

# RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 3 | Issue 1 | 18 January 2016**



## Letter from Secretary

### METRO'S CRIES FOR SAFETY JUST DON'T STACK UP



**Luba  
Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

Metro has yet again shown that it has no respect for the people who keep our train network running day-in, day-out: you.

This company's decision to sack five Infrastructure workers, 4 days prior to Christmas, is a callous act that has only reinforced their unreasonable, inhumane and hypocritical approach when it comes to dealing with their own employees.

But it does not stop there. We know that Metro constantly lies to the public, squeezing the taxpayer for the next dollar. We know about "station skipping" and we have read the reports on covering up network faults. This company continually bombards us with smoke and mirrors about how safety is paramount to them – but we know all too well that safety only enters their radar as a serious issue when it will advance their bottom line.

The truth is, safety is paramount in our industry, but cute manager talk needs to

be backed up with real managerial action to ensure that there is substance to the company's safety program.

Safety requires more than a tokenistic sound bite from the boss and a pat on the back - safety must be addressed structurally. Not only is it critical that companies put in place safe work practices, but also back them up with routine education and training for everyone across all grades of the industry. A culture of safe work practice cannot be established by making an example of a handful of workers who the company had failed to properly train.

I have made countless offers to the CEO of Metro himself, Andrew Lezala to work with him to make this network the safest in the country. However it seems that the company would rather sack five workers for an alleged safety breach and send every other employee an email, rather than go down the correct path of better education and training for employees.

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**This right wing, anti-union company needs to understand that treating workers with contempt is not on. In the months leading up to Christmas four RTBU members were sacked in the Infrastructure grade alone. Couple this with the most recent five and you get nine sackings in 4 months. Enough is enough!**

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The RTBU will not let this company get away with their countless acts of hypocrisy and intimidation which has occurred for too long. The RTBU is sick and tired of Metro's mentality, thinking that so long as they pay the wages of

our members they can in return treat them like garbage, expect the world from them and then sack them when they feel like it.

**No worker goes to work to purposefully engage in unsafe work practices.** No one is perfect, we all slip up from time to time and when that happens in a culture where practices, policies and procedures are applied inconsistently then there is a responsibility on management to look to consistent training and further education for the individual – not simply sack them.

Until Metro gets their act together on safety, I know that our members will continue to do the best they can to ensure a safe railway system in the interest of their own safety, their workmates and the travelling public, despite their employer's neglect.

But the cost cutting and worker blaming must stop. Responsibility must be taken by the managers overseeing the operation. Now is the time that we must stand together, united as one and send Metro a clear message that they can no longer get away with these unfair, unsafe practices.

I thank each and every member who has contacted the Union with offers of support and messages of solidarity. This issue is not dead. If you have any questions about the sackings or would like to be involved in the broader campaign please contact the office on 8630 9100 or [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)

United we stand, divided we fall.

**Luba Grigorovitch** - State Secretary



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# AROUND THE TRAPS - V/LINE EA



## Grant Wainwright

Organiser

Negotiations have continued at a very slow pace over the Christmas period,

however whilst some progress has been made it has not been significant in the Operations area of the business. The RTBU remains committed to the concept of job security and protecting our current workplace conditions. Now that the Metro agreement is done and dusted we all understand the industry standard. It is now up to V/Line and the Government to ensure that similar results are delivered across all EAs.

### Broadmeadows Tire Fire

Early this week, a fire broke out close to Broadmeadows Station. This fire released

many toxins into the atmosphere and could have affected the surrounding area. It was astonishing to us to find that until approached by the RTBU no one had even considered the impact on our members at Broady station.

Quickly staff refused to work on the platform, stating the unsafe nature of the workplace as advised by the MFB.

Following a chain of emails from delegate and Union officials to Metro management, finally Metro began to see the serious nature of the incident and made other arrangements for staff to ensure there was no requirement to perform platform duties until an all-clear was given in writing from the MFB and the EPA.

We hope that Metro sees this incident as a warning that noise about safe workplace without actual actions do not cut it, and that we never have to have the same discussion with management again.

### 30 year plaque presentation: Station Officer, Sam Mizzi



Well done Sam!

## WELCOME BACK



## Jamie Porter

Organiser

Firstly hoping everyone had a safe and happy holidays - but now the Christmas break is over, we can look forward to PTV EA Negotiations

which will be moving full steam ahead. Meetings have been scheduled for the upcoming months, and additional meetings made for PTV Hub specifics.

The RTBU has made the separation to streamline the negotiations and to ensure we can negotiate the best outcome for our frontline shift work members and our professional Grade at PTV head office.

At the end of last year discussions were held with Delegates to go over the log of claims and a decision was made to remove two items that held significant cost to PTV. In return another new full-time position was created at the Southern Cross Hub in

addition to the full-time position created during the recent PTV restructure.

That being said the RTBU remains committed to maintain current working conditions and deliver a fair wage outcome for all members.

Members will be kept well informed of any developments throughout our upcoming negotiations. Members seeking further information, please contact me anytime on 0403 863 869.

## SUNSTONE EA ON THE VERGE OF A VOTE



## Bryan Evans

Organiser

After several months of intense negotiations, we are happy to announce that the RTBU has met an in principle agreement with

Sunstone for the new Enterprise Agreement (EA), pending legal review.

Once the legal review is complete and any necessary drafting changes made, the agreement will then be distributed to members to review prior to a vote. The legal review is imperative to the process as it ensures that the intent of the clauses negotiated is what is accurately drafted in the document itself.

With record membership levels throughout Labour Hire and Sunstone particularly, members should be proud of this new agreement that delivers a 13% pay increase

over a 3 year period, offers 40 internally recruited full time positions, and paid training and medicals. This EA offers a significant advance in the conditions of Labour Hire staff across Victoria and sets a new industry standard.

The RTBU will hold two important members' meetings over the coming fortnight to explain the key elements of the new EA and take any questions prior to a vote held over the coming weeks. The RTBU will advise member shortly of meeting times and locations.

### Contact us

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**State Secretary**  
Luba Grigorovitch

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**Admin & Salaried Division**  
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

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**Workshops Division**  
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