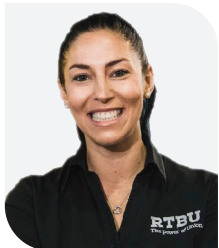


RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 8 | Issue 7 | Wednesday 18 August 2021



Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

WIN FOR HCMT TRAIN BUILDERS!

9 Day Fortnight & Secure Jobs

Downer who hold the contract to build the new HCMT fleet have long had a culture of utilising fixed term employees and casual staff. Across the rail and public transport industry the RTBU has long been opposed to precarious employment and will always fight for our jobs to be ongoing, secure and sustainable!

In the process of bargaining for their enterprise agreement, the company who will be providing ongoing maintenance of these trains once in operation, blatantly refused to convert 34 fixed term jobs to full-time. Unsurprisingly, this caused the dispute to heat up even further.

Lengthy negotiations, membership mass meetings, multiple work stoppages and a picket line saw members win a resounding victory. This

dispute will lay a foundation of standards for future rolling stock manufacturing across the state.

Not only did the members defend 34 jobs during this fight, they converted them to permanent full-time positions and they managed to ensure all future fixed term positions were engaged till the end of the build project and have casual staff converted to full time positions after 12 months.

Current employees will also now be given first option of all available shop floor positions on the HCMT maintenance contract. Further, they have defended the company's attempts to take away their rights to a travel pass from new employees.

This agreement has been able to negotiate the introduction of a 9 day fortnight making Downer the first rolling stock manufacturer in the State to

reduce working hours. This comes all packaged together with a solid wage increase and the security of a new enterprise agreement.

The proposed agreement has now been voted on by members with an overwhelming endorsement! What began as a dispute defending 34 fixed term jobs has turned into a major victory for rolling stock manufacturing in Victoria and more generally rail projects.

The battle for better conditions sends a message to all rolling stock manufactures that the rail and public transport industry remains a job for life!

Luba Grigorovitch

- State Secretary





Joe Dennis

Organiser

AROUND THE TRAPS

Centrol

This month has been a difficult one with lockdown number six. Rail continues to run as does the union. V/Line's Centrol meetings have been taking place regarding works at 628 Collins Street. Members raised concerns with V/Line management regarding the disruption to a fire-retardant spray used in the building containing asbestos. V/Line were quick to monitor the situation and as a result the monitoring levels were not putting any members in danger. The levels were extremely low to none. The union will continue to work with members to monitor the building works at 628 Bourke Street.

Southern Programme Alliance

Southern Programme Alliance (SPA) who are working on the Frankston upgrade recently stood down our onsite union Delegate on 2 July. They claimed it was for a "Safety breach" but to date have not spoken to the union or the delegate. This kind of bullying of union delegates in nothing new to projects, earlier in the year two CFMEU delegates were marched off site by security guards at Glenroy project for false allegations. We will continue to fight for our Delegate to be reinstated.

Warrnambool line upgrade

Members working for skilled have not been getting any construction site allowances since beginning works on the Warrnambool line upgrade (WLU). I have raised this with Skilled but there seems to be some confusion as to if these works are a "project" or not. Other companies have been paying the allowance of around \$5-\$6 / hour. Skilled are currently seeking clarification.

Skilled also introduced a new app this month to assist in more accurate payroll reporting. Members raised concerns regarding the GPS location and security issues. Skilled did not consult in the introduction of this app. After meeting with Skilled's HR department and IT department we discussed the app and the concerns raised. Skilled are in the process of making some changes we requested but I'm happy to report the concerns have been addressed and the app creates no security problems for members.

I will be attending pre starts in the coming months for all project sites. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you all.



V/Line Terang Track and Signal Members



V/Line Echuca Track and Signal Members



V/line Bendigo Track and Signal Members



ARTC Wangaratta Members



Vik Sharma

Industrial Officer / Organiser

V/LINE – AROUND THE TRAPS

Lately we have received numerous calls from concerned members about some of the changes V/Line is proposing to make in the operation grades. Some of these changes are converting a full-time position into two part time positions or into 1 part time position with a different classification.

There is lack of consultation and no clarity around these changes. All staff who may be potentially impacted by any change should be properly consulted. There is an obligation on the company to consult. We raised these concerns with the management and sought a commitment that we and the affected work groups become part of the consultations from the very start.

We encourage you to contact us immediately if you notice any such change being proposed in your working group.

V/Line \$100 allowance dispute – Update

As many members are aware, the RTBU has been in dispute with V/Line over the \$100 payroll mistake allowance. We have now lodged an application at the Fair Work Commission and the matter is listed for conference on 18 August 2021.

We will keep you posted as the matter develops. For further information on this matter, please contact your organiser.

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.



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

Secretary: Darren Galea

Workshops Division

Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire

Organiser: Bryan Evans

Organiser: Joe Dennis



Industrial Officer

Amanda Swayn

Industrial Officer / Organiser

Vik Sharma





Darren Galea

Secretary Rail Operations Division/Organiser

THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINING THE UNION

Our strength is in our numbers!

It's everyone's job to make sure your fellow coworkers have joined the union.

Joining the union ensures we have the power to preserve the hard-fought conditions Members' enjoy today.

As a Union we do our best to meet every new employee, introduce them to the Rail Tram and Bus Union and offer them the opportunity to join.

Due to the nature of the network, and the difficulties the pandemic has presented, we aren't always able to meet every new employee. This is where RTBU Members can play an important role and help grow their union.

Members are encouraged to talk to their fellow coworkers about why they have joined the RTBU, and why they think it's important to be a part of their union.

Organisers and Delegates alike are always happy to answer questions and discuss joining the union with anyone who is interested.

Anyone can join the union via rtbuvic.com.au/join, by emailing rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au or by getting in contact with the local Delegate or Organiser.

United we stand, and divided we fall.



Metro Station Staff



Pacific National MFT



Metro Train Control



V/Line Authorised Officers



Metro Authorised Officers



Wilson Security



V/Line Southern Cross Shunters

Photos without masks taken pre restrictions.





Delivering great returns for members for more than 35 years

AustralianSuper members in the Balanced option have received a 20.43% return for the 2021 financial year. This is the biggest financial year return members have seen since the option was started more than 35 years ago*.

Using our size, scale and investment expertise, we continue to navigate changing market conditions to deliver leading long-term performance for members.†

Visit australiansuper.com

AustralianSuper  
It's Australian. It's super. And it's yours.

*Investment returns are not guaranteed. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. AustralianSuper data: 1987 – 2021 returns. Returns from equivalent investment options of the ARF and STA super funds are used in calculating returns for periods that begin before 1 July 2006.
†AustralianSuper Balanced investment option compared to the SuperRatings Fund Crediting Rate Survey - SR50 Balanced (60–76) Index to 30 June 2021. This information may be general financial advice which doesn't take into account your personal objectives, situation or needs. Before making a decision about AustralianSuper, you should think about your financial requirements and refer to the relevant Product Disclosure Statement, available at australiansuper.com/pds or by calling 1300 300 273. AustralianSuper Pty Ltd ABN 94 006 457 987, AFSL 233788, Trustee of AustralianSuper ABN 65 714 394 898.

At 45 07/21

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
Secretary: Darren Galea

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

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

 @rtbuvic  /RTBUVic/

Industrial Officer
Amanda Swayn

**Industrial Officer /
Organiser**
Vik Sharma

