

AROUND THE TRAPS

With the recent announcement made by the Victorian Government to merge Public Transport Victoria (PTV), Vic Roads and the Department of Transport (DOT) under one umbrella, members are concerned about their positions within this new department. Since the announcement, I have been visiting PTV in Collins Street regularly to meet with members and discuss the impact the merger may have.

Members voiced concern in relation to moving from the public sector to the public service. In the middle of this PTV staff have also been informed that they are relocating buildings from 750 Collins Street to the Rialto. This is a huge move and has to be done by November as the lease finishes and new tenants move in.

PTV now have approximately six months to plan, design, tender, consult and move. It's going to be tight. PTV are currently in consultation with the RTBU on all aspects of the move and the

merger and want this to be as smooth as possible for all members.

V/Line Delegates all met in our office recently to discuss and endorse their log of claims for the upcoming Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations. These negotiations were set to begin at the start of May but have been held up by Government because they won't approved V/Line to release their log of claims (LOC). Further updates will occur once negotiations begin.

The Probe EA (Where the RTBU represents members in the PTV Call Centre) officially expired on the 25 April 2019. Unfortunately though, bargaining has not even begun because Probe will not come to the table and begin negotiation. The National Union of Workers (NUW), Australian Services Union (ASU) and the RTBU have written to Probe to begin negotiations across the organisation,

Update your details

Have you moved house, change jobs, phone numbers or emails recently?

With Enterprise Agreement negotiations for all of the major operators beginning this year, it is important that your details are up to date so that you receive updates about your Enterprise Agreement.

Email rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au or call 8630 9100 to update your details.

but nothing has eventuated.

This is a kick in the face to members at Probe, who are part of one of the lowest paid industries in Australia. All the members deserve better pay and conditions and are ready for a fight. This lack of cooperation from Probe's upper management and CEO does not come as a surprise and I ask all members at Probe to band together and be strong, lets show Probe we won't be pushed around.



Vik Sharma

Industrial Officer

EA BARGAINING – METRO & V/LINE



Metro:

As our members in Metro Rail Operations are aware, bargaining is well and truly underway for the new EA and in fact, has taken a new turn. Metro went to Fair Work Commission saying that they were not happy with the pace of the bargaining. We believe that this was merely a tactical move to exert undue pressure on us. Rest assured, we will not succumb to such pressure and will continue to bargain on behalf of our members and achieve the best outcome.

At the commission we raised arguments that dynamics around the rail industry have changed drastically due to the rapid growth and the State Government's initiatives such as railway crossings removal project and city loop tunnel project. These changes have rendered the 2019 EA extremely complex and we want to ensure that negotiations are conducted diligently and not in haste. At this stage the commission has suggested

that all meetings until further notice must happen jointly with both divisions of the RTBU present, which is what we have been proposing since negotiations commenced.

In the last EA meeting, we raised concerns regarding technological advancements such as mobile myki and how they might affect job security of our members. We explicitly informed Metro that we wanted assurance that the implementation of new projects or introduction of new technology would not put our members' jobs at risk; and that the assurance should be incorporated into the EA.

We also raised concerns about safety of our members, especially the station staff, who work one-up on the barriers and are constantly in fear of being abused or assaulted. We believe none of our members should be exposed to such risks and Metro should prioritise their safety before pocketing huge profits.

V/Line:

V/Line bargaining has hit a road block – V/Line is not providing us with their log of claims and has given no reasonable explanation as to why. We continue to urge them to come to the table so the negotiations may commence and we will continue to build the pressure as the agreements approaches expiry.

Many of our members have provided input into the RTBU log of claims which following further discussion and consultation, was endorsed at a Delegates meeting held on Thursday 18 April 2019.

We now wait for V/Line to provide its log of claims so that negotiations may commence. We are ready to bargain with our log of claims focused on the changing dynamics of the rail industry. I assure members that we will bargain for deal on your behalf, that acknowledges your hard work, focuses on long term benefits, conditions and job security.

Contact us

rtbuvic.com.au
(03) 8630 9100

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E 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

Alice Dunn

Rail Operations / Administration

Organiser: Joe Maisano

