

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

MR4 CONTRACT ANNOUNCED

After months and months of the Victorian Government delaying the decision of the MR4 contract, a decision was announced on Tuesday 12 September 2017, a mere two months before the contract expires.

The decision has not come as a shock to the RTBU with expectations set low for the Government to be bold enough to bring Melbourne's Metropolitan Train and Tram networks back to public hands.

With the disappointing result of both Yarra Trams (KDR) and Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) receiving a new seven-year contract, the RTBU will continue with the fight against privatisation and its impact on members.

Since 2015, the RTBU has campaigned for the Victorian Government to bring Melbourne's public transport back to public hands.

Despite MTM and KDR being granted the franchise, the RTBU through campaigning for change, has managed to have a major impact over the franchise agreement, rectifying long outstanding issues fought for by members since privatisation.

Issues which relate to adequate staffing levels, inadequate investment in infrastructure, ensuring training and the long-term viability of our industry through skills and apprenticeships, improving the state of

our trains and stations for staff and the public have all had steps taken towards addressing each issue. This is all thanks to RTBU members and your passion for our industry in which we all work.

Some of these include;

- 600 jobs for Metro including;
 - 150 new drivers
 - 60 new customer service related staff
 - 90 in Rollingstock and Infrastructure
 - 270 in projects
 - 30 miscellaneous
- 100 jobs for Yarra Trams focusing on Infrastructure and Rollingstock (including 70 apprentices)
- 89.2 million dollars in refurbishments for the Comeng, Siemens and X'Trapolis fleets
- 136 B and W class Trams to be refurbished
- 4.4 million to upgrade East Preston Tram depot
- 37% increase in maintenance renewals funding
- Tougher monthly performance targets
- Tougher penalties for short running trams, loop bypasses, station skipping and poor train presentation
- A 10 million dollar fine if Metro is not maintaining the network properly in the first 2.5 years

I would personally like to thank the members who got involved in the campaign. Many of you attended rallies, assisted with leaflet drops, signed the petition and fully got involved in the RTBU Public Transport, Public Hands campaign.

Although the outcome is not what we intended, we can be proud of the gains that have been made.

These gains were only made because our voice collectively was so loud.

As these new contracts take hold, it is important we continue to hold the operators accountable. Staff must be respected and maintenance and services must be improved and upheld. If anyone has any information, do not hesitate to contact the Union Office on 8630 9100.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

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Joe Maisano
Organiser

TRAINING OF FRONT LINE METRO STAFF

Currently, Metro is providing training courses like Moving like a Metro, MAYBO, ICE training and Safeworking refresher classes annually however, what is lacking is on the job training.

There are many new phone apps available for use as a part of their work requirements and Metro is currently training front line staff to become trainers on how to use these phone apps. These newly appointed On The Job trainers (OJT) will then train other staff on the job for use.

We have been advised by Metro that the trainers will be named as either Champions, Coaches, Mentors and/or Buddying. Importantly, whatever Metro tell them these roles are, they will continue to be OJTs.

The RTBU sees this as a cheap way of training, however this is not to say that training is not a good concept if done properly. Any form of training that the employer provides that is consistent with their work is good. However, Metro is using these Champions/Mentors/Buddies/Coaches as trainers to train front line staff.

The RTBU is therefore requesting that any form of training that is provided by the front-line staff trainers receive the proper training courses to train staff and receive On The Job Training allowance for completing these tasks on behalf of Metro.

The OJT allowance should be made to any staff member who trains other staff on the job or at any other venue.

I will keep all members updated as this issue develops and we receive answers from management.

DELEGATES AND WOMEN'S ADVOCATES, REGISTER FOR THE 2017 DELEGATES CONFERENCE

To register your attendance, send an email to rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

**SAVE
— THE —
DATE**

RTBU DELEGATES CONFERENCE
26 OCTOBER 2017
10am-4pm
Conference Venue TBC

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MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON



Bryan Evans
Organiser

LABOR HIRE EA UPDATE

Over the last several years, casualisation of Infrastructure jobs has been one of the biggest threats we have had to face as an industry. Due to the strength and determination of the RTBU members applying pressure to both MTM and V/Line, much needed change is now beginning to take root with many Rail contractors reaching in-principal agreements with the RTBU on our major claims.

Here is a brief snapshot of where our labour hire EA round is at:

Aurora has reached an in-principal agreement with the RTBU and is currently scheduling a vote with the membership.

