

RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 4 | Issue 13 | 4 Sep 2017



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGE EQUALITY: It's a union issue!



Cakes For Equality: Members at Flinders Street show their support.

The Australian union movement has long worked to improve the lives of working Australians. For over 100 years the RTBU has fought many battles that affect members both in the workplace and in daily life.

These battles have included struggles for wages and conditions, penalty rates and the fight against conscription. We have fought for issues important to our members such as leave entitlements, job security and safety, Women's rights, superannuation, Medicare and the eight hour day. The list goes on.

We have fought for these issues as they impact our members, and we continue the fight to make workers better off, our country fairer and our future brighter.

But our work is never done. While laws exist that give more rights to some and discriminate against others, we cannot and will not stand silent. Year after year members are discriminated against at work for where they come from, who they are or who they love.

In the fight to bring equality and fairness to all Australians, we must stand united until all our colleagues, friends and family get the respect and dignity they deserve under Australian law.

Since the campaign for marriage equality plebiscite started, many workplaces across our industry have contacted our office to proclaim their support for the YES vote. Some have put up posters, organised events, and made sure enrolments are up to date.

If you would like to help with the campaign in your workplace, have some ideas to share or would like to put up some posters, contact Amedeo D'Aprano at amedeo.daprano@rtbuvic.com.au or on 0488 305 088.

Should you need support or experience any bullying or harassment in your workplace, contact your organiser or the Union office on 8630 9100.

RTBU WOMEN

The RTBU Women's Committee was created in 2010 and we have since seen incredible growth within the committee, the Union, and our capacity to tackle women's issues.

Working to better represent women in our male dominated industry, RTBU Women has had great success in achieving real outcomes for women and putting many important items on the agenda.

These include the valuable forums for identifying issues such as monthly meetings and Women's Conference, as well as sound outcomes such as improvements to facilities and amenities for women, access to Domestic Violence leave, the establishment of the Women's Advocate and general agitation for issues that would otherwise not have a voice.

When we first began back in 2010, I would have an average of one to three women at each meeting. I am

proud to say that we now average between 15 and 20 women each meeting - an amazing achievement in such a short time.

Following many effective years as RTBU Women's Officer, Kath Larkin has stepped down to open the door for other women to build their organising capacity. Having become a friend to many RTBU women, Kath's contributions have been key to helping RTBU women become what it is today.

Recently elections for the RTBU Women's Officer were held, electing Kellie Grayson from the Rail Divisions to the position of RTBU Women's Officer, and Briony Wilson from the Tram and Bus Division to the position of Deputy RTBU Women's Officer. Congratulations to Kellie and Briony!

Kellie is currently a Multi Modal Authorised Officer working out of Southern Cross station and Briony is a Tram Driver from Camberwell depot.

The RTBU Women's Officer and Deputy Women's Officer will be a two year elected term, and I look forward to seeing the things that these two women accomplish for the women of the RTBU.

The growth of RTBU Women is testimony to the power of good organising and collaboration in advancing the interests of a minority. I look forward to supporting the continued growth of our Union and RTBU Women over the coming years!

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary





Darren Galea

Organiser

WILSON SECURITY

For some time now, RTBU members at Wilson Security Luggage Hall Southern Cross have been facing a number of safety issues.

Over the past months, our members have been facing issues with the storage of baggage.

Following building pressure from the RTBU, Wilson Security have finally come to the table to begin the process of making this workplace safer via a risk assessment.

The first stage of the risk assessment has been conducted with all the relevant parties present including the RTBU, Victorian Trades

Hall Council OHS team, HSRs as well as Wilson Security management.

The second stage of the risk assessment will be finalised in the next fortnight.

We hope to get some sound outcomes from this risk assessment to ensure better safety for our members on the job.



Cathy Birch

Organiser

AROUND THE TRAPS

Since beginning at the RTBU, I have been extremely busy running many Delegates and Women's Advocate elections across the network.

Recently we have had Delegates elected for station staff on the Sunbury, South Morang and Hurstbridge lines, as well as Parliament and Box Hill Stations where we have two new deputy delegates at both. We have also elected new Delegates at Metro 700 Collins Street and the V/Line Cars Office.

Delegates are the backbone of the union so we are pleased to welcome these Delegates and look forward to working with them.

Due to the increased workload from Regional Rail Link (RRL), we have finally received agreement for increased staffing levels in

V/Line number one signal box. With the increase in staff and the new timetable coming in, we expect members will benefit significantly in reduced fatigue, meal breaks and better work-life balance.

Following a long drawn out process, the VicTrack EA is now in its final stages. We anticipate that it will be ready to go to the membership for voting shortly.

Last week I visited members at Borgs Cleaning in North Melbourne and also visited the members employed by Salmat at the PTV Call Centre. It has been great getting out to all these areas and getting to know the members!

Last but not least, we have had a win for the females in the signalling grade, where after pressure from the RTBU, MTM have issued

a new uniform order which allows women to order women's pants. This may seem like a small win, but it is one step closer in the fight for gender equality in the workplace.



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Luba Grigorovitch

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