

RTBU EXPRESS

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Vik Sharma
Branch Secretary

GET READY 2023!



Members, thank you all for your solidarity and unity throughout 2022.

The RTBU is a member driven union, and it is only with your support that we can deliver strong outcomes for all Members across the network.

2022 has seen companies back at their usual tricks, trying to force through budget cuts and changes to the way the network runs, all the while blaming "COVID".

Recent years have seen the RTBU engaged in industrial battles to stop the restructures and reclassifications of Members. We must be ready and united to stop any attacks on Members.

A big theme this year from the companies has been an utter lack of consultation as they try to push through big changes affecting the way Members operate.

We keep fighting to ensure at every turn that RTBU Representatives are involved in any and all changes the company attempt.

I would like to thank the RTBU's hard-working Delegates, HSRs, and Women's Advocates, who are on the ground and first to fight back against the companies' tricks.

The fights against the companies are not over, but I am confident that with the calibre of RTBU Members and Delegates, we are ready to face any battle as a united front.

As we look forward to the future of public transport, there is a lot of promise for growth and investment. The proposal of a new ticketing system, the new metro tunnel project, and many other rail projects in the works.

In the not-so-distant future, we have a major round of bargaining kicking off next year. Bargaining will commence with RTBU Delegates leading the way early next year.

At the time of writing this, the RTBU Election results have not yet been declared. Regardless of the result, I want to thank all the candidates who put their hand up to run, and all the Members who participated in voting.

In 2023, the RTBU will be celebrating 30 years since amalgamation. The RTBU, and its predecessors have an important place in the Australian political and industrial history.

This year we sent Members a timeline of union history, highlighting integral moments of Australia's union movement, and within the RTBU's history.

Since 1862, our union has been at the forefront some of the country's most significant industrial battles, and I'm very proud to be the branch secretary of a union which has paved the way for better rights and conditions for Members.

In spite of our rich history of industrial strength, Members are facing significant challenges, including the impact of automation, casualisation and privatisation on their workplaces.

The RTBU must continue to evolve with the times in order to stay strong and deliver the support, advocacy and leadership that our members demand and deserve.

I wish every Member a happy festive season with your families and loved ones.

Look out 2023, the RTBU is ready!

Vik Sharma
Victorian Branch Secretary





Darren Galea
Secretary Rail Operations Division

2022 WRAP UP



I would like to personally thank all our members for their strength and solidarity throughout this year. You have all played an important role in fighting for a better and safer workplace for all Members.

The union has been kept busy visiting Members across the network and industry.

We have continued to run Delegate meetings on the job in all areas big and small, across Victoria.

We are grateful for our hard-working Delegates and representatives who have always made efforts to be in attendance for our monthly Delegate meetings.

The best part of our job is always getting out and about to visit Members, and something we look forward to every year.

This year we had some great wins for safety with the installation of a safety doors, safety spaces,

and other safety upgrades throughout the network. The union will continue to fight for safer working conditions with the help of our Delegates and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs).

The RTBU has continued to lobby for more proactive messaging and funding to address increased assaults and abuse across the network.

This year we have continued our work with the Department of Transport and WorkSafe to achieve safer conditions for our members. It has been great to see more and more of the "It's never okay to abuse transport staff" messaging rolled out across the network.

Next year we will continue to work closely with Trades Hall in the OHS space, with further collaboration with HSRs, providing more skills/ training sessions and direct involvement with our many safety initiatives.

History was made this July when V/Line hired the largest number of female shunters in 35 years. The RTBU is committed to supporting women within the rail industry and we aim to further this momentum in the new year.

We have plenty of challenges ahead of us next year as we prepare for the 2023 Metro and V/Line EA bargaining round, and we will continue to do everything possible to fight for Members safety and job security.

Thanks again to all RTBU Members, and we look forward to seeing you all in person in the new year.

We wish every member a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The fight continues, but RTBU members stand strong together!



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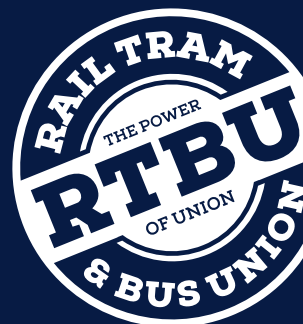
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/RTBUvic/





Joe Dennis
Organiser

VALE CRAIG BROWN

From our RTBU Safeworking Members:

Vale Craig Brown.

