

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 69 • 30 October 2015

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



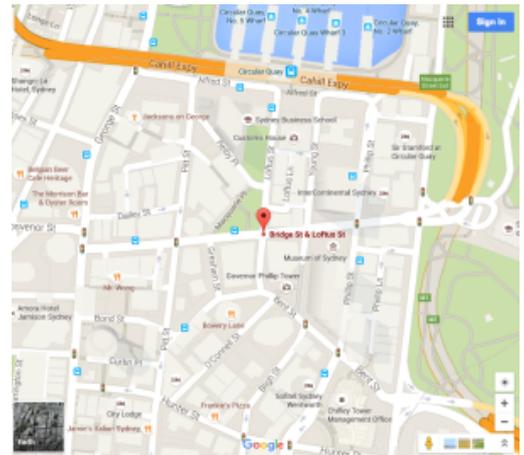
15 minute wait to turn at nightmare CBD intersection

Members who regularly drive on Bridge, Loftus, Gresham and Park Street near Circular Quay in Sydney's CBD already know: this area can be a congestion hot spot.

Since the new bus routes have been in place we have seen delays, congestion and frustration for passengers in this area, particularly in the afternoon peak. One driver reported waiting for 15 minutes to turn into Bridge Street.

The RTBU has notified State Transit of the problem but we're still waiting for a solution.

Bus drivers have so far done an excellent job dealing with the new routes and extra traffic since George Street finally closed to cars and buses. Members should continue to report problem areas to their local delegates so we can continue to monitor issues as they arise.



For a full list of issues and delays around Circular Quay, check out www.busexpress.com.au

Newcastle late night security concerns

An RTBU member was randomly attacked in the Newcastle area recently by a member of the public late on a Friday night.

No worker should ever be subject to violent assault while doing their job and we're doing all we can to support the driver and members who are understandably nervous about their safety following the attack.

The RTBU will also be fighting for more security in the Hunter region so that all bus operators can feel safe on the road.

We'll be keeping members updated on this. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions or if you experience any dangerous situations, please speak with your local delegate.



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Our union leading the way on corporate governance



Today four RTBU Tram and Bus Division delegates joined representatives from other divisions to take part in corporate governance training at our union's NSW head office.

Our new trainer Narelle

Rich delivered a great first training session as our union leads the way in the area of transparency and accountability.

All delegates and branch councillors will need this training into the future so that they can legally make decisions about using union funds.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters

Know your Rights

Salary Sacrifice for Superannuation

18.1 Notwithstanding the wages prescribed in this Award, an employee, other than a temporary or casual, may elect, subject to the agreement of State Transit, to sacrifice a portion of the base wage payable under this Award to additional employer Superannuation contributions. Such election must be made prior to the commencement of the period of service to which the earnings relate. In this clause, "superable salary" means the employee's wage as notified from time to time to the New South Wales public sector superannuation trustee corporations.

Life in the Bus Lane

Meet Mina Choi, Pyrmont Delegate

Why did you become involved in the union?

I wanted to have a go at making a difference in the workplace. I've been working on the light rail for 13 years now – when I first started I was young and didn't know much about unions at all. But after I was approached by the delegate at the time I realised how important the union is, and as of February this year I took over the delegate's position.



What do you like most about your job?

I've spent the past eight years as a tram driver and prior to that I was a conductor for five years. I really like driving trams. I love seeing all the kiddies and their parents as I pull up to the station. When the kids wave to me and I wave back their smiles brighten up my day!

What is your perfect day off?

I'd have my perfect day off nowhere near work. I'd either go to my friend's horse paddocks, take my three dogs for a walk or go bushwalking. I'd be surrounded by animals and nature – that's the perfect day off for me.