



# RTBU Station Staff News

## CSA Sub Division Newsletter



*"To Organise Workers In The Transport Industry To Protect And Build Their Rights At Work"*

**Secretary:** Terry Johnson

**President:** John Steck

**Vice President:** Kath Arnold

### Reform

It has been very chaotic time for Station Staff with the staff reviews and the introduction of Opal Cards.

In the latest round of station reform 94 stations were reviewed. The business case highlighted that 97 CSA positions would go.

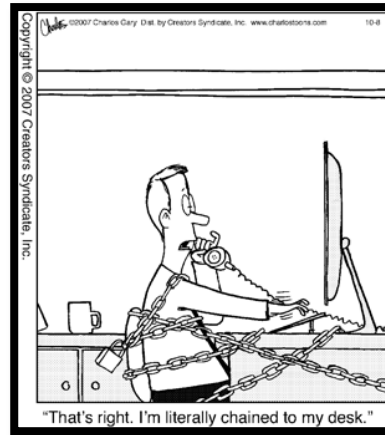
However, during the review with the strong advocacy of the RTBU Delegates and Station members they were able to save 22 positions with a loss of 75.

### Rosters – CSAs and Cleaner



The other impact of the review was proposed changes to the master roster at all stations. This was done with no consultation with members on stations. In addition, the proposed start date for the proposed roster is the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This has caused a large amount of angst with members who have made arrangements based on their current roster. The RTBU is informing members to start consultation with their SCMs at all locations to ensure they have some say in the proposed rosters. If you have questions or comments please contact your local Delegates or RTBU office.

### HUBS and PODs Dispute Feedback



The RTBU representatives attended conciliation with Sydney Trains at Unions NSW on the 5<sup>th</sup> August in relation to the numerous issues surrounding the installation of HUBS/PODS.

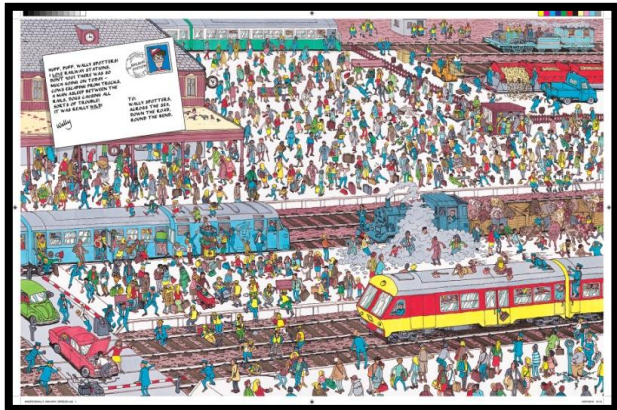
- The outcome of the conciliation resulted in the following:
- Comfort breaks can be taken outside the planned regular intervals
  - where ever possible and practical job rotation will occur at around mid-shift so Station Staff have a variety in duties and locations
  - Control Rooms will remain available to staff,
  - arrangements have been put in place for staff working 'B Gate Line' at Central Station to be provided access to the Ticket Office facility during its opening hours and after hours
  - local risk assessments and consultation will be conducted prior to the installation of any HUB/POD at individual stations.

Sydney Trains further reiterated that they do not expect Station Staff to be attached to the HUBS/PODS for the entirety of the shift. The HUB/POD is intended as a tool. It is intended that these tools give you the flexibility to use your time during the shift whether this be cleaning and customer service. Sydney Trains also confirmed that further communication would be put out to clarify the point that Station Staff are not feel they are chained to the HUB/POD at their location. In addition, Sydney Trains had the view that if there are no customers around and duties are up to date there are no objections to station staff sitting for a few minutes. If there are any comments or questions please contact your local delegate or the RTBU Office.

## Safety Vest Dispute Feedback

Sydney Trains attempted to introduce a new method in working which involved station staff not wearing a safety vest for right of way duties. This was alarming to Station Staff and Train Guards due to the obvious safety implications.

An RTBU Member gave the best description to station staff without vest: *"It will be the equivalent of playing Where's Wally?"*



In response to this absurd idea, the RTBU ran a survey which delivered a very impressive result. The survey result gave the RTBU a clear mandate that the new work method was unacceptable. As a consequence a number of meetings were scheduled with Sydney Trains. Finally there was a win for common sense when Sydney Trains changed their position and agreed that station staff should return to wearing safety vests when performing right of way duties.

## Insurance

During the 2014 Sydney and NSW Trains Enterprise Agreement bargaining process, a big victory for the Combined Rail Unions was to get an agreement from Sydney Trains and NSW Trains to investigate how Journey Cover Insurance could be provided for employees. Union representatives have been working for many months with the project team to deliver a proposal to take to our members which would offer them journey cover insurance at a very low cost.

### The Proposal

The proposal at this stage for the 'Employee Funded Journey Accident Insurance' developed by the Working Party would cost employees no more than \$2.20 per week – provided 5,000 employees across NSW and Sydney Trains take up the insurance.

Here are the summarised details of the proposal:

- Non-Medicare Medical Expenses - 100% of the actual amount incurred up to \$3,000

In the event of accidental death or permanent total disablement, following an injury sustained in an accident, a lump payment will be paid - Two times salary up to a maximum of \$200,000

Weekly injury benefits – 90% of your average weekly income:

- up to a maximum of \$1,800 per week, with no waiting period, payable up to the maximum benefit period of 156 weeks.

Cover up to the age of 75 years

For the Working Party to progress this proposal, we would need at least 5,000 employees to express their interest in taking up the insurance, it should also be noted that the more people we have involved the better position we will be in to negotiate a cost reduction.

Sydney Trains and NSW Trains have a online survey running currently. The RTBU strongly recommend that members register their interest in this initiative that we fought for in your EA.

If you have any issues with accessing the online survey you can email

[ea2014@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ea2014@transport.nsw.gov.au) and put 'Yes' or 'No' in the subject line.

Please contact your local Delegate or RTBU office if you have any questions.

## Picnic Tickets



It's this time of the year again, where members can purchase a picnic ticket and spend a day with family to relax whilst being paid. However, without the support

from the members the picnic day will just become a memory. Members can show support by purchasing a "Picnic Ticket". The purchase price of a Picnic Ticket provides the financial support to the various picnic committees and allows them to continue to operate. The added bonus of course is for member's who purchase a picnic ticket will get a day off on full pay. The message is if we don't use it we run the risk of losing it.

Remember the Picnic Day is your day so support it by buying your ticket.