Craig spent much of his life working as a level 5 Safeworker on the railways.

He was passionate about upskilling new people and was a book of knowledge on all of the rail networks.

He was always up for a chat and was considered by many to be the first point of call for any questions regarding Safeworking.

Craig was integral in seeking local indigenous members in the regions and worked closely with companies and indigenous leaders to promote the railways as a career.

The Safeworking fraternity will surely miss Craig.

On behalf of the RTBU, we want to thank Craig for all he has done for the Safeworking space and the union. We know his efforts will live on through the many lives he has touched.



We offer our condolences to the family of Craig and to his many comrades throughout the network who we have no doubt will feel his loss deeply.



David Paton
Organiser

FESTIVE SEASON

I'm not sure if it's just me but the gaps between Christmases seem to be getting shorter and shorter.

This year has passed in a blur and there has been a lot going on. There have been times of uncertainty and change, both globally and in the workplace.

I have been working with the dedicated team at the RTBU for almost 6 months now and I have a new appreciation for the heart and soul that every one of our team pours into their jobs.

I have also been able to get out and meet many of you who work on the frontlines, the ones who every day get to see the traveling public at their best and at their worst.

It's around this time of year that we sometimes need a reminder that not everyone is filled with Christmas cheer, and that it can be a struggle for some people emotionally and financially.

A lot of people find Christmas stressful and lonely.

According to government statistics, 51 percent of women and 35 percent of men experience significant stress at this time of year.

It's a time when we should be aware that some people are doing it tough and reach out to friends, family and comrades and make sure that everyone is okay.

A really timely reminder of this occurred a recently at Flinders Street. Just before midnight on a Friday night, six new members were confronted with the kind of situation that even experienced staff dread.

A young woman attempted to jump in front of a moving train, and it was only the actions of this crew of six that stopped the worst from happening.

However, what really stands out, is what happens next.

Onlookers had started filming on their phones, the police had been notified but had yet to arrive, and the young woman was not responding.

The team formed a circle around the distressed young woman, to give her privacy and respect and stopping onlookers from filming.

An amazing example of professionalism, compassion, and empathy that these new starters should be congratulated for.

Dhan Patel, Anvesh Nalimela, Harshjit Patel, Sandhya Kumarage, Marie Valere, Vikas Sharma.





Victor Moore

Senior Branch Vice-President

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US!



Meetings with RTBU Metro station staff have been held with the upcoming planned closures of both Surrey Hills station and Mont Albert Station.

A new station called "Union" is set to commence operations in May 2023.

The new station is part of the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRA), which has seen a significant number of dangerous level crossings removed.

The proposed changes also impact Box Hill station, with significant changes made to Safeworking operations.

Initial meetings with members, in line with the major change consultation provisions of the EA, have occurred to outline potential impacts on rostering and staffing issues.

Station staff currently at Surrey Hills will be relocated to the new Union station.

The RTBU has written to Metro to outline matters to be addressed and to remind Metro of their obligations under the EA to consult with

impacted station staff.

A major concern of Members is that the consultation period's timing places the finalisation of consultation two days after Christmas, smack bang in the middle of staff leave.

For the consultation to be adhered to adequately, affected Members require a proper time frame to address any issues that arise, and considering the new station is 5 to 6 months away for completion, managements rush to the finish line is bizarre. The RTBU will continue to hold management accountable to ensure any members issues are addressed.

In other developments, we are again approaching Christmas and the New Year, and already there have been several reports of attempted assaults and threats on members.

The RTBU has participated in several risk reviews, including when station staff are to clear trains of passengers prior to the service been shunted out.

At a number of stations this procedure is now done in pairs, going through the train together rather than doing it separately, and all reports so far show that is working well.

The RTBU has also been requested to conduct HSR elections across a range of stations and these will be kicking off shortly, at Flinders Street it will also include the need to endorse a change to the Designated Work Group representation from 2 reps to 4, to adequately represent staff numbers at this location.

Finally, I would like to thank all the hard work that RTBU station representatives do day in and day out, and often in their own time. Next year is the start of the campaign for a new Metro EA, and we have a hard working team of Delegates to lead the way!

To all delegates and members, I wish you all a happy Christmas and festive season, bring on 2023.



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