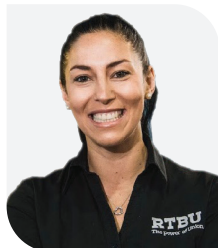


RTBU EXPRESS

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

State Secretary

BREAKING: MASKS TO BE WORN ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT



The RTBU has recently campaigned for a policy shift on masks to protect members (and commuters) in congested or confined spaces found across the public transport network.

We claimed that the COVID-19 crisis has reached a tipping point where masks ought to be recommended and made mandatory for all commuters on public transport. We went out on a limb with this claim, not because it would be popular, but because it's the right thing to do. We believe that every preventative measure possible should be put in place to protect members.

Following the RTBU's push, doctors, nurses, community leaders and even health officials came out to back the call – this is a common sense solution.

In light of building pressure, the Victorian

Government has marked a significant shift in public health policy, now urging Victorians to wear a mask in public where physical distancing can't be maintained – a giant step in the right direction.

But our work is not yet done. While the RTBU recognises the complications in mandating and enforcing mask wearing, along with questions of ongoing availability of stock, our biggest challenge in the short term is the giant cultural shift required of Australians towards wearing masks.

Over coming weeks we will continue to push the Victorian Government to ramp up public education and messaging regarding masks, along with additional measures designed to break down barriers and excuses for people to travel safely.

In the interim, the RTBU has joined the

#MaskKindness campaign working to de-stigmatise the use of masks, educate people about how and when to use masks, as well as support a giant Australia wide community of people creating re-usable facemasks.

RTBU members are putting their health and safety on the line every day to keep essential services ticking. They deserve to have the protection of every available public health measure.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary





Joe Dennis

Organiser

THE FIGHT FOR SAFE WORKSITES FOR MEMBERS

I recently went onsite at the Moreland Road level crossing removal site.

Both the CFMEU and RTBU arrived on site at 7am to see a large drilling rig positioned close to the live rail corridor. Under an AAREO permit we arrived on site and issued a notice of suspected contravention to John Holland for inadequate safe systems of work adjacent to a rail corridor.

John Holland and Metro safety managers arrived on site and discussions took place regarding their lack of safety and little to no processes in place if the drill was to foul live track.

While on site, numerous trains passed the work site within 6.5 meters of the drilling rig. If the drilling rig were to fall sideways it would clearly hit an oncoming train.

Work at the site ceased and members were asked to leave the site until it was rectified.

Both unions have instructed John Holland that they need to supply a level 3 Safe Worker as an additional safety measure as the works are close to the rail corridor.

John Holland refused and said it was not needed, yet several hundred meters up the line a similar worksite has a level 3 Safe Worker.

Phone calls were made to Metro management who agreed with John Holland. This shows a blatant disregard for members and for the public's safety.

Both CFMEU and RTBU officials were on site the next day. Work still did not commence because no level 3 Safe Worker transpired.

Later that day John Holland came to their senses and supplied the Safeworker as requested at the location in question and work commenced soon after.

A routine visit to the Cherry street site in Werribee, soon turned into an issue when I noticed a small elevated dirt walkway adjacent to live running tracks.

The walkway was used for members to access the work sheds. This walkway was only 2-3 meters from tracks with no delineation fence to prevent anyone falling onto tracks.

They had placed orange temporary bollards in place, but this was not sufficient. There was



a delineation fence that needed to be moved closer to tracks but still had not been done.

A notice of suspected contravention was issued to McConnell Dowell for inadequate safe systems of work adjacent to a rail corridor.

To mitigate the risk of anyone being injured two Safe Workers were positioned at either end of the walkway until the delineation fence was erected.

After several phone calls to Metro and McConnell Dowell, the fence was moved to the correct location, thus preventing any members being injured or worse.

If any members have any safety concerns on site, please don't hesitate to call me on 0403 863 869.



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

Industrial Officer
Alice Dunn

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**Industrial Officer /
Organiser**
Vik Sharma





Dirk Hasse

V/Line Delegate

V/LINE EA VOTING

By now many of you would be aware that we are toward the pointy end of the Operations V/Line 2019 Enterprise Agreement bargaining. The negotiations leading up to this has been a long process, complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Drafting has only just been completed last week and we are expecting the Enterprise Agreement to be made available to members as soon as Treasury and Industrial Relations Victoria approves it. Approval from the government must occur as V/Line is a government entity.

Further to Members requests for a longer review

period, the union was able to achieve a 14 day access period to read and understand the document before the 7 day voting period begins. Voting will be electronic/online and RTBU will be available to help Members if they have any issues lodging their vote. I strongly recommend all Members take the time to read through the EA and attempt to understand it so you can make an informed vote when the time comes.

If you have any question related to the EA, please contact me on 0417160444.

Warrnambool Rest Jobs

The other recent concern raised by Members has been the proposed changes to the Warrnambool and Southern Cross conductors' rosters to remove rest jobs. V/line had attempted to slip these changes through with minimal consultation in some areas, and we have had to push to have members concerns dealt with properly. Meetings between management, RTBU, and the various rostering committees are still occurring, and nothing has been finalised yet.



Vik Sharma

Industrial Officer/Organiser

NEW RTBU DELEGATES

Our Delegates play a crucial role in representing our members' interests. They are the backbone of our Union. A Delegate's role comes with huge challenges but is a rewarding one, to say the least.

We heard from members from different areas that they needed more Delegates. As a result, we have organised elections in many areas.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of

4 new station RTBU Delegates.

