

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Bus skidding concerns are widespread

Last year, Burwood depot raised serious safety concerns about buses skidding in red bus lanes on Parramatta Road and Broadway during wet weather. As a result, repair work was carried out in this area to address the problem.

However, we are now hearing more reports from other depots across Sydney suggesting that the problem may be widespread.

If you have first hand experience of this problem, please give a brief written report to your depot delegate. This evidence is needed by the union so we can progress the dispute.



No changes to bus routes until September

Bus drivers will be pleased to hear the NSW Transport Minister's announcement that there will be no changes to bus routes on George Street due to the construction of the South East Light Rail until September.

The minister also promised to communicate changes to traffic and bus routes well in advance.

In January many of our members had to bear the brunt of the bad planning and sit in traffic for more than two hours. Read the full story on the website www.busexpress.com.au

Stay safe and know your work environment

As professional drivers safety is our number one priority, but awareness of all aspects of our working environment is important. On the Bus Express website you will find a link to a list of all speed and red light cameras across NSW. See www.busexpress.com.au

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Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!



Opal card debacle

Bus Operators will not be surprised to hear media reports that commuters are paying millions of dollars worth of extra fares because they are often charged the maximum fare even when they tap off correctly.

As Bus Operators we know that the system crashes on a regular basis and aside from the cost to commuters the union believes that this is costing the Government millions.

We are also concerned about the safety aspect of Opal – when customers are exiting through the rear doors and the machine does not let them tap off correctly, they then re-enter the doors to tap off catching drivers unaware.

And although the opal card is supposed to speed up the network it is actually causing buses to run late because of the delay in commuters tapping off.

Drivers are close to the end of their patience with the Opal system.



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way*

Meet Your Local Delegate

William Lekkas, RTBU Delegate, Kingsgrove



1. Why did you become involved in the Union? I've got a passion for people's rights. I come from a Greek background and big greek families debate and argue about everything!

2. What are your hobbies and interests? I have two boys and I really love being a Dad. They are very sporty boys and I love taking them to football, wrestling, cricket and australian rules.

3. Where do you live and why do you like it? I live in Punchbowl and love the food, the people – it's just

about God's country.

4. Who would you like to have dinner with (dead or alive) and why? I'd have my wife and kids there and I'd invite Kahil Gibran, the Lebanese poet who wrote 'The Prophet'. His work is a hundred years old but still so relevant.



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

Job Share

10.1 The Parties agree to enable employees covered under this Award to participate in job share arrangements where possible. The intention of the Parties is to improve employee retention rates by providing more flexible patterns of work through job share arrangements, with particular emphasis on:

- a) employees contemplating a reduction in working hours prior to retirement; and
- b) employees needing to balance work commitments and family responsibilities

10.2 Job Share arrangements must be agreed to by the employees' manager and be documented in writing.