Australian Recruitment Group (ARG) despite their current EA not expiring until

December ARG have already committed to adopting the new agreement. Currently going through the FWC process.

Nu Group are close to reaching an in-principal agreement with the RTBU (pending legal) and are currently working through minor details.

National Rail Group have reached an in-principal agreement.

Morson terms and conditions are largely agreed, and currently under review by Morson Legal team. We are currently awaiting formal agreement so we can proceed with member vote.

GTE despite being the primary employer for Murray Basin, GTE have yet to commit to signing the new agreement. Dialogue is still

positive and we are likely to reach agreement over the coming fortnight. However members should be on notice that action may be required if GTE keep dragging their heels.

Skilled have come to the table regarding many of the RTBU's core claims, however are trying to significantly short change members on back pay. It is the opinion of the RTBU that they should potentially offer a fair back pay arrangement if they expect to reach agreement with the RTBU membership.

Safeworking Solutions are yet to formally sit down with the RTBU to commence bargaining however discussions recently indicate this will occur over the next several weeks.

The RTBU will continue to provide updates to members as the round progresses.

A promotional graphic for RTBU hoodies. It features eight hoodies arranged in two rows of four. The top row shows four dark blue hoodies with various RTBU logos: a vertical 'RTBU' on the left, 'RTBU Your industry Union' on the back, 'RTBU' on the chest, and a circular logo with 'WE RUN THE NETWORK', 'RAIL TRAM & BUS UNION', and 'RTBU'. The bottom row shows four more hoodies: two dark blue and two grey, with similar branding. Large, stylized text on the right side reads 'Hoodies' and '\$45'. At the bottom left, the letters 'RTBU' are displayed in large white font.





Cathy Birch

Organiser

AROUND THE TRAPS

Currently, we are running many elections in various areas for Delegates and Women's Advocate Positions. Recently, we have had a Delegate elected from the station staff grade at Pakenham, Cranbourne, Narre Warren and Berwick as well as a new deputy Delegate.

We have also had elections for a delegate at the PTV Hub at Southern Cross and the V/Line Customer Communications Office in Centrol. We are looking forward to meeting all of our new Delegates at their training session in October

and also at the Annual RTBU Delegates Conference which will be held on Thursday 26 October 2017.

Signalling staff at Caulfield signal box have finally received a new roof with Kooyong signal box expecting one in October. Watch this space for further updates.

Members working at Transport House have been helped with both an air quality test and a dust particle analysis. These members have been working in these conditions for months

and no action was taken by Metro to address this. The RTBU is getting to the bottom of this as a matter of urgency.

On a recent trip to Bairnsdale, I met station staff at all the locations along that line and heard the many things which are involved in their jobs, and what issues there are which need resolving. I am currently working through many of these issues.

As always, any queries please don't hesitate to call me on 0403 863 869.

Delegates Meeting Dates – October 2017

- 3 Oct – Metro North Melb AOs C & D Delegates – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 3 Oct – Metro TPH AOs C & D Delegates – 1200 – 1300hrs
- 3 Oct – Metro Central – Melbourne Central – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 3 Oct – Metro Rollingstock – Craigieburn
- 3 Oct – Metro Rollingstock – Epping
- 4 Oct – Metro Caulfield – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 4 Oct – Metro Rollingstock – Newport
- 4 Oct – V/Line Centrol – 1130 – 1230hrs
- 10 Oct – V/Line Southern Cross – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 11 Oct – Metro Burnley – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 11 Oct – MMAOs A & C Delegates – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 12 Oct – V/Line Shunters – Southern Cross – 1200 – 1300hrs
- 18 Oct – Metro Clifton Hill – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 20 Oct – V/Line Western – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 24 Oct – Metro Malvern AOs B & C Delegates – 1000 – 1100hrs
- 24 Oct – Metro Hawthorn AOs B & C Delegates – 1200 – 1300hrs
- 25 Oct – Metro Northern – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 25 Oct – Pacific National MFT – 1500 – 1600hrs
- 25 Oct – Metro NSS / CCTV – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 27 Oct – V/Line North East – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 31 Oct – V/Line Northern – 1100 – 1200hrs
- 31 Oct – Metro Central – Flinders Street – 1100 – 1200hrs

Contact us

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State Secretary

Luba Grigorovitch

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Admin & Salaried Division

Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division

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Admin & Salaried Division

Organiser: Cathy Birch

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