Craig Mentiplay (Bayswater – Belgrave)

David Doran (Albion – Sunbury)

Huseyin Basoglu (Footscray – Sunshine)

Karl Romeo (Williamstown – Seddon)

We congratulate all the newly appointed Delegates and look forward to working with them.

There are many other areas where we plan to organise elections. Probe's Delegate nominations have been opened and elections will soon follow. If you feel there is lack of Delegates in your area, please contact me.

For all your local issues, contact your local delegate. Alternatively, feel free to contact me on 0413 363 923 or email: vik.sharma@rtbuvic.com.au.

V/LINE FIRST AID DISPUTE – SETTLED

After a long- drawn battle, the First Aid dispute has finally come to an end. After numerous discussions, meetings, commission days and negotiations, with your support we have finally been able to get what was rightfully yours.

From 1 August 2020, all Conductors will be appointed as designated first aiders and will start

receiving a weekly First Aid allowance of a set amount. If someone does not start receiving the allowance from 1 August, they will be back paid to 1 August.

Further, 50 station staff will be appointed as designated First Aiders and will start receiving the allowance from 1 August.

We appreciate your support and patience during this dispute.

If you have any queries about the First Aid allowance, I am only a phone call away on 0413 363 923.



FRANK HYETT AWARD RECIPIENT: MICHAEL FAIRBROTHER

Comrades,

As the recipient of the Frank Hyett Award, in recognition of my "contribution to building the power of the union on the job", for 2020 I must say I was surprised & somewhat embarrassed as I have always believed the "power" of a union delegate is derived from the solidarity of the members you represent and therefore you are all contributing to the power of the union, having said that I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to both Bob Bassett & Victor Moore for their advice & guidance especially through the early years, those who nominated & voted for me.

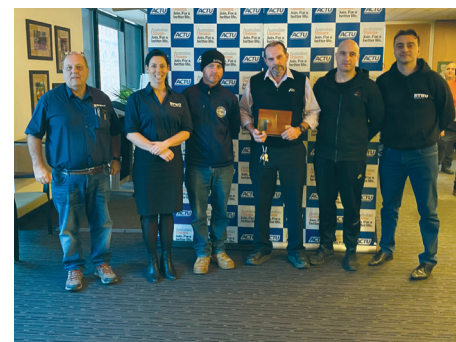
Those I have represented in the Eastern region as a delegate over the years, for their solidarity, patience & commitment, especially those members who have stayed the course over the years through thick & thin, you don't win every battle but life as a delegate is easier when you



know you have the backing of the rank & file members. For those members who have stayed the course I am proud to accept this award on behalf of you all.

Cheers,

Mick Fairbrother



"30 YEARS OF LOYAL MEMBERSHIP"

Michael Buttigieg

Mick Buttigieg retired on Friday 10th of July from V/Line after 35 years of service. He has spent the last 15 years as the Daily Operations Manager at Southern Cross.

Mick was instrumental in the smooth running of Southern Cross Station operations and improved the safety of the workplace dramatically during his time.

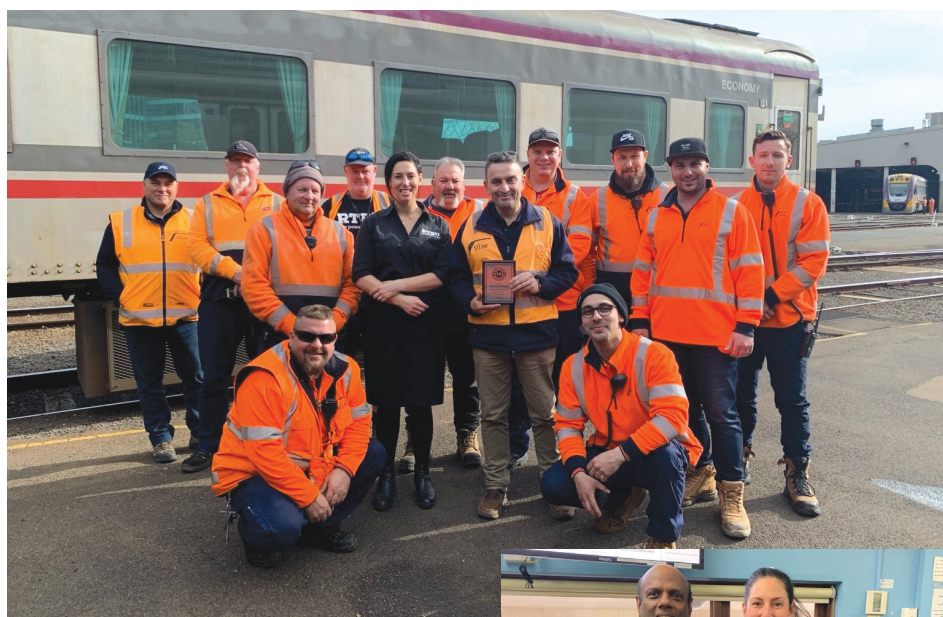
The Shunters and Yardmasters organised a BBQ and a collection soon raised enough money for an Engal camping fridge, a framed picture of his work colleagues, some quality fishing gear and an 18 piece Markita tool kit.

Mick was presented with a union plaque for 35 years membership from Luba Grigorovitch and Vik Sharma.

Selvadurai Srikantha

RTBU members at flinders street station recently celebrated a long standing control room Delegate for 30 years of membership and service to our union.

Selva has stood up for his members particularly in matters of safety on the job. He is respected and appreciated by many members at flinders street not just control room workers. Platform



staff and barrier staff have appreciated his support in helping to protect their physical safety an emotional well-being during traumatic incidents.

Congratulations Selva, and thank you from your members at Flinders Street.



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