

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Hearings complete in STA dispute

On Friday 29 November the Bus and Tram Division returned to the Industrial Relations Commission to complete hearings for its dispute with STA over unlimited use of casuals and part-time broken shifts.

Drivers crowded the court during the hearings to support the Bus and Tram Division defending their working conditions from STA attack.

Members will be very aware of STA's attempts to introduce casuals to work vacant shifts and part time, broken shifts to reduce overtime payments that drivers rely on to support themselves and their families.

Justice Staff heard from the RTBU barrister that STA's attempts to vary rosters were in direct conflict with the good faith drivers' brought to EBA negotiations with management in 2011 and with the no extra claims clause included in the final agreement. No extra claims, he explained, means just that both sides, and STA must respect the agreement reached for its duration.



The Bus and Tram Division is confident it has put a strong case during the hearings and wishes to thank its lawyers, all the members who gave evidence at the hearings and all those that took time out of their busy schedule to attend the hearings.

Justice Staff is now deliberating and the Division hopes to have a decision from him in the near future. The Division will update members as soon as the decision comes through.

Christmas Bus driver achieves hero status



Long time bus driver Margaret Pannell, started decorating her bus in the lead up to Christmas to give her passengers a bit of holiday cheers, but it has turned into so much more.

Since the enthusiastic response she received in the first year she did it, her decoration collection has grown, there are carols and lollies for the kids and then one year she decided to put a collection box at the front of the bus to raise money for the local hospital.

In just the past two years, this has seen Margaret raise of \$5000 for the Mater and find her self in the top ten nominees to become the Hunter Hero.

We wish Margaret the best of luck – she's already a hero to us!

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Unions NSW take action over children check

Unions NSW Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Morey convened a meeting of unions affected by the introduction of fees to undergo the *Working with Children Check* after RTBU Bus and Tram Division President Gary Way, registered his concerns over the impact this would have on workers.

A number of other unions are also concerned about the introduction of an \$80 fee for all workers who need the check in order to carry out their job.

Gary said the move clearly had nothing to do with improving child protection given the measures won't be introduced until 1 January 2015 and there were several glaring omissions on the list of workers who had to complete the check.



Talks between the Unions and the Government are now scheduled and the Tram and Bus Division will keep members posted as the dispute progresses.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

Bullying remains a problem for public sector

A report released recently from the NSW Public Service Commissioner Graeme Head has found 30% of NSW public sector employees report being bullied in the workplace and almost 50% say they have witnessed it.

The 2013 State of the NSW Public Sector report found that bullying is still a significant problem in the sector despite the implementation of a number of measures to deal with the issue.

Members will be more than aware of the problems public sector workers face around bullying, with a number of cases arising this year that the union has stepped in the manage.

Mr Head has said "the Public Service Commission is committed to supporting the sector in tackling this issue" and will Unions NSW and other bodies to develop strategies to reduce bullying and better deal with it when it arises.

Hopefully with closer consultation with unions we will start to see this insidious issue removed from our workplaces.

Check out this story on www.busexpress.com.au for a link to the full report.

39. Articulated Bus Allowance

39.1

An employee who operates an articulated bus shall be paid an additional amount per shift, as set out in Part B, Item 2 of Table 2, of this Award.

39.2

An employee who operates an articulated bus on 124 or more shifts in a 12 month period immediately prior to clearing paid leave, shall be paid the allowance set out in Part B, Item 2 of Table 2, of this Award for the period of the paid leave.

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