

RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 5 | Issue 07 | 20 April 2018



Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Unfortunately, in the Public Transport Industry and especially in front-line roles, our members face serious safety risks on a daily basis.

As I'm sure many members are aware, the RTBU has long been campaigning for two-up on all Barriers across the network, and for Conductors on all V/Line Services. While the calls for two-up have continued to go unanswered, the RTBU searched for another way forward to help protect our front-line workers.

The RTBU is currently lobbying the Victorian State Government to introduce harsher penalties for assaulting a Public Transport worker.

Currently there are penalties that exist for assaulting emergency

workers such as police officers, protective service officers, operational staff within the meaning of the Ambulance Services Act 1986, a fire-fighter, and other emergency workers listed in section 10AA(8) of the Sentencing Act 1991 (Vic). The minimum penalty is a 6 month term of imprisonment for a person who intentionally or recklessly causes injury to an emergency worker on duty.

Following the introduction of this legislation, along with effective state funded publicity, many of these workers have reported improvements in their experience at work. Public Transport workers are no different and deserve this same respect that Emergency workers do.

The South Australian Government has introduced penalties for assaulting Public Transport workers which sees perpetrators facing up to 25 years imprisonment. The time is now for the Victorian State Government to leap into the 21st century and protect the workers who keep our transport system moving each day.

The RTBU urges the Victorian Government to firmly consider adopting such legislation to ensure safety, certainty and security to front line public transport workers.

It is time for our State Government to come to the table and do what is necessary to protect Public Transport workers. The time is now.

We will continue to update members on the campaign and with any progress in this space.

If you have been assaulted at work or are experiencing violence related issues (verbal and non-verbal) in your workplace, please contact the RTBU on 8630 9100 or at safety@rtbuvic.com.au to log an incident report.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

RTBU SOFT SHELL JACKETS

Women's and Men's Sizes available:
S - 5XL

Choice of colour: Black or Navy Blue

Contact Hannah Scott via email at Hannah.scott@rtbuvic.com.au or on 0448 569 178 if you would like to order one.

Orders including size, colour and payment upfront must be in by **COB Friday 4 May 2018**.



\$80
per jacket





Darren Galea

Organiser

CONDUCTOR SAFETY

Over the last few years, assaults on Conductors across the network have continued to increase. In the last three months alone, there has been a number of conductors who have been assaulted or experienced severe violence while on the job.

The RTBU has major concerns around the safety of conductors because of this. We have approached V/Line management on a number of times to attempt to reach an agreement on improved safety precautions.

Discussion has occurred around organising Risk Assessments

as well as a working party with Delegates, HSRs and management involved to get to the bottom of this and find a solution.

The working party has currently been working through potential courses for Conductors to undertake to give them skills to better deal with confrontational situations. The working party will continue to assess the different options available to find the best suitable for what conductors need.

The RTBU will continue to work towards as many solutions as we

possibly can to assist conductors in feeling as safe as possible while on the job.

The RTBU urges every single RTBU member who is an employee of V/Line to report every incident that occurs to both V/Line and the RTBU. In order for these concerns of safety to be raised, there needs to be evidence of this occurring, so it is vital for all members to continue logging incident reports.

Without the log of incident reports, issues like these can take far longer to be rectified, so it is important they are done in a timely manner.

To report any issues of safety to the RTBU, email safety@rtbuvic.com.au

As outlined in Luba's article, the RTBU is also lobbying the Government for legal protections similar to those protecting emergency services workers from assault. Make sure you read her article and get in touch to help support and grow the campaign.



Bryan Evans

Organiser

GEMCO BANS IN FULL SWING

Industrial Action at Gemco South Dynon commenced last week, putting pressure on the company to abandon its unreasonable position at the bargaining table. Despite making a considerable profit last financial year, the company has refused to budge on reasonable claims that will see Gemco members gain conditions that other rolling stock members across the state have had since the turn of the century. Notably, an industry standard redundancy entitlement and the inclusion of five bonus days.

Gemco's existing redundancy entitlements are sub-par. They offer a 16 week cap at 9 years service and drop to a 12 week cap at 10 years' service. If the RTBU's claim is accepted the redundancy would be capped at 21 weeks. As it stands only two members would be immediately affected by such a change indicating this is more about Gemco managements ego than any form of common sense.

The second outstanding claim of bonus days have been a staple of rail agreements for 15 years.

The company initially proposed two days, subject to stringent KPIs. The RTBU bargaining team provided a counter offer that would see the full five days partially funded by members and see them phased in over a three year period, which the company blatantly refused.

Members at South Dynon have unanimously rejected managements current offer and responded by endorsing bans that restrict overtime, undertaking gauge conversions, use of

personal tools and any change of roster.

Those bans are currently in place and will remain in place until further notice.

Members want an industry standard agreement, and they will fight to get it.

United we stand, Divided we fall.

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
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Cathy Birch

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

Industrial Officer
Alice Dunn

Rail Operations / Administration
Organiser: Joe Maisano

