



RTBU EXPRESS

October Newsletter



Secretary's message

Dear members,

What a month it's been. After two hard years of negotiations with NSW Trains, we've finally forced the Government to commit to keeping guards on the New InterCity Fleet (NIF). For two years the project team have been doing everything they can to introduce the new trains without guards, but now, we've stopped them. Thanks to the hard work of your NIF negotiating team, and the 2018 Blind Australian of the Year, Martin Stewart, the Minister for Transport has agreed to keep guards on these trains.

This is a mighty win for everyone involved, particularly for our guards who were facing the removal of their jobs from the end of next year. Our drivers can rest assured that the trains will continue to operate with the safety of the guard, and commuters can look forward to catching a train without fear. Martin Stewart's story is a tragic example of exactly what can happen when you remove guards from trains.

Martin joined us at our press conference to speak as a victim of the Victorian Government's removal of guards from trains, which has left Martin without a leg, an arm and half his left ear. Martin and his family have had to pay the terrible price of a previous Victorian Government's cost-cutting decision to remove guards.

This was the scary threat that commuters and workers were facing on the New InterCity Fleet, which until now, was planned to run without guards.

Because Martin, the community, and RTBU members have convinced the Government that DOO is not safe and to keep train guards, we no longer have to fear that what happened to Martin will happen again in NSW. Congratulations to all members involved in this very hard fought win.

Negotiations on further details of the NIF rollout will continue and as always, we will keep members up to date with more information as we get it. If you

have any concerns or questions please speak to your local delegate or give our office a ring on (02) 9264 2511

A congratulations is also in order for all members who showed up and made their voices heard at the Newcastle or Sydney the Change the Rules events. It was fantastic to see so many members in Sydney marching loud and proud in our RTBU colours. If you missed this event, don't worry as there will be plenty more to come, so stay tuned on RTBU Express.

In unity,
Alex Claassens
RTBU NSW Secretary





Winning the fight to keep guards on our trains

As part of the RTBU's long-running campaign to keep guards on the New InterCity Fleet we joined with the 2018 Blind Australian of the Year, Martin Stewart, on Monday 22 October, calling a media event to publicly urge the Transport Minister to back down on his plans to remove guards from our trains.

Martin Stewart, who lost his arm and leg in an accident on a guardless train in Victoria, contacted the RTBU after hearing about the NSW Government's plans to remove guards from the NIF and offered to do whatever he could ensure the dangerous move didn't go ahead.

Prior to the press conference, the RTBU arranged a meeting between Martin Stewart and Minister Constance so that Martin could share his story, and so we could once again urge the Minister to change his mind and keep guards on our trains. This came just a few weeks after the Craig Turner, RTBU NSW Secretary for Rail Operations, gave Minister Constance a tour of what guards really do on trains so he could see firsthand why they are so vital to a successful and safe transport network.

At the last minute, Minister Constance decided to join us at our press conference to announce that, after years of RTBU campaigning, he had finally

decided that it was not safe to remove guards from our trains.

Alex Claassens, RTBU Secretary, told the media it was a big relief to hear the Minister confirm that guards will not be removed from the trains.

"Train guards play a vital role in keeping commuters safe and making sure our trains run on time. They assist people with a disability and the less-able to use our public transport services, they ensure the safety of passengers on our trains, they assist in the event of an emergency, and they keep our trains running on time," Mr Claassens said.

"Removing guards from our trains would have been a disaster."

"The Transport Minister, to his credit, has listened carefully to the workers and stepped in and put a stop to a potentially disastrous situation."

Alex Claassens said that while the announcement was a great win, the RTBU focus now will be on holding the Minister to his promise.

"We will be holding the Minister to his promise, as will the travelling public who understand the vital importance of having guards on our trains.

"Of course we'll always continue to discuss how we can improve worker and commuter safety on the network - safety has always and will always be our number one priority, and the union constantly pushes for those discussions to be had."

On behalf of the RTBU NSW, we'd like to thank Martin Stewart for coming to Sydney to share his story which helped to achieve this incredible win for commuters and workers.

