



The Blue Light

The RTBU Train Guards Sub Division Newsletter

Newsletter No.2 May 2006

Secretary: Geoff Quinn, 0414 197 045 President: Brian Ready, 0414 196 665 Vice President: George Tsirkas, 0414 196 373

Your Rights At Work Rally

The *Your Rights at Work* Rally will be held on **Wednesday, 28th June 2006 at Blacktown Show Ground**. RTBU members should **assemble at the showground at 08:45am**. At 09:30 the rally will march on Louise Markus' Electoral Office.

Delegates and activists are encouraged to swap shifts or get a book-off day to attend. The RTBU will be there with flags and the RTBU banner. If you have any questions contact your organiser at the RTBU Head Office.

Functional Negotiations Update

At the December 2005 Guards Sub-Division meeting several items were identified to be discussed (within your depot) in the functional negotiations. The major items at this point are:

1. Road knowledge & ETR Guards working in urban depots for 7 days a week in a sector.
2. The possible loss of 40 weekend jobs in lieu of a 22 cents per hour pay rise.

Your Delegates voted at the Guards Sub Division meeting held on 09 June 2006 not to take this offer.



Guards Division's Negotiation Team (L to R) George Tsirkas, Pat O'Shea, Brian Ready, Paul Collimore Geoff Quinn & Mick Cartwright.

New Amenities

Currently a new meal room is being built at Mortdale; however, there are still some concerns in relation to amenities and specifically in relation to the number of toilets that need to be installed to meet the requirements of members.

In order to ensure RailCorp provides appropriate amenities for members please contact your local RTBU representative and let them know what you think RailCorp should provide.

Train Preparation

The Guards' Sub-Division is currently involved in a review of guard train preparation. Essentially there are three steps to this process:

1. Documenting the preparation procedures;
2. Undertake a risk assessment; and
3. Conducting a time trial of how long it takes to prepare a train.

RailCorp is currently conducting time trials for the new procedures. The trials are indicating the need for additional preparation for guards.

Your RTBU representatives participating in this review are Gordon Elkin and Wannie Willingale.

Workplace Bullying & Harassment

There have been number of complaints in relation to bullying and harassment in the work place. **The Guards Sub-Division would like to state this type of behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.**

Please contact your depot representative or Geoff Quinn to report any incidents or to seek support.

New Transfer Policy

RailCorp is finalising a new Transfer Policy which they claim will make it easier for guards to transfer between depots. The details of the draft policy are available on your local notice board.

What's Happening

- The **DVATI support crew** will be concentrating on Sector 1 with a hundred percent coverage during peaks when the new timetable starts on the 28th June 2006. DVA crews will be checking the DVATI equipment in the depots every morning for two weeks.
- Guards will be required to undertake a new function in the stabling yards. Guards will now be rostered to check doors in the stabling yards from midnight and to warm up the door motors by opening and shutting the doors several times each.
- We are informed by RailCorp that Team Leader positions will be advertised in September 2006. RailCorp is intending to fill the Depot Manager positions first.

Statements and Coaching?

Guards are reminded they are entitled to have a representative with them when making statements to RailCorp or participating in coaching. Either of these activities may take place at Lee Street or in your local depot. **Ensure you advise your CAM you want a union representative at the meeting.**

Walking Times at Flemington & Hornsby

Walking times are currently being reviewed by RailCorp in an attempt to save money. It is important for all guards to remember that they are to wait for their buses and not to walk to the sheds as they may place themselves in danger. **If there is no bus you are to ring TCAC for a taxi.**

RTBU Campaign Against Violence Provides a Win For Rail Workers

In January this year there was a rapid increase in the number of assaults of public transport workers. The RTBU Bus and Rail Divisions immediately asked delegates to conduct workplace meetings to decide what, if any, action would be taken to force the Government, STA and RailCorp to address workplace violence and to provide a safe workplace for Public Transport Workers. This campaign has followed on from the work the Guards' Division has been doing in relation to the assaults on guards.

As a result of workplace meetings RTBU members and the RTBU commenced a campaign to pressure the NSW Government to address workplace violence rather than just talking about the issue.

The RTBU campaign resulted in the introduction of legislation into the NSW Parliament on the 6 April 2006. The legislation amends the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999* to provide frontline public transport workers with special legal protection similar to that provided to police and nurses.

The new laws name 'public transport workers' in the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* which means attacking a frontline transport worker in the course of their duties is an 'aggravating factor' in sentencing offenders. The Guards' Division believes this is the first step in improving the level of protection provided to train drivers train guards, transit officers, station staff and other frontline transport workers.

The NSW Government has acknowledged the RTBU's role in working to ensure the best possible protection for its members who are the backbone of the public transport system in NSW providing around one million train trips and 600 000 bus trips daily.

The only unfortunate incident was when the Liberal's Shadow Transport Minister Barry O'Farrell attempted to block the suspension of standing orders, which was required to enable the new legislation to be introduced into the NSW Parliament. It is a pity Members of Parliament are prepared to talk about law and order but when their credentials are tested they won't protect the rights of transport workers.

Despite the Liberal Party's actions the NSW Government had enough numbers to win a vote to overrule the Liberal Party's blocking tactics and allow the legislation to progress.

On Tuesday 23 May 2006 the legislation was passed by the NSW Legislative Council and it has now become law.

Congratulations to all RTBU members involved in the campaign to ensure this successful outcome for transport workers in NSW.