

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Letter from Secretary

RTBU LODGE TO TAKE PROTECTED INDUSTRIAL ACTION



**Luba
Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

Members would have heard by now that the RTBU has lodged to take Protected Industrial Action for Infrastructure

members covered by the Metro Infrastructure Enterprise Agreement (EA). This comes after months of delaying tactics by Metro Trains.

Our current agreement expired on 30 June 2015 and while we have been attempting to reach agreement with Metro they have been dragging their feet. We are trying to get a resolution, however it's obvious that Metro aren't fair dinkum. Our members are not prepared to let this drag on.

The offer put by Metro is insulting and shows that Metro is attempting to strip away hard won conditions such as penalty rates. The RTBU is determined to ensure this doesn't happen and we will fight to protect and improve the conditions, safety and wages of our members.

If Metro cannot come to the table with fair and reasonable terms that our members have fought to defend for decades we will have no choice but to take industrial action. The protected action will potentially cover the full range of Metro's infrastructure maintenance workers including those working to resolve faults that affect train operations.



Members from the Infrastructure Division came out in droves to support comrades covered by Operations and the Yarra Trams EAs. Now is the time to remember this and support our brothers and sisters in this battle. We must stand united.

Potential actions include workplace stoppages up to 48 hours, refusal to declare track open and bans on changes to rosters and working overtime. Safety issues will be prioritised with the union drawing a hard line in relation to Metro's flexibility on the enforcement of safety policy as a line of action.

The RTBU has scheduled meetings over the course of the next week to bring and explain this offer to members but here are just a few points of interest in Metro's dream agreement:

1. Approximately 70 admin/tech/professional workers taken off the agreement
2. Bonus days scrapped
3. 2 hour minimum shifts for part timers
4. Supplementary labour clause removed
5. RDOs, gone
6. Penalties, gone
7. Rostering rights, gone
7. Sick Leave limited to ten days per year
8. 2% increase over 4 years
9. Aggregate wage removes all allowances.

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:

rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

RTBU
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LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR BOB!



GRANT WAINWRIGHT

Organiser

On Friday 26 February, alongside many Ballarat based members to our surprise and delight, Bob Bassett was

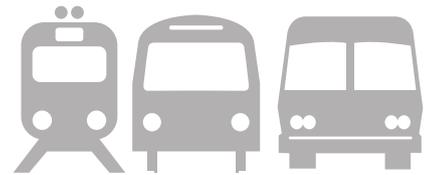
awarded a Life Membership of the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council.

Bob Has held many positions on the executive of Ballarat Trades and Labour Council including terms as Council President.

It is great to see Bob's tireless work receive the rewards that he richly deserves. Life Membership is the Union Movement's highest honour and I can't think of anyone that deserves it more.



So Bob, from all at the R.T.B.U., we congratulate you. We also look forward to many more years of your continued hard work for the RTBU members in and around Ballarat.



V/LINE REGIONAL VISIT - TRARALGON LINE



Jamie Porter

Organiser

Despite all the excuses from V/Line and the Minister, the RTBU has continued the push to see more movement in negotiations for a fair

enterprise agreement to cover all V/Line Operations members.

Over the past weeks, numerous EA update meetings have been held across the network at stations such as Ballarat, Southern Cross, Geelong, Bendigo and Seymour.

This past week the Traralgon line received updates along the line reiterating the RTBU's bargaining position that focuses on maintaining current conditions with improvements in certain areas.

It was great to meet with members and answer all concerns raised about the current status of EA negotiations.

The RTBU will continue work to ensure all members are well informed about the EA with further updates to follow as things develop.



Right to left: Christian, Adele and Jamie at Moe Station. Adele received the bouquet of flowers earlier in the day from an appreciative community member for whom she went above and beyond to assist. When I arrived at the station Adele was helping another commuter with special needs an hour after officially finishing her shift – yet another example of V/Line staff putting their community first!

IN PRINCIPLE AGREEMENT FOR UGL BALLARAT



Bryan Evans

Organiser

An in principal agreement has been reached between the unions and UGL Ballarat that will deliver members job

security during an uncertain time for the

workshop. UGL undertook a voluntary redundancy process late last year, followed by further bad news when UGL announced to members that the workshop's future was not certain.

UGL initially approached the unions for a short term deal that would see the current EA extended by 12 months and after several negotiations UGL offered a 2%

wage increase for the privilege. Members of all unions lodged for protected industrial action and an agreement was quickly struck that offered 2.25% and a commitment from the company that there will be no forced redundancies. The extension will see the workshop through till the end of September, when we expect to negotiate to new 3 year deal in line with industry standard.

Contact us

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State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

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**Infrastructure, Workshops
& Labour Hire**
Organiser: Bryan Evans

