

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Uniform dispute win

The Union is pleased to advise that the long running Uniform Dispute has been resolved.

All permanent bus operators will now receive \$350.00 cash payment into their bank account in October 2012, for the purchase of their work uniform.

The allowance will continue to be paid on an annual basis from here on in.

The Union would like to thank all members who supplied information to their local delegates for this case. It would also like to extend a special thank you to the two bus operators whose claims were used in the court case, one member from Kingsgrove and the other from North Sydney. Without membership involvement like this, successful outcomes such as this are rarely achieved.

The Union also thanks the Union Solicitors, Slater and Gordon for their hard work on this case.

## Divisional exec meet with STA CEO

The Bus and Tram Division executive met with STA CEO Peter Rowley last week to hear from him on potential reforms to the bus operator. He has also now finished a round of visits to depots around Sydney and Newcastle.

Mr Rowley has said he will follow up discussions with a formal letter to the union. The union will update members as soon as this letter has been received and the discussion is confirmed in writing.

More to come on this soon.

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## Meet your Delegate: Mark Delohery



Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This month it's Mark Delohery from Burwood. Check out the website now to find out more about your delegate!

## RTBU Holiday Park

Book at [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au)



## Union action delivers for gas bus safety

Last week the Office of Transport Safety Investigations released its report on the investigation into the gas bus that caught fire when specialing back to the Port botany depot. The incident saw drivers pull all gas buses off the roads to ensure the safety of commuters and drivers.

RTBU welcomes the release of the report, which vindicates the concerns the union has had over safety of these buses for a long time.

As a result of the safety ban taken on the day the union was able to get a commitment from STA to implement four safety measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. They were:



1. Fire suppression systems fitted to the engine bay.
2. Warning light in drivers cabin.
3. STA's radio room available to take drivers experiencing a problem through a checklist that will ensure all possible safety actions are taken.
4. Remedial training for drivers in emergency procedures instead of providing training once and expecting it to be remembered.

The union is pleased to see that all four are either being implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

The union was given the opportunity, prior to the final release of the report, to comment on its contents. The union was then able to identify other areas of concern that could be addressed. These were:

1. The high number of fires in the same model buses in Australia since 2008 – 11 in total.
2. No fire retardant material used in the interior of the buses.
3. No heat shielding on the floor hatches.

OTSI responded to these concerns with the following:

1. OTSI has a systemic ongoing investigation into this issue.
2. This issue will be looked at in the systemic investigation.
3. This is difficult to test. Hatches providing access to bus driveline components are for maintenance personnel and are regularly removed and refitted.



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way*



*Vice President Brett Peters*  
**Know your Rights**

### 8. Skills Competency

8.1 The employer may direct an employee to carry out such duties where practical, as are within the limits of the employee's skill, competence and training consistent with the classification structure of this Award provided that such duties are not designed to promote deskilling.

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