You can watch the press conference on RTBU Facebook or read our media release on the RTBU Express website.





Our Transport – Epping to Chatswood

Change the Rules rally

Congratulations to all RTBU members who came along to the Sydney or Newcastle Change the Rules events in October. We need to take every opportunity to show our Government that we won't go quiet until our broken industrial laws are fixed. The current system is skewed in favour of employers, with wage growth at an all-time low and the right to strike becoming harder and harder to use. It's time to change the rules, but we only have as much power as we have people. So, if you have colleagues or friends who aren't union members, speak to them today about the fight to get back our power and tell them to get on board.

Keep an eye out on RTBU Express for more Change the Rules events coming up.

RTBU members and staff were out and about on Monday October 3rd handing out information about the Our Transport campaign to commuters. Our Transport is a commuter hub run by the RTBU as a place for commuters to voice their concerns and campaign on public transport issues that matter to them. There are now over 10,000 Our Transport commuters who have joined the campaign for better, safer public transport.

Recently, commuters used the Our Transport website to send a message to Minister Constance to keep guards on our trains. This public pressure

contributed greatly to the recent announcement by the Minister that he won't remove our guards.

With the closure of the Epping to Chatswood rail line, we're encouraging all commuters to join the Our Transport campaign and tell the Premier and Transport Minister how the closure has impacted them. It's important to remind the Government of the political cost of its reckless and greedy privatisation agenda, and to give commuters a platform to voice their concerns that would otherwise go unheard.

Head to www.ourtransport.org.au to join the campaign.





RTBU election update – fresh ballots

Fresh ballots are being conducted for Union members belonging to the following electorates of the ARTBIU in the New South Wales Branch (NSW).

New ballot material has been posted to elect the following offices:

- NSW Branch Locomotive Division – National Divisional Delegates from Branch to National Council
- NSW Rail Operations Division Metropolitan District – Branch Divisional Delegates to Branch Council
- Rail Operations Division – Train Guards Sub-Division – Hornsby Maintenance Centre, Depot Sub-Division Secretary
- NSW Locomotive Division – ETR Railcorp Group 2 – Sub-Divisional Representative on Branch Divisional Committee
- Tram and Bus Division Leichhardt bus depot – Sub-Divisional Representative on Divisional Committee

National RTBU Bulletin: My Health Record System



My Health Record

Individuals will automatically have a My Health Record created unless they opt out by 15 November 2018. The National Office strongly believes that, for individual patients, there is a benefit to be gained from treating healthcare professionals having access to medical records in one central location.

As such, we believe My Health Records is an initiative that could improve the quality of medical treatment, and could even save lives. After careful consideration, however, the National Office remains concerned with several elements of the current scheme – particularly the potential for the misuse of irrelevant private health information by employers or

their nominated healthcare representatives.

As you know, RTBU members are subject to strict medical standards to ensure their own safety and that of the wider community. Members frequently submit to medical testing to ensure they are fit to perform their role in our safety critical industries. But there is simply no justification for employers to have access to personal health information that does not directly relate to workplace safety.

Information about personal matters, including but not limited to sexual health, pregnancy and mental health, should not necessarily be sought by, or shared with, employers. As you are aware, the RTBU has fought numerous instances of discrimination against workers following access to their private health information.

Go to RTBU Express to read the full bulletin about the RTBU's concerns with the My Health Record.

Voting Period

The Postal Ballot Opens on 22/10/2018 and will close on Monday 12/11/2018 at 5:00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT). The count will be done from 9:00am (AEDT) on Tuesday, 13 November 2018 at the office of the Returning Officer.

Go to RTBU Express to download the update from the AEC



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.Fairwealthaustralia.Com/events-1

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. Click here to download all the information, including details on how to get your tickets.

Metropolitan Locomotive Running & Mechanical Branch Picnic Day

Head to Loco Express to download the invitation to the Locomotive Picnic Day on December 10, 9am to 3pm at the Australian Reptile Park.

