



RTBU



RTBU NATIONAL COUNCIL 2023

December 2023

NATIONAL COUNCIL WRAP

Over 70 elected National Council Delegates and observers from all parts of our union, and all parts of the country, gathered in Brisbane last week for the 15th bi-annual RTBU National Council.

The National Council took two-and-a-half days,. Day 1 was e devoted to seperate meetings of our six national occupation-based divisions, while Days 2 and 3 involved a mass meeting of all National Council delegates.

This year's National Council also celebrated the 30 anniversary of the amalgamation of four separate unions into the modern RTBU.

Over the past three decades our union has developed into a powerful, professional, member-led organisation – almost 35,000 members strong.

We're a campaigning outfit that doesn't just give our members a voice, it gives them a megaphone.

And we're expanding our reach and our influence across our industries - improving workplace safety, lifting the standard of training, and ensuring terms and conditions that allow workers in our industries to live a dignified life.

But none of this has happened by accident. Our strength is the result of decades of hard work, built on the wisdom and courage of the workers who saw the benefits of creating national all-grades union for the rail tram and bus industries back in 1993.

We've survived countless challenges, we've won countless victories, and we're just warming up.

Here are some of the highlights of National Council 2023:

RESOLUTIONS

- Turning the RTBU-owned Registered Training Organisation, Training Ahead Australia, into a Not-For-Profit organisation;
- Establishing a national RTBU Enabled Committee to better represent the needs of members with disabilities;
- Recognising nationally-accredited qualifications for bus and tram operations;
- Developing a strategy to support frontline RTBU members from aggressive, threatening and abusive behaviour;
- Developing a strategy to combat the introduction of autonomous vehicles;
- Developing model EA clauses in relation to reproductive leave and bereavement leave;
- Adopting the Queensland Branch's BUSTED campaign as a national campaign; and
- Conferring Life Membership on Mick Kavanagh from SA/NT Branch.

EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

Guest speakers from across Australia and around the world attended National Council, and participated in discussions that were both informative and inspiring. The guest speaker list included:

- Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Hon Catherine King MP;
- RMTU (New Zealand) General Secretary Todd Valster;
- ASLEF (UK) General Secretary Mick Whelan;
- FMRWTU (Mongolia) Vice President Enkthugs Bat-Erdene;
- JRU (Japan) Vice President Akinori Yanagai, with interpreter Tomoko Emilie Mukawa;
- TWU Assistant National Secretary Nick McIntosh;
- MUA Assistant National Secretary Mich-Elle Myers;
- Mining & Energy Union National Secretary Grahame Kelly;
- Co-Convenor of NSW Labor Enabled Andrew Shim;
- Training Ahead Australia CEO Danielle Walz; and
- ACTU Secretary Sally McManus

I also gave a speech to the National Council dinner, where I told guests that RTBU members can move mountains when they work together. You can read the speech on our national website:

https://www.rtbu.org.au/a_union_that_moves_mountains

IMAGE GALLERY, VIDEOS & BOOKLET

You can get a feel for how National Council operates by flicking through the photos and the watching the highlights video on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RTBUAus>

A video celebrating the 30th anniversary of the amalgamation which formed the modern RTBU was

shown at the beginning of the National Council dinner. Click below to see to see the video on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq53NWlQ6n4&feature=youtu.be>

Finally, we also released a booklet about the amalgamation and the development of our national, all-grades union. The booklet is now available on-line - you can access it here:

https://issuu.com/rtbuaus/docs/commemorating_30_years_of_rtbu_-_online_reader?fr=sODkwMDY4NjAyNTk

In Unity,

Mark Diamond
NATIONAL SECRETARY

