



RTBU EXPRESS

September Newsletter



Secretary's message

Dear members,

It's been a big month here at the RTBU NSW.

Congratulations to our members who recently attended the snap rally in Sydney against the NSW Liberal's new legislation that attempts to silence unions, churches and community groups around elections. This NSW Government continues to do everything in its power to weaken us. But every time it does, we stand up and we fight back.

After kicking off our campaign to stop the NSW Government from removing guards from trains, we've also launched a commuter action for the Epping to Chatswood rail closure. The Our Transport hub, run by the RTBU NSW, is designed as a platform to funnel public support for important transport issues that matter to workers and commuters alike. Head to ourtransport.org.au for more information.

I'll be handing out material with other RTBU NSW representatives across the Epping to Chatswood area this month to make sure commuters know to complain

to the Government, not to workers. You can read our RTBU media release about the Epping to Chatswood line closure below, and keep an eye out for more news on our Guarding Our Trains campaign - the campaign aimed at keeping guards on our trains.

Speaking of big issues - I'm proud to see our members at TfNSW sticking together against poor management and the handling of bullying allegations, which you can read more about in the article below. Without your united action, the issue would continue to be swept under the rug. Well done - this is exactly what being union is about.

I'd also like to congratulate to Nyssa Parsons for participating in taking up the fight for all working Australians at Parliament House in September with ACTU President Michele O'Neil. It's fantastic to see our members getting involved in such critical issues and speaking up for workers rights.

Finally, you would have seen the information from the Australian Electoral Commission about our union election. We understand that the AEC is still working

through the election and as we get information from the AEC we will update members via our website and emails. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the AEC or the RTBU NSW office.

In Solidarity,
Alex Claassens
RTBU NSW Secretary





Update on Bullying Allegations and Investigation

TfNSW members have stood up against bullying in the workplace, signing a petition calling for an end to bad management behaviour, which forced Transport for NSW to act and investigate.

The investigation into allegations of bullying found that there was no bullying behaviour substantiated, however there was an acknowledgement of unhelpful management styles.

At a recent membership meeting, RTBU representatives reviewed the investigation report and told management that regardless of what you call it, bad management behaviour has to stop. A list of requests was also sent to management which you can read here: <http://www.rtbuexpress.com.au/update-on-bullying-allegations-and-investigation/>

This is an important first step but there is still more work to do. If you want to be more involved in the survey or the consultative committee, please speak with your delegate or call Helen Bellette organiser on 9264 2511 today.

Complain to Constance and Berejiklian: Epping to Chatswood closure

The NSW Government officially closed the Epping-Chatswood rail line on Sunday 30 September – another one of the government’s ridiculous transport decisions.

Commuters along the line are now in for at least seven months of commuting hell.

The RTBU will be out at bus stops and stations along the line, talking to impacted commuters and asking them to go to www.ourtransport.org.au and send a message to the Transport Minister and Premier telling them how much the change has impacted their travel arrangements.

The more people who complain through www.ourtransport.org.au, the greater chance we have

of ensuring the government actually listens. If you know anyone impacted by the closure, please ask them to go to the website and take action today.

We know that during difficult times like this, our workers often bear the brunt of commuter frustrations. We have put out a media release, explaining that workers share commuters’ frustrations, and that those frustrations should be directed at the government, not the frontline workers.

Head here to read the media release: <http://www.rtbuexpress.com.au/media-release-workers-urge-respect-as-nsw-governments-epping-chatswood-closure-causing-transport-nightmare/>



Loco Around the Tracks Tour

Brian Head will be out and about at the following locations: Moss Vale, Parkes, Cootamundra, Junee. Please come along and have a chat with Brian about any issues

in your workplace and hear about the union’s plans for the future.

[Please go to Loco Express to download the Newsflash with tour details.](#)



RMC and Railtrain stopped in their tracks – RTBU members win right to be union

RTBU members have secured a major victory at the Fair Work Commission against RMC Track and Civil and its parent company Railtrain.

RMC scheduled a vote on a proposed non-Union enterprise agreement in the pre-dawn hours in an arrogant attempt to ram through an unfair non-Union agreement that included pay and conditions well below the rail industry average and barely above the Award. RMC refused to recognise the RTBU as a bargaining representative and dishonestly claimed we did not have any members at the company, even after one of our members requested the Union be involved in negotiations.

[Go to Loco Express to read the full newflash](#)

Hunter protests around coal trains

You may have seen media reports recently of protests being held in the Hunter around coal trains.

While we of course we completely respect the right to protest, and do so ourselves when necessary, the safety of workers and the community needs to be the number one priority at all times.

No one ever wants to see anyone injured, or worse. Standing up for your beliefs should be applauded, however it is also important to respect the safety of workers and other people.

RTBU Secretary Alex Claassens released a statement to the media in response to the protests. Go to the RTBU Express website to read it.

Taking up the fight in Canberra

Congratulations to Nyssa Parsons from the RTBU NSW in taking up the fight for all working Australians at Parliament House in September with ACTU President Michele O'Neil.

Last week Australian workers were facing a real possibility that Kelly O'Dwyer would get her dangerous anti-worker, undemocratic Ensuring Integrity Bill through the Senate.

Nyssa joined ACTU President Michelle O'Neil in meeting with the cross-bench Senators who would determine the fate of the Bill.

Because of this action by union activists and supporters across the country, Kelly O'Dwyer couldn't get the support needed to get the Bill through the Senate. Congratulations to all who got involved by signing and sharing petitions. This is a win for all working Australians. Unfortunately that does not mean that the Bill has died; but it does mean that we had a victory in stopping it this week. Keep an eye out for more news on RTBU Express.





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South Coast Railway Picnic



Tickets for the South Coast Railway Picnic are now on sale!

The fantastic event is on Friday 21 December at Albion Park Rail, 10am-3pm.

[Go to RTBU Express to download all the information, including details on how to get your tickets.](#)

2018 Picnic Days

Sydney Olympic Park

Tickets for this year's Picnic Day to be held on Friday 14th December from 10am – 2pm at The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park, are now on sale. For the sum of \$10, the purchase of a picnic ticket, whether you are able to attend the Picnic Day event or not, entitles you a “full”

day of pay. Find out more information on RTBU Express.

To find a ticket seller near you, contact the Welfare Fund on 9633 1670, or the RTBU Office on 9264 2511.

You can also purchase a ticket online at: www.Fairwealthisustralia.Com/events-1



Retirement drinks for Ian “Thomo” Thompson

Come along and join us in farewelling Ian Thompson from the RTBU NSW Locomotive Division.

The farewell event will be held on Saturday October 20, 2pm at the Oatley RSL. All welcome. Go to Loco Express to download the invitation.

Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES

**WANT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE?
WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE RULES**



**Join the National Day of Action
12pm at Belmore Park
23rd October 2018
RSVP: nswwho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au**

Authorised by Alex Claassens - RTBU NSW Branch Secretary

Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES Change THE RULES

Or 10am at Newcastle Town Hall 30th